

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 112 May 2021



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

Masonic Brotherhood

We first read about the concept of brotherhood in the book of Genesis in the VSL where Cain murdered Abel, in a jealous rage. When God later asked Cain where Abel was, he replied: *Am I my brother's keeper?* Throughout the long history of the World, we learn that man has been involved in almost constant strife and adversity, many times with his brothers and there are a large number of references in recorded history of the concept of brotherhood. There are also many modern definitions of brotherhood, being a relationship between biological brothers; or a feeling of kinship with or a closeness to a group of people; or an association of people who are linked by a common interest, etc.

As Freemasons, we are taught that most of the ancient stone masons were illiterate and to protect their trade and the knowledge which they acquired, they developed other methods of communicating with each other, like the use of oral traditions and special signs, grips and words. By doing so, they appear to have established an association of persons who were linked by a common interest, which later developed into a brotherhood of operative masons.

For the past 300 years Freemasons have referred to each other as brothers and the terms brotherhood, brotherly love and fraternity are frequently used in Masonic Lodges and yet, the members in a single Lodge may not even be friends with each other outside of their Masonic commitments. If such members are neither biological brothers nor social friends, then it seems that their only bond or link is the feeling of

kinship or association based on a common interest. Fortunately, in most cases this bond is not only enough but may be far stronger than the bonds of family or social friendship and we often find that this unlikely band of brothers can truly claim to be a Masonic brotherhood. To maintain and strengthen this kinship or association, it is however important that the members know why they are members of this brotherhood.

From our initiation, we are encouraged to become better men by reading and understanding the VSL, by regularly attending our Lodge meetings, by learning the Masonic rituals, by reading the Masonic educational material which is provided to us, by participating in social and fund raising activities, by visiting other Lodges and by simply doing to others as we would have them do to us. We are taught that this developmental journey may take our whole lives to accomplish. When we however begin to succeed in becoming better men, we find that we also begin to become better believers, better husbands, better fathers, better employers, better colleagues, better brothers and better friends and we then begin helping to make the World a better place for humankind to live in peace and harmony.

If this is the common interest of all our members, then there should be no disagreements amongst them. The absence of stress and strife in any Lodge will ensure its peace and harmony and will make the membership of that Lodge irresistible. When our members further openly share this interest with their families and friends, then the curiosity of non-Freemasons, who always want to know why we are part of this Masonic brotherhood, will also become satisfied. The concept of brotherhood therefore excludes isolation and the well-known saying that unity is strength, should become the unofficial motto of every Lodge.

Faith, hope and charity are forces within the reach of all men and if they are applied in an association of men, like our Masonic brotherhood, then we must use these forces to exercise an immense power for good in our World. As we actively encourage the increase of our faith, promote hope and practice charity, we will develop brotherly love which will not only cement us together as a group, but it's very concept will remind us of our true relationship to the GAOTU and to humankind, which includes our non-Masonic brothers and sisters. The relief which we must offer must therefore not be restricted to our charitable donations, but it must also be visible in our efforts in lightening the burden of human suffering by our own correct way of living. Unlike the biblical Cain, let us therefore continue to strive, as members of a global Masonic brotherhood, to always be our brother's keeper.

**MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master**

The Mentoring Program



VW Bro Simon Nash is the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Northern Division. He is a highly committed Freemason who really enjoys Masonic Education and the opportunity to help with the personal development of his Brethren. He introduced the "Masonic Mentoring Program" to the GLSA almost 3 years ago and in this article, outlines his progress.

We have all missed our ceremonial meetings this last year, and while we are enjoying returning to labour, there are still elements of our Masonic activities that are very effectively through the use of Zoom technology. One such initiative is the Grand Lodge Mentoring Program. Over the past year the "Mentoring to make a difference" sessions on Zoom have been well received by Brethren all around the country and will continue to be held monthly on the dates listed hereafter.

What is Mentoring? In the Masonic context it should, in simple terms, mean that the process of the Preparator guiding the candidate through the journeys in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees is continued outside of the ritual working, and that no Brother is ever left to fend for himself on his Masonic Journey. **The objective is to ensure that the Brother's expectations on joining the Order continue to be met.**

The Mentoring Program takes a very practical look at the symbolism and ritual of Freemasonry and applies it to the Brother's wheel of life to assist him to become the better man we promised that he could be, while at the same time focussing his Masonic journey on achieving the objectives he set himself on joining the Order. The sessions are aimed at both Mentee and Mentor and provide a comprehensive introduction to Mentoring and the lessons of the 1st degree. The role of the personal Mentor is emphasised as assisting the new Brother to integrate into the Lodge and to act as guide on his Masonic journey. Teaching the Apprentice how the Lodge functions and about Masonic protocol are also dealt with by the Mentor and, using the Mentoring Program, the Mentor can assist the Apprentice to balance his wheel of life and become a better man.

Mentoring for the Fellowcraft is currently being drafted and is near completion, where after the Master Mason Mentoring material will be developed.

The reaction to the Mentoring Program has been very positive, with experienced Freemasons such as RW Bro Johan Britz regularly participating. The participants have confirmed the program's success.

Zoom Mentoring sessions have been scheduled via Zoom log in **93437984402** pass code **500816**.

They start at 7.30 pm on the following dates:

26 th May 2021	22 nd September 2021
8 th June 2021	12 th October 2021
12 July 2021	6 th November 2021
12 th August 2021	

VW Bro Simon Nash

Eastern Division - under a new Leader

On Saturday 8th May 2021, the Eastern Division AGM took place via Zoom. RW Bro Basil de Kock was retiring as the Provincial Grand Master and gave a suitably encouraging report before introducing the Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Johan van der Merwe as the Brother appointed to look after the Division as Acting PGM. Wor Bro van der Merwe began his Masonic career with Lodge First United in March 2009. While young in Masonic years, he has been extremely active and has assisted at Neerlandia, Dromedaris and Isandlwana as well as playing a lead role in all of the Division's charitable initiatives. He is a highly committed Freemason who has a reputation for getting things done,



As always, the Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, and his Grand Lodge team were online, as were the PGMs of the other Divisions. The Grand Master has a reputation for being an inspiring speaker and this was no exception. His words of encouragement will inevitably have left an impression as Wor Bro Johan and his team set about facing the challenges that the Division will have in the months that lie ahead. We have no doubt that they will succeed!



President Burgers welcome Bro Therego Mpete

On 5th May 2021, Bro Therry Mpete was initiated as the newest member of Lodge President Burgers.



After the evening was over, Therry was asked to share a few thoughts on his experience. In his words, "The experience of being initiated is new to me and I had little to no expectations. My initiation injected new energy in me. I was nervous at first but as the initiation went on, I got more and more relaxed and I started trusting more. I understood that I need to trust my fellow Brethren. I enjoyed the experience and look forward to continuing the journey".

Our Leaders are getting vaccinated

We are pleased to see that our senior Brethren are now having their Covid jabs. AASR head, MP Bro Boet du Plessis is seen left, while MW Bros John Smith and Geoff Edwards have had Pfizer first injections.





At the Lodge Orange Installation are Wor Bro Karabo Sefora (c), VW Bro Simon Nash (3L), Wor Bro Reuven Coenen (5L) surrounded by the PGL team and the Officers of the Lodge.

Orange is our 1st Installation for 15 months

Saturday 22nd May saw the first live Installation in Northern Division in 15 months, at Lodge Orange in Rustenburg. Wor Bro Gerald Bosch, as retiring Master, gave an excellent report on the Lodge activities over the past 2½ years including their growth from 9 members to 15 very active and enthusiastic Brethren.

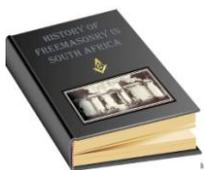
The Assistant PGM, Wor Bro Reuven Coenen, assisted by the PGL team, then carried out a dignified Installation of the new Master, Wor Bro Karabo Sefora, and his Officers, after which VW Bro Simon Nash performed the Board of Installed Masters.

A superb festive board then took at the Excalibur Hotel, in a hall modelled on King Arthur's fabled castle at Camelot. Overall, a really memorable way to restart!

The Heritage Book - pre-sales are now open!

Next year marks 250 years of Freemasonry in South Africa. To mark this event, we are collecting articles and stories about South African Freemasonry across all Constitutions and Divisions. The book will be published during the celebrations in two A4 formats.

The one is a hard cover version for R450 and the other is a leather bound hard cover at a cost of R600. Due to the high cost of production we will only make sufficient copies to fill orders placed and paid for before we go to print. Please purchase and reserve your Collector's Item as soon as you can to ensure that you get your copy. To order and pay please click on:



[Purchase the Heritage Book](#)

Star of the Rand have a busy month!

After returning to labour in April, Star of the Rand initiated Bro Darius Shams who had waited patiently for over 12 months. May then saw the Lodge initiate



Bro Michael van Tonder at their own regular Lodge

meeting. Assisted by Golden City a week later, they initiated Bro Quentin Kernes with 7 Star of the Rand Brethren in attendance and assisting where needed.



Both meetings were extremely enjoyable and the Golden City meeting was followed by the Brethren all joining in the Toast to Absent Brethren. This was held by the Brethren in Norfolk, who gave the privilege of proposing the toast to VW Bro Simon Nash.

Lodge Star of The Rand has been blessed with a number of other regularly proposed candidates and will be initiating these new members from June onwards.

Prins Frederik Initiation

On Tuesday 25th May Bro Gerhard Muller took his first major Masonic step when he was initiated into Lodge Prins Frederik. His comments after the ceremony make for interesting reading and are shared with you.

"My official entrance into Freemasonry through the First Degree ceremony, was all that I expected and more besides. It was a solemn occasion, filled with centuries old traditions. whilst going through the ceremony, one feels like you really are becoming part of something special. You are going through a journey that millions have gone through before you and millions more still have to experience. Despite this, you still get an overwhelming feeling that this night is all about you - and it is. You step into the Lodge as just an average Joe and, while it is difficult to explain to those who have not been through it, you emerge feeling like a better person. You emerge with a sense of belonging and of being a part of something that is much bigger.



Bro Gerhard Muller (c) with RW Bro Godfrey Place and Wor Bro Reuven Coenen

Mentoring Young Entrepreneurs

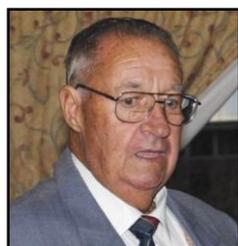
As you should be aware by now, the GLSA has, under the capable guidance of Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Brandon Topham, initiated a program which will focus on reducing unemployment in South Africa. A major part of this initiative will revolve around the provision of meaningful training and mentoring for young entrepreneurs. We have already held excellent Zoom training sessions on "Sales" and "Raising Venture Capital" and those of you have missed these can find them on GrandView under YouTube Clips.

Brandon was recently in Cape Town and took the opportunity to meet up with Zikisa Mbaza, who is the General Legal council for JCI South Africa and one of the beneficiaries of our program. Zikisa is seen seated with Brandon and RW Bro Avron Jacobson MSA.



Almoner's Corner

This month saw the passing of another stalwart of Northern Division, being RW Bro Piet van Ransburg.



"Odom" Piet was initiated in Lodge Aurora in 1972 and stayed with the Lodge throughout. He reached the rank of Grand Senior Warden, prior to which he was a very active Provincial Grand Secretary. At the funeral, his son-in-law thanked the Freemasons for the positive role they had played in Piet's life.

On Saturday 29th May Central Free State were scheduled to have their Installation - and then Covid struck their Master, Wor Bro Johann Posthumous. Get well soon, Brother, the Installation can wait!

MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM (de Goede Hoop) has had cataracts removed from both his eyes and is delighted at the impact it has had on his vision.

Wor Bro Ray Franks (Golden City) has recently had stents put in and is now recovering. Get well soon, Ray, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Hendrix Mom berg (Aurora) has recently been in and out of hospital. He is now at home and hopefully making a steady recovery.

Wor Bro Hein van Ransburg (Jacob de Mist) is having a series of radiation procedures and is very much in our thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Jacques Maritz (Westerford) is back home, getting stronger and learning to cope with just one eye. The Doctors describe his recovery as a miracle

and maybe our prayers did play a part in it all. Look after yourself, Jacques, we're hoping to see you soon.

Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop) has been back in hospital with major back pains. Andre has suffered long enough and we really do hope that they've made some real progress now. Keep believing, Andre.

Bro Sheer Danka (Prins Frederik) has recently lost his father, while Wor Bro Ross McIver (de Goede Trouw) has also lost 2 family members. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they learn to cope with the loved ones that they have lost.

In closing, Brethren, please continue to protect yourself against Covid. We are now moving steadily into the 3rd wave and, like it or not, people are relaxing their guard. We need to stay vigilant if we are to get through this, so please help each other by observing the Covid protocols at all times.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern Wor Bro Reuven Coenen	071 6120577
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Johan v d Merwe	083 3010219
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

GLSA goes to the Palace

After the recent passing of HRH Bro Prince Phillip we sent a letter to the United Grand Lodge of England extending our condolences and commenting on what a privilege it had been to include such a fine man as part of our fraternity. A short while later we received a phone-call from the Grand Chancellor thanking us for our letter and advising us that it would be included in a delivery to Buckingham Palace.

He also commented that, while not being a regular attendee, Prince Phillip never failed to put in an apology and always made a contribution to benevolence. He believed in the tenets of Masonry and practised them.

RA Chapter de Goede Kaap gets back to work

After a break of some 14 months due to Covid, Southern Division's Chapter de Goede Kaap performed a Mark Master Mason working for Bro Rob Eden of Westerford. Rob was just about to go through the degree in February 2020 when we went into full lockdown and all plans were put on hold. The working took a little tuning to make sure that we practised social distancing and strictly adhered to Covid protocols but, taking everything into account, it was a great success.



MEC John Smith OSM MSA, MEC Evangelos Doucas, Comp Rob Eden, Comp Malcolm Gessler