

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 113 June 2021



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

Masonic Advancement

We learn from a young age that there is certain structured advancement in life in which we are expected and encouraged to participate. We encounter this in our own family circle, in school, in team sports, in tertiary education and in employment. I also encountered the concept of advancement in Freemasonry when I became a member. Although I well remember the feeling of attachment and friendship from the Freemasons who were present at my initiation, it was quite obvious that certain members knew more and occupied more senior positions in the Lodge than others. These included my late father and others who were all much older than I was. I had been warned to be prepared to reply to a toast which would be proposed to me at the festive board and I was duly instructed in the correct protocol. I am sure that my response was less than adequate but it still received a hearty round of applause.

I soon learned that Freemasonry is vast and complex and requires much study and understanding to appreciate its true meaning, symbolism, aims and structures. In essence, it endeavours to create an aspiration in every candidate, of whatever age, to an ennobled manhood. Embodied in its symbols is a philosophy of moral idealism, which is based on profound spiritual truths. The object of the initiation ceremony with its peculiar rites and practices is intended to impress certain moral lessons indelibly on the mind of the candidate. He is instructed to learn to know himself and thereby realise his own capabilities and shortcomings. He is also introduced to the symbols

of that degree which assist to point out the advantages of further education which will, inevitably, lead to his advancement. Although men differ in intellect and ability, all can aspire to something worthwhile in this life if they persist in their attempt to accomplish it.

To some men Freemasonry opens up more slowly than to others and they do not catch its spirit or feel its appeal and so they become bored, disinterested and indifferent. Some resign, never to return, while others return after several years with a new perspective and then start enjoying the benefits Freemasonry offers.

As an Apprentice we are reminded to apply the golden rule: "*do unto others as you would have them do unto you*". We are further encouraged to practice the principles of morality and uprightness in our daily lives so that the World may see us as men of honour and high moral character, without needing to be aware that we are Freemasons. Plato, considered by many as the father of all philosophers, described man as part angel and part beast and said: *If man does not aspire to be an angel, he will descend to the level of the beast.*

It is therefore obvious why Freemasonry adopted both St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist as its Patron Saints. The Baptist was a just man, intolerant of sham or pretence. He was a man of strength and fervency, uncompromising of evil or expediency and yet a humble, sincere and magnanimous person. The Evangelist was gentle and loving. He was the bringer of comfort to the grief stricken, of courage to the weak, of help to the helpless and of strength to the failing.

Freemasonry is an organisation of men who strive to live by the fundamental principles of integrity, goodwill and charity. It gives a man an opportunity to do and to be something he otherwise may not be able to attain on his own. It also strives to replace self-interest with an interest in others and we are taught that without ennoblement of mind and heart and without steady perseverance in good works, the whole essence of Freemasonry dwindles into nothing and all its symbols and usages become a meaningless farce and a vain toy.

Nelson Mandela said: *Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the World.*

As we advance through the degrees from Apprentice to Master Mason and through the Lodge offices from Steward to Presiding Master, let us therefore embrace all that Freemasonry can teach us and become better men and thereby become better husbands, better fathers, better employers and better brothers and so help to make the world a better place for our families, our friends and ourselves to live in.

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

Star of the West Installation

Saturday 29th May saw the Star of the West Installation in Klerksdorp, this also being the first Grand Lodge callout in 16 months!

Having been appointed as an Assistant PGM only 3 weeks earlier, Wor Bro Gerald Bosch ably conducted his first installation, while VW Bro Simon Nash, the Deputy PGM, conducted the Board of installed Masters. The Grand Lodge delegation was led by the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver.



RW Bro Cor van Zyl, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, Wor Bro Percy Booth, VW Bro Simon Nash, Wor Bro Gerald Bosch

It was a memorable occasion for all involved, particularly Wor Bro Percy Booth, whose initiation, passing, raising and installation as Worshipful Master had all been attended by RW Bro van der Vyver.

RW Bro Alan van der Vyver extended the fraternal greetings of the Grand Master and gave a thought provoking address on the lessons of the first degree and their relevance today. The festive board was excellent and, overall, the whole event was a great success.

Southern Division's Triple Whammy - etc

In a unique event at the de Goede Hoop Temple on Saturday 29th May 2021, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman and his PGL Southern Division team Installed 3 new Worshipful Masters, all of whom were going into the Chair for the first time. Wor Bros Marco Petronio (Hiram), Wikus van Zyl (de Goede Trouw) and Jesse Bossenge-Nkoy (Marina) had all been waiting patiently for their opportunity and finally it had arrived.

Wor Bro Cobis Wilson (right), Assistant PGM, was the Installing Officer and also performed the Board of Installed Masters



Wor Bro Edgar Baron (left), Assistant PGM, delivered the Ancient Charges and the Proclamation from the West, while the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, performed



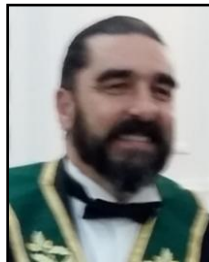
the Benediction. This was the first opportunity for either of the Assistant PGMs to perform work at an Installation and it was clear that RW Bro Hardiman, a stickler for quality ritual, had trained them well and, as a result, the working was of a very high standard.



Marco, Jesse and Wikus prepare to take their obligations

Another Southern Division Installations which took place during June was Westerford, where Wor Bro Edgar Baron, assisted by Wor Bro Cobis Wilson, Installed RW Bro Tommy Hardiman into the Chair

At de Goede Hoop, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman,



aided by his Assistants, Installed Wor Bro Malcolm Gessler (left) for another term. de Goede Hoop was founded on 2nd May 1772 and is now in its 250th year. Despite Covid, the preparations for the celebrations in Cape Town are well underway and the events scheduled

for the weekend of Friday 24th to Sunday 26th June 2022 promise to be unforgettable and are attracting interest from senior Masons around the world.

President Burgers initiates Bro Omolema Sepato

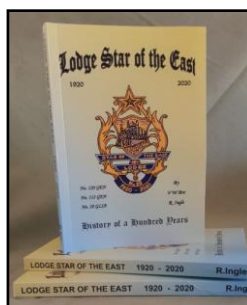
On 2nd June 2021, President Burgers initiated Bro Omolemo Sepato as the newest member of their Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Godfrey Place, has recently initiated a process in which the new Apprentice is requested to write just a few words on their experience In Omalemo's case, he wrote:

"I have learned a lot today, most of which I am yet to digest: but the highlights are learning that the Order is about supporting each other, and that self-knowledge is key in my journey of being an Apprentice."

Omalemo is, of course, absolutely correct.



Bro Omalemo Sepato (31) with his new Brothers.



Lodge Star of the East Centenary Book

R250 each

Contact VW Bro Rex Ingle
082 653 2417



Star of the East's new Master, Wor Bro Darren Dicks (C), with the Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, and his Deputy, RW Bro Brandon Topham on his right and the PGM, RW Bro Godfrey Place, and his Officers on his left.

Star of the East's 100 Year Celebration

On 12th June 2021, Star of the East celebrated their centenary. The Lodge also welcomed its newly affiliated Brothers from Sonop, which had gone into recess. The Lodges had decided to pool their resources and build a single stronger Lodge between them.

The day started with a Rededication ceremony conducted by the Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, and his 7 strong Grand Lodge team.

Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Godfrey Place, was accompanied by 11 PGL Officers. With Wor Bro Reuven Coenen in the chair, they conducted the Installation of Wor Bro Darrin Dicks in excellent fashion. Both England and Scotland were represented.

A short history of Lodges Star of the East and Sonop was read by VW Bro Rex Ingle. During the ceremony, all the Brethren of the newly combined Star of the East were presented with Centenary Jewels.



At the Festive Board, two of the widows, Glory Gamede (left) and Cathy van Heerden received 'Widows Pins' from the Grand Master, while all of the other wives received commemorative pendants

similar to the Centenary Jewel given to the Brethren.

Royal Arch Northern AGM and Installation

On 5th June 2021, the Northern Division of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa held their Annual Meeting at the East Rand Temple in Boksburg. As they were also celebrating their 50th Anniversary, this was going to be a very special day.



EC Marius Mostert acted as Grand Superintendent and performed most admirably. He welcomed the 1st

Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz, who then received the Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, after which. EC Mostert conducted the Annual Meeting.

MEC Johan Britz then took the chair and, assisted by his Officers, performed a Rededication ceremony to commemorate the Chapter's 50th birthday. They then installed the Division's new Grand Superintendent, MEC Brian Masencamp and his team. Both ceremonies were conducted with sincerity and dignity.

The Senior Officers installed were MEC Brian Masencamp (Grand Superintendent), EC Marius Mostert (Deputy GS), EC Frans Roodt (Assistant GS), EC Mervyn Kruger (Assistant GS), EC Huntley McPherson (2nd Principal), EC Ignatius Muthien ((2nd Principal), EC Marianus de Jager (3rd Principal), EC Phillip Spitz (3rd Principal).

Lodge Neerlandia Installation

On 5th June 2021, Wor Bro Johan van der Merwe, Eastern Division's Acting PGM, installed Wor Bro Schalk Jacobs as the new Worshipful Master of Neerlandia. The Board of Installed Masters was then performed by RW Bro Basil de Kock. Overall it was a special evening which was conducted with decorum.

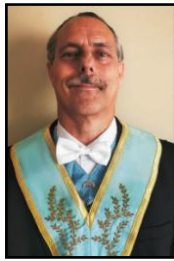


Almoner's Report

The past 2 weeks have been a complete nightmare and, to our great sorrow, we have now seen 5 of our Brethren called to the Eternal East.

It is with much sadness that we have to report that Wor Bro Jack Coetzee (Central Free State) succumbed to Covid on 14th June. He was a well respected Provincial Junior Warden and will be sorely missed.

On Sunday 20th June. VW Bro Martin Kotze (Libertas) lost his 2 week battle with Covid and was taken to the Eternal East. Martin was a highly committed Freemason who loved the Order. He was the Grand Master of Ceremonies and held senior roles in both the Royal Arch and AASR. Our thoughts and prayers are with Katinka and the family.



On Monday 21st June, Wor Bro Phillip Spitz (Star of the East), a most dedicated PG Master of Ceremony and recently installed RA PG 3rd Principal, suddenly passed away at his home. Once again our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family.

On Tuesday 22nd June, RW Bro Manny Ramos (Golden City), a well loved Past Grand Senior Warden, died after a heart attack. He has also been critically affected by Covid. He will be missed and Rosie, his sons and the family have our deepest sympathy.

On Wednesday 23rd June, Bro Graham Oosterlaak (Koh-I-Noor) fell to Covid. He was only 36 years old and still had so much to offer. RIP our Brother.

We have also been advised that Filitsa, the beloved wife of Wor Bro Ari Abatzoglou (de Morgenster) has passed away from Covid. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ari and his family at this awful time.

.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

Central have really been hit hard with Covid and Wor Bro Johann Posthumus (Central Free State), RW Bro Jan Conradie (Unie) and Bro Hendrik Prinsloo (Peace and Harmony) are all positive and are recovering or isolating at present. Get well soon, Brethren.

Wor Bro Paul Nash (Star of the Rand) had a knee replacement on 7th June and is steadily recovering..

Wor Bro Jacques Maritz (Westerford) has been recovering at home after the removal of his eye. He's a little down at present, but is making steady progress.

Wor Bro Hendrik Momberg (Aurora) is having a number of health issues and is hopefully on the road to recovery, once they sort out his medication issues.

Wor Bro Theoniel Pieterse (Unie) and Wor Bro Mike Rhind (Dagbreek) have both had back operations and are recuperating. May this clear the pain, Brethren.

Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop) is due back in hospital soon to have a neuron stimulator fitted in an attempt to clear his crippling back problems. We are really hoping that this one works, Andre!

RW Bro Boet du Plessis (Sonop) continues with his health challenges and was recently discharged from another spell in hospital, monitoring his heart beat.

Bro Maoto Mabogwane, the Master Elect of Flaming Start, has been in isolation after having tested positive for Covid. Feedback is that he is doing well and his subsequent test was negative.

Wor Bro Demos Markantonis (Golden City) has had severe back problems and his specialist is looking at the options available to address the problem.

May all of our Brethren with health challenges be aware that we care and that they are in our prayers.

Assisting the Apprentice on his Journey

One of the challenges that we have, is to ensure that new members get the maximum benefit from their Masonic journey. They come in with high expectations and it is our duty to see that their dreams are fulfilled.

Interestingly enough, our Constitution includes a sub-article 112.4 - *After initiation, no member shall be advanced to the next degree unless he has met the proficiency criteria as determined by the Grand Committee from time to time.* That was clearly there for a reason, but it needed to be properly applied.

To address this, RW Bro Godfrey Place, together with his PGL Officers and the Education Committee, have put together "Advancement Criteria" which enable Brethren to be assessed on their activity level, knowledge and understanding as they make progress between the different degrees. We will take the Apprentice as an example.



RW Bro Godfrey Place Before he will be allowed to be passed to the Fellowcraft degree, he will have to have met the following "Advancement Criteria";

- Attended at least 5 Lodge Business Meetings;
- Regularly attended all of his Lodge's workings held in the 1st or Apprentice degree.
- Made a minimum of 6 visits to other Lodges.
- Actively participated in and delivered a charge in at least 1 floor working.\
- Successfully passed the Apprentice Questionnaire, as provided on GrandView.
- Presented a paper entitled "Know Thyself" and answered any questions arising from it.
- Completed and submitted Mentors and Visits Control Sheets, as found in the Book of Life.

While these Criteria aren't, and are not intended to be, particularly onerous, they will require that the Lodge and the Apprentice get fully involved in the new Brother's progress. Right at the outset of his journey, the new Apprentice will be assigned his own personal Mentor and it will be this Brother's responsibility to guide the new Apprentice and ensure that he is aware of and fully understands just what is expected of him.

The Mentor will update the Apprentice on how to access and use GrandView; what meetings he should attend, where and when they are and what the dress is; how he should address and interact with the various Brethren. He will arrange relevant visits; assist him with his first charge; guide him through the material to be tested on; provide answers to the many questions that the enthusiastic Apprentice is likely to have.

The requirements for each degree will be detailed in the Book of Life - Apprentice = Section 2.4.