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## Our Grand Master visits the Grand Lodge of Benin

The Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place, accompanied by a number of our Brethren including the Southern PGM, RW Bro Raymond Eyiomen, the Grand Senior Warden, RW Bro Rex Ingle and various others, attended the Benin Installation of their new Grand Master, who is a regular visitor to South Africa, MW Bro Matthieu Lawson. Godfrey and Rex had their wives, Linda and Heather, accompany them.

The Grand Lodge of Benin had also consecrated a new Lodge, Alliance No 50. The lodge will be using the GLSA rituals and have entered into a formal twinning agreement with Lodge de Goede Hoop.



MW Bro Godfrey Place with Grand Masters and Heads of Delegations

The Grand Master performed the installation ceremony of first officers of Lodge Alliance and RW Bro Raymond Eyiomen and members of the delegation performed a demonstration first degree working for members of this new Lodge.



MEC Godfrey Place and MEC Matthieu Lawson at the Royal Arch Installation

The installation of Bro Matthieu Lawson, included a celebratory banquet on the Saturday evening followed by the installation of MEC Matthieu Lawson as First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch of Benin on the Sunday before lunch and the return to South Africa.

### A 200-year tradition continues

In line with a long-standing tradition of over 200 years, each May the BB of de Goede Hoop Lodge visit British Lodge when they and the newly elected Masters of each of the respective lodges are introduced to each other. This year, on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, de Goede Hoop's Worshipful Master-Elect, Bro Bradley Bordiss, was introduced to Wor Bro Laurence Eccleston, Master of British Lodge.



Bradley and Laurence in front of the original historic over 2 century Neuwemeester gate



## Bellville Cryptic Council



On Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024, MEC Geoff Edwards OSM (front right) and EC Frank Begot (front left) were welcomed into the Bellville Cryptic Council.

## Lodge Neerlandia 2<sup>nd</sup> degree working

On Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Neerlandia Lodge passed Bro Andre Swart to the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. Wor Bro Schalk Jacobs was in the chair, while Andre's brother, Wor

Bro Rudi Swart, also took part in the working. A number of Brethren from South Coast Sister Constitution Lodges were in attendance.

## Lodge Trichardt Installation



Newly installed Wor Bro Willie Luck

Lodge Trichardt installed Wor Bro Willie Luck as their new Master on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 in Kinross. RW Bro Johan Britz MSA led the Grand Lodge delegation and RW Bro Simon Nash led the PGL delegation. After the retiring Master, Wor Bro Herman Smit, had read a comprehensive report, Assistant PGM Wor Bro Gerald Bosch and the PGL team performed the installation.



Wor Bro Schalk Jacobs with Bro Andre Swart on his left and surrounded by Lodge Brethren and visitors

## Lodge Tolerance's 3<sup>rd</sup> degree working

On Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024, in the Gqeberha Temple, Lodge Tolerance had a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree working for Bro

Wesley Regnart. This working, of a high standard, was accompanied with music that due to the temple's acoustics sounded like that of a church organ. Wor Bro Siviwe Blauw was in the chair.



Wor Bro Siviwe Blauw surrounded by the BB



## The Eastern Division hosts its AGM



The day before the excitement of the Eastern Division's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at what has become a regular meeting to report back on items of work in progress, the Grand Master met with some of the leadership from the various Divisions who were available, to discuss tasks emanating from the Chains Conference in Bloemfontein. At the smoothly-run Eastern Division AGM at the NMR Temple in Durban, RW Bro Johan van der Merwe tabled a positive report. An informal festive board was held afterwards where the normal toasts were attended to after which BB attended a show at the local Barnyard Theatre as a fundraiser initiative.



An illustrious list of attendees at Eastern Division AGM: seated in the front row (from left to right), RW Bros Vic Muhlenbeck, Alf Bronner, Keith Hutton OSM, MW Bros Geoff Edwards OSM and Godfrey Place, RW Bro Johan van der Merwe and representatives of sister constitutions

## AASR hosts its AGM and 33<sup>rd</sup> degree



The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR) held its AGM on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Park Lane Temple in Johannesburg. In the Chair was the Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Victor Muhlenbeck. Several

awards were presented; the *SGC's Top Performance* award went to M III Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren while M III Bro Simon Nash received an *Outstanding Performance* medal.

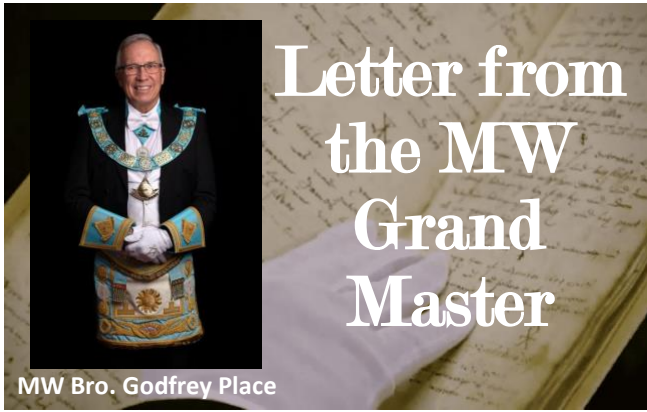
On the same day, after lunch a strategic brainstorming session was held where various aspects related to the AASR Supreme Grand Chapter were explored. This proved to be an extremely interactive exchange of ideas.

What made this weekend particularly special was that the day before the AGM, on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024, the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree was conferred on V III Bro Marius Mostert. This was followed by a celebratory dinner.



At the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree working; front (left to right): M III Bro Johan Britz, V III Bro Marius Mostert, P Bro Cor van Zyl, MP Bro Victor Muhlenbeck and other BB





MW Bro. Godfrey Place

## Am I my Brother's keeper?

At our initiation we are placed in a position "extreme danger" where we are supported by our BB on our journey of trust, being unaware of who is supporting us lest we fall. Later we are divested of everything of material value in our lives, as stated in our catechism, *"To instruct me that I was accepted as a Freemason poor and without means, so also all worthy poor BB should receive support from me."*

This concept of being your brother's keeper is associated with looking out for the well-being of others, particularly those in our order. It signifies a sense of responsibility, support, and care for one another. Within Freemasonry, BB are encouraged to offer aid, guidance, and support to their fellow BB.

This is more than just kindness, it requires that we commit to support, protect and uplift those around us, especially in times of need. Need, is not confined to financial hardships, but also trauma in one's life, abuse, physical or emotional.

Our role as our brother's keeper, acknowledges our interconnectedness (the Brother Chain which binds us all) and shared humanity. It requires us to introspect to ensure a sense of compassion, empathy, and solidarity with our fellow BB, fostering a sense of belonging and unity. By looking out for one another, we strengthen the bonds within our Order and our communities, making the world a better place for all.

When we examine the *NEED* aspect, we offer a listening ear, provide assistance when needed, and stand in solidarity with a brother when he is facing life's challenges.

When we hear of abuse, under the pretence of this being a joke or a bit of fun, where the Brother is the subject, and is disturbed by this, do we stand up and put an end to this, specifically where the perpetrators are members of our Order? Or do we turn a blind eye, for fear of exacerbating the

situation or in just plain cowardice? On a recent trip, it is rumoured that such a situation arose, where what started out as supposedly being a joke, escalated into a situation which turned nasty and viscous. Sadly, this was by men who profess to be BB. I was saddened by this, putting a damper on an important trip, where the GLSA was represented by BB of a multitude of backgrounds, symbolising the harmony and unity which Freemasonry espouses.

The obligation which we take at our initiation is binding on each and every one of us. There is not one set of rules for some and another for others. We profess to be Brothers, and we are advised not to stain that sacred name. Being your brother's keeper is a commitment to building a network of trust, respect, and camaraderie, which starts at the very outset of our Masonic journey.

Being our brother's keeper means a living testament to our shared humanity and the belief that we are all connected in our life journey. This principle must be embodied through our actions and attitudes and how we speak to each other. What may not be offensive to one person could be offensive and hurtful to another. If we do this, we contribute to a more compassionate, inclusive, and supportive world where individuals can thrive and grow together, irrespective of our different cultures, citizenships, ideologies and backgrounds.

Part of the aims and objectives of the Grand Lodge state that the development of every member's social and spiritual character, which will let him understand his weaknesses and take steps to overcome them, is encouraged. BB are empowered to implement what they have learnt and thereby uplift the society in which they live and to inculcate the concepts of truth, integrity, brotherly love and charity in every member's life and make these a part of their being.

The behaviour of those involved in the sad incident above, should be remorseful and they should seek to amend their ways. Without introspection on their part, and a commitment to living by the essential core belief systems of our Order, we will see the opposite of being our Brother's keeper emerge, where peace and harmony amongst us is disturbed. Being your BB's keeper is a privilege; one that allows us to forge deep and meaningful relationships with our BB, build a strong sense of community and make a positive impact in the lives of others.

It is up to us to review where we stand when we answer the question: "Am I my Brother's keeper?"

