

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 49 February 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

## If it's to be it's up to me!

Brethren, by now you should be familiar with the concept of the Grand Master's 2020 Vision and our desire to substantially increase our membership by 2020. Sounds daunting, doesn't it? But, in reality, if each Brother introduces 1 new member during the next 5 years, we'll effectively double our numbers. That's correct, if we each accept the recruitment of at least 1 new member as our personal responsibility, we will comfortably meet our target.

The reality, however, is that we aren't going to suddenly find large numbers of prospective members queuing up at our doors. Each and every one of us must, therefore, use our own initiative to identify suitable, high quality applicants ourselves and then find a way of attracting them.

Over the years Freemasonry, internationally, has become less visible and nowadays many men who would make excellent Freemasons simply never hear of us. Sure, we need more publicity and, in an ideal world, we would employ a public relations company to launch an awareness campaign – but we don't have the financial resources available to us to allow us to make any real impact using this approach. The one thing we do have, though, is ourselves. Each of us must become a Masonic Ambassador and spread our message far and wide amongst suitable relatives, friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

Let us consider then what you can and can't say, but first let's clear up any misconceptions about our secrets. In reality, the only real secrets are our Signs, Grips and Words – and nowadays even these can be found in the public domain. Sure, the candidate promises to keep secret "the Institutions of the Order and the means it employs to attain its great aim". I

suggest, though, that this promise is a practical one. We simply don't want a new candidate's degree experiences to be spoiled by his having been told just what to expect. They could, of course, research it in books or on the internet, but I always advise them not to as they will inevitably regret it afterwards. Beyond this, you really can talk quite freely about your Masonic experiences and certainly shouldn't have to feel apologetic about any aspect of our Order.

Before you start, however, you need to ensure that you are Masonically educated and know what you are talking about. You need to be prepared for and feel confident enough to handle questions on topics such as Freemasonry and religion; the various aspects of our symbolism; our real purpose (to provide good men with the tools and support to improve themselves morally and spiritually); our philosophy regarding charity; the GLSA's role in an international Fraternity and, indeed, the meaning of the word Brotherhood as it applies in our Masonic lives.

There is a range of material which will assist you in this regard and our own "Masonic Book of Life" will give you an extremely solid base to work from. Included in the book, for example, is an article "Freemasonry – Some Questions Answered" which really does cover many of the common questions. This article is backed up by a ritual working which has been used with success around the country and you could encourage your Lodge to perform it before identified candidates and their partners. There are many other addresses which are also invaluable as guides and you should ask the senior Brethren in your Lodge to help you identify suitable material.

As far as recruitment is concerned, I often express the view that "it doesn't matter what you do, as long as you do something!". Based on my experience, we seriously underestimate the number of good men who would love to be Freemasons - if only somebody would give them a chance.

Finally, always remember that we never ask or persuade men to join us. The request to join must come from them – and you're quite welcome to tell them so. For example, it's perfectly fine to say to a potential candidate "I think you'd make a very good Freemason, if you are interested, please talk to us". But please, never exhort him to join your Lodge. The difference is fairly subtle, but the principle is a most important one and we must abide by it.

Brethren, we need you to introduce just 1 man. "Freemasonry is Good – Let's talk about it"!

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

## Southern Division Remembrance Day

In November each year the Cape Town City Council organises a Remembrance Day parade to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country. At the event various involved bodies representing military and civil structures lay a wreath as a tribute to those who were taken from us. Freemasonry is represented by the senior Brethren of all 4 Constitutions.



Wor Bro A Engelbrecht (GLSA), RW Bro G Bergh (Irish),  
Wor Bro J Ackerman (English), Bro C Smith (Scottish)

While its basic objectives are indeed solemn ones, this event does also create an opportunity for us to showcase Freemasonry at an event which is well supported by the general public.



## The Proving of a Steward

Q: How were you first prepared to be a Steward?

A: My coat sleeves, shirt sleeves and vest sleeves were rolled up, and a corkscrew thrust into my hand.

Q: What is a corkscrew?

A: An instrument fashioned like a winding staircase which ancient Brethren ascended to receive their beer.

Q: Where did they receive it?

A: In a convenient room below the chamber.

Q: How did they receive it?

A: In half tankards and tankards.

Q: Why in that peculiar manner?

A: In half tankards knowing the same could easily be replenished, or in tankards from the great reliance they placed in the mildness of the brew in those days.

Q: Name the two advertisements which hung at the porch-way or entrance.

A: That on the left was named "GUINNESS" and that on the right was named "FOSTERS".

Q: What are their separate and conjoined significations?

A: The former denotes "No 1" and the latter "XXXX", and when conjoined "INSTABILITY"

Q: What is beer?

A: A peculiar product of chemistry, veiled in mystery and illustrated by labels.

Q: How is it depicted?

A: By an ear of corn and a couple of hops placed by a barrel of water.

Q: How do you know yourself to be a Steward?

A: By repeated trials and sessions at the bar and the willingness of the Worshipful Master to release me early so as to be able to get to the bar before the other less fortunate Brethren.

*Submitted by Bro Ike Ezeudji (Westerford)*

## 2 Masonic Super-Heroes!

It was in the years around 1800 that the first Deputy Grand Master of the Netherlands appears in our records and, indeed, he had an enormous impact in laying our Masonic foundations. **Jacob de Mist** was Commissary General of Batavia and was sent to Cape Town to "form a Government" and "promote the prosperity of the people". He was respected as a far-seeing Statesman while, at the same time, he performed exceptional Masonic work amongst the Brethren involved in the Lodges at the time. Described as "a determined though mild revolutionary", de Mist was a man of extremely high principles and impeccable integrity.



During the few, very successful years he spent here, he promoted fraternal interaction, formalised the Lodge structures and consecrated the de Goede Hoop Temple – which had been built at a cost of some £10,000 or the equivalent of some R20,000.

Interestingly, amongst his many profane achievements, he was also responsible for Cape Town's coat of arms. By the time this "man of imposing figure" finally took his leave of the Cape at the beginning of 1805, he had left a legacy never to be forgotten.

Before de Mist left the Cape, however, he appointed and invested **Sir Johan Andreas Truter** as



his successor - and Truter was the Deputy Grand Master National for over 40 years, until his death in 1845. Truter came from a family that had settled at the Cape in 1722 and was well

established in the local community.

He exhibited exceptional talents at an early age and was sent to Leyden University where he completed a Doctor of Law. On returning home, he played a leading role in local affairs and was much respected for his opinions and advice. In 1812, Truter was appointed as the first Chief Justice of the Cape and, in 1820, was knighted for his services – this making him the first ever native South African to receive that distinction from the British Sovereign. He was highly respected as both a Mason and as a man and enjoyed the affection and respect of the fraternity at large.

Truter also spent some 9 years as the Provincial Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England and is the only local Brother to have ever simultaneously headed 2 different Constitutions. He was also the first ever Brother to complete 50 years of membership of Lodge de Goede Hoop.

In a tribute on his passing, the editor of the "Zuid Afrikaan" wrote of Truter, "He died as he had lived, calm, quiet and serene".

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM**

"Earths' crammed with heaven ..... but only he who sees, takes off his shoes".

Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

### Lodge Libertas No 16, Christmas initiatives.



The BB of Lodge Libertas once again demonstrated their brotherly love in service to the community. A most enjoyable and successful joint

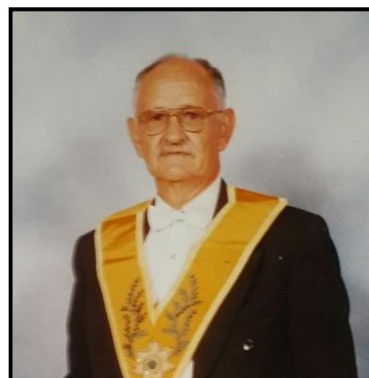
Christmas party was organised by the Lodges meeting at the Krugersdorp Temple Complex for the residents of the Moreglans Old Age Home.



*Three generations of Kotze's leading the benevolence drive in Krugersdorp. (Duncan far right, Hennie, 2<sup>nd</sup> right and Martin far left).*

### Almoner's corner.

**RW Bro Coenie Bronkhorst**



It is without doubt that everyone who has been initiated into Freemasonry makes a contribution to the Order in some form or other. Some do it quietly behind the scenes and others very much up front.

One of our Brothers, who was gifted with artisanal

fingers skills, has been at the forefront of personally keeping our Head Office at Orange Grove in an acceptable state of repair on a shoe string for many years and we are truly blessed to have such a Brother of talent who is prepared to give of himself in such an unselfish way.

RW Bro Coenie Bronkhorst PGJW, has treated our HQ with much tender loving care over the years and now is need of some himself. At the beginning of this year Coenie was enjoying a braai with his family and feeling fine. He said goodnight and he and Katie went home. Suddenly and without warning, Coenie did not know where he was and became unsteady on his feet. The family were called and he was put into bed. From his reactions, it was obvious that something was seriously wrong. An ambulance was called and the paramedics worked on Coenie for almost an hour before they could move him. They even had to call in specialist help to assist.

When they got him to Hospital they had to stabilise him and then connected him to a life support system as his kidneys had failed. The family were told to fear the worst as there was little hope for his survival. A series of tests were conducted over the next few days as Coenie lay in his hospital bed with no clue as to what was going on. Can you imagine the emotions of the family?

Eventually Coenie came around after certain procedures had been carried out to eliminate the blood clots and stabilise his system. It was diagnosed that he had developed an irregular heart beat and that this was causing "puddling" of the blood in the heart which promotes clotting. He has now been fitted with a pacemaker and is at home recovering rapidly. I can confirm this, as whilst he may not be as active as usual, his mind and wit are as sharp as ever.

Of course the wags will always comment: It is rumoured that when deciding if it was time for Coenie to serve in the Grand Lodge above, the Great Architect took a look at our buildings and decided that Coenies' task was not yet completed and decided to spare him and bless us. This brings to mind "how weak are my words ..... to bless and praise God for such a blessing." For us, we will be so grateful to get our Consultant back; but he is in big trouble for not submitting his "leave form" according to the prescribed notice period!

Katie hopes that everyone who showed such concern for Coenie and the family during this difficult time knows of the deep love and gratitude that she shares with each and every one of you. She is convinced that the volume of prayer raised by you on his behalf, helped to persuade the Great Architect that Coenie's time had not yet come.

Along with Coenie, we have had other distinguished Brethren in hospital this month. W Bro Grant Futter ( Lodge Theophilus) has been admitted on two occasions with a heart attack. RW Bro Bennie Spies (Losie Sonop) is also quite ill in ICU. Both worthy Brethren and their families need all of our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Louise, wife of RW Bro Johan Olivier, was rushed to hospital with a burst appendix and we are so grateful that it was in time and that she is on the mend. Our Grand Almoner's wife is also very ill and has been under serious medical care for many, many months. Our deepest sympathy and best wishes go to Bro Neville who, in spite of his own challenges, still takes time to care for everyone else. (*editor's comment; for me he is one of the best examples of how a true Mason should behave.*)


We must also remember our connections and it is with great sadness that I have to report that Mrs June Cox, the Assistant Secretary of the Southern Division, lost her husband recently. June; we deeply commiserate and offer our condolences at this difficult time.

### Grand Almoner

Brethren, the Grand Almoner is only as effective as the information he receives. Please, if anything is known about a Brother in distress, be sure to phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

[kleinville@gmail.com](mailto:kleinville@gmail.com)





Registration Number: 2002 / 031211 / 23

**Masonic Tour to Israel**  
**"In the Footsteps of Freemasonry"**

Join the Grand Master on this wonderful tour during  
September 2016

Please contact Henda Heyneke on +27 (0) 11 764 2783, Cell: +27  
(0) 83 256 6682 or on [heyneketours@telkomsa.net](mailto:heyneketours@telkomsa.net) for more  
information on this tour and other arrangements.

**Just in case you ever wondered who the Editor is!!!**

