

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 52 May 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

## We're as Strong as our Weakest Link!

My attention was recently drawn to a story about a Sower which had been made available on his Facebook page by VW Bro Keith Hutton. I was taken by it and have chosen to use it, with a few pertinent comments, as the basis for this month's message.

*There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn and every year he won the award for the best quality corn in his State. One year a local newspaper reporter interviewed him and was surprised to learn something which he found interesting and unusual about the principles that the farmer applied. The reporter discovered that the farmer always shared his very best seed corn with his neighbours.*

*"How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbours when they are entering corn in competition with yours?" the reporter enquired.*

*"Why sir," said the farmer, "It is a simple reality that the wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbours grow inferior corn, the cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my own corn. If I am to ensure that I am to consistently grow top quality corn, I must help my neighbours grow good corn as well."*

*So it is with our lives. Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of those around them, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. Those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all. Call it power of collectivity. Call it a principle of success or a law of life. The fact is, none of us truly wins, until we all win!*

I could not help feeling, Brethren, that this same principle applies to our Grand Lodge and all of the Lodges attached. We have some Lodges that excel and

really do set very high standards. Their ritual work is superb, the Brethren have close fraternal bonds, they promote benevolence and charitable activities, their families are involved and value the impact that Freemasonry has on their lives and new members are attracted to them and enjoy their Masonic experiences.

These Lodges, however, do not define the overall strength of our Grand Lodge for it is a basic reality that nothing is ever stronger than its weakest point. It is our struggling Lodges who determine just how effective as an organisation we really are.

Our challenge, Brethren, is to endeavour to ensure that every single member of our Grand Lodge is able to partake of similar Masonic experiences to those enjoyed by the members of our strongest and most successful Lodges. It simply cannot be acceptable for any new member joining our Grand Lodge to have anything less than a truly top Quality experience.

Realistically, however, some of our Lodges are not, at this point in time, in a position to provide the Quality experience that we are talking about. This comes about for a variety of reasons, some of which are readily acceptable and some of which are not - but either way it doesn't have anything to do with a new member and the experience he is entitled to.

As Grand Lodge, and each and every individual member is included in that grouping, it is up to all of us to react and to do what is necessary to assist in strengthening the performances of our weaker Lodges and to ensure that we effectively meet the expectations of every single new candidate. By doing so we will not only provide the new Brother with a Quality experience but will help to strengthen those Lodges in need of support and our Grand Lodge as a whole.

I must also stress, Brethren, that while ritual work does play a significant part, it is not the only ingredient which may require attention or where assistance might be offered. Our stronger Lodges might also try to include smaller Lodges in their social or charity activities, could try to assist with administrative functions or could help in any other way which would strengthen the smaller Lodge as it strives to raise its standards and reach true self-sufficiency.

As a final thought, Brethren, it is simply not in order for a weaker Lodge to refuse assistance offered and stubbornly continue to practice mediocrity. Our members are entitled to better than that and it is our duty to ensure that they enjoy a Quality experience.

Brethren, by uniting around our strengths, we as a Grand Lodge have so much to offer. Let us all work together to harvest the "best corn" we possibly can.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

## Recent Press Exposure on Freemasonry

There has recently been a series of articles in the press suggesting that Freemasonry has infiltrated a specific political party and has manipulated candidate selections in the Pretoria area. Several of our members have expressed concern and asked for our reaction.

**Background** - Political parties apply a range of criteria in selecting their candidates. When a candidate who had finished further down a list than he hoped for looked for somebody else to blame he settled on a group of more successful opponents, several of whom happened to be Freemasons. He took this grievance to the press and it turned into a front page story.

**Reaction** - Freemasonry does not meddle in politics or religion and one of our greatest strengths is our practice of tolerance and the fact that our members encompass a range of religious and political groups. If any of our members were to use Freemasonry in the pursuit of their own political interests they would be seriously betraying the promise that they made on joining our Order. Knowing the Brethren involved, we do not believe that this is the case. It might make a sensational story, but it really has no substance. As far as the Grand Lodge of South Africa is concerned we are and will remain totally apolitical and trust that the political party in question will deal with the challenges raised through its own internal processes.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

## AASR holds Highly Successful AGM

The weekend of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April saw the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for South Africa's Annual Meeting at the Sunnyside Park hotel in Johannesburg.

On Friday night there was a meeting of the Executive, while Saturday morning saw several Brethren raised to the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. At the end of the ceremony the Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Piet Coetzee, assisted by his senior Officers, installed 5 new Executive Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals to lead our 5 Divisions.



*The new ESGIGs M Ill Bros Cor van Zyl, Louis Wolsink, Frans Roodt, Geoff Edwards and Boet du Plessis with Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Piet Coetzee.*

Saturday afternoon saw a well attended AGM during the course of which MP Bro Coetzee launched his new "Building Fund". Over the past few years the AASR have been raising funds for the "Ben Klopper Education Fund" which has now reached its target of

R500,000 and is now assisting suitably qualified applicants. The new fund will provide finance for the AASR to be able to secure its own home. The princely sum of R23,000 was raised on Saturday itself.

Saturday evening saw the Gala Dinner with the Brethren and their beautifully dressed partners. At this event we also paid tribute to M Ill Bro Ben Spies and his much loved wife Cynthia for their contribution to the AASR over many years - and we held an auction towards our new fund.



In amongst the activities there was still plenty of "social" time and it really is true to say that everybody enjoyed and made the most of a special weekend.



## Southern Division's Annual Awards

Each year, at the Masters and Wardens meeting, the Provincial Grand Master of Southern Division hands out the trophies to those Lodges who have, in his view, excelled above all others. April 2016 saw the event being held at the Kelvin Grove club and, as always, much excitement preceded his announcements.

The 2016 winners were :

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| * Lodge of the Year | de Goede Hoop        |
| * Ritual Excellence | Westerford           |
| * Charity Lodge     | Jacob de Mist        |
| * Emerging Lodge    | de Goede Verwachting |



*The WMs of winning Lodges with RW Bro Avron Jacobson Tommy Hardiman (Westerford), Frank Begot (d G Hoop) Jacques Maritz (d G Verwachting), Lafras Moolman (J d Mist)*



*Frank Begot (d G Hoop)*



*(Tommy Hardiman (Westerford))*



*Die Broeders wat die Algemene Jaarvergadering van Sentrale Afdeling bygewoon het*

### Algemene Jaarvergadering Sentrale Afdeling

Die Sentrale Afdeling het hul 53<sup>ste</sup> Algemene Jaarvergadering gehou by die Masonieke Sentrum, Spitskop, Bloemfontein. Ons was geseën om 72 lede in die vergadering bymekaar te hê wat ook die Grootmeester, Adjunk Grootmeester, Assistent Grootmeesters en die Provinsiale Grootmeesters van elke Afdeling ingesluit het. Ons innige dank aan hulle en hul gades vir die opoffering om hierdie vergadering by te woon. Dit was 'n luisterryke geleentheid wat gekenmerk was deur die broederliefde en gasvryheid van Vrymesselary. Om so geleentheid by te woon gee 'n mens weer hernieuwe inspirasie en energie om voort te bou aan ons aloue Orde.

Die afstande wat in die Sentrale Afdeling afgelê is 'n aanduiding dat 'n broer wat 'n vergadering bywoon werklik uit broederliefde daar wil wees. Hierdie opoffering word altyd beloon deur buitengewone gasvryheid en 'n gevoel van samehorigheid by die verskeie losies. Tussen Losie Peace & Harmony (Kimberley) en Losie Parys is die afstand ongeveer 500km plus. Die gemiddelde afstand wat Broeders na Losie aflê is ongeveer 100km. Hierdie feit getuig van die Sentrale Afdeling se deursettingsvermoë en volharding.

Hierdie Algemene Jaarvergadering was voorafgegaan deur 'n baie positiewe en 'n leersame konferensie vir die Grootlosie van Suid Afrika se gevolmagtigde ampsdraers. Almal wat die voorreg gehad het om deel te wees hiervan, het weggestap met verskeie idees en positiewe lesse om ons Orde te bevorder. Die naweek is afgesluit met twee skape wat gespitbraai was en waar ieder en elk op 'n informele grondslag mekaar beter kon leer ken. Soos die vorige jaar het byna al die broers hierdie heerlike funksie bygewoon en geniet. Ek glo ook dat die positiewiteit en gesellige samesyn van die Broers in die Sentrale Afdeling ons wenresep is vir 'n uiters produktiewe en aktiewe afdeling.

**Agb Br Marcel Kock**

**"Twenty years from now you'll be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do"**  
**Mark Twain**

### Ritual Excellence Program Success Stories

The first lapel pins for the achievement of the "Ritualist" status under the above program were presented on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the Installation of Lodge Flaming Star.

The response to the program has been most encouraging and numerous Brethren are currently preparing their ritual work for evaluation in both the Northern and Southern Divisions.



*Bro G Gouessy, Bro W Welthagen and RW Bro A van der Vyver.*

This program is not, however, just about performing good ritual; it is about understanding the teachings of Freemasonry as well as deriving the benefits of the personal growth that arises from overcoming the challenges of confidence faced when performing your ritual work in front of others. The Lodge is a friendly and facilitating environment, so where better to develop and practice these special communication skills that contribute to a more satisfying life in the outside world.



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 - Cost is R30,934 pp sharing

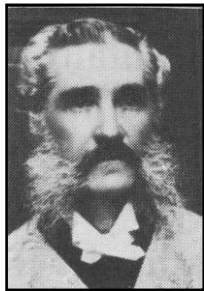
Please contact Henda Heyneke on +27 (0) 11 764 2783,  
Cell: +27 (0) 83 256 6682 or on [heyneketours@telkomsa.net](mailto:heyneketours@telkomsa.net)  
for more information on this tour and other arrangements.

## Exploring Our Past - Some Historical Facts

### Rev David Faure and Prof Charles Lewis - the Intellectuals

In previous issues of our Newsletter we introduced those Netherlandic Deputy Grand Masters who served our Order through the greater part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Remarkably, there were just 4 of them, they were all legal men and, on average, they served some 23 years. Moving toward the 20th century the pattern changed and our next 2 Deputy Grand Masters were both highly intellectual men and scholars of note.

The 5th Deputy Grand Master, while highly educated and literate, was also often somewhat controversial. He was a Clergyman and Journalist, the **Rev David Faure**, who was described as “wielding a powerful pen” and being “richly endowed with scholarly attainments and abilities as a public speaker”. He had received theological training in Holland and joined the Dutch Reformed Church but, after a dispute with the Synod, he withdrew from the Ministry and entered journalism. He was the Supreme Court Interpreter, where he caused an uproar when he publicly challenged what he had seen as an injustice done and he was also taken to task within the Masonic order over some of his theological observations.



Brother Faure's installation on 27 April 1893, was combined with the reopening of the Temple and was the largest ever meeting in the Lodge at that time. Amongst his Masonic achievements was his resistance of attempts by the Netherlandic Grand Lodge to reduce the authority of Lodges overseas – and he continued to rule his Lodges unhindered. Faure's age was against him, however, and the duties were simply too exacting for a man of his years. He resultantly retired in 1897. In his relatively short term as Deputy Grand Master he was acknowledged as having performed much good work on Masonic rituals, laws and documents.

In 1897, **Prof Charles Edward Lewis**, was duly installed as Deputy Grand Master. He was a leading academic who, after a distinguished career at South African College (now UCT) and Cambridge University returned to the Cape to be placed in a professorial chair and have a Doctor of Laws degree conferred on him. He joined de Goede Hoop in 1891 and 3 years later became the Master, an accomplishment previously unheard of. Lewis was the first Deputy Grand Master since Brand to visit the Transvaal and the Free State and this had a very significant effect on cementing the bonds within local Netherlandic Freemasonry. Lewis also contributed a great deal in the field of Masonic education, particularly with regard to the Education Funds.

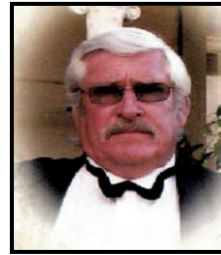


MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM

## Almoner's Corner

### In Memoriam

Die Sentrale Afdeling betreur die verlies van Agb Br Arrie Meiring wat opgeroep is na 'n tuiste in die Ewige Ooste op 17 Maart 2016. Hy word oorleef deur sy goeie dame Marina asook 'n dogter, 2 seuns en verskeie kleinkinders. Agb Br Arrie was 'n bekende gesig by al die Losies in die Sentrale Afdeling, hy was ook 'n aktiewe lid van Grootlosie en het vir jare sy plek volgestaan op Provinsiale vlak. Alle liefde en troos vir sy gesin en familie.



We wish RW Bro A Rhodie, W Bro D Retief (Lodge de Goede Hoop) and the son of Bro J Olivier (Lodge Marina) speedy recoveries after their recent back surgery.

### 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, please phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

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



 **LODGE LIBERTAS NO.16**  
Hobo Dance 2016  
In aid of the building committee  
Date - 28 May 2016  
Time - 5pm till late  
Address - 8 Halse Street, Krugersdorp  
Entrance - R75 per person  
Prize Draw - A liquor hamper worth ± R1500  
Prizes awarded for the best dressed - Couple, Female & Male  
Wors rolls on sale the night bring your cooler box  
Contact Emile van as on 0817443515 or [gwaffel@gmail.com](mailto:gwaffel@gmail.com)



## GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

*“Wear them with pride”.*

The following items of regalia of the Grand Lodge of South Africa are currently available from the Grand Lodge Office.

The price of the tie is R100.

The cufflinks cost R140.



Both of these items are only available whilst the current stocks last.