



# DGL NEWS

## DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume V Issue 03

June 2010

### FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Brethren,

After more than four years of preparation and build up, we're finally only days away from kick off! With jam-packed stadiums, the world's best soccer stars, thousands of excited fans and visitors, and the eyes of the world on our country, this has got to be the event of our lifetime. Amidst all the buzz and excitement, at the GLSA Orange Grove Masonic Centre, together with various Lodges are hosting Soccer Evenings at The "Square and Goalposts" Pub. So come and watch the games and have some fun! These events will be publicized as and when.

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to [Rhoda is my sister/secretary] with your request in the subject line, and that will do the trick.]

Once again, here goes and enjoy reading!

*Bro. Neville Boner PM, Lodge Sound Memory No. 1655 SC - [Nevilleb@ispr.co.za](mailto:Nevilleb@ispr.co.za)*

### TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bro. Neville

I was at an installation the other night when a DG Steward came up to me and asked if the stuff you put out on Fridays was suitable for those not in the higher degrees to read, he stopped reading it through about half way, my reply to him was. "You were asked to make a daily advancement in your Masonic Career in the 1st degree" Now if it were not for Neville and others who put things together for you in the DGL Newsletter or in the Forum, how much reading do you try to do relating to masonry in general. We learn not only by Monkey see, Monkey do, but by what others try to do to inform us of just what is out there, and with every little piece of knowledge gained it should create in us a desire to seek for more and just maybe join some of the other degrees.

I find that as one advances in masonry it's almost: one step forward, but covering three or more steps we have already taken backwards, the more I know the less I really know, strange eh! But, very fulfilling, The dangers I would point out, and one of the main worries is that you commit yourself more to these degrees and that your mother lodge and the craft in general will suffer, but then again and I quote, "They may take our lands but they'll never take our freedom", and that is your decision.

*By Bro John A. Grant, PM Braemar 1469sc*

### THE REAL MEANING OF "A POINT WITHIN A CIRCLE."

The following article is (much to my regret) not the result of my own research. Rather, I found it on the "Official Graham Hancock Website." However, even that is not the original source – the official sources are listed at the conclusion of the article. This article is a short résumé of Dan Brown's "The Lost Symbol" to be released in December 2010. According to Brown, the lost symbol is "The Point Within A Circle," and it is, in my opinion, by far the best explanation I have ever heard of one of Freemasonry's dearest symbols. Not surprisingly, the derivation of the meaning of the Point Within a Circle was "discovered," or at least, expounded, by a SCOTSMAN named David Cummings. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and it enriched my understanding of Freemasonry greatly. I hope it does the same for you.

*by Bro. Zak Theron, WSW, Lodge Unity, 1006.*

### Scottish Scientist Unravels Dan Brown Mystery

The secret astronomical meaning of the 'Lost Symbol', featured in Dan Brown's novel of the same name, has been discovered by a scientist from Glasgow, Scotland.

David Cumming's discovery unveils a hidden storehouse of astronomical information that relates to what Einstein called, 'the greatest coincidence in the Universe.' The discovery sheds new light on the origin of our Sun, Earth, and Moon and supports recent scientific speculation about the nature of our Universe.

The 'Lost Symbol' in Dan Brown's novel - a point within a circle- represents the creator of the universe in many ancient cultures, religions, and philosophies. (In the final paragraphs of his book, Brown asserts that 'God' is the Lost Symbol, so for Brown's most picky fans, this discovery is about the lost meaning of the Lost Symbol of the Lost Symbol - Brown is never an easy read!).

In ancient religions and philosophies such as Hinduism and the ancient Egyptian culture, and in Western philosophical traditions such as that of Freemasonry, the point within the circle can be found with two

vertical lines, one on either side of the circle, an image that David Cumming shows is integral to deciphering the Symbol's long-lost meaning. In the modern world, the symbol is common though its meaning has been lost until now. As Dan Brown points out, one of the most prominent examples of the lost symbol can be seen in the Washington monument, when viewed from above.

David Cumming said: "The secret meaning of the lost symbol is a gateway to a fantastic set of astronomical coincidences. Einstein called one of these coincidences 'the greatest coincidence in the Universe', namely the fact that the moon completely covers the sun during a solar eclipse.

"To solve the puzzle and uncover the secret meaning of the 'Lost Symbol', I replaced the initial 'point within a circle' symbol, representing the Earth's orbit around the Sun, by the astronomical figure '366', the number of days in Earth's orbit around the Sun, in relation to the fixed stars. Then the two columns, or vertical lines found in history connected to the symbol, are placed on either side of 366, giving 13661."

"When this number is doubled, this calculation gives the answer 27322. When a decimal point is added to make 27.322, we have the exact number of days in the Moon's orbit around the Earth, again according to the fixed stars. This simple arithmetical manipulation points to a whole system of stunning astronomical 'coincidences' related to Einstein's 'most amazing coincidence'."

Cumming spent several years of research and recently some difficult months pouring over astronomy charts and statistics with a calculator before discovering the secret gateway of the Lost Symbol.

David Cumming added: "This discovery reinforces the recently developed theorising by many physicists and statisticians that we live in a simulated world. We may well be in some sort of vast advanced computer simulation, a constructed world, and not know it." The stunning implications of the Lost Symbol, and other newly uncovered secret scientific knowledge, including the symbol's revelation as the 'Lost Secret' of Freemasonry, will be revealed in 'The Lost Symbol and the Lost Secret,' by David Cumming, published in December 2010 by Anderson Publishing, Glasgow. ISBN 978-0-9560933-7-0.

### WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://www.kb.nl/manuscripts/> -impressive collection of 11,000 manuscript illuminations of the Middle Ages.

<http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/index.html> -an excellent site filled with Masonic knowledge.

### POINTS TO PONDER

### THE PICKLE JAR

The pickle jar as far back as I can remember

sat on the floor beside the dresser in my parents' bedroom. When he got ready for bed, Dad would empty his pockets and toss his coins into the jar. As a small boy, I was always fascinated at the sounds the coins made as they were dropped into the jar. They landed with a merry jingle when the jar was almost empty. Then the tones gradually muted to a dull thud as the jar was filled. I used to squat on the floor in front of the jar to admire the copper and silver circles that glinted like a pirate's treasure when the sun poured through the bedroom window. When the jar was filled, Dad would sit at the kitchen table and roll the coins before taking them to the bank.

Taking the coins to the bank was always a big production. Stacked neatly in a small cardboard box, the coins were placed between Dad and me on the seat of his old truck.

Each and every time, as we drove to the bank, Dad would look at me hopefully. 'Those coins are going to keep you out of the textile mill, son. You're going to do better than me. This old mill town's not going to hold you back.'

Also, each and every time, as he slid the box of rolled coins across the counter at the bank toward the cashier, he would grin proudly. 'These are for my son's college fund. He'll never work at the mill all his life like me.' We would always celebrate each deposit by stopping for an ice cream cone. I always got chocolate. Dad always got vanilla. When the clerk at the ice cream parlor handed Dad his change, he would show me the few coins nestled in his palm. 'When we get home, we'll start filling the jar again.' He always let me drop the first coins into the empty jar. As they rattled around with a brief, happy jingle, we grinned at each other. 'You'll get to college on pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters,' he said. 'But you'll get there; I'll see to that.'

No matter how rough things got at home, Dad continued to doggedly drop his coins into the jar. Even the summer when Dad got laid off from the mill, and Mama had to serve dried beans several times a week, not a single dime was taken from the jar. To the contrary, as Dad looked across the table at me, pouring catsup over my beans to make them more palatable, he became more determined than ever to make a way out for me 'When you finish college, Son,' he told me, his eyes glistening, 'You'll never have to eat beans again - unless you want to.'

The years passed, and I finished college and took a job in another town. Once, while visiting my parents, I used the phone in their bedroom, and noticed that the pickle jar was gone. It had served its purpose and had been removed. A lump rose in my throat as I stared at the spot beside the dresser where the jar had always stood. My dad was a man of few words: he never lectured me on the values of determination, perseverance, and faith. The pickle jar had taught me all these virtues far more eloquently than the most flowery of words could have done. When I married, I told my wife Susan about the significant part the lowly pickle jar had played in

my life as a boy. In my mind, it defined, more than anything else, how much my dad had loved me. The first Christmas after our daughter Jessica was born, we spent the holiday with my parents. After dinner, Mom and Dad sat next to each other on the sofa, taking turns cuddling their first grandchild. Jessica began to whimper softly, and Susan took her from Dad's arms. 'She probably needs to be changed,' she said, carrying the baby into my parents' bedroom to diaper her. When Susan came back into the living room, there was a strange mist in her eyes. She handed Jessica back to Dad before taking my hand and leading me into the room. 'Look,' she said softly, her eyes directing me to a spot on the floor beside the dresser.

To my amazement, there, as if it had never been removed, stood the old pickle jar, the bottom already covered with coins. I walked over to the pickle jar, dug down into my pocket, and pulled out a fistful of coins. With a gamut of emotions choking me, I dropped the coins into the jar. I looked up and saw that Dad, carrying Jessica, had slipped quietly into the room. Our eyes locked, and I knew he was feeling the same emotions I felt. Neither one of us could speak. This truly touched my heart. Sometimes we are so busy adding up our troubles that we forget to count our blessings. Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life, for better or for worse.

God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for GOOD in others.

*By Anon*

### DGL INFO:

#### DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

1a Minnar Street P.O. Box 74208  
 Forest Hill, 2190 Turfontein  
 Johannesburg  
 South Africa 2140  
 E-mail: [john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za](mailto:john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za)  
 Tel: 011-6838314/8380 Fax: 011-6833072

District Grand Lodge: [www.dgl-sa.com](http://www.dgl-sa.com)  
 District Grand Royal Arch Chapter: [www.dgrac-sa.com](http://www.dgrac-sa.com)

### POEM

#### "IF SUDDENLY WE KNEW"

by Alice E. Chase

If suddenly we knew today  
 Was going to be our last  
 I'm sure we'd do a lot of things  
 Neglected in the past.  
 Like rising very early  
 So we wouldn't miss the dawn  
 Or running barefoot down a hill  
 Before the dew was gone.  
 I think we'd greet our neighbors  
 With a very special smile  
 And visit friends we hadn't seen

In quite a little while.  
 I'm certain we'd be careful  
 Not to tread on any toes  
 And listen with a kinder ear  
 To other peoples woes.  
 We'd find much greater magic  
 In a sunset or a star  
 And wish we'd noticed sooner  
 Just how beautiful they are.  
 And finally I think we'd ask  
 For extra time to do  
 These things we didn't do before  
 And lots of others too.  
 For all at once we'd realize  
 That our spiritual worth  
 Depends upon the way we live  
 While we are here on earth.

### 2010 Pipe Band & Highland Dancing Contests

26/06/2010 - Natal Scottish Gathering  
 17/07/2010 - St.Benedict's Gathering:- St.Benedicts  
 College, Cnr.Harcus & Dean Roads, Bedfordview.  
 07/08/2010 - Benoni Gathering:- Benoni High  
 School, Cnr.Dalrymple Road & Hospital St.  
 Northmead Benoni.

(Champion of Champions)

### MASONIC TRIP TO CAPE TOWN

In March this year a group of Knights Templar from the Gauteng area travelled to Cape Town to support the Simonstown Preceptory at their annual Installation. They meet in the Goede Hoop Temple which adjoins the parliament building, indeed the "Tuynhuys" belonged to the Freemasons originally and was sold for the sum of One Pound to the Government of the day on condition that it would not be disposed of by them, but, if the time came to sell, the church would be the purchaser – for the same amount that Parliament paid for it!!

Upon entering the grounds, the police guard at the gate waves you through and you enter a stark white gateway whereupon you are faced with a building that is almost dazzling in its whiteness, the Goede Hoop Temple. The porchway or entrance is spacious and leads you to the actual door of the temple. This is one of the most beautiful structures that I have ever seen, going through the door you must mount a short flight of steps which gradually unfolds the Temple to you, it is a long room, fairly narrow, with four statues against the walls at intervals, they represent Wisdom, Strength, Beauty and Faith, beautifully sculptured. The ceiling is painted blue with golden stars decorating it, in the centre is a depiction of the letter "G" in Hebrew characters. The East is reached by another flight of steps and is backed by a stained glass window. All in all it is an inspiring chamber, and, if one is the DC, a chamber which will keep you fit, with all the steps! (I

know as I have been DC there) Adjoining the main Temple is a smaller Temple which is used for initiation ceremonies, it is part of the original building which escaped a devastating fire in the late 1800s, fairly dark, but with a wonderful atmosphere, and a crypt! There is also a chamber of reflection which can be completely blacked out, and, just to make sure no one leaves prematurely the door is about 10 inches thick, made of solid wood.

Being the oldest Masonic Lodge in South Africa, anyone visiting Cape Town should make an effort to visit, particularly if there is a meeting taking place, it is an unforgettable experience.

*By Bob Stewart PM, Golden Thistle Lodge, Reef Preceptory*

## NEWS FROM ABROAD.

### Rediscovering a hero-Norton man's efforts help honor Prince Hall

Prince Hall was an American patriot, entrepreneur and civil rights activist whose name is considerably less well known than his contemporaries John Hancock and George Washington.

But thanks in part to the efforts of a Norton resident, the life and deeds of the African-American Masonic and educational leader may one day be recounted with the same reverence as those of Martin Luther King and Booker T. Washington.

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below: <http://www.thesunchronicle.com/articles/2010/05/16/news/7382123.txt>

## REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING

I really enjoy studying a few things; history, religion, Freemasonry, and The Great Light of Masonry - the Holy Bible. I seem to be always surprised when I have an article on a touchy subject in the works and then in the study of religion and the Bible something in that study will turn on the light for me regarding that article. The theme of this article has been in the works for quite some time, and I had no intention to finish it anytime soon, but I got a question regarding the subject of this article recently which got me to looking at it again. Then today I came across two things in and regarding the Holy Bible that gave me an idea to continue.

The subject of this article is not pleasant; maybe that's why I was quick to set it aside before. It has to do with balloting on petitions, and what seems to be casting a ballot out of spite. There are times in a Masonic Lodge when a petitioner is rejected that there may have been a ballot cast because of spite for some reason; at least it is perceived that way by some Masons. One of the good things about a secret ballot is that only the person casting the ballot knows how he voted and why, also one of the good things is that those of us who are in Lodge to ballot on a petition rely on each other to cast our ballots in agreement

with our best judgement, and for the good of the Lodge and the Craft.

One thing that came to mind today, when studying the Bible and a bit in the Talmud, was the revamping of a question: Is something that is a right, (such as voting,) always done for the right reasons? Every Master Mason has a right to vote in his Lodge, and every Master Mason has the right to form his own opinions about what transpires in his Lodge. But when we cast our vote in Lodge is the ballot we cast done so for the right reasons, and when the ballot is announced are we right to think, when the result is rejection, that a ballot may have been cast for a spiteful reason? Should our first thought be of a suspicious kind where our Masonic Brothers are concerned?

Proverbs 14:8 also came up today for me. It says in part; "*It is the wisdom of a clever man to understand his course.*"-JPS translation from the Tanakh. After reading this I thought of what seems to be a natural human tendency; to hold on to old memories, hurts, prejudices, and bitternesses: These contribute to the discordant passions we Masons are endeavoring to subdue. These discordant passions, which could result in a ballot being cast out of spite, are the same discordant passions that could result in another Mason being distrustful of the motives of one or more Brothers who happen to be present when a petition is presented for a vote.

In the Jewish religion this human tendency of hanging on to old hurtful emotions that will cause us to do something today that we may regret tomorrow is called *yetzer hara*; the tendency to do something, (which is wrong even though we know, deep down,) is wrong. This *yetzer hara* can be viewed as a test for us to overcome, (a test of our character,) and by overcoming it we can grow into better men. Possibly the good thing about having a name like *yetzer hara*, or discordant passions, for something we might tend to do that would cause us to 'self-destruct,' because of our attitudes and actions, will help us to pause and think about our motives before taking action.

One way to help us get in the proper state of mind when it comes to exercising the rights we have as Master Masons, and to act in the right manner when we attend Lodge, is to do our best to leave the outside world and all its values outside of the Lodge Room door. We can do this easier if - when we enter the Lodge room we meditate on the lessons that are all around us as we calmly sit there: The symbols of the Plumb, Level, and Square; the Rough and Perfect Ashlar; the Gavel; The Lights of Masonry - the greater, lesser, and the three lights; the Steps leading up to the stations of the three principle officer's chairs; the checkered pavement which is symbolically there in every Lodge Room. In our minds eye we can recall the Principle Tenets of Masonry; Theological and Cardinal virtues, the points we learn about in the first and third degrees. How the inclination to do the wrong thing; the failure to be wise enough to understand the planned course of action, Proverbs 14:8 Tanakh had such a devastating effect on not only one celebrated

individual, but also on 15 others; how their tendency to do wrong caused them so much regret, and how much sadness it caused countless others: plus a host of other things in the Lodge Room we can draw from to meditate on, and learn from.

The lessons of Freemasonry, the lessons we learn in our houses of worship, the lessons we learned from our parents and others who love us, and who want only the best for us, are the memories we want to have occupying our minds.

Reverend and Author Eric Butterworth suggests that we need to have a good "forgettery"-Celebrate Yourself! by Eric Butterworth. We also need a good "memory" for the good and wholesome things in life. Developing a forgettery is our best effort to let go of our old hurtful memories because, they are no longer real, they are in the past, and our recalling them perpetuates them in our minds only. Here is a scripture you may recognize: "*Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*"-John 8:32 NIV New Testament Rev. Butterworth's commentary on that scripture says; "*to know the truth is to let go of untruths.*" He also says that constantly remembering old negatives about ourselves and our past experiences is 'rattling skelatons' that have no reality, He continues; "*Life is much more positive, more productive, and far happier on a past is forgotten basis.*"

Rabbi Boruch Clinton wrote for [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org) Volume XVII, number 19 ; "*Since, however, there is no single set of clear guidelines that is appropriate for everyone in every situation, the real trick is to somehow accurately assess what level of restraint is right for you at any given time.*"

*By Bro. Ed Halpaus, Grand Lodge Education Officer, Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A.F. & A. M. of Minnesota*

### QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"Committing a great truth to memory is admirable; committing it to life is wisdom." *William A. Ward*

"Some think they are preserving tradition when they are only perpetuating a habit."-*Rabbi Shraga Silverstein*

Apt words have power to assuage the tumors of a troubled mind.-*John Milton*

Habits are first cobwebs, then cables.-*Spanish proverb*

### UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND BYE-LAWS-

#### Extract from No. 171

.....At the time of Initiation each candidate and each Affiliate from another Constitution shall pledge himself to support and maintain these Laws and to obey the

Bye-Laws of the Lodge. He shall receive a copy of each.

**FOR SALE**

### LOCAL MASONIC ITEMS

For details and prices contact:

Bro. Dave Kennedy 083-294 5530

or email: [piperauto@telkomsa.net](mailto:piperauto@telkomsa.net)

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Copper and Brass R 50.00

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING AT BRINGING IN STOCK FOR A MASONIC SHOP AT DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF ANY ITEMS WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE STOCKED THERE.

**Jeremy Gordin, journalist, on the late great sports writer, Rodney Hartman and the Snoymans.**

Excerpted from:

<http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page71619?oid=178487&sn=Detail>

When I was working at the Sindy in 2007, busy with Zuma matters, and Rodney was mainly busy on *The Star's* sports pages, he'd often come into my office and ask me in his ultra-polite, gentle way whether I wouldn't please look into the matter of "Phil Snoyman's business".

Snoyman - a former top goalkeeper in the Johannesburg Rangers (1940s and 50s), a close friend of Sir Stanley Matthews, and a buddy of Rodney's - always believed that the purchase of his tyre business in Malvern by a large group had somehow not been above board. Snoyman claimed that there was proof to be found if only someone would look properly and talk to a certain accountant.

And I believed I would do this sometime for Rodney - and for Snoyman - when I reached that "plateau" of calm and free time. But I left the Independent group at the end of 2008, Snoyman died in March 2009, and now Rodney's dead.

1905. *Kasteel Street, Belgravia (Jeppestown).*

The Snoymans were a "famous" family. There were 10 brothers and a sister (Gertie) who formed a soccer team and solved the problem of what to do with Gertie by putting her in the goal. More renowned, later, as goalkeepers were Phil and brother Lubbe.

Matthews (Sir Stan) loved Phil and would always spend time with him on his visits to SA. And of course Hymie "Fish" Snoyman was famous at the *Rand Daily*

*Mail* for being the man with the liquor. But you had to be a grown-up. Hazelhurst could buy booze from Fish - but he wouldn't sell to a *laaitie* such as me. Not a chance.

But before the Snoymans became well-known, they lived - in the early 1900s - next to my paternal grandparents in Kasteel Street, Belgravia. According to my father - who, be warned, never liked the facts to get in the way of a good story - the family was very poor. So his mother (my grandmother, Sarah) would always share her large pot of soup with the Snoyman parents and their soccer team.

*May 2010. Kasteel Street.*

Last Sunday I drove east down Jules Street to find my grandparents' home. It's gone; levelled; it's waste ground. And although Jo'burg and most of South Africa is being dolled up for the World Cup, that part of town is not. It's clearly pretty forgotten.

And the Snoymans, the keenest of footballers, and Rodney Hartman, are not going to be around for the great football spectacle.

## BIBLIOPHILE

### A Handbook For The Freemason's Wife by Philippa Faulks & Cheryl Skidmore

Why do men want to be Freemasons? How do you become one and what is involved?

Whether you are the girlfriend, wife, partner or close relation of a Freemason or a Freemason-to-be, you will find within this light hearted guide, the answer to almost every question you will initially ever need to know about Freemasonry.

Everyone has heard at least one thing about the Masons, good or bad, but what is the truth? Written by the wives of two well-established Freemasons, this book provides a simple and straightforward guide to the basics of Freemasonry, steering readers through the initially bemusing concepts towards a clear understanding of the path of moral learning in which their men folk will be involved.

It demystifies the myths and puts paid to the rumours and in doing so, makes all readers feel reassured, more knowledgeable and respectful of a wonderful Craft.

From the initial queries and concerns about becoming a Freemason, to the role of the 'Lady' at Ladies Night, the answers, advice and suggestions are all here. The perfect book for every Freemason's Wife!

## LODGE DIARY

<b>JUNE</b>		<b>2010</b>	
The Golden Light			Klerksdorp
Jakaranda			Willows
Turffontein	Lecture		Rewlatch

Eenheid		Boksburg South
Ophirton	Annual Quiz	Boksburg North
Balmoral	Lecture	Olifantsfontein
Caledonian		Germiston
Athol		Boksburg
Randfontein		Krugersdorp
Scotia		Orange Grove
The Pilgrim		Lydenburg
Towerby	Installation	Rewlatch
Energy		Secunda
Unison		Carletonville
Glen Douglas	1st Degree	Rewlatch
King Solomon		Germiston
Piet Retief	Installation	Vereeniging
Nelspruit United		Nelspruit
Douglas	1st Degree	Germiston
Alpha Crucis		Rewlatch
Benoni Kilwinning		Boksburg North
North West Bedford	Lecture	Orange Grove
Brakpan		Brakpan
Peglarae		Rustenberg
Roodepoort Caledonian	Installation	Roodepoort
Golden Thistle	Lecture	Park Lane
Northern Province		Orange Grove
Gordon	1st Degree	Rewlatch
Alberton		Germiston
Discoverers		Roodepoort
Border		Vereeniging
Sound Memory	Lecture	Orange Grove
St Andrew		Kensington
Cairngorm Republic		Orange Grove
Nigel		Nigel
Caxton	Recess	Orange Grove
<i>Masonic Services</i>		<i>Park Lane</i>
Bloemhof-Fontein	Recess	Klerksdorp
Western Star		Roodepoort
Far East Caledonian		Springs
Pythagoris		Park Lane
Tvl Volunteer	Installation	Park Lane
Florida		Roodepoort
Orpheus		The Willows
Middelburg United		Middleburg
Argyll	1st Degree	Roodepoort
Somah Herber		Park Lane
Oranje		Bloemfontein
Sabie		Nelspruit
Brixton		Norwood
East Rand Scots		Boksburg North
Glen Douglas		Rewlatch
Blyde	Installation	Pilgrims Rest
Robert Burns Mem		Germiston
Pretoria Celtic	Installation	Olifantsfontein
Braemar		Rewlatch