



# DGL NEWS

## DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume III Issue 8

December 2009

### SEASON'S GREETINGS from our RWDGM



#### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2009

The Festive season is once again upon us. It is a time for reflection, a time for giving and a time for receiving.

It is incumbent upon ourselves to look back at the good deeds we have performed and upon those deeds where we may have been found to be remiss.

We must give to those in need, all of the gifts our hearts and minds can afford, and receive with gratitude the love and affection which is returned to us as a result of these actions.

The Poet Bro Edgar Guest wrote:

*"A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year;  
He is almost what he should be when the Christmas seasons here;*

*Then he's thinking more of others than he's thought the months before,  
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for,  
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;  
When the Christmas spirit rules him he comes close to the sublime."*

The Freemason is exhorted in our various degrees to display this spirit, via his words and actions, all year round. Indeed Bro. Benjamin Franklin stated that, "a good conscience is a continual Christmas." I would recommend to our Brethren that they take these words to heart and practice their intent on a daily basis.

To the Staff, Office Bearers and Brethren of the District Grand Lodge, to the residents and Staff of Roslin Park, to the Brethren our Daughter Lodges and their loved ones and those of our Sister Constitutions, I wish a joyous and peaceful Christmas, a Happy Chanukah and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

In closing I leave you with the words of Robert Plant:-

*And if you listen very hard  
The truth will come to you at last  
When all are one and one is all  
To be a rock and not to roll.*

Yours sincerely and fraternally

**Bro. Robert G Law, Rt Wor District Grand Master**

#### FROM THE EDITOR

**Greetings Brethren,**

There has been a number of complaints by our senior members that feel they are being neglected by their Lodge for not having access to e-mail and therefore do not receive agendas and notice of meetings. Please spare a thought for these Brethren and post your notices to them!

I wish you and yours all the best over the festive season and I thank those Brethren who have contributed material for our newsletter. May the New Year bring you everything that you wish for!

*May you always have  
Love to Share ,  
Health to Spare,  
and Friends that Care!?*

To print this document without colour, select 'File' then click 'Select all' then click on the 'colours' toolbar and click on 'automatic'.

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to [jrhoda@absamail.co.za](mailto:jrhoda@absamail.co.za) [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)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Brethren,

Just a short note to thank you all for your good wishes during my stay in hospital and this recovery period I am in.

The op seems to have gone well and I will be seeing the surgeon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November and then placed in the Cardio's care for regular check ups. Every day seems to be better and I am sure a speedy recovery will ensue.

The op is not for the faint hearted and definitely do not try it at home as the other members of the cardio club will tell you. But it sure beats 'smoke enders' and I hope to keep that up with your encouragement.

Many thanks once again and will hope to be back in the lodge soon.

Yours fraternally

*Bro. Eddie Davidson PM, Lodge Ophirton No.886 SC.*

## AN UNQUANTIFIABLE VALUE

Some time ago, one of our brethren commented that he thinks he's spending too much time with Masonry. He actually quantified his reasoning by saying that at that particular moment, he was spending between 30 to 35% of his time with matters Masonic and that he felt that he would like to get it down to around 10%. Are there any other Brethren out there that think in these terms? If there are, we haven't done our job properly. We haven't taught the basic concepts of our Order, for surely, anyone who says this or something like this, hasn't got any idea of what Masonry is all about. It certainly isn't going out every night to meetings or spending time learning the ritual when there are other duties in life that have to be completed. A basic principle mentioned in the final charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree states, "and that without neglecting the ordinary duties of your station in life, you will feel yourself called on to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge." The operative words here are, without neglecting the ordinary duties etc. Even so, don't let this become an excuse to do nothing; the other part mentions the need to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

Masonry is not quantifiable; it is a way of life and should be absorbed into the way you conduct yourself day to day and in all situations. That is what we mean when we say it makes 'good men better.' It is 100% of your life when applied into your personal philosophy; for it teaches you the real meaning of Truth, Honour and Virtue. Of course, these three qualities encompass all else that is important to every human being, namely, brotherly love, a sense of commitment, honesty, charity and the overriding drive to emulate the GAOTU in our quest for making the perfect ashler within ourselves.

*By Bro. Roger Edmed PM, Lodge Golden Thistle 744*

## NOTICE

**District Grand Lodge offices will be closed from 17<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January**

## IS FREEMASONRY MY REFUGE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

At first glance, you may ask as to why would I want a refuge from reality?

For me, the reality of our current society is not what inspires me to greater things. Without trying to be despondent, I have to accept that we are surrounded by liars, thieves and persons who really have a different morality to that into which I was born. Some high Government Officials lie with impunity, others steal and defraud the taxpayer and are rewarded when caught, with golden handshakes to "retire from Office." I do not blame the rank and file citizen in South Africa for taking these blatant examples as the accepted norm. After all, if the Leaders of the people do it, then why can't they? All Leaders in every walk of life are judged by the standards that they set. These standards are the ones that the followers are justified in emulating. If these standards are ones of corruption and deceit, then why not me? Maybe I am a dinosaur and cannot adapt to the new ways of society. Quite honestly, I don't want to.

For me, Freemasonry gives us an alternative. It gives us a forum where the old principles and morals of life still apply. Where honesty, integrity and family values are still uppermost in the belief structures of its members. Where concern for a member of society rises above "how can I screw him" to "how can I help him?" Regrettably, we cannot help all members of society and quite honestly, most do not appreciate being helped.

Our Brethren however, are a different matter. We were all accepted into the Craft because we showed promise and came together as like minded men, seeking to be enlightened in the principles and tenets of Freemasonry. For some, this was the esoteric and spiritual aspects of the craft. For others, it was "like minded men." Above all, it was the beauty of being in a non political, non racial and non sectarian society where, whatever our beliefs, we could freely mix and enjoy the intellectual and social intercourse of tolerant men and their families. This is the foundation of Freemasonry and the academic, pursuits are built on this sound base.

But, how many of us spend quiet time considering how we can become more tolerant and of better service to our fellow man. How can we develop ourselves to become men of heightened integrity, whereby insults and lies never cross our lips and our word is always our bond, in Freemasonry, we have the opportunity to practice these principles without fear or recourse and where, when we get it wrong and show real remorse, we will always be forgive.

Where good men meet, there is always a sanctuary from the real world. For me, this is Freemasonry.

*By Rt, Wor. Bro. Dave Duncan, PGM, Northern Div, GLSA.*

## Scottish - Gaelic Proverbs

Truth is often harsh to tell.  
He thought the ocean his own under his spells.  
The warp in the old wood is hardest to remove.  
He would cheat the heron of her egg, though her two eyes  
were fixed on him.  
Every dog is brave on his own rubbish-heap.  
The lad with no artifice is as bad as the lad with nothing but  
trickery.

### DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

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

## WHAT IS LIFE?

### A Freemason's Guide to the Universe.(Part V)

#### **Incontrovertible proof of Immortality?**

Ego comes about through a split in the human psyche in which identity separates into two parts that we could call "I" and "me" or "me" and "myself". Every ego is therefore schizophrenic, to use the word in its popular meaning of split personality.

You live with a mental image of yourself, a conceptual self that you have a relationship with. Life itself becomes conceptualized and separated from who you are when you speak of "my life".

The moment you say or think "my life" and believe in what you are saying (rather than it just being a linguistic convention), you have entered the realm of delusion.

If there is such a thing as "my life," it follows that I and life are two separate things, and so I can also lose my life, my imaginary treasured possession. Death becomes a seeming reality and a threat. Words and concepts split life into separate segments that have no reality in themselves. We could even say that the notion "my life" is the original delusion of separateness, the source of ego.

If I and life are two, if I am separate from life, then I am separate from all things, all beings, all people.

But how could I be separate from life? What "I" could there be apart from life, apart from Being? It is utterly impossible. So there is no such thing as "my life," and I don't *have* life. I *am* life. I and life are one. It cannot be otherwise. So how could I lose my life? How can I lose something that I don't have in the first place? How can I lose something that I am? It is impossible.

**By Bro. Zak Theron, WSW Lodge Unity No. 1006 SC.**

*The above is an excerpt from Eckhart Tolle "A New Earth Awakening to Your Life's Purpose"*

[http://inrepose.typepad.com/in\\_repose\\_blog/2008/12/eckhart-tolle-on-the-incontrovertible-proof-of-immortality.html](http://inrepose.typepad.com/in_repose_blog/2008/12/eckhart-tolle-on-the-incontrovertible-proof-of-immortality.html)

## POEM



### A Freemason's Christmas Wish

By Bro. Andrew Bradley

It is the time of year when the Brethren rejoice,  
and sing carols of praise in resounding voice.

Days of merriment and long nights of cheer,  
as we all await the "Happy New Year!"

It is a time of family and life long friends,  
a time of happiness and to make amends.

Roast turkey and baubles and the Nutcracker Suite,  
we each have our own way to make Christmas complete.

As we stroll through this happy month of December  
find time to pause and take time to remember  
that distinguishing sign of a Freemason's heart -  
those acts of Charity. How great they are.  
As your family gathers 'round your Christmas tree,  
and the children play with giggles of glee,  
spare a thought for the poor, the man with no shoes,  
whose daily meal is less than your dues.

Remember also the Grand Lodge above,  
and the Supreme Great Architect's act of love.

And practise those virtues we hold so true.

Have some fun! But let Temperance chasten you.

And during this season of peace and joy  
look well to our future - the girl and boy.

Then wonder what lessons you may them teach,  
and with your guidance what heights they may reach.

So, to all of my Brethren from far and wide,  
whether your Christmas be snow, or hot and dry,  
may the Architect grant his celestial boon  
and keep your good health 'til we meet again soon.

Take care of yourself and those you find dear.

Keep this festive spirit throughout the next year.

Look toward your next date with our happy band.

'Til our next merry meeting. Apron, heart, and hand.

## WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://www.hodapps.com/> -website by the author of "Freemasons for Dummies" and other interesting Masonic books.

<http://cliptank.com/PeopleofInfluencePainting.htm> -an interesting painting of famous people. Double click on the person for more info.

## THE CELESTIAL VIRGIN AND THE VIRGIN MARY [part 1]

One of the most intriguing aspects surrounding the nativity of Christ is the celestial symbolism of the Virgin Birth. But first, it is necessary to look at some of the appellations by which Jesus was known. These include: The Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last (Revelation 1: 8), Branch (Zechariah 3: 8; 6: 12), Branch of Righteousness (Jeremiah 33: 15) Bread (John 6: 33, 35, 41), Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22: 16), Carpenter (Mark 6: 3), Carpenter's son (Matthew 13: 55), Root of Jesse (Isaiah 11: 10) Rod, literally, "a twig," (Isaiah 11: 1), Vine (John 15 : 5) etc., etc. There is a rather curious statement made by Marcus Manilius, a first century Roman poet and astrologer who can be traced back to 10A.D. He has this to say concerning Virgo, "'At her rising Erigone (Virgo), who reigned with Justice over a bygone age and fled when it fell into sinful ways, bestows high eminence by bestowing supreme power; she will produce a man to direct the laws of the state and the sacred code; one who will tend with reverence the hallowed temples of the gods.'" [Astronomica, M. Manilius, 1st century AD, p. 265]. However curious the idea of a celestial figure becoming pregnant and giving birth to child may be, the concept is not altogether foreign to the Bible. We read in Revelation 12: 1 – 5 the following, "A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne." So it will not be farfetched to presume that the concept of , "as above, so below" did not occur in the Gospels.

Next we look at one of the appellations of Jesus namely, "The Vine." We read in John 15: 5, "I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing." One of the principal stars in the constellation of Virgo is Vindemiatrix. Several meanings have been given to this name, and the star epsilon virginis has many names. However, the most popular on is Vindemiatrix, and it has been called the Grape-Gatherer –amongst other things. One of those "other things" is a story in Greek mythology. Legend has it that Vindemiatrix, or Vindemiator, the Gatherer of Grapes, represents Ampelos, the son of a satyr

and a nymph, to whom Bacchus, in token of his fondness, gave a vine planted at the foot of an elm. Anyhow, ampelos is a Greek word "a vine," and the association with the story of the Gospels is apparent. But Vindemiatrix is also represented by a branch in the Celestial Virgin's hand. The town with which Jesus is most frequently associated, Nazareth, derives from a Hebrew word, ntsr, which means 'a Branch.' But not only is the branch motif seen in the name of the town, the Messiah himself is frequently referred to as 'the Branch.' That's not all, for there are two words used for branch, the one, as we have seen, is ntsr, and the other one is tsemach, which is rendered anadolē in the Septuagint (LXX) version of Jeremiah 23: 5. Now this word, anadolē, is the word which is translated 'East' or 'rising' in Matthew 2: 1 - 4, where we read, 'wise men from the East (anadolē) came to Jerusalem.' Quite possibly, this reference to the East tells us more than merely to indicate a direction – or to describe the ascent (rising) of a heavenly body.

Next we consider the star known as Spica, whose name means, "an ear of corn (wheat)." The Arabic name for Spica is Al Zimach, 'The Branch' and it can be easily seen that this word Zimach, is not unlike the Hebrew word tsemach 'branch' – one of the epithets of the Messiah. So, now we have a situation where Spica refers not only to an ear of corn but also, to a branch (bear in mind that the other star Vindemiatrix, also means 'branch'). It is fascinating how the symbolism connected with Virgo and Jesus keeps on repeating itself as time and again, the heavens mirror an event on earth.

The town which is said to have been Jesus' place of birth, Bethlehem, is derived from two Hebrew words Beth, house and lechem, bread, so Bethlehem means 'house of bread.' But whereas Nazareth-ntsr. But whereas Nazareth-ntsr, Greek nazaret, is clearly an allusion to a branch, the significance of The House of Bread is not immediately obvious. However, it doesn't require a great deal of imagination to see that bread is associated with corn – or wheat, being made from that particular produce. Wheat is further associated with the Messiah in the Gospel of John (12: 23, 24) where we read, "Jesus replied: 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. In very truth I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains that and nothing more; but if it dies, it bears rich harvest.'" And in another place, "...the Jews began to grumble because he said 'I am the bread which came down from heaven.'" (John 6: 41).

Of interest too, is that one of the Arabic names for the constellation of Virgo is Sunbul, and it means 'an ear of corn.' There are, therefore, two main features associated with the origin of the Messiah - a branch and an ear of corn. It is probably no coincidence that the objects in the hands of Celestial Virgin, the constellation Virgo, are represented by two stars whose names are Spica and Vindemiatrix. And these two stars have their earthly counterparts in Nazareth (Vindemiatrix) and Bethlehem (Spica).

Conclusion to follow.....

**By Bro. Zak Theron, WSW Lodge Unity No. 1006 SC.**

**NOTICE**  
**ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  
**Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 10h00**  
**At Roslin Park Home for the Aged**

**POINTS TO PONDER**

When Alexander the Great visited Diogenes and asked whether he could do anything for the famed teacher, Diogenes replied: "**Only stand out of my light.**" Perhaps some day we shall know how to heighten creativity. Until then, one of the best things we can do for creative men and women is to stand out of their light.—*John W. Gardner*

**NOTICE**  
**DGL ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**  
**20<sup>th</sup> February 2010 2-30pm for 3-00pm**  
**CERT Temple, 66 Jubilee Road, Boksburg**  
**South**

**NEWS FROM THE U.K.**

**JACK STRAW SCRAPS RULE SAYING JUDGES**  
**MUST DECLARE IF THEY ARE MASONS**

Posted by [Andrew Sparrow](#) Thursday 5 November 2009  
17.30 GMT [guardian.co.uk](#)

The justice secretary is scrapping a rule about freemasonry declarations that he played a role in introducing 12 years ago. Sometimes life goes round in a circle. Twelve years ago, shortly before the 1997 general election, [Jack Straw](#) said that freemasonry should be a "declarable and registerable interest" for members of the judiciary. Labour won and a rule was introduced saying that anyone who was made a judge or a magistrate had to declare whether or not they were a mason.

Today, with an election looming that is likely to bring Labour's term in office to an end, Straw has just issued a statement saying that he is scrapping the rule about freemasonry declarations that he played a role in introducing. What happened was that the masons threatened to take the government to court. Rather than decide to fight them, Straw chose to back down.

He explains his decision today in a written ministerial statement.

*The United Grand Lodge of England made representations in May. They drew attention to the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in Grande Oriente d'Italia di Palazzo Guistiniani v Italy (no 1) and Grande Oriente d'Italia di Palazzo Guistiniani v Italy (no 2) and indicated that they might seek judicially to review the application of the policy to the judiciary. In the light of my consideration of those representations I decided to review the policy. As a result of this review we have decided to end the current policy of requiring applicants for judicial office to declare membership of the freemasons. The review of the policy operating since 1998 has shown no evidence of impropriety or malpractice within the judiciary as a result of a judge being a freemason and in my judgment, therefore, it would*

*be disproportionate to continue the collection or retention of this information.*

According to the Ministry of Justice, there are 3,808 judges in England and Wales and 5.4% of them (205) are masons. There are also 29,702 magistrates, of whom 6.4% (1,900) are masons. The government introduced the declaration rule after it was recommended by the Commons home affairs committee in a report published in March 1997. The committee said that "nothing so much undermines public confidence in public institutions as the knowledge that some public servants are members of a secret society one of whose aims is mutual self-advancement". At the time Straw said Labour supported the recommendation. But, in his statement today, Straw stressed that the 1997 report "made no finding of impropriety in the conduct of the judiciary arising from membership of individual members of the judiciary of the freemasons".

He also said the existing safeguards, such as the oath, the availability of a complaints procedure and the independent appointments commission, were enough to support "the proper performance of judicial functions".

**QUOTABLE QUOTES:**

"Heap on the wood!-the wind is chill;  
But let it whistle as it will,  
We'll keep our Christmas merry still."- [Sir Walter Scott](#) .

Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind;  
Teach us to be patient and always to be kind.- [Helen Steiner Rice](#) .

This time of year means being kind to everyone we meet,  
To share a smile with strangers we may pass along the street.  
-[Betty Black](#) in "[This Time of Year](#)"

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others is good you do yourself. –  
[Norman W. Brooks](#), "[Let Every Day Be Christmas](#)"

**UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND**  
**BYE-LAWS**

**Notice of meeting –Law 156**

Every meeting of a Lodge must be convened (a) by circular or (b) by advertisement or (c) by intimation. The Bye-Laws must state which method is to be used for each type of meeting.

If method (a) is used every Qualified Member is entitled to receive a circular at least five days prior to the meeting. The circular must state all business to be transacted.

Under method (b) an advertisement convening a meeting must be inserted in a newspaper circulating locally at least forty-eight hours prior to the hour of the meeting. The advertisement must indicate the nature of the business to be transacted or, if appropriate, "Business private – for members only".

Under method (c) the date and time of the meeting and the business to be transacted must be intimated in Open Lodge by the Master or other Brother in the Chair at the previous Regular Meeting.

A Special Meeting for any purpose other than the working of a Degree must be convened by circular or advertisement. The number of meetings of a Lodge in any period of twelve months at which Degrees, including the Mark, may be worked, shall not exceed twenty-five.

## FOR SALE

### LOCAL MASONIC ITEMS

For more details and prices contact: Bro. Dave Kennedy  
083-294 5530 or email: [piperauto@telkomsa.net](mailto:piperauto@telkomsa.net)

LARGE VARIETY OF MASONIC LAPEL PINS, KEY RINGS AND CUFFLINKS TO ORDER. COLLAR JEWELS FOR LODGE OFFICE BEARERS, RITUALS AND ALL BOOKLETS FROM THE APPLICANT TO MARK MASTER.

WE ARE CURRENTLY HAVING A DIE STRUCK FOR A DISTRICT GRAND LODGE MARK TOKEN AND A **COMMEMORATIVE TOKEN** IS TO BE MADE FOR THE VISIT OF THE GRAND MASTER MASON IN FEBRUARY 2010.

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.

(ALL PROCEEDS TO DISTRICT GRAND LODGE BUILDING FUND)

## ALMONER'S CORNER

*MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY,  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR*

Call a truce, then to our labors —  
let us feast with friends and neighbors  
And be merry as the custom of our caste;  
For if "faint and forced the laughter,"  
and if sadness follow after,  
We are richer by one mocking Christmas past - [Rudyard Kipling](#)

### Brethren and Families

Our thoughts and prayers go to:

- Bro Morris Linton, PDGM and his wife are still overseas in Jerusalem at present. Bro Linton's good lady is undergoing prolonged treatment for a serious condition. Our wishes and prayers go to her for a speedy and lasting recovery.
- Bro Lucien Tager, from Lodge NW Bedford, was admitted to hospital on the 15<sup>th</sup> November for heart surgery. He is now back home. Convalescence will

take a bit of time, but he is on the mend. We wish him well.

- Bro Eddie Davidson, underwent a triple bypass, which by all accounts was a resounding success, as he was home in less than a week.
- Bro Harry Freunhof was admitted for cardiac examination, but was discharged and seems to be alright. Take it easy.
- Bro Lew Clarkson has cracked a rib or two and suffers from a very tender ribcage.
- Bro Kieth Maricich was hospitalised for about three days for observation, but has been discharged.

*Brethren, a 'phone call or any form of support to Brethren that are in distress or have suffered trauma, will, I'm sure be greatly appreciated.*

### Welcome and Congratulations go to the following Brethren:

- Bro Clayton Naude, initiated in Lodge Sound Memory
- Bro Sephen Deetlefs, raised to the 3<sup>o</sup> in Lodge Argyll
- Bro Kris Fawcett, initiated in Lodge Somah Herber

**May you have many years amongst your Brethren. May the light of the G.A.O.T.U shine upon you always.**

## The Last Summons

Our condolences go to the family, friends and Brethren of those mentioned below:

- Bro Johannes de Villiers from St John in the South
- Bro Johan Van Heerden, passed away in a car accident
- Bro Johan Landsberg, passed away from a freak accident whilst refuelling a generator. His wife was also severely injured
- Charmain the wife of our Caretaker, Piet and the mother of Bro.Deon passed away in the early hours of the morning of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.
- Bro Any Murdoch Jnr, form Lodge Gordon
- Condolences to Bro David Crocker the RWM of Lodge NW Bedford, whose mother passed away.

*And so it has come to pass, a loved one, having completed all the design's laid down on the Trestleboard of Life, has answered the summons of the G.A.O.T.U. and has entered into the Grand Lodge above. They shall be missed.*

**Almoner's Call Centre**

When personal tragedy strikes, as it has done for many Brethren over the years, please call the Almoner's Call Centre at the District Grand Office, and one of the below mentioned Almoners will either contact you directly or ensure that someone with knowledge of that particular tragedy or trauma will contact the Brother concerned.

**I AM VERY HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THE ALMONER'S CALL CENTRE SEEMS TO BE WORKING WELL, ALBEIT, SLOWLY. HOWEVER, THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN CONTACTED, HAVE FELT THE STRONG BOND OF BROTHERHOOD, WHICH EXTENDS FROM EACH OF US.**



**Brethren, although the above is a step in the right direction, it is incumbent on everyone to send by email, 'phone or any other means any news, good or not so good to the District Grand Almoners, so that we may offer our congratulations for good news or support and help for those who are in distress. All contact details are below.**

It is entirely contrary to a Freemasons creed that a fellow Brother or their connections must suffer in isolation. To this end we ask that you contact the District Grand Lodge and volunteer your assistance, or if you know of a Brother who may benefit from a kind word and support.

***In conclusion, please submit your message, whatever it is, to the District Grand Lodge to the contact numbers / address mentioned below:***

**Email: [john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za](mailto:john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za)  
Tel: 011 683 8314 Fax: 011683 3072**

District Grand Almoners in your area:

<b>Bro Roger Edmed</b>	<b>082 760 1513</b>	<b>Gauteng</b>
<b>Bro Mike Ioannou</b>	<b>082 466 6035</b>	<b>Gauteng</b>
<b>Bro Brian Prinsloo</b>	<b>072 277 7459</b>	<b>Gauteng</b>
<b>Bro Rubin Sosa</b>	<b>082 549 3554</b>	<b>Gauteng</b>
<b>Bro Vic Allen</b>	<b>082 827 9285</b>	<b>Free State</b>
<b>Bro Eduard Mellaart</b>	<b>083 560 6033</b>	<b>Mpumalanga</b>