



DGGL NEWS

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume VI Issue VI

December 2011

A MESSAGE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

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

Dear Sir and Brother

*"And the Grinch, with his Grinch feet ice cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?
It came without ribbons, it came without tags,
It came without packages, boxes or bags.
And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?
What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?"*

It may be said that Christmas is a time when most people would wish their past forgotten and present remembered. In this most joyous of all seasons, we, as Freemasons, are exhorted to exhibit that "little bit more" of the character we have been taught in our Lodges to portray. We need to be aware that in this time of giving, the most precious gift that we may offer is our love, affection and concern. There are those among us for whom Christmas can be a time of sadness due to the loss of family and friends. Spare a thought for them, a card or gift may not be enough, give of your time, utter a kind word, it means a "little bit more." In so doing, we can celebrate the anniversary of Christmas, not in a meretricious manner, but in a way that truly reflects the essence of the occasion.

In retrospect, we have much to be thankful for. The past twelve months have been exciting as regards the planning and design of our new District Grand Lodge Headquarters and Temple in Germiston. We are experiencing an increase in the number of new candidates and the standard of our Ritual Work has, in general, improved. I would thank in particular the Commissioned Office Bearers and Brethren of the District Grand Lodge for a magnificent effort this past year in promoting, promulgating and practicing the tenets of our Craft. To these Brethren, the Residents and Staff of Roslin Park, the Administrative Staff at our headquarters, the Brethren of our constituent Lodges and those of our Sister Constitutions, I wish a peaceful and joyful Christmas, a Happy Chanukah and a prosperous and healthy New Year .

Fraternal Greeting
Bob Law

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Brethren,
Wishing all Brethren out there compliments of the season!
Please enjoy our final edition for this year!

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to [Rhoda is my

sister/secretary] rhodaj@telkomsa.net with your request in the subject line, and that will do the trick.]

Bro. Neville Boner PM, Lodge Sound Memory No. 1655
neville.boner@imara.co 082-8997441

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bro. Neville,
I would like to thank you for placing the notice of our darts evening held at the SMT Rewlatch last week. We all had a great time, with 8 teams competing and plenty of enthusiastic supporters . The winning team was the 'Termites', captained by Koos de Beer, Lodge Gordon. At the request of all those who attended we will be holding another evening early next year.

Thanks for all your help,
Fraternal regards,
Bro. Mike Staines, RWM Alpha Crucis, 980 SC

TAU CROSS



Have you ever wondered why you take thee irregular steps when advancing from West to East before taking your solemn obligation as an EAFM? The answer is that the first is a timid step, full of caution, reaching into the unknown; the second a little bolder, indicating rising confidence, and the third quite bold, because fear has now been dispelled. Bringing the heels together in the form of a square always completes these steps. However, these steps are not to be confused with the 'regular steps' taken when the signs of each degree are communicated. These steps - the heel of the right into the hollow of the left - form a Tau Cross and are not levels or squares. The Tau Cross has significant meanings as described below:

The Tau Cross, or Cross of Saint Anthony, is a cross in the form of a Greek T. The Triple Tau is a figure formed by

three of these crosses meeting in a point, and therefore resembling a letter *T* resting on the traverse bar of an *H*. This emblem, placed in the centre of a Triangle and Circle -- both emblems of the Deity -- constitutes the jewel of the Royal Arch as practised in England, where it is so highly esteemed as to be called the "emblem of all emblems," and "the grand emblem of Royal Arch Masonry."

The Prophet Ezekiel speaks of the *tau or tau cross* as the Mark distinguishing those who were to be saved, on account of their sorrow for their sins, from those who, as idolaters, were to be slain. It was a mark or sign of favourable distinction. With this allusion we may, therefore, suppose the triple tau to be used in the Royal Arch Degree as a mark designating and separating those who know and worship the true name of God from those who are ignorant of that august mystery.

DISTRICT GRAND STEWARDS COLUMN

By Bro. Bill Craig-District Grand President of Stewards

The D. G. Stewards have once again been active raising funds for our new **DISTRICT GRAND LODGE HEAD OFFICE AND FLAGSHIP TEMPLE**.

Our appreciation must go to the R. W. M. and Brethren of the following lodges for their support in our raffles at their recent installations.

Lodge Ophirton

Lodge Peglarie

Lodge Bloemhoffontein

Lodge Energy

We also wish to thank the following lodges for their support and sponsorship in our "**buy a brick**" fundraising.

Lodge Ophirton

Lodge The Pilgrim

Lodge Blyde

Their plaques will be mounted in the existing temple soon.

There after pride of place in the new temple.

Our "**buy a brick**" project is beginning to really gather momentum. We have further plaques to buy in the near future.

The D. G. Stewards encourage all our Lodges and Brethren to become involved.

Please note: At our D. G. Lodge instruction on the 3rd December the D.G. Stewards will be selling **HAGGIS, SCOTCH SLICE SAUSAGE AND BLACK PUDDING**, ready to eat and in bulk. All proceeds to our building fund.

D.G. Stewards building fund, 17 weeks = **R18,583-00**

GREETINGS FROM DOWN UNDER

Hello BB

I have attached a couple of pics from my new lodge, Eudunda 85 (South Australian Constitution)

The lodge is situated approximately 2 hrs outside of Adelaide in the Riverlands and was formed in 1918. Sadly, they were about to hand in their charter but the members of the Young Freemason's Network decided to form a lodge of young masons in Adelaide and rather than create an entirely new lodge, a decision was made to 'hijack' the Eudunda lodge's charter. This involved all of us 'youngsters' attending their last meeting and officially joining the lodge. The existing members had to resign from their posts, but have all been made honorary members of the 'new' lodge and will also be affiliating to other lodges in the Riverlands area. The lodge charter has now been brought to Adelaide and our installation will be held in November where I will be sworn in as WSW and Master-elect.

The lodge plans to replicate the model of other lodges that have been formed to attract and retain younger masons,

similarly to the Connaught Club(www.connaught-club.org.uk) in London.



The meeting in Eudunda was sad and exciting all at the same time, but at the end of the day, Freemasonry will be the winner.

Before we left to go home, the master of the lodge got up to address us one last time and offered us 'a serious word of warning.' I thought he was going to tell us to look after his lodge charter etc etc, but the 'stern warning' was in fact something along the lines of.....

"Right lads, now on ya way home, be careful between Kapunda and Gawler. I've just heard through me farmer mates that there are kangaroos on the road. Ya don't wanna hit one of those bastards....."

I nearly wet myself, but everyone else just nodded sagely.

I guess I'm still getting used to living like an Aussie.

Cheers all

Bro. Grant Law



PS - the guy with the beard and glasses who is sitting next to me in one of the pics, wouldn't last two minutes at Alpha Crucis. He would literally be slagged to death by Mike and Swannie (amongst others). He is from Somerset in England and speaks a bit like a pirate. He even asked the bar for a 'point of soyder' LOL



A MASON'S CHRISTMAS

http://www.themasonictrowel.com/masonic_talk/old_past_master/mason_christmas.htm

"I don't believe in a Christmas celebration by the lodge. I don't think we ought to have one, or be asked to contribute to one or in any way engage in Christmas festivities."

"The Junior Mason spoke emphatically and with marked disapproval of the little ante-room group nearby, making happy plans for Yule-tide.

"That's very interesting," commented the Old Past Master. I like to hear points of view unfamiliar to me. Would you mind telling me why?"

"Of course not. It's very simple. Masonry is not Christian. King Solomon, of course, wasn't a Christian, nor were either of the Hiram's. Masonry admits to her ranks any good man of faith; Christian, Jewish, Mohammedan, Buddhist... it makes no difference, so he has a Faith. Then, as a lodge, we celebrate a holiday belonging to one faith. Now I personally am a Christian, and of course I celebrate Christmas. But my brother across the way is a Jew, who does not recognize Christianity. To ask him to spend his proportion of lodge funds in celebrating the birth of a Leader in Whom he does not believe would be exactly like asking me to celebrate, with my proportion of lodge money, the birth of Confucius. Of course, I have only one vote and the majority rules, but when it comes to personal contributions to a Masonic Christmas celebration, my hands will never come out of my pockets."

He shoved them deeper in as he spoke to emphasize his intention not to spend.

"Hum!" answered the Old Past Master. "So you think your Jewish brother across the way doesn't recognize Christianity? Don't you mean he doesn't recognize Christ as the Son of God? Wait a minute... Oh, Brother Samuels." The Old Past Master called across the ante-room. "Here a minute, will you?"

The Jewish brother rose and came forward.

"I just wanted to ask you if you are in favor or against the lodge Christmas celebration?" asked the Old Past Master.

"Me? I am in favor of it, of course, both for the lodge appropriation and the individual contribution."

"Thank you," nodded the Old Past Master. Then as the Jewish brother went back to his seat, he turned to the Junior Mason.

"You see, my son, our Jewish friend is not narrow. He does not believe in Christ as the Redeemer, but he recognizes that he lives in a country largely Christian, and belongs to a lodge largely Christian. To him the Christmas celebration is not one of His birthday, but of the spirit of joyousness and love

which we mean when we sing, at Christmas time 'Peace on earth, good will towards men!' If you argue that 'peace' is only a Christian word, he might even quote to you the words of One who said 'I bring you not Peace, but a Sword.'

"Now let me explain something to you. The Jew has just as much right to refuse to recognize Christ as the Son of God, as you have to refuse to consider Mohammed the Prophet the followers of Allah say he is. But as an educated man, you must know that Mohammed was a good man, a devout leader, a wise teacher. As an educated man, you admit that the religion founded by Buddha has much in it that is good, and you admit that Confucius was a wise and just leader. Were you in the land where the birthdays of any of these were celebrated, would you refuse your part in the people's joy in their Leader, simply because you followed another? I trust not. Well, neither do our Jewish brethren or our Mohammedan brethren, desire to be left out of our celebration. They may not believe in the Divinity of Him we, as Christians, follow, but if they are good men and good Masons... they are perfectly willing to admit that the religion we follow is as good for us as theirs is for them, and to join with us in celebrating the day which is to us the glad day of all the year.

"Believe me, boy, Christmas doesn't mean Christ's birthday to many a man who calls himself Christian. It is not because of joy the He was born that many a good man celebrates Christmas. It is because his neighbor celebrates it, because it is a time of joy for little ones, because it is a day when he can express his thanks to his God that he is allowed to have a wife and family and children and friends and a lodge, because of that very 'peace on earth' spirit which is no more the property of the Gentile than the Jew, the Chinese or the Mohammedan.

"It is such a spirit that Masons join, all, in celebrating Christmas. It is on the Masonic side of the tree we dance, not the Christian side. When this lodge erects its Christmas tree in the basement and throws it open to the little ones of the poor of this town, you will find children of all kinds there; black, white, yellow, and brown, Jew and Gentile, Christian and Mohammedan. And you will find a Jew at the door, and among the biggest subscriptions will be those from some Jewish brethren, and there is a Jew who rents cars for a living who will supply us a dozen free to take baskets to those who cannot come. And when the Jewish Orphan Asylum has its fair, in the Spring, you will find many a Christian Mason attending to spend his money and help along the cause dear to his Jewish brethren, never remembering that they are of a different faith. That, my son, is Masonry."

"For Charity is neither Christian nor Jewish, nor Chinese nor Buddhist. And celebrations which create joy in little hearts and feed the hungry and make the poor think that Masons do not forget the lessons in lodge, are not Christian alone, though they be held at Christmas, and are not for Christians alone, though the celebration be in His honor. Recall the ritual: 'By the exercise of brotherly love we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and low, the rich and poor, who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support and protect each other'.

"It is with this thought that we, as Masons, celebrate Christmas, to bring joy to our brethren and their little ones, and truly observe the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God, whether we be Jew or Gentile, Mohammedan or Buddhist." The Old Past Master ceased and stood musing, his old eyes looking back along a long line of lodge Christmas trees about which eager little faces danced. Then he turned to the Junior Mason.

"Well," he said smiling, "Do you understand?"

"I thank you for my Christmas present," came the answer.
"Please tell me to which brother I should make my Christmas contribution?"

A CHRISTMAS POEM



And is it true? and is it true?
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?
And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant.
No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.
John Betjeman

THE MARK MASTER MASON

by Bro. John Barclay, PSDGM [Laws and Rulings]

Brethren, there seems to be a misunderstanding in our Lodges regarding the Mark Degree and who can take the chair as the Mark Master.
Unlike the English Constitution where a Mark Master has to be installed into the chair, the Scottish Constitution does not have any such restrictions and any Mark Master Mason who is competent, can take the chair, without having been installed into that chair.
Under Grand Lodge Law 132 which refers to Office Bearers, We read *"unless otherwise determined by its charter, it shall not be competent for any Lodge to elect a Mark Master or other Office-bearers for the Mark Ceremony, the working of that ceremony being the duty of the Master of the Lodge or Brethren chosen by him for the time being and acting under this authority."*

I hope that this note clears up any misunderstanding that may have occurred.

DGL INFO:

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

1a Minnar Street P.O. Box 74208
Forest Hill, 2190 Turffontein
Johannesburg
South Africa 2140
E-mail: john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za
Tel: 011-6838314/8380 Fax: 011-6833072
District Grand Lodge: www.dgl-sa.com
District Grand R A Chapter: www.dgrac-sa.com

ON A LIGHTER NOTE!

OPENING THE LODGE - COCKNEY VERSION

sent in by Bro. Andy Kiloh, PM Lodge St. Andrew No.954 SC

W.M. O.K. bruvvers 'ere's the brief.
W.M. Tickle the ivories Roy .
W.M. Bruvvers, 'elp us open the gaff
W.M. Bruvver ... , why do we 'ave to look lively?
J.W. To make sure the wood is in the 'ole guvnor.
W.M. Well don't just stand there.
J.W. O.K. bruv, you 'eard the guvnor.
I. G. Done John
W.M. The next bit?
S.W. To see all the bruvvers are on all in the firm.
W.M. Come on Bruvvers, shake a leg.
W.M. 'ow much top brass in the drum?
J.W. Three guv, you and your two oppos with the cuffs.
W.M. Bruvver S.W. 'ow many others?
S.W. Three John, besides the bouncer, namely the bloke on the door and the two guys wiv' the pool cues.
W.M. Where's the bouncer?
J.W. Outside, all tooled up.
W.M. Why's that?
J.W. He's packin' a blade in case we're busted Guv.
W.M. The bloke on the door?
S.W. 'overin' inside.
W.M. What for?
I.G. To check the tickets, admit new punters and do what I'm told by your oppo.
W.M. Where's the J.D.?
J.W. Over there.
W.M. Why?
J.D. To grass to you Guv and chivvy 'em up a bit
W.M. And the other one?
S.W. Next to you Guv.
W.M. Oh yeah! why?
S.W. Errand boy Guv.
W.M. Bruvver J.W., what about you?
J.W. On the sideline Guv.
W.M. Why?
J.W. To get a bit of Currant bun and nip down to the rubbadubdub wiv' the bruvver's and see they're all back 'ere before the last bell.
W.M. Bruvver S.W., what about you?
S.W. Down the shallow end Guv.
W.M. What for?
S.W. To let 'em know when it's lighting up time and to close the gaff so all the bruvvers get their cut.
W.M. Where am I?

I.P.M. Next to me, Guv.
 W.M. I know that. Why?
 I.P.M. To keep that lot on their dancers, open the gaff and get 'em at it.
 W.M. Bruvvers, now that we're all 'ere, it's eyes down for a full 'ouse, but before we do, lets get the boss in the technical drawing department to tip us the wink, so there's no aggro.
 All Nice one, Guvnor

POINTS TO PONDER

Some Festive Season gift suggestions:

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.

-Oren Arnold

DECEMBER SPECIALS!!!



- Masonic Coin R180.**
- Masonic Pen R30.**
- Masonic Socks R35**
- Masonic Coaster R10.**

Call Bro. Dave Kennedy 083-2945530

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

- <http://www.yfn.org.au> –Young Freemasons e-magazine
- http://www.dgrac-sa.com/GS_Video.htm - Royal Arch Video 2202-2007

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

And So This Is Christmas,
 And What Have We Done?
 Another Year Over; A New One Just Begun,
 And So Happy Christmas;
 I Hope You Have Fun;
 The Near And The Dear Ones;
 The Old And The Young.

John Lennon

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.-**Janice Maeditere**

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." -**Roy L. Smith**

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS DESCRIBES THE PRACTICE OF A MASON

<http://www.freemasoninformation.com/2009/12/the-spirit-of-christmas-describes-the-practice-of-a-mason/>



It is this time of year when I stop and take notice of a certain change in the atmosphere around me. When I accidentally cut off a stranger on the road I do not get back the raised fist or digital sign language of contempt. No blaring horns, no verbalizing scorn with four letter words, no cold shoulder darken my path. Instead I am greeted with a smile and best wishes by perfect strangers; women open doors for me and even dogs wag their tail at my presence. It's Christmas and the spirit of the holiday has taken hold of most homo sapiens.

Chris Thomas in an article titled, "**ORIGINS OF THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, Having A Real Spirit of Christmas Throughout The Year,**" quotes Thomas S. Monson:

"Giving, not getting, brings to full bloom the Christmas spirit. Enemies are forgiven, friends remembered, and God obeyed. The spirit of Christmas illuminates the picture window of the soul, and we look out upon the world's busy life and become more interested in people than things."

Thomas goes on to say:

"Having such a spirit doesn't have to be something that is seen or noticed by everyone. It can be as simple as continuing with one's work while the teacher's not in the room or conducting oneself at work as if they were being

watched, even while the boss is away."

"Philippians chapter 2, verses 3-5 state, 'Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.'

"Note that these verses don't encourage one to belittle themselves but rather to recognize the worth of others as well as oneself. The spirit of Christmas truly involves being a character with integrity, one that is selfless and humble and above all, loves."

Read more at Suite101: [Origins of the Christmas Spirit: Having a Real Spirit of Christmas Throughout the Year](http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/origins_of_the_christmas_spirit#ixzz0aHgYsBXt)
http://spiritual-growth.suite101.com/article.cfm/origins_of_the_christmas_spirit#ixzz0aHgYsBXt

"Our Daily Bread," describes the Christmas Spirit this way: J. I. Packer goes to the heart of this matter in his book Knowing God. He writes, "We talk glibly of the Christmas spirit, rarely meaning more by this than sentimental jollity . . . It ought to mean the reproducing in human lives of the [temperament] of Him who for our sakes became poor, . . . the spirit of those who, like their Master, live their whole lives on the principle of making themselves poor—spending and being spent—to enrich their fellowmen, giving time, thought, care, and concern to do good to others . . . in whatever way there seems need."

<http://www.rbc.org/devotionals/our-daily-bread/2006/12/01/devotion.aspx>

These descriptions, this Christmas Spirit are how a Mason governs himself 365 days a year. Oh there are a few bad apples in the pile, I guess. But by and large a Mason is or strives to be honest, kind, giving, patient, understanding, tolerant, patriotic, gentle, forgiving and charitable. These are attributes which puts a Mason in a year round Christmas Spirit.

I am often asked what effect does becoming a Mason have on the individual. And my answer is that one becomes a new person, with a new outlook on life. Masonry is a way of life but that way of life is not limited to a certain time of year. That is really what it means to become a Mason.

When you enter that door for the first time you are in darkness, seeking light. When you have found light you have started your rebirth into the world of constant learning and constant striving to polish that rough ashlar.

Freemasonry is a journey not a destination but it is the process of performing a new way of life that makes a man a Mason.

Remember that spirit that followed immediately after 9/11? We were all one, united in one purpose, one spirit, one common bond.

From my home state of Massachusetts, The Gloucester Daily Times put it this way:

"There was a true spirit of camaraderie, a sense that we were all in this together, all on the same side, from our own neighborhoods, throughout our local communities, and across the country"

But then the newspaper goes on to lament:

"Sadly, that spirit has long since been lost over the last seven years; in fact, it was lost within a few months after the attacks. Unfortunately, we now seem as divided — politically, economically and ideologically — as we have even been. And that's not only on the national level."

http://www.gloucestertimes.com/punews/local_story_254224823.html?keyword=topstory

Outside the Craft, the spirit is short lived. It is there after some national traumatic event; it is there at Christmas time but it soon fades and soon we are back to a dog eat dog world. Not so with a Mason. His world is Christmas time year round.

So let us salute the peace, harmony and tolerance that Masons throughout the world contribute to their world and everybody else's world.

AND A HO, HO, HO TO Y'ALL!

<http://www.freemasoninformation.com/2009/12/the-spirit-of-christmas-describes-the-practice-of-a-mason/>

INSTALLATION

LODGE NELSPRUIT UNITED NO. 1402 SC



Bro. Dave Kennedy, WSDGM with Bro. Charl Du Plessis

BOOK REVIEW

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens



I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea..."

The story is so familiar we almost forget the point. Even in our old age it is not too late to change. Even in our old age it is not too late to live the life which is our birthright. In Dickens' tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, an old miser is shown his past, his present, and if he does not change, his future. The first ghost reminds him how he once enjoyed life's pleasures. The second ghost shows Scrooge his current deplorable state. The final ghost foretells the likely outcome of his skinflint ways.

A Christmas Carol is not so much a Christmas story as a New Year's story. For those of us who want to change the course of our life, for those of us who want this year's resolutions to

actually mean something, we need to go through an Ebenezer-like process.
 Mine the past for its lessons, search the present for its patterns, and project where those patterns will lead us in the future. If those patterns lead to unhappiness, those patterns must be altered to lead us to better ends.
 Whether your life is a bad life or an abused life or a flat life, you can use the ideas from this simple story as a guide to breaking the patterns which lead to bad ends.

THE CENTURY LODGE of RESEARCH No. 1745 SC- Boer War Research project
 By Dai McClymont RWM



Freemasons Hotel 1861

Century Lodge of Research is embarking on a programme to gather historical and anecdotal information about Freemasonry and its influence on South African history up to the Anglo Boer War, and the consequent founding of the Union of South Africa. This effort has been informally endorsed by our RWDGM, Bro. Robert Law.

If all you have is anecdotes, they will be most welcome: we intend to flesh them out with additional material as and when it comes to light. Should you be in possession of documents (letters, Lodge minutes, attendance registers, photos) we would like to make copies of them with your permission. Artifacts will be photographed too. All contributions will be duly acknowledged – not just because of copyright, but because it is the right thing to do.

You can contact Bro. Neville Boner at the above e-address, District Grand Lodge – in the person of Bro. Andrew Arthur, Hon. DG Librarian, or me at dmcclymont@gpl.gov.za. Please don't be backward in coming forward.

Furthermore, in the new year, I intend to hold "Skroptafel sessies" (Hey, it's about the Anglo-BOER War). I'll bring the Famous Grouse, Klippies and red wine (volunteers can decide whether to make it a bring-and-braai), and we'll sit around a table to chew the fat ... I have a functional scanner, so I will be able to scan your documents, etc. Hopefully, we will be able to do for South African Freemasonry, what was done for the Americans in "Born in blood."

It is becoming clear that, in many ways, the early history of this country was shaped by men who were sincere Freemasons, and whose thinking was shaped by our Craft – it was only latterly that Freemasonry was smeared with an evil image. I'd like us to correct all that.

BTW, a "skroptafel" is a kitchen table, around which the family and friends would sit, after dinner, with elbows on the

bare wood, and chat – with a bottle or two of good wine. Such a thing was also an institution in English households (lower middle class of course) – I remember many such evenings in the warmth and protection of my grandparents' home.

This must be interconstitutional, as Scottish Freemasonry's history hereabouts more or less only began with the gold rushes ...

DV, we'll probably begin on the West Rand, and migrate Eastwards, then to places like Kimberley, Pilgrims Rest and Barberton.

Your co-operation in this endeavour to revive our history will be most appreciated.

Sincerely and fraternally
 Century Lodge of Research, No. 1745 SC

DIARY

	DECEMBER	2011	
1	Athol	Xmas carols/Dinner	Boksburg South
4	Roslyn Park	Thanksgiving Service	Roslyn Park Boksburg North
7	Ophirton	2nd Degree	Rand Club
8	Somah Herber	Ladies Dinner	Rand Club Orange Grove
8	Golden Thistle	Ladies Dinner	Rewlatch
10	Cairngorm Republic	2x 3rd Degree	Middelburg
14	Alpha Crucis	Installation	
15	Middelburg United	Braai Evening	