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A true act of charity

by R.W. Bro. Michael J. Denton

On 5 December last, I received an email from Bro. Brian Bullock of United Peninsula Lodge No. 24 saying that he and his wife Kathy had been in a serious accident while vacationing in Nicaragua. It seems a commercial truck collided with the bike on which they were riding, causing very serious injuries to his wife, and lesser—although significant—injuries to himself.

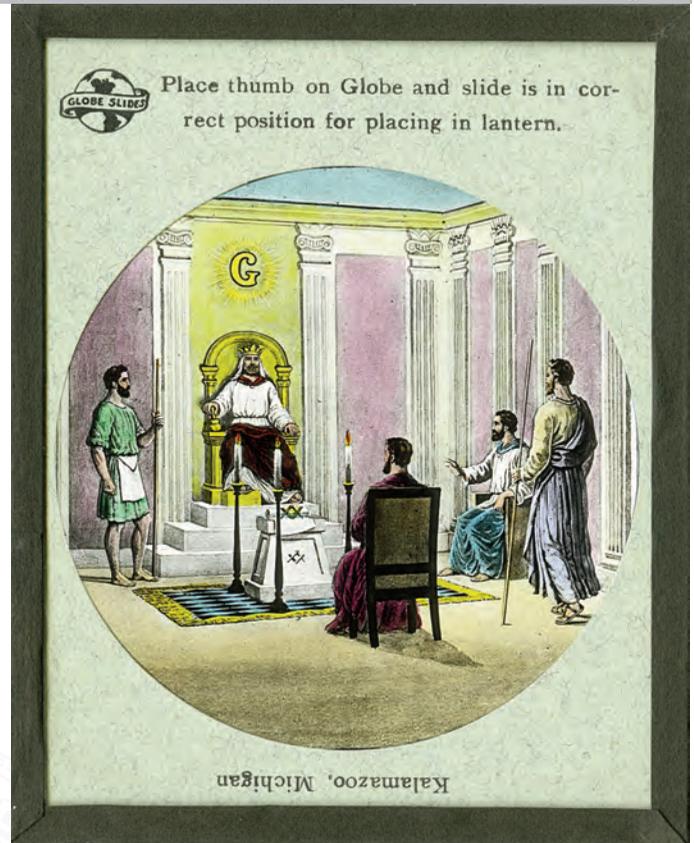
Being ever vigilant of spurious internet solicitations, I set out to confirm the email was legitimate. I called Bro. Bullock and reached him at the hospital.

Kathy Bullock was in danger of losing her leg which had been severely damaged in the impact. She could have lost her life had emergency surgery not been performed in a very crude hospital with sanitary conditions leaving much to be desired. The situation was desperate. The cost of the required surgeries was going to

be \$15,000 and while they could come up with \$6,000 they were short \$9,000. They therefore put out a desperate plea to their friends, family and email contacts asking if anyone could help with a \$100 donation towards their plight.

We all know that hindsight is 20/20 and that they should have been carrying out-of-country insurance. However, due to his two year battle with bowel cancer and her multiple sclerosis, the cost of insurance was beyond their means. (Bro. Bullock has been unable to work for the past two years because of his health.) They therefore, and in retrospect regrettably, travelled without the insurance. A hard lesson indeed. However, they did not expect to be literally hit by a truck.

Incidentally, in a true act of kindness, Bro. Bullock signed a waiver of liability against the truck driver, as he learned he only earned \$450 per month,



Originating in the magic lantern shows of the nineteenth century, glass slides were used to illustrate the lectures of the three degrees. A full set, lent to our Grand Lodge Archives, is being converted to a digital format.

and would have been placed in a significant difficult financial position for the rest of his life.

I decided to place the sad circumstances before my lodge brethren that evening. In true masonic style, the lodge voted unanimously to donate \$500 to the "Bullock Fund." My choir donated the proceeds of their singing engagement at the Masonic Service Bureau ladies lunch, and two donations were made. That evening I was able to transfer the sum of \$700 to the Bullock's daughter to forward to them in Nicaragua.

I had a decision to make: do

I leave it at that, or do I try to further help our brother in distress? I elected the latter, and sent an email to all my masonic contacts asking for any consideration they could muster under the heading of masonic charity.

I later discovered I had violated the *Constitutions* in doing so. Well, actually I violated a Grand Master's edict from 1938 which speaks of not soliciting funds by letter to other lodges. My apologies. I acted purely in good faith (and didn't in fact send a "letter") in

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An act of true charity
from page one

wanting to help my masonic brother in distress.

I'm absolutely thrilled to say that donations came in from many brethren—even one sizeable donation from a brother in England. Two lodges in District No. 1 contributed and Grand Lodge supported the call to assist.

The total raised by the end of December was \$9,504! That sum will save Bro. Bullock's wife's life. She is now receiving excellent treatment in a hospital where there are American surgeons well trained in trauma injuries. She still is not able to be moved for fear of blood clots travelling through her body, but she is well on the way to recovery, as is Bro. Bullock.

Brethren, thank you to those who contributed to their distress and took the Entered Apprentice charity lecture to heart. You have shown the true essence of Freemasonry, and on behalf of Bro. Bullock and his wife, I thank you most sincerely. ■

The point

by W Bro. Goran Ivankovic

The point in the circle represents one of the oldest symbols of humanity and as such has had various meanings and interpretations.

One of the oldest interpretations says that the circle represents the sun and the point represents the altar from which was performed religious rituals or ceremonies of the sun god.

The second interpretation explains the point as God and the circle as the universe where God is its centre.

In astronomy, the symbol of the sun can be represented as a small circle with a point in the middle and as such was used from ancient times to the present day. Even in ancient Egypt, the point in the circle



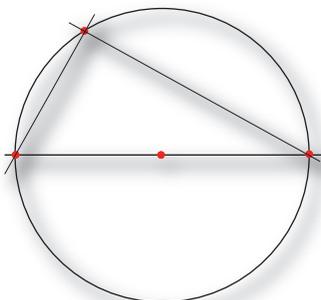
Ashlar College of Freemasonry

In January 2013, six more students began their work at Ashlar College of Freemasonry. We now have 67 students working through the courses supplied by the college. If you have not signed up and would like to join and begin deeper study of Freemasonry, you have up to 30 June 2013 to join the 2013 class. Those registering after that date will be held over to start in January 2014.

The college is run on the principle of "read, reflect, and respond." You are supplied material to read, you reflect on the readings and other resources, and respond by submitting assignments to adjudicators, specially selected for each course. All courses fall under three areas, History, Governance, and Philosophy. Eighteen courses complete the College curriculum. It is taking about one year to complete each level of coursework.

For further information contact MW Bro. Stephen Godfrey at ashlarcf@gmail.com or take a look at the course outline on our webpage at freemasonry.bcy.ca/ashlar_college.

was found in their symbolic language as a representation of God. The circle was bordered by two vertical parallel snakes symbolizing the strength and wisdom of the Creator of the Universe.



Operative builders have, since ancient times, used such a diagram to test their tools, and to create a right angle.

To do so, draw a circle around a point and draw a line through the centre of the circle so that the circle is divided into two identical halves. Any two lines intersecting with the points where the first line crosses the circle and intersecting with each other will create a right angle of 90°.

Perhaps one of the secrets of ancient stonemasons, this easy-to-use primitive diagram forms a perfect right angle. But we as speculative Freemasons

use this symbol to test ourselves, our relationship with God, with our neighbours and of course our own character.

Masonic lectures teach that the point represents the individual brother, and that the circle represents the boundary of his duty to God and man, "beyond which he is never to suffer his passions, prejudices or interests to betray him on any occasion."

Looking on this symbol through the filter of Freemasonry, the point may represent the lodge, the circle representing a harmony of the universe in which sense the lodge holds the entire universe in harmony.

Mathematically, a circle is defined by three points; masonically they are the points of contact, of parallel lines, and of the Volume of Sacred Law. Further, those three points represent the two Wardens and the Worshipful Master of the lodge.

The hypotenuse divides a circle into two parts, symbolically a division of day and night.

The masonic compass symbolizes the four quarters of

the world, using the point within a circle as a base and expressing masonic meaning to all four sides. The sun rises in the east to open the day and the Worshipful Master sits in east to rule his lodge. The sun in the south at its meridian height represents beauty and the Junior Warden. The sun closes the day in the west and represents the Senior Warden as the strength of the lodge. As there is no sun in the north, masonically this represents a place of darkness.

Operative builders used this symbol to test their own tools and check the quality of the work of others, but we can use this symbol to square our actions and the actions of other brethren, and of the lodge to which we belong. ■

Reflections of an initiate

Bro. Don Saunders

I am a relatively new member of the Craft but have had quite the interesting journey to date. When I was initiated as in June 2011, it was in one of the most unlikely places in the world—in the middle of a war zone—for I am in the military and was, at that time, serving an 11-month tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan. I was initiated into Canada Lodge UD, Kandahar, which is affiliated through Trent Lodge No. 38 in Ontario.

Now, one might ask, "How do you find a Freemason or lodge on an active airbase in the middle of a war?" As luck would have it, my roommate, Bro Tom Murphy, was a Master Mason from Nova Scotia and early in my tour, which began in August 2011, we began talking about the Craft. Later while walking around the base, Bro Murphy pointed out the discrete sign on the bulletin board outside Canada House, the recreational facility for

editor@freemasonry.bcy.ca

Canadian troops stationed at Kandahar Airfield (KAF), which beneath the square and compasses emblem read "Canada Lodge AF&AM, Lodge of discussion in KAF. Interested Masons call Rick Fulford."

At this point, it would be best to provide a bit of background on Canada Lodge. Established in 2010, the lodge conducted its meetings inside a temporary shelter, essentially an arched tent with a wooden floor. The furnishings for the lodge had been donated from lodges across Canada; the mosaic pavement was actually a carpet and the tracing board was a poster. The lodge met weekly, setting up the temple with all the accoutrements found in a permanent lodge prior to the meeting and returning the facility back to a lecture hall at the end of the evening. In short, we left the facility as we found it, truly locking up our secrets. As well, the membership was a practical example of the global fraternity and while consisting of Canadians, Americans, British, Australians, and Romanians, the ritual was conducted according to the Canadian Work.

Understanding that people do not take business suits to theatres of war, dress within Canada Lodge for the military was a clean uniform, sidearm (due to the requirement to remain armed at all times), apron, and collar of office for the officers. To ensure that everyone met on the level, rank epaulettes were replaced with a plain epaulette embroidered with the square and compasses. Civilian members wore casual clothing.

Returning to my personal journey, after seeing the poster advertising Canada Lodge I mentioned that I might be interested in joining and a few days later I was handed an application to complete. I heard nothing for a while and then was invited, along with other candidates, to join the

WM, VW Bro Rick Fulford for a coffee outside the Tim Horton's located across from Canada House. Thereafter, we were invited to join the lodge members for their weekly fellowship meeting for coffee and donuts at the Tim Horton's on Sunday evenings.

After a favourable review of my application, I was initiated with two others on 23 June 2011. It was a truly memorable experience due to the unique configuration of the lodge. Since each member was initiated individually, the candidate dressed according to the normal customs, waited in the convenient room adjoining the lodge (the storage room) not only in a state of darkness but also in a state of deafness, since we had to wear earplugs so as not to overhear the ceremony. Being the third to be initiated that evening, it was certainly a nerve-wracking experience and I truly appreciated receiving the light!

As an Entered Apprentice, I began my studies and participated in the regular weekly meetings of the lodge, enjoying the fellowship and return to normalcy that life in the lodge afforded. In addition to the regular work, the lodge was devoted to helping the local Afghan population, sponsoring school renovation projects as far west as the Panjwa'i District, which was a known insurgent stronghold.

My tour was completed in July 2011, when I returned to Victoria, BC, where I continued my journey in the Craft, joining Goldstream Lodge No. 161. Despite having joined a brotherhood of like-minded men with a common interest, I went to the lodge with a sense of apprehension; in Kandahar, there was the common bond of a profession of arms. What would this lodge be like? My initial apprehension was for nought as I found within Goldstream Lodge an instant camaraderie, the likes of which I had not previously experi-

enced outside the military community.

I have spent nine months with Goldstream Lodge, which is one of the most active lodges within Victoria, if not the province. Despite the hectic pace and frequent emergent meetings (one a month), it was always a pleasure to attend lodge and meet with my brothers. While Canada Lodge, and by extension Trent Lodge No. 38 is my mother lodge, Goldstream Lodge has become my home, which I formalized through affiliation.

Having affiliated with Goldstream Lodge, I completed my degrees, being raised a Master Mason on 15 March 2012. Unfortunately, the needs of the Canadian Forces have seen me transferred to Kingston, Ontario. While having to take a demit from Goldstream Lodge, I look forward to continuing my journey in the Craft in Ontario.

As the first anniversary of my initiation approaches, I look back with fond reflection on where the Craft has brought me thus far and look forward to whatever the future may bring. ■

Christmas cheer

VW Bro. Russell Morrison

Not often does a Past Grand Master relocate to another jurisdiction and then be willing to take on the rôle of Master of his mother lodge.

On 10 December 2012, MW Bro. Isaac Brower-Berkhoven did just that and, under the leadership of Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. Donald E. Stutt, a surprise trip was arranged to attend his installation. Fourteen brethren from BC made the secrecy-shrouded trip. Hôtel arrangements were made with the assistance of the Deputy Grand Master of Alberta, RW Bro. John Cameron, and the game was

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Freemasonry
:
the art and
science of
right living

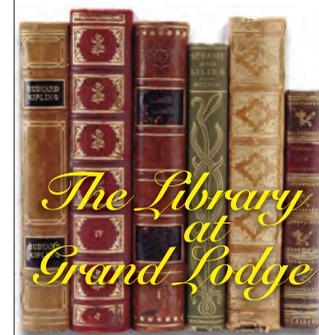


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The Library at Grand Lodge

Kandahar
from page three

afoot.

As the date got closer we found that MW Bro. Brower Berkhoven was scheduled to be staying at our hôtel. This posed some problems. How could we keep the noise of seventeen (three from Alberta) down to a dull roar?

Somehow this was accomplished, and the brethren headed out to dinner. Aside from the fact that a few brothers made a wrong turn and were fashionably late, a plan was formulated to ensure the brothers of Evergreen Lodge No. 166 were going to have an evening to remember.

It was decided to have one brother enter the lodge at the appropriate time and then introduce the rest of the visiting team. After dinner an auspicious parade of brothers headed to Evergreen Lodge and assembled in a downstairs anteroom. Once the lodge was opened and they were getting ready to conduct the installation, I knocked and was admitted into the lodge room. A wide smile of recognition was given by MW Bro. Brower-Berkhoven. As the Director of Ceremonies was about to introduce me, the door opened again, and again and again, as the other brethren entered the room at twenty second intervals.

At one point MW Bro. Brower-Berkhoven looked at me and held his hand out, five fingers spread, as if to ask if there were five brothers coming in. I just smiled. And more and more kept joining in. To say that we did something not many have been able to do —

to have MW Bro. Brower-Berkhoven speechless — was priceless.

Needless to say during the course of the evening he somehow got a hold of the talking stick and was able to make up for his temporary loss of words. He took a trip around the lodge room and stopped at the brethren who had made an impression on his masonic career, right from one of his original sponsors to the newest Fellowcraft in the room.

It was truly an evening to remember, and one of the best Christmas presents one could share with our past Grand Master. ■

The badge

by *RW Bro. Hugh Goldie, Ontario*

From the moment you say yes to this organization, you are always wearing your badge.

We're not talking about t-shirts, or sweatshirts, or hats made with logos. We're not talking about a tattoo on your ankle, some party favour, or a pin you wear on the lapel of your suit—or even your apron.

When you say yes to lifetime membership in Freemasonry, everything you say, do and represent from that moment forward is a direct reflection on this group, your brothers, and the many thousands of brethren who have come before you.

You are always wearing your badge. From this day forward, always. Every day, in every situation. It never comes off.

Everything you put out to the world is a direct reflection of this fraternity. Every decision, every achievement, every mistake you make happens to



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY FEBRUARY 2013

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|-------|------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 2 | S | District 27 | St. John's 21 | Ladysmith |
| 4 | M | Board of General Purposes | Grand Lodge | Vancouver |
| 5 | T | District 25 | Centennial-King George 171 | Richmond |
| 7-8 | Th-F | Grand Lodge of Alaska | | Anchorage |
| 17-19 | S-T | Conference of Grand Masters | | Kansas City |
| 21 | Th | District 21 | Goldstream 161 | Victoria |
| 23 | S | District 22 | Concord 79 | Parksville |
| 27 | W | District 23 | Eureka 103 | Langley |
| 28 | Th | Grand Sessions, Order of Amaranth | | Tsawwassen |

all of us from this point forward.

When you become a leader, you represent us. When you insult someone or talk badly about another, you represent us. When you make decisions about how you behave, you represent us.

It doesn't matter if you're wearing a jersey or a business suit, with or without a visible emblem. You have to assume that every person you meet will form an opinion about Freemasons—good or bad—based on how you interact with them. Every good thing you do builds us up. Every dumb thing you do tears us down.

We live in a time when the actions of one man can kill a group like ours. One person who acts in a way that is inconsistent with our shared values can end hundreds of years of tradition and pride. One bad choice you make can take away everything that generations of men have worked to build.

If this seems a little intense, that's good. Because it is serious. If it sounds like too much responsibility, or if you don't think you can behave in a

way that reflects well on us at all times, then walk away now. Do us the favour. We won't think less of you. In fact, we'll thank you. This sort of commitment isn't for everybody.

We're not asking you to give up anything. We aren't asking you to become something you aren't. We're asking you to become something more.

We're asking you to become the very best version of you that you can be. It's a big deal, and not everyone can do it.

Ask yourself one question. Are you ready to never take off the badge?

There will be times where you will see other brothers forgetting their promise, and you'll need to remind them. That's part of this whole masonic thing. We work together to make ourselves better men who stand for something. We carry each other. We matter to one another.

If we're doing our masonic duty right, then we'll make you a better man. If you're doing everything right, then you will make us a better organization. ■

Nota bene

Extra vote at Grand Lodge Communications.

If the Worshipful Master or Wardens of any lodge were, previous to their election as such, Past Masters, and so reported to Grand Lodge, they shall have one extra vote each as such Past Masters, but in the event of their holding proxies, they shall forfeit one of such extra votes. ■