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Focus on the basics

by MW Bro. R. Glenn Allen

Today is one of the most important days of my life; it is the culmination of the honour you bestowed on me when you elected me as your Junior Grand Warden in Penticton in 2005. Thank you, brethren.

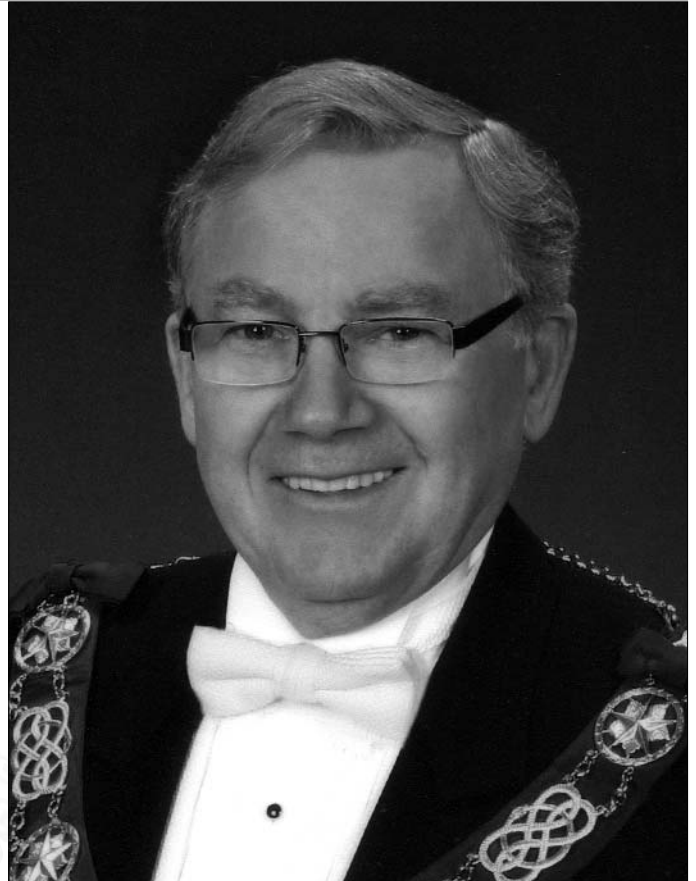
I have had to face many challenges in my life, but on reflection none could be more rewarding or important than the one we face in the next year. I say we, because no one person can perform all the duties expected of a Grand Master without the wholehearted support and assistance of the elected and appointed officers, the membership at large, and above all for me personally, my wife Laura, daughter Julie, and her family.

This year you will not see wholesale changes. I will continue to uphold the issues that were started by Most

Worshipful Brothers McSween, Brower-Berkhoven and Godfrey.

Education is still a priority, but in small doses. I would prefer education to be part of each lodge business meeting, but, please, place the emphasis on each lodge member, not just the verbally articulate. Let us get to know our brothers, the ones you now sit beside in lodge, knowing just their first name and little else about them. This year I would like to be told that each member stood up in lodge, introduced himself, and gave a five minute talk on his life: his work, his family, and his hobbies. We need to know about him now, and not wait until we read his obituary in that column of the local newspaper.

My theme this year has been used before by MW Bro. William Carter and MW Bro Douglas Grant, both of whom



MW Bro. R. Glenn Allen, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon for 2008 - 2009.

were held high in my esteem.

The theme is simply "Focus on the basics".

FRIENDSHIP

And *fun* in our lodges, our homes, and with our neighbours.

ORDER

Preserve the order and dignity in our lodges and at our festive boards.

COMMITMENT

Be committed in all our undertakings. Stay the course, practice charity. Commit to our youth, our widows and help our concordant bodies in their needs. We must remember that

we are the *well* that supplies the members for these wonderful organizations. Don't let them down.

UNITY

Work as a team in your lodges. Help the new members understand what our rules are, and why. Don't leave them sitting on the sidelines, but most of all, give them a helping hand, not a push.

SINCERITY

Be sincere in all your undertakings, with lodge, friends and neighbours. Always

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Our Grand Master

from page one

remember the Golden Rule. Freemasons should always pay heed to it because that is why we are freemasons.

We, the Principal Officers, have decided that in 2008-2009 we will not repeat the Leadership Conference held at Sun Peaks this past year, but we feel strongly it should be held again during 2009-2010.

We also think the venue should be moved to Vancouver Island or the Kootenays. I think it should be a smaller group and a little less stressful for our ladies. However, this will be decided by the Leadership Committee.

I would however like to see each district introduce their own one-day seminar, with emphasis on running a lodge and not necessarily focussing on the ancient history of Freemasonry. These could be set up similar to our District Deputy Seminars that were held in Abbotsford over the last three years, They proved to be very successful.

I would ask that each new District Deputy be invited to their district's Masters and Wardens meetings where he could then put on his own mini-course on education. He would have observed each lodge and should be able to offer his advice on their weaknesses.

If any lodge needs assistance on matters of finance, buildings or leases, please contact the Grand Secretary's office. We will provide the necessary help. (But please, Building Societies, be more vigilant with your finances and financial reviews.) You will read in our Board of General Purposes minutes, that we do not favour further support for the "We can help" programme. It has run its course and like many other good things in life, it becomes old hat and then proves to be a tough sell.



I have appointed RW Bro. Alf Erickson to review the Masonic Child Identification Programme (CHIP). This is not a new programme. In the United States it has operated for some time. Washington State is using it and the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario is starting up their own programme. This programme will identify children by photo, voice and DNA. RW Bro. Erickson will give a preliminary report to the Board of General Purposes on 21 July 2008.

I also feel a need to have a Coördinating Regional Representative, someone who can work with other Regional Representatives, to provide a common platform to air their concerns. This will in no way take away from the District Deputies, but will provide an interest between nine Regional Representatives.

Many of our districts are not operating as districts should. We need to merge some of our districts and also some of our lodges. We have too many districts with weak lodges. This needs to be looked at, but the lodges must request help from Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge executive will sit down with these lodges and advise and assist them in determining the best way to ensure peace and coöperation in the district. No one likes to turn in a lodge warrant, but let us be realistic.

Changes must be made.

Brethren, it is time to circle the wagons, but also stretch forth our hands to the public and future freemasons. We must lift our heads, put a smile on our face and walk proudly: walk like we are going to lodge to meet our friends and brothers.

And above all, make it fun. We must have fun in our Freemasonry. Thank you and have a wonderful, happy year.

Hawaii bound!

Join MW Bro. Bob McSween, Grand Master for 2005-2006, and his lovely wife Eileen on this *Masonic Family and Friends* cruise to Honolulu, leaving from Vancouver on 18 September. Contact Ian

Biddlecombe at 604-273-1811, ext. 230, to see if there are any remaining berths.

Grand Masonic Day

The 27th Grand Masonic Day, a Vancouver/Fraser Valley Workshop, will be held Saturday, 4 October, at the Chilliwack Masonic Hall, 45905 Hocking Street, with speakers on masonic topics and topics of interest to freemasons. Registration starts at 8:30 am and official opening is at 9:45 am. Cost is \$30 per person, cash or cheque only. This includes breaks, luncheon and a copy of the workshop proceedings. For information contact VW Bro. John Keirstead at 604-524-1661 or email to [page 3]

DDGMs

Our Grand Master has appointed the following true and trusted brethren to serve as his District Deputy Grand Masters for the upcoming masonic year:

District 1

RW Bro. Eric Aurel Johnson

District 2

RW Bro. George J. Pierzchajlo

District 3

RW Bro. Stewart R. Langdon

District 4N

RW Bro. James C. Reed

District 4S

RW Bro. J. Creighton Rines

District 5

RW Bro. Bruce A. McLean

District 6

RW Bro. Robin Lloyd

District 7

RW Bro. Gordon W. Harrison

District 8

RW Bro. Fredrick W. Anderson

District 9

RW Bro. J. William Tilson

District 10

RW Bro. Orville L. Robson

District 11

RW Bro. Richard J. Lenes

District 12

RW Bro. Albert P. Myshrall

District 13

RW Bro. Michael D. Yule

District 14

RW Bro. John D.S. Phipps

District 16

RW Bro. R. Alan Webster

District 17

RW Bro. J.C. (Jack) Cain

District 18

RW Bro. H. Billy Larsen

District 19

RW Bro. Bradley Craven

District 21

RW Bro. Murray J. Kirk

District 22

RW Bro. Martin J. Bridges

District 23

RW Bro. George Moore

District 24

RW Bro. Anthony J. Dodd

District 25

RW Bro. Glenn I. Stutt

District 26

RW Bro. Stephen W. Coffey

District 27

RW Bro. Randall M. Sloan

District 28

RW Bro. Michael A. Medway



RW Bro. Randy Sloan, DDGM District 27 presenting *We Can Help* certificate. The year's Grand Lodge tabled a committee-submitted resolution to suspend this popular first-aid programme for elementary school children.

keirsteadjohn@netscape.net. Prepayment is not necessary, but an indication of attendance for catering purposes would be appreciated. Dress is business casual. No regalia. ■

So mote it be

Mote is an Old English word with Indo-European roots meaning *may, must, or might*. In context of the early masonic expression "so mote it be", it implied both a wish for and a hope, if not expectation, of realizing God's will.

Lines 654-55 of the *Halliwell Manuscript*—"A Poem of Moral Duties" for stonemasons written around 1400—read "Grante me the blysse withoute ende; Amen! amen! so mot hyt be!"; translating as: "Grant me the bliss without end; Amen! Amen! so mote it be!"

The last lines, 793-94, read: "Amen! amen! so mot hyt be!; Say we so all per charyté"; translating as: "Amen! Amen! so mote it be! ; So say we all for charity."The full poem is available on our website.

The phrase was cited in

James Anderson's *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons* (1723) as a quote from an unidentified mid-fifteenth century manuscript, also found "in another manuscript more ancient." (page 31, 1734 edition)—also available on our website.

Examples of the phrase's appearance in Christian prayer in the fifteenth century demonstrate that it is not exclusively masonic.

Today, modern Wicca has adopted the phrase and appears to have changed its meaning to an expression of personal will. ■

Time

The last Regular Communication of *Star of the West Lodge, UD*, was held on 29 May 1912. Lodge was tyled at 8.30 pm. In addition to the regular business a ballot was held on a candidate for initiation. It was decided to petition Grand Lodge for a warrant, and brethren were delegated to attend Grand Lodge. Then the lodge conferred, after the appropriate examinations, the Master Mason degree, the Fellowcraft degree and then

another Master Mason degree. After all this, lodge was closed at 4:05 am. ■

History of Grand Lodge, John T. Marshall. p. 229.

Allegory

by Bro. David Freeman
An examination of Mackey's History of Freemasonry

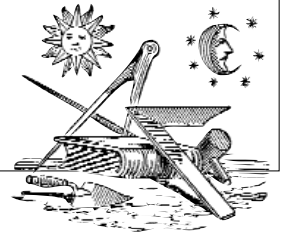
Parables are prominent within the traditions and customs of our fraternity. For neoteric freemasons, of any vintage, more questions than answers arise in grasping the allegorical nature of our Craft. To glimpse the personality of allegory within the development of Freemasonry, a positive starting point for exploration may well be Albert Mackey's *The History of Freemasonry*. Commenced after 1875 and unfinished at the time of his death, the volume traces the legend of the Craft from original manuscripts utilizing a model of examination anchored in iconoclastic thought.

Looking to divine those parts of our legend where the locus is in historical fact rather than derived from "a mixture of truth and fiction the distinctive boundaries of which it is difficult to define" is Mackey's focus.

From the writing of the Halliwell Manuscript (c. 1400) to the Papworth Manuscript (supposed 1714) and the Leland Manuscript of 1753, Mackey leads the reader through a labyrinth of masonic history both fact and legend which encompasses the allegorical material ignited by such as Euclid, the sons of Lamech, Pythagoras, Solomon, and Hiram Abif. He brings into relief facts as they join to theories of the Craft's relationship to the Essenes, Templars, Jesuits, Rosicrucians, and the House of Stewart.

Manipulation of Freemasonry in the historical processes of religion and politics gains his attention.

Be a mason,
square your
line.



Volunteer to drive a Cancer Car

+1-604-872-2034
+1-800-663-7892
+1-250-712-1101



Grand Masonic Day

Join us at the Vancouver and Fraser Valley Workshop in the Chilliwack Masonic Hall, 45905 Hocking Ave, on Saturday, October 4.

Inquiries:

VW Bro John Keirstead,
keirsteadjohn@netscape.net

Mackey's work is not for the faint of heart. His observations are intemperate where he suspects chicanery or lack of scholarly rigour in the original record. This compendium is a tome of some length and Mackey quotes in lexicon common to the original author of the text under consideration. His idioms are appropriate to his socialization, cultural heritage and era and portray an understanding of literature, history and civilization not generally observed within present day authorship. For the contemporary reader, Mackey's work demands thought, study and acceptance of a conventional creative style. It is not a publication that can be contemplated prior to slumber.

There is much within Mackey's text that is suited to the student of masonic history and the neophyte freemason. However, the capital of Mackey's volume for the citizen of the Craft who is inaugurating his masonic studies, is an appreciation of the roots of our fraternity, the ability to listen to the language of our ceremonies with initial command of the allegory and the lessons alluded to and an inauguration into how those who expound anti-masonic rhetoric might see their oratory justified in our own legends. Of great import is how Mackey's work reinforces the decision to become a freemason for what the Craft avows.

Albert G. Mackey, The History of Freemasonry, Random House: New York, 1996.

Prince Hall

At their 153rd Annual Communication in Toronto, on Wednesday 16 July 2008, the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario voted to recognize the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Province of Ontario and Jurisdiction.

In a similar vein, the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and

Labrador Board of General Purposes, at its April 2008 meeting, voted to request reciprocal recognition and exchange of grand representatives from those MW Prince Hall Grand Lodges which have lodges in Canada, namely Ontario, Minnesota and Washington.

Celebration

This year our jurisdiction celebrates twelve years of mutual recognition with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington, Prince Hall Affiliation.

A banquet honouring the work of MW Bro. Clark Gilmour and MW Bro. William Rheubottom in bringing this recognition to fruition is planned for Saturday, 27 September.

Tickets are available for \$55 each; please make cheques payable to **True Resolution Lodge No 16 PHA** and forward them to RW Bro. George A. Jolly Jr., at 114-5695 Chaffey Ave, Burnaby, BC V5H 2S1.

Constitutional amendments

Of the twelve resolutions brought before our Annual Communication this year, the following three amendments to our *Book of Constitutions* were adopted:

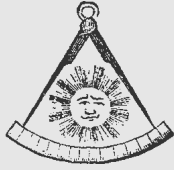
RESOLUTION 8:

Regulation R127: Collars :- The officers of constituent lodges shall wear collars of light blue ribbon, four inches broad; if silver braid is used, it shall be placed over the blue.

Worshipful Masters and Immediate Past Masters may wear silver chains in lieu of broad collars. The Worshipful Masters, when visiting constituent lodges, may wear their collars, but no gauntlets.

RESOLUTION 10

Regulation R158: Renumber existing R158 as R158(1) and add the following:



**GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY
SEPTEMBER 2008**

5	Fri	Grand Masters	Bellingham 144	Bellingham Bay
8	Mon	Scottish Rite	Dyslexia Centre	Vancouver
8-12	M-F	Scottish Rite	Annual Assembly	Vancouver
11-13	Fri	Royal Arch	Annual Convocation	Courtney
15	Mon	District 11	Atlinto 42	Whitehorse
20	Sat	District 19	Fort St. John 131	Fort St John
24	Wed	District 25	Richmond 142	Richmond
27	Sat	Celebration	True Resolution 16 PHA	Vancouver
29	Mon	Constitution	Excelsior 195	Vancouver

R158 (2) No Breast jewels shall be worn in a lodge other than those specified in R158 (1) except: the jewel of Past Master, any past Grand Lodge officer as listed in Section 27 and described in Section 72 and Section 73; a Grand lodge Representative of another Grand Lodge; a Lewis Jewel (a member whose father is/was a Master Mason of any recognized jurisdiction); a Masonic Medal of Merit; Dennis Marsh Medal and any other jewel, button, or medal especially designed for and any lodge insignia approved by the Grand Master and authorized by Grand Lodge. The Masonic medal of Merit, Dennis Marsh Medal and Honorary Jewel of the Order of Royal Arch shall be worn on the right Lapel.

RESOLUTION 12

Regulation R99 "The Worshipful Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Tyler shall be elected annually by ballot.... to be amended to "The Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Treasurer shall be elected annually by ballot...."

In addition, *Resolution 2: Election of DDGMs*, and *Resolution 4, Composition of membership*, were referred to special committees to be appointed by the Grand Master; *Resolution 6*,

Compliance with defeated Resolution 5, conflicting Installation dates, and Resolution 9, Age of petitioners, were withdrawn. The report of the 'We Can Help' Committee recommending withdrawal of Grand Lodge support was tabled.

2009!

by W Bro. Richard Trippel

To help create some excitement for the 2009 Annual Communication of Grand Lodge at Prince George, we offered a draw for a full registration package for the Annual Communication. And, the winner is... RW Bro. Fred W. Anderson of **Cranbrook Lodge No. 34**, whose name was drawn by W Bro. Gary L. Clark-Marlow of **Cariboo Lodge No. 4** at the last emergent meeting. Congratulations to RW Bro. Anderson!

For those of you travelling from Vancouver's Lower Mainland, we have arranged special pricing of rooms and room/golf packages at the Best Western 108 Resort at 100 Mile House. This should break up your trip in half and you are then only about four hours of easy drive away from Prince George.