



## The Grand Master's Message

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Brethren, as we approach the festive season we again will hear many old and familiar phrases. Regardless of what holiday you may be celebrating the phrase "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Towards Man" excludes no one.

But why is it we seem to only become aware of this at this time of year? Is Peace On Earth not something that we should strive for all year around? Is there not a lesson that could be learned from us as Freemasons, who are bound together by solemn, sacred obligations?

Perhaps not! Can we honestly say we have "Peace and Harmony" within our own Lodges? If so, then why do we still have Masonic charges contemplated, or laid by one Brother against another, and in some cases leading to a Trial Commission? Why do we have members who do not attend Lodge because the other Brother might be there?

I am sure you will have noticed that the above points are all questions. They are questions because I, like others, do not have the answers. I also don't understand why these things still happen. Fortunately this is the exception and not the norm. But nevertheless if we look back at the obligations we took and the teaching of resolving our differences we could then, with pride, be a positive example to the rest of the world.

Perhaps at this time of year we can help spread the peace of the season to the rest of the world, to be carried out for the whole year. We don't have the power to influence the whole world but we can start somewhere. We can start with courtesy in our own homes and to our neighbors. We should attempt to think positively towards someone rather than scorn and disrepute! Let the spirit of the season abide with us not only at this time

but throughout the year and always thereafter.

Also at this time of the year many Lodges will be changing officers. I would again remind you that to be an officer in the Lodge is a privilege and not a right. Your brethren have enough confidence in you to put you into that office and that should not be taken lightly, but accepted with gratitude and thanks for the respect they have in you and in your ability. Some might say "well there was no one else, so what's the big deal?" Perish that thought! If push came to shove the chair could have been left vacant and filled on an as-required basis.

To those newly installed officers, my officers and I hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding year. We look forward to working with you for the balance of our term. To those who have just vacated their chairs we thank you for your support of the Craft in general and your Lodge in particular.

And now from my family to yours go all the best wishes for this peaceful time of the year. Regardless of what holiday you may celebrate, we hope that it will be one of joy, love and laughter. May the coming of the New Year bring you nothing but good health, happiness and prosperity.

Thought for the month:

*"Strive for the serenity to accept that which you cannot change, the courage to change what you can and the wisdom to know the difference."*

Fraternally,  
George



## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

**December 2005**

There are no Official Visits scheduled for December

**January 2006**

17th **Seven Stars No. 180** MMC 8:00 pm OV

22nd **Grand Master's Divine Service** Charleswood United Church

Gather at 10:30 am, service at 11:00 am. Regalia to be worn.

(For more information and updates to the Grand Master's itinerary, please browse the Grand Lodge website at [www.grandlodge.mb.ca](http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca).)

*Any Master Mason may accompany the Grand Master on his Official Visits*



*Let there be peace*

**Season's Greetings  
from the Grand Master  
and the Staff of the  
Grand Lodge of  
Manitoba**

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### SPRING WORKSHOP

The keynote speaker at the Western Canada Conference in Canmore, Alberta this year was W Bro. Stephen Dafoe. Stephen is an author and a dedicated Freemason who operates a couple of websites. One site is [www.thelodgeroom.com](http://www.thelodgeroom.com), where both Freemasons and interested young men share thoughts and information. He publishes a newsletter, "Between the Pillars".

Bro. Stephen is particularly connected to the young "Y" generation and has some insight into what these young men are seeking as they investigate the Craft. A typical message from one of these young men was shared with us. In it was the plea to "Awaken my soul!" and that will be the theme of this year's workshop.

We spent some time looking for a classy, quality facility which would complement our workshop and selected the Lakeview Resort and Gimli Convention Centre. Mark April 21st and 22nd on your calendar. Our vision is an event which will educate, entertain and inspire. Be a part of an event which will help to both shape and strengthen Freemasonry in our jurisdiction. See you in Gimli!

- MW Bro. Don Beattie

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### NEED A SANTA CLAUS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY?

Capitol Lodge No. 136 would like to extend the opportunity for any lodge to secure the services of our Santa Claus for their lodge Christmas Party or function. In 2004 we purchased a new Santa suit, and have decided to allow our Santa Claus to serve the other lodges, for a fee, to help offset our costs. If any lodge would like to contact our Santa to schedule a function, please do so at: [agesaces@mts.net](mailto:agesaces@mts.net). Alex Ethier is our Santa and will provide you with schedule availability and costs. Any organization that wishes to hire our Santa may also do so through him.

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## NEW ARRIVALS AT THE MASONIC RESOURCE CENTRE

Here are just a few of the books recently added to the collection at the Masonic Resource Centre. Any of these items (indeed, any items we have in the collection) can be signed out, using one of these methods: (i) in-person browsing and signing out, (ii) out-of-town phone orders can be made. We'll be happy to ship your request with a mail-back label, (iii) Winnipeg and close-by people can phone and make a request for a reservation, then pick up at your convenience, (iv) fax request through the Grand Lodge office, or (v) email request through the Grand Librarian. If you are not coming in to the MRC, please be sure to give us your full name, address and phone number as well as your lodge number so that we can register you in our patron files. Please be as specific as you can about the item you wish to borrow. We will do our best to get your requests completed and on their way quickly.

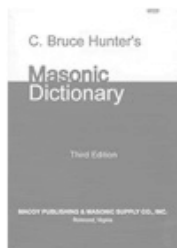
Faulks, Martin. (2005) **How Many Freemasons Does It Take To Change a Light Bulb?** Hesham, Surrey, UK: Lewis Masonic.

In need of some humour? Want a joke to tell at the Refreshment Hour? Here's a good source.



**C. Bruce Hunter's Masonic Dictionary.** (3rd ed., 1996). Richmond VA.: Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply.

First published in 1986, this is a pocket-sized dictionary with no fills attached. Words have a pronunciation guide where needed.

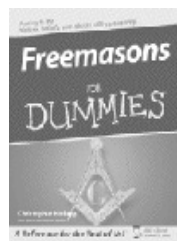


Hodapp, Christopher. (2005) **Freemasons for Dummies.** New York: John Wiley.

This author knows his stuff! And so he should. Hodapp was the "light" in the Grand Lodge of Indiana and has since joined the York and Scottish Rites, the Allied Masonic Degrees and the Shrine. He is also a member of several Research Lodges and Societies.

This is a typical "Dummies" book in set-up and approach to the material. While there is an organized approach to the book as a whole and it can be read straight through, it is also possible to skip and scan interesting topics. Inserted at the front is a two-page "cheat sheet" that lists important topics.

The reader should be aware that the presentation is on American Masonry which has differences to Canadian practices. An Appendix gives the addresses of Regular and Prince Hall Grand Lodges in Canada and the United States. Includes an index.



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Your MRC is open Mon. - Fri. 10 am - 1 pm, Sat. Noon - 3 pm,  
(closed holiday weekends)

## MANITOBA LODGE TRIVIA

Have you heard of Bethany Lodge? There were two attempts to start a Lodge by this name in Winnipeg, the first in 1927 and the second in 1930. Both were sponsored by Meridian Lodge No. 140. What happened to them? Stay tuned.

- RW Bro. Al Brock

Grand Archivist, a.k.a. The "Old Stuff" Guy

### "A FREEMASON'S CHRISTMAS WISH"

*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 lifelong 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 practice 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.*

- by Brother Andrew Bradley -

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