



## The Grand Master's Message

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I hope everyone celebrated the coming of the New Year without over-indulging and the resolutions that were made have not all been broken.

We had an excellent representation at the Lieutenant Governor's New Year Levee at the Legislative Building on New Year's Day. As near as I can figure, we had well over 75 people that were in attendance and they represented the majority of the Masonic Family from the youth to Grand Lodge. Thank you to all who attended with me and made the day the success I felt it was. I had a few people inquire about our family and that was part of the point of our attendance, awareness! To those lodges that changed officers in December my best wishes for a great 2006. Enjoy yourselves as you continue the work of our Fraternity.

Although, as usual, we are preaching to the wrong crowd, I would like to share an experience that happened to me when I was Master of my lodge (many years ago.) While taking a lunchtime walk downtown, I was met on the street by a non-attending member of OUR lodge who asked, "Where are you in line up this year?" That's right my Brothers, the Worshipful Master was asked what chair he occupied in the lodge. Needless to say I was taken aback, but still able to express my disgust with the Brother, who obviously hadn't even opened his lodge notice and read the summons that listed the officers as well as the Master's Message. Do you know the officers of your lodge, or Grand Lodge, or could this have been you asking the same question? Why should a lodge be subjected to the trouble and expense of printing and sending out notices when some don't take the time or have the courtesy to open them, let alone read them?

Brethren, let me pose to you the following questions for some truthful and sincere thought;

1. Why did we become Masons?
2. Why do we go for months without attending lodge?
3. What are we contributing to our lodge and Masonry?
4. What are we getting out of our lodge and Masonry?
5. Why do we keep up our membership but never take full advantage of it?

Perhaps some keep up their membership so that they can wear a ring and lapel pin so people who see them will say; "He's a Mason." Does wearing a ring or a pin make us a Mason? If so then we should just present all new members with rings and pins and forget all about the beautiful teachings and lessons that form our three degrees!

I stated at the outset that I am preaching to the converted, but perhaps, just by a fluke of luck, somewhere along the line this message may filter down to those who fall into the above category.

In going through my collection of odds and sods, I came across the following that I felt might just help us define our existence and ourselves as we begin a New Year. Unfortunately I don't know where I got it or who wrote it, so I can't give credit where credit is due.

### WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

In the home, it's kindness  
In society, it's courtesy  
In business, it's honesty  
In work, it's fairness  
Toward the unfortunate, it's pity  
Toward the wicked, it's resistance  
Toward the weak, it's help

*(Continued on page 2)*



Toward the strong, it's trust  
Toward the penitent, it's forgiveness  
Toward the fortunate, it's congratulations  
Toward God, it's reverence and love  
THIS IS MASONRY.

God bless you and yours throughout 2006.

Thought for the Month

*"To return good for good is human.  
To return good for evil is divine."*

Fraternally,  
George

## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

### FEBRUARY 2006

|          |                              |                     |         |    |
|----------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------|----|
| 8 .....  | Lodge of Renewal No. 181 MMC | 7:56 PM             | OV      |    |
| 13 ..... | Empire No. 127               | Empire Masonic Hall | 7:45 PM | OV |
| 14 ..... | Kilcona No. 183              | E.K. Masonic Temple | 7:30 AM | OV |
| 22 ..... | Corinthian No. 178           | MMC                 | 8:00 PM | OV |

### MARCH 2006

|          |                                     |               |         |    |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------|----|
| 11 ..... | Assiniboine District Annual Meeting | TBA           |         |    |
| 13 ..... | Ophir No. 112                       | Beausejour MB | 8:00 PM | OV |
| 18 ..... | Ninth District Annual Meeting       | TBA           |         |    |

(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*

## A TRULY MASONIC ORNAMENT

Our ritual describes the ladder that Jacob saw in his vision. Through allegory we see this ladder as a means of ascending to that ethereal mansion concealed within the starry firmament. Some rituals describe 72 rounds or staves but we deal with only three principal ones; Faith, Hope and the most important, Charity. We proceed to indicate that charity practiced "in its most ample sense" will enable us to ascend to the summit. We are left to interpret what is meant by the phrase "most ample sense."

A Freemason's charity normally means giving of himself. We typically donate from our pocket rather than conduct draws or raffles as fund-raisers. However when we make a donation to an established charity there is often a pay back in the form of a tax deductible receipt. It is still a wonderful act but not "most ample." Likewise contributing to a charity in the hope of winning a prize is also somewhat tainted by the hope of a reward. It might be suggested that the Mason who regularly, as often as his public or private avocation will permit, gives a day of his life to the service of others may well fit this category. The recipients are selected at random, they may be young or old, wealthy or poor but they do have one thing in common, they are all cancer patients. The only reward the Mason receives is a heartfelt thank-you. Like ships that pass in the night you might drive someone only once or you may be together several times and strike up a friendship. Regardless, you will both be the richer for your experience. This may well be considered Charity in its most ample sense - random acts of kindness with no possible reward other than the knowledge that you have assisted your fellow man who temporarily finds himself or herself at the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel.

Would you like to experience this ultimate act of charity? It's as easy as contacting the Grand Lodge office and asking . .

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**Get all the latest news and information about Masonry in Manitoba at our website:**

***[www.grandlodge.mb.ca](http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca)***

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## LODGE EDUCATION OFFICERS SEMINAR

A Lodge Education Officers (L.E.O.s) Seminar on the Fellowcraft degree will be held at MMC on Saturday, March 11th, 2006. Registration is at 8:30 am. The seminar starts at 9:00 am and should be finished by noon. The registration fee is \$10.00 and includes a coffee break and seminar materials. The registration fee is payable to The Grand Lodge of Manitoba. It is recommended that all L.E.O.S or a representative from each lodge should attend.

- R.W. Bro. Phil Zubrycki

Vice Chairman, Grand Lodge Training & Education Committee

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## MANITOBA MASONIC WORKSHOP

There are two events upcoming this spring that many people are keenly awaiting. One is the long awaited showing of the film *The Da Vinci Code* and the other is the release of Dan Brown's latest book, *The Solomon Key*. The incredible popularity of *Angels and Demons* as well as *The Da Vinci Code* speaks to society's fascination with the esoteric mysteries of the ages. *The Solomon Key* will be based upon Freemasonry's significant impact upon the formation of The United States of America and promises to rival the others in creating an interest in the Craft. Young men are interested in Freemasonry, however their expectations may well be difficult to meet. They seek access to mysteries that will virtually "awaken their souls." To accomplish this we will need to explore areas of the Craft that have long laid dormant!

W. Bro. Stephen Dafoe is a Masonic author and researcher who operates a website, [www.thelodgeroom.com](http://www.thelodgeroom.com), that attracts the interest of Masons and non-masons alike. He will be one of the feature speakers at our 2006 Workshop which will be held at the Lakeview Conference Centre in Gimli on April 21-23rd. There will be several other talented Freemasons presenting related workshops. Together we will explore ways that we can revive an interest in the Craft, make it more exciting and meaningful to those currently employed in the quarries of Freemasonry and satisfy the expectations of those young men who stand poised on our doorstep.

Agendas and registration forms will be forwarded to lodge secretaries in the near future. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to be a part of this new and exciting venture. Our future depends upon our ability to rise to this challenge. The potential for a dynamic, vibrant Craft is within our grasp. Let's not watch it slip away. Let's make it happen!

- MW Bro. Don Beattie

Editor's note: W. Bro. Dafoe also produces an internet radio program about Freemasonry which can be accessed at [www.radiofreemason.com](http://www.radiofreemason.com) and publishes a monthly Masonic magazine (information can be found at the same website.) He is currently working on an online Masonic dictionary which can be found at [www.masonicdictionary.com](http://www.masonicdictionary.com).



### A GREAT FUND-RAISING IDEA

*The horses are at the gate.....aaand, they're off!*

Seven Stars Lodge No. 180 would like to help you raise money at your next fund raiser. We'd be happy to set up our famous Horse Race Track at the location of your next function. You organize the event, let us know where and when, and our experienced crew will take care of the rest. Please call our Horse Race coordinator, Larry Cherrett at

(204) 477-4562 or (204) 987-9424 he will be glad to explain the details.

## SHORT TALK COMPETITION

Once again, the Masonic Education and Training Sub-Committee is holding the Annual Short Talk Competition. You don't actually have to give a talk, just write one. It is open to all Masons of this jurisdiction.

The competition will be divided into two categories; the first will be for Masons with five years of membership or less and the other for members with more than five years of Craft experience.

You may select any Masonic subject you wish and prepare your short talk. It should be no more than 5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced with a one inch left margin. On a **separate sheet of paper** indicate your name, address and Lodge name.

Deadline for submissions is **April 30, 2006** so there is lots of time for creativity. The Masonic Library is open daily from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm for research and reference.

Judging will be based on topic, content, style and presentation. A \$75 first prize gift certificate to the Grand Lodge "Store" will be awarded to the winner. If more than five talks are received in any category, a second prize of a \$50 gift certificate will be awarded. Entries should be submitted to the Masonic Education and Training Sub-Committee, 420 Corydon Ave, Winnipeg, R3L 0N8.



## MY SPELLCHECKER

I have a spelling checker.

It came with my P.C.

It plane lee marks four my revue

Miss steaks aye can knot see.

Eye ran this poem threw it.

Your sure real glad two no.

Its very polished in its weigh,

My checker tolled me sew.

A checker is a blessing.

It freeze yew lodes of thyme.

It helps me right awl stiles two reed

And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays comes posed up on my screen

Eye trussed too bee a joule.

The checker pours o'er every word

To check sum spelling rule.

Bee fore a veiling checkers

Hour spelling mite decline,

And if we're laks or have a laps,

We wood bee maid too wine.

Butt now bee cause my spelling

Is checked with such grate flare,

There are know faults with in my cite,

Of nun eye am a wear.

Now spelling does not phase me,

It does knot bring a tier.

My pay purrs awl due glad den

With wrapped words fare as hear.

To rite with care is quite a feet

Of witch one should be proud,

And wee mused dew the best wee can,

Sew flaws are knot aloud.

Sowe we can sea why aye dew prays

Such soft wear four pea seas,

And why eye brake in two averse

Buy righting want too please.

- A. Lewis

*Dedicated to MW Bro Steve Kane, who keeps  
me (and this publication) in line. - Ed.*

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