



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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GOD SPEAKS TO THE COMMON MAN

Bro. Rev. J. L. Pottruff
Crescent Lodge No. 87, Calgary

Let us remember as we celebrate Christmas this year, 1970, that the first Christmas message came to the shepherds on the hills in the days of King Herod. Those were days when people as many today, lived in fear and trembling. A tyrant was rotting in the palace, and terror and violence found expression in the wholesale slaughter of innocent lives. Jesus became a refugee and was hurriedly taken down into Egypt, returning only when those who sought the young child's life were dead. Such a background for Christmas brings prominence the permanent truth: God is greater than events. In the pressure of life, men are apt to lose sight of God. God is greater than events, for they pass, while the purposes of God persist, in and through, and beyond the very events we cannot understand.

The Shepherds on the hills heard the message that brings eternal hope to discouraged people, "peace on earth, good will toward men." To these very ordinary people came the first announcement of the Saviour's birth. "The common people heard Him gladly." It seems to be easier for the gospel to reach the down-and-outs than the up-and-outs! Why? Because the major obstacle to the gospel is pride. This pride is why the natural man is a born enemy of the gospel. That is why Jesus spoke so shockingly of the fact that the tax collectors and the harlots go into the Kingdom of God before the priests and elders. But there are simple men like the Shepherds of the hills, who have no illusions about themselves! The revelation of God's utterly undeserved love comes and is joyfully received. They said, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us, and they went in haste."

God comes and often catches man quite unawares, as he did Moses in the wilderness or the Shepherds on the hills and in the fields. The initiative is wholly His.

Our worship of God does not end when He has spoken to His people. It continues with the

offering of our own grateful love as a sort of down payment of the continuing dedication of ourselves we intend to offer to Him as "a living sacrifice." And our worship does not end when the organ notes fade away. That usher was certainly right who, when approached by a late-comer at the door just at the benediction to ask, "Oh, is the service over?" replied quickly, "No, our service is just beginning!"

We misunderstand the nature and purpose of our coming together as believers, whether in the Sanctuary or a lodge room, if we think of it as an hour during which we are entitled to be entertained.

Rather, we ought to view such an experience as parallel to the briefing sessions given our aviators during the war. Men came to learn the objective of the next raid and the means by which it could be accomplished successfully. When they left the briefing room, it was not to gather in groups to discuss the eloquence, or lack of it, of the officers in charge, but to get into their planes and streak off to achieve their assignment!

From Denmark comes Kierkegaard's Fable of the Geese, that is still a challenge to every person who worships God in a Sanctuary. "Suppose," he said, "that geese could talk. They might then arrange it so that they would gather together every seventh day." Each Sunday one of the ganders would mount the fence and preach to his fellow geese about the lofty destiny geese had, the high goal the Creator had set before them and how, by use of their wings, they might fly away, to distant regions where they were truly meant to live."

This happened every week. But after the assembly broke up, each goose would waddle home and eat the grain the farmer had scattered. That was the end of it until the next Sunday.

By Monday the geese were ready to tell what terrible things would happen if they took the Sunday message seriously! They spoke of one
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THE MASONIC IMAGE

(Excerpts from an Address by Bro. Larry S. Eckardt,
Aviation Lodge No. 175)

THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT LARGE

Insofar as the majority of the public is concerned there is no Masonic image . . . period. The explanation of this is quite simple. We in Masonry face wide ignorance of the very existence of our fraternity. The reason for this is that we are still working on an 18th Century concept of Freemasonry. In the days of our forefathers, the church and the Masonic Lodge comprised the social nucleus of almost every community. Naturally there was a Masonic image in those days—and a very fine one too . . .

The days are long gone when the church and the Masonic Lodge comprised the social nucleus of the community . . . surely it must be obvious to everyone that we in the craft haven't kept pace with the evolution of society . . . Our present restrictions are such as to cause us to shun meaningful Masonic participation in the life of the communities in which our Lodges are located. One of the craft's greatest needs right now is for dedicated leaders who will have the courage to recognize that our ever changing concepts of life and death, religion and morals, education and brotherhood, must also be applied to lead Masonry out of the Victorian atmosphere and into the atmosphere of the "jet-age" reality. If we wish to serve any meaningful purpose in this day and age, we will have to come up with a definite constructive programme for the world of today, and the future.

YOUNG PEOPLE

I think it is of primary importance that we recognize that there is a generation gap . . . A large portion of the most important age group to us, i.e. 21 to 40, knows absolutely nothing about Masonry, or

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who had made the full use of the Wings the Creator had given him and of the awful fate that had befallen him.

"And so, Sunday after Sunday, they gathered together in solemn assembly, but during the week they were content to remain in the barnyard. There they grew plump and delicate, just right to be eaten on the next holiday!"

The Shepherds were wiser. After the thrilling visit of the Angels had ended, they said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

They went with haste to find Mary and Joseph and the Babe. Then they realized as everyone must who hears the same message, that this gift was far too great to be enclosed in their lives alone. "They made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child."

Whether we be Christian or Jew, the possibility of great things is always present, when God meets ordinary people—like us!

that it even exists as an institution . . . Masonry is simply not reaching the "under 25" age group except by sheer chance at the present time, insofar as our Lodges are concerned, young Masons between the ages of 21 and 30 are conspicuous by their absence . . . the reason is that most of them have never heard of us, and they have no idea where our door is . . .

I most sincerely urge the Grand Lodge immediately to embark upon a programme of enlightenment. And I can think of no better way to start off than by lending support to youth movements.

Let us give these fine organizations the material assistance they so richly deserve—instead of just lip service.

Let us stop hiding behind an antiquated constitution and get on with the job!

NOTE—Do not some of these remarks also apply to our own province?—R. A. MacKinnon

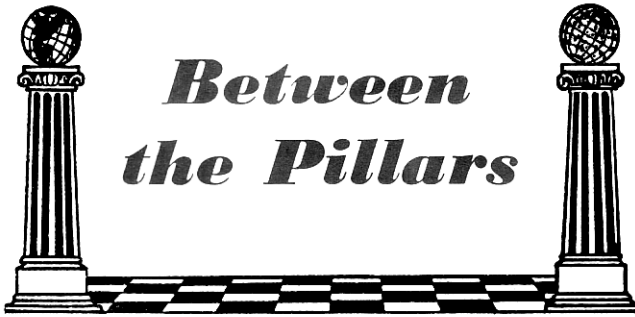
Several brethren have expressed interest in the column called "Masonry and Pirates" which appeared in the October Issue and have asked how to obtain the book "The Pocket History of Freemasonry" by Fred L. Pick and G. Norman Knight from which the story was taken. This book was on display at the Masonic Spring Workshop last April and is indicative of the many interesting books on display at each Workshop. The Grand Secretary would be very pleased to receive orders for this book which is published in England.

We acknowledge with appreciation a very gracious letter from Bro. Harry T. Seymour, General Librarian of the Surbiton Masonic Library which is located in the Surbiton Masonic Hall, Surbiton, Surrey, England. He says that the library contains copies of our bulletins that go back for twenty-seven years. Bro. Seymour sent a copy of their Library Catalogue and requested that we send to him a copy of our catalogue. This will be done forthwith and with great pleasure.

Brethren are reminded that November was Higher Education Bursary Fund Month when contributions towards this project were received by Lodges and by the Grand Lodge Office. The fund is still far from its objective and brethren are urged to make their contributions either to their Lodge or directly to the Grand Lodge Office before the end of this year.

FIFTY YEAR JEWELS

R.W. Bro. Oberg, District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 5 presented Fifty Year Jewels to W. Bro. Henry P. Schlitt, raised at Wetaskiwin, March 21st, 1918; Bro. Edward Wilcox, raised at Camrose, April 18th, 1920.



Between the Pillars

Question — I have heard several times about women being initiated into Freemasonry. Is there any real evidence that this was ever done and under what circumstances?

Answer — There are many stories around about this subject but most of them have no basis in fact. One quite reliable authority says that one reason for the way in which candidates are dressed for the degrees is so that there may be absolute proof of the candidate's sex. It does appear fairly authentic that, in addition to the account given in this column (regarding an initiation in Ireland) there was one woman in England, one in the United States (both early in the nineteenth century), and one in Hungary in 1875. As a result of the incident in Hungary, the Grand Orient of Hungary ordered a number of suspensions and expulsions and declared the admission of the lady, who was a Countess, to be illegal.

One afternoon, so the story goes, the daughter of the First Viscount of Doneraile, was asleep in her father's library. When she awoke she heard sounds from an adjoining room and was certain that something very important was going on. She knew that her father held Masonic Lodge meetings in the house but she did not know that one was scheduled for that day. Because the house was under repair at the time it was a simple matter for her to remove some loose bricks between the Library and the other room and thus to get a very clear view of the initiation that was going on.

At first she was utterly spellbound by the proceedings and her curiosity held her to the spot. Then she heard the solemn obligation taken by the candidate and she realized the enormity of her mistake. She could only think of getting out of the house so she rushed into the hall only to be stopped by the butler who was acting as the tyler. She let out a scream and fainted. The butler was now torn between loyalty to his young mistress and his obligation to his lodge. He decided that he must be faithful to his duty as Tyler so he entered the lodge room and brought out the lady's father and brothers.

After learning what had happened they returned to the lodge room to consider seriously what should be done. The only course open to them was to initiate the lady and place her under the obligation. With her consent this was done.

So the lady, Hon. Elizabeth St. Leger, who later became the Hon. Mrs. Aldworth, was made a Mason about 1710. She became a patroness of Freemasonry. Following her death in 1773 the Freemasons of Ireland drank a toast to the memory of "Our Sister Aldworth." Her Masonic apron exists to this day.

Christmas Greetings

FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Brethren:

December brings us to the season of Christmas with all its preparations, excitement and festivities. It is a time to remember with thankfulness all that the Lord has done for us. It is a time when tokens of affection and love are given to friends and families. It is a time to think generously of others, especially those who have met with misfortune and perhaps sorrow. There is a great concern that happiness, joy and peace be the portion of every child.

From this Grand Master's column I want to wish each one of you and your families all the happiness, joy and peace of Christmas and in the New Year many rich and satisfying experiences. I am grateful for all the kindness, consideration and support you have given me in this office, and I wish you all good success in your plans and undertakings. Happy Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Sincerely and fraternally,
Edmund J. Thompson

FOCUS ON THE MAN

The consciousness of having personal possibilities makes one feel important. What a man is worth depends not so much on what he is as on what he may become. When, therefore, in a life however marred and commonplace there rises the vision of a personal tomorrow better than today, the sense of significance rises with it. Anything is important that has potentialities. All good homes and schools play upon this motive; no youth ever flowered who lacked it; and as for religion, its power over men, awakening their self-respect with transforming effect, has lain largely in the fact that, as Professor Hocking says, "The great religions have spoken ill of original human nature; but they have never despaired of its possibilities." To feel life grow significant because there is more in us than we have yet elicited is not ignoble. Such saving self-respect is redeemed from mean egocentricity by devotion to goal and aim beyond our present selves.

Harry Emerson Fosdick

SPRING WORKSHOP TRAVELS

V.W. Bro. R. J. Borland, who was in charge of the Schools on Instruction, at the last Spring Workshop has discovered that his illustrated lecture on "A Year's Program For Your Lodge" is very popular. He has given the lecture at several meetings in Calgary and Southern Alberta, recently making a trip to Spitzie Lodge, Pincher Creek. M.W. Bro. W. J. Collett and V.W. Bro. M. P. Dunford also took part in the same meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

W. Bro. Bert Olsen for many years the Treasurer of Jasper Lodge was presented with a Treasurer's Jewel by W. Bro. Bert Kirby on September 14th, 1970.



FIFTY YEAR JEWELS

Bow River Lodge No. 1, Calgary set something of a record at a recent meeting when Fifty Year Jewels were presented to six of its members. The six brethren honored are pictured above. They are W. Bro. C. H. McMillan, Bro. R. Hansford, R.W. Bro. F. J. Hand, W. Bro. F. H. Bounds, W. Bro. G. R. Hains and Bro. G. N. E. Strong.

MOZART, THE MASON

Bro. Berend Van Helden, Zetland Lodge No. 83, gave a lecture to his Lodge on Wolfgang Mozart recently and to illustrate his talk he played selections from Mozart's Opera "The Magic Flute" which has a Masonic Theme running through it. Bro. Van Helden, who is one of the newly raised brethren of Zetland Lodge had his interest aroused when he read the article in the Grand Lodge Bulletin in June headed "Mozart, the Musician." The paper is excellently written and the music is delightful. Lodges looking for an interesting evening should ask Bro. Van Helden to repeat his lecture.

SERVICES NIGHT

Concord Lodge No. 124 held its Fourteenth Annual Services Night on October 17th. The Third Degree was conferred on two candidates by former members of the Armed Services in uniform. The event was very colorful and well attended. R.W. Bro. S/Major M. F. Irvine occupied the chair of King Solomon. The Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. J. S. Woods, the Grand Treasurer R.W. Bro. Bright, and the District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. R. W. Maxwell, District 18, in addition to a number of other Grand Lodge members were present.

CALIFORNIA NEWS



R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers arranged with the Grand Lodge of California to have a Fifty Year Jewel and a Sixty Year Bar presented to Bro. W. M. Deming on behalf of Perfection Lodge and accordingly this Jewel and Bar were presented to Bro. Deming

by Bro. J. A. Turnbull, Inspector of District No. 582 in Inglewood Lodge No. 421 in Inglewood, California. Bro. Deming's son and two grandsons were present at the presentation.

EVENT OF THE MONTH

This column should properly be headed "Events of the Month" for the most important events during the month of November were the large number of District Meetings. These meetings have been attended by the Grand Master or one of his Senior Grand Lodge Officers and each official visitor was accompanied by the Grand Secretary or the Assistant Grand Secretary. Generally the District Deputy Grand Masters have arranged their programs around the Grand Master's Theme for this year, "Focus on the Man." In many instances there were informal meetings in the afternoon where the representatives from Grand Lodge made themselves available to answer questions from the Lodges of the District. The business of the District was done at an evening meeting and District Deputy Grand Masters were elected according to the revised procedures outlined in the Constitution. Reports indicate that attendance at most of the District Meetings was fairly good.

One of the valuable sections of a District Meeting is the time devoted to reports from the Lodges of the District which are usually given by the Worshipful Masters. When the reports are regarded as an opportunity to give a true picture of the Condition of Freemasonry they are very helpful to all concerned. When they are regarded as a routine listing of finances and membership then the period is of little value. At several District Meetings the Worshipful Masters took the opportunity to express concern over the condition of Freemasonry in their area. The reason for the concern was largely the falling off in attendance and in membership and the failure to attract new candidates into the Lodges. Some Worshipful Masters hinted broadly that membership campaigns would be acceptable to them.

Space does not permit the listing of the details of all the programs. In District No. 4 at Innisfail, W. Bro. L. F. Forgay gave a paper of "Focus on the Man" dealing with the Candidate, the Lodge, the Sponsor and all the brethren. In District No. 6, Calgary, the Chairman of the Research Committee for the District, W. Bro. D. G. Simmonds delivered a paper which was followed by a discussion.

A number of other papers were given and they all appeared to be of value. The Bulletin Committee urges the authors of the papers and the District Deputy Grand Masters to make sure that the brethren throughout the Province have the opportunity to read these papers. This can be done by sending them into the Bulletin Committee, 330 - 12th Avenue S.W. Calgary 3. Papers should be approximately 1,000 words in length.

FIFTY YEAR JEWEL

Bro. R. C. Armstrong was presented with a Fifty Year Jewel by W. Bro. Harold Cameron at Concord's Service Night October 17th, 1970.