



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor, M.W. Bro. W.J. COLLETT

EASTER — 1978 — FAITH

THE GREATEST THING in the world is faith. Positiveness is inherent in faith. There is no such thing as a negative faith. Doubtless this is a paraphrase of some wiser writer, but there is not enough skeptical, negative darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle of positive courageous faith.

Just what is this greatest thing in the world—how do we define it?

It has been said that where knowledge ceases, faith begins.

It has been said that faith is believing what you know isn't so.

Webster's dictionary says that it is "the recognition of spiritual realities and moral principles as of paramount authority and supreme value."

The New Testament says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

John Wesley asked a group of friends for a definition of faith, and when no one gave a satisfactory statement he turned to a woman possessed of deep spirituality.

"What is faith?" he asked her.

She replied simply, "It is taking God at His word."

"That will do," the noted clergyman replied. "That is enough for us all."

Make your own choice of these or other definitions. But whether you realize it or not, your daily life of thought and action is based on faith—faith in the timepieces that awaken us, faith in the purity of the packaged breakfast food, faith that the automobile starter will work, faith in the dependability of trains. You have faith that, by and large, your friends and associates and loved ones are honest and loyal, a faith and courage of the commonplace without which life would be futile.

As for me, I'll take "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Things hoped for! Things not seen! I have a friend of scientific trend of mind who is skeptical of the qualities of faith. Despite the fact that he shuns churches, he leads a daily life of action more truly Christian than that of some men of the cloth I have known. But "scientific proof" is a fetish with him. As an avocation he plants little seeds and bulbs and glories in the bloom that comes months later. Things hoped for! Long, long before the advent of television he anticipated the reality to come. He wrote a check for his television set—the check itself was evidence of the cash not seen. Now he turns the dials and has the evidence on the screen of things not seen between the studio and his living room. The scientific proofs that this man adores have come as the result of faith—they don't precede faith. First there is faith and vision of things hoped for and not yet seen, and from the faith are later born the scientific proofs of the power of faith. Last night this kindly man showed me with modest pride a choice begonia created through processes not seen in an ugly little bulb. He thought it was beautiful; so did I. He said with full confidence there would be no contradiction that the bloom was beautiful. So did I. I didn't have the heart to demand of him scientific proof that the flower was beautiful. His wife played exquisitely on her cherished Steinway. I didn't ask him to give scientific proof that the music was beautiful. His daughter of ten, whose adoring eyes follow her daddy wherever he goes, threw her little pajamed body into his arms and hugged and kissed him good night. His eyes glowed. I didn't ask him for scientific proof that the child loved him dearly.

Taken from "The Power of Positive Living" by Douglas Lurton published by McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc.

THE MASON AND HIS FAMILY

In a recent Grand Lodge Bulletin I noticed several references to family relationships in Lodge proceedings. With this subject "The Mason and His Family" in mind I recalled reading of similar incidents recorded in other Lodge bulletins. My curiosity was aroused and I proceeded to count up to sixteen news items of family involvement in this one bulletin. This suggested an interesting as well as significant introduction to this article. Here were news items in impressive enough number to make the subject interesting and intriguing. Here were references to something that is already an established part of

Masonry, what we might call an established tradition of the Craft. It underlines the significance of the communication of Masonic knowledge and practice from generation to generation. It also suggests the application of the principles of Masonry in building family life.

The subject "The Mason and His Family" is a vital one in our time of stresses, pressures, tensions even threats for family life. Modern society is the product of many changes affecting family life not the least of which is the shift from a family centred agrarian society to an urbanism that is less dependent on family life. Some predict the eventual disappear-

THE MASON AND HIS FAMILY

Contd. from page 1

ance of the family unit. We are not anticipating this but we are concerned with the strengthening of family life. It is not a matter of the survival of the family as a unit but the building of a better society on the base of healthy family life. We suggest that Masonry possesses strong resources that can be applied in the building of family life. We need to look at the resources of our Craft in this strengthening process.

I note a few of the references in the Lodge Bulletin; a father installed his son as Master of the Lodge; two sons presented their father with his Fifty Year Jewel; two third generation initiations were reported by a Lodge. There were several instances of blood brothers association; in one case four brothers were installed as Lodge officers, in another case the Master welcomed his brother as D.D.G.M. and was assisted by three other brothers. In a Lodge Bulletin from another jurisdiction the same month there was a picture of a Mason presenting his brother with his Fifty Year Jewel. These are a few cases relating family ties in the practice of Masonry.

This underlines something of the on-going process of the communication of Masonry. Like brotherhood it is hard to define but we know it exists. Most of us no doubt recall the impression made on us by the members of the Lodge when we were initiated. I recall that there was something more than the excellence of the work of the officers. Something of what we call the Secret of Freemasonry is handed on in a way akin to the process of communication of values, customs of a culture, from person to person and from generation to generation. In the ancient craft of masonry the skill of the mason was handed on to the son. The skill itself was enhanced by something of the inner quality of life, like a striving for excellence, and this was imparted to the apprentice along with the basic physical skill. The skill endured along with the integrity of the craftsman. The values of Masonry are so communicated from father to son. In all this there is more than the retelling of the truths of Masonry. When a son presents his father with a Fifty Year Jewel there is something more than the exchange of the fine ritual of the Lodge Meeting. Something intangible, a very secret of living, has been exchanged along the way.

Our modern society has seen a significant development not only in the tensions affecting family life but also in the techniques for coping with them. Research has disclosed the reality of features of human relationships that hitherto were taken for granted. Studies have shown, for example, that families tend to hand on from generation to generation certain qualities and characteristics. It has also been demonstrated that where a family is sustained by high principles of conduct, integrity, creative faith, positive ideals, the family life is stronger than where these qualities are not a factor. In other words, a genuinely religious family with a working faith in God is more immune to family breakup than is a family without this working faith. Families are places of communication. In Masonry we have an Order based on high moral principles. These principles need to be practised in terms of brotherly love, relief and truth in the life of our families.

Another discovery of the researchers in human development is that children, even as tiny infants experience love and security in the warmth and

cuddling of the mother's arms, and quite often now, the father's arms moments after their birth. It is emphasised that in this warmth, cuddling and love of those earliest moments a basis for living in a sense of security is established. What this says is that parents have the power to impart to their children not only thoughts but feelings that are crucial to the emotional part of life. Again one of the tenets of Masonry is that of support of the brethren. Surely this support finds practical exercise in the family scene.

A further concept of Masonry that can be applied, indeed must be applied, by the Mason in his family relationships is the concept of the Builder. Our Grand Master was the Builder. As Masons we are builders of the fraternity. As Masons in our families we have responsibility for the upbuilding of family life. In this mortal life we are, of course, imperfect builders. We do not have all the answers. We do not possess the Secrets of the Master Builder. But we do have certain ideals, resources and working tools to apply to the task - perseverance, honesty, and support. We are to apply these in building daily life and specifically our family life. There is that familiar adage, "The family that prays together stays together".

There is an old story of a passerby who saw three workmen at work in a yard among some piles of rough stones. He asked them in turn, "What are you doing?" The first man replied impatiently, "Can't you see, I am chiselling at these rocks." The second said, "I am a workman earning my living by cutting these stones." But the third man pointed to the structure rising nearby and said, "See, I am building a Cathedral." As Masons in our families we endeavour to apply the discipline of the apprentice, the skill of the craftsman and the ideals of the master workman in the ancient and honourable enterprise of building to the great design.

SAND — PEBBLES — ROCKS

Rocks are the coldest, hardest and dearest of all objects on the face of the earth and yet there is not a man in this Organization that has not made use of one in one way or another. It may be that curling stone you use to try for that perfect ender, it may be the stone you selected to place on the third finger of your beloveds left hand, or perhaps it will be the stone that is placed over your final resting place. Why do we use stones for so many things in our lives? Simply because they are enduring, we know they will last but each one we put to use requires a great deal of work, knowledge and care. The motto of the diamond merchants is "A diamond is forever" and so it is.

Did you ever come across a stone wall, a stone fireplace or stone house and not hear the remark "that structure is sure built to last" or remark upon its beauty. We don't give much thought as to just what was involved in placing it there. I was once taken with two stone gate posts at the entrance to a home and I thought that would be a simple project for me to undertake next year up on my lake property so I got prepared by purchasing a stone cutters hammer, chisel and trowel and other items I know were used in the trade. All set, come holiday time and away to the new task, not knowing the slightest things involved in the stone masons trade, just gather up a bunch of rocks and set to work.

God has endowed every land on the face of this planet with a good sprinkling of rocks so they are not too hard to come by, all shapes sizes and colors. But they have to be fitted together to make a worthwhile structure, and that's the trick. So you take up the hammer and start to cut a face on one of the rocks, you hammer away and hammer away but all you seem to be doing is pulverizing the rock into sand. Rock is pretty hard stuff you decide so start swinging the hammer a little harder, now you've got chips flying about like rifle missiles but still the rock won't reveal that beautiful cut face you know is in there. Perhaps a little irritated by now, you pull off your shirt and with a determined look on your face you decide to show that rock who is boss, this can end up in utter confusion, with a broken hammer handle, a chunk of broken rock in your shins or a piece of sand in the eye. It's time to sit back boy and figure out just what is going on. You think back to where you saw a rough stone and one that was all cut to shape and size and you remember being told they were there for you to moralize on. Who cut that stone? Someone who knew how obviously, so perhaps that is the answer. You look around you and remember there was a fellow down the road a bit that had a planter for his flowers that was made of cut rocks so perhaps he would know. So you start out for his place, not knowing who the man is or what he will be like. A stranger but you knock on the door and soon a smiling face greets you and bids you enter. After making yourself known and the reason for your visit a grin comes over his face and he says "So you had that problem too". Brothers with the same problem - but he got his planter built. He volunteered to come over and give me the secrets of his success so we went out to gather up a few tools and among them was a rather small stone cutters hammer. Isn't that a small hammer to use for cutting such large rocks I asked? It doesn't take much to form a rock into a working stone if you know the structure of the rock he said. Not wanting to appear ignorant, I did not answer but thought that all rocks were just rocks, there was no difference. When we came to my place which now looked like a quarry, he noticed right away the rock I had been torturing and remarked it was too bad I started on that one, it was blue granite and had no grain in it so was not suited for a face rock but not to discard it as it would be fine for a base rock. Then he reached into the pile and picked out one that looked exactly the same as the one I had selected except it had a pink hue under the dirt. He pointed out to me that if you look the rock over carefully, you could see which way the grain runs then you make the cut along with the grain, same as with a block of wood. I could see a few lines then that looked like they were heading in the same direction. He took his hammer and made a few light taps along these lines and made a mark where he wanted the rock to part, then with a smart clip with the hammer and the rock fell apart. Beautiful and so straight. How did you know how to do that I blurted out?

Just as you did he said, I went to a rock mason and asked. I had made a friend. After a few more words of instruction he departed but said if I ran into any more difficulty to let him know but I was first to get rid of that big hammer and use his until I got another one. I was now left alone to try my skill and after a good many rocks had passed under

the hammer, the discard pile grew less and the finished rocks came quicker, and it was soon time to start work on one of the posts. I poured a cement pad and placed the first stone where its cut face would show its beauty the best. The holidays ran out about the time I finished the first column so I went home till next year. When I arrived the following spring, I was saddened to find my column was leaning way off plumb and on further examination found a crack had formed from top to bottom. I was heartbroken and my first thoughts were to tear it down and use the pieces to build a rock garden that didn't require so much skill. I could use a couple of logs for gate posts. Defeat. No confidence. Give up. Lucky for me my friend happened to see my car in the driveway and came in to say hello. Conversation soon got around to the rock work and he said he was sorry but he should have warned me that the frost played havoc with a structure like that unless it had a good foundation, half a dozen holes drilled with an auger below the frost line and filled with concrete for the pad to sit on would have made a good foundation for the column to sit on and would have prevented the loss. So I learned lesson two, and started all over again knowing that this time the column would remain erect and be a thing of lasting beauty. At the end of the season I sat back and looked at my handiwork, and it suddenly came to me, this is what our Lodge back home is striving for, we are Masons, using rocks for one of our symbols and trying to build a structure of beauty that will last. The stones we need are everywhere but we must check them over carefully to see if the grain is right to make a good building stone. We can't beat the stone into the shape we desire but it must be patterned with a gentle but firm hand, a hand that knows where and how to make the impression so it will fit into the wall where stone is bonded to stone with mortar of sand and cement on a foundation that is built to last. All stones are not suited for building work, nor are all men suited for Masonry, some stones are made for hard work like diamonds for drilling and cutting and can cut and polish the hardest substances. Other pebbles on the beach can be tumbled and polished and made into beautiful ornaments, no stone or pebble is absolutely useless but if someone takes the time and care it can be fashioned into a useful object. What is the first thing man wanted off the face of the moon? Rocks. These he brought back with the utmost care, cut them, polished them and placed them in the most important museums where they can be preserved forever for people to look upon and ponder on the vastness of the universe and wondrous works of the Almighty. Freemasonry has stood as a stone wall for many a century, withstanding storms and outside forces trying to crush it but it has been built on a solid foundation of the finest materials, bonded together with a cement of friendship, brotherly love and fellowship that will keep it standing for our sons to admire and moralize on for generation to generation. King Solomon's temple was said to be the most perfect structure ever to be built and at the initiation ceremony we were made to represent the corner stone of a temple which we are to build of ourselves. May that temple be as perfect as we are capable of and a structure the people of your community are proud of. Every community can have a cairn, monument or wall that is a credit to

SAND—PEBBLES—ROCKS

Cont'd. from page 3

their community, and that is the MASONIC Order these Research and Education meetings we are holding each month thereby helping to preserve that structure and I would like to make this challenge to you, whenever you see a stone structure or have anything to do with stones or rocks, try to bring back to your memory this thought, I was selected to be a part of a great structure and I don't want it to crumble due to my falling away. Every stone selected plays an important part and any stone that falls from the wall makes the structure weak. We all know our Lodge is the finest there is and it is up to each one of us to preserve it until time is no more.

Jasper Lodge No. 143

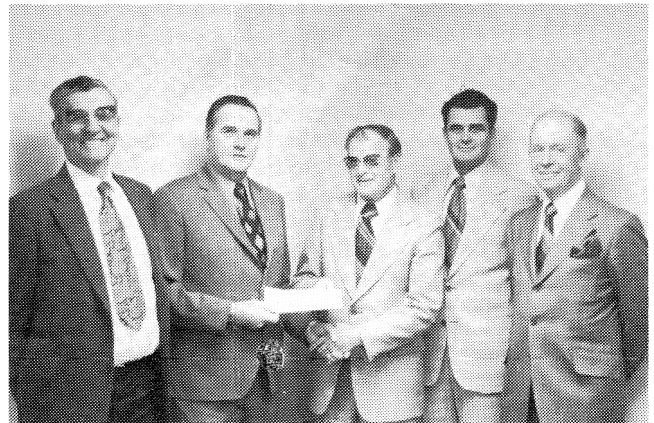


Photo by Jasper Booster

The members of the Jasper Park Lodge No. 143 AF & AM donated over \$5,500 to Seton General Hospital in Jasper to purchase an endoscope. Committee chairman, Worshipful Bro. Gib Switzer on behalf of the master and members is shown presenting a cheque to hospital board chairman Ernie Labarge, while Brother Tom Murphy, Worshipful Bro. Bill Hadden and Bro. Roy Nordgren look on. The endoscope is used to examine the esophagus, stomach and duodenum, and is provided with various automatic devices to facilitate observation. This is a very welcome addition to the Jasper Hospital's Equipment needs. The board and staff extend sincere thanks to the Jasper Masonic Lodge.

GRAND LODGE
HISTORY

M.W. Bro. W.J. Collett will have a tape recorder at the Masonic Spring Workshop to record pertinent historical anecdotes from Lodges. Bring your stories prepared for recording and be sure to contact Jack Collett.



PHOTO OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS TAKEN AT ANNUAL COMMUNICATION JUNE, 1977

LEFT TO RIGHT

1st Row - W.C. Graves, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 2; G.A. Hoyes, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 12; A.G.E. Neff, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 17; I.D. McKay, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 14; M.P. Dunford, G. Sec.; R.L. Costigan, D.G.M.; K.L. Crockett, G.M.; W.N. Love, S.G.W.; W.E. Foster, J.G.W.; D.H. Cooke, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 18; W.D. Ingoldshy, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 11; C.M. Rud, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 5.

2nd Row - J.R. Bissell, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 13; J.C. Shearer, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 8; W.M. Ireland, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 4; George Fearon, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 19; R.E. Juthner, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 20; T.P. Smith, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 7; J.D. Ingram, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 16; H.D. Anderson, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 15; J.L. Sanders, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 10; V.A. Bishell, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 9; L.A. Mc Kercher, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 6; Harry Farmer, G.O.; E.P. Wood, G. St.

3rd Row - W.A. Kujath, G. St.; W.R. Morris, G. St.; A.M. Apperley, G. St.; Thomas Hunter, S.G.D.; F.C.K. Tye, G.R.; C.D. Holmes, G. St.; J.A.R. Sprigings, G.P.; W.J. Smith, G. St.; E.W. Dunlop, J.G.D.; W.A. Milligan, P.G.M.; J.A. Probert, D.D.G.M., Dist. No. 1.