



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 50, NO. 10

Editor, M.W. Bro. ROBERT L. COSTIGAN

JUNE, 1985

THE BIBLE

By Chester R. Lindholm

"No Mason needs to be told what a place of honour the Bible has in Masonry. One of the great Lights in the Order, it lies open upon the altar at the center of the lodge. Upon it every Mason takes solemn vows of love, of loyalty, of chastity, of charity, pledging himself to our tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth."

The Bible, strictly speaking, is not a book but a library of brief writings, some of which contain histories, some codes or laws, some prophecies, some collections of religious songs and proverbs and some epistles.

This library is divided into two parts, the one containing records of the history and religious development of the Jews before the time of Christ; the other the distinctive Christian literature produced by the following of our Lord during the first century after His appearance on Earth.

The Bible is the only book in the world that depicts the world from its creation to its consummation - Genesis 1 to Revelation 21.

The books composing the Holy Bible were written in different ages, from Moses to John (1650 B.C. to A.D. 90, a period of more than 1,700 years) by men who were specially prepared for the work by direct inspiration from the Divine Source of all knowledge.

The Hebrews preserved the writings. While the Hebrews were captives they appointed teachers of the law of Moses whose duties were to preserve knowledge of the Scriptures. Ezra was chief of this group in later years and completing the arrangement of these books. He was given the title of Scribe.

Succeeding the Scribes were certain teachers of the law, who were called Sages, Wise Ones, Elders and Doctors. Their duties were about the same. The Order of the Doctors continued as a distinct body from 200 B.C. to A.D. 220. These various Orders of learned men cared for the Holy Books for a period of over 700 years and ending about 300 years after Christ.

The first recorded translation from the Hebrew into another language was in Chaldean, which was made at the time the law was read to the King of Persia. The original has been lost. The oldest which has been preserved is that which was made at Alexandria in Egypt 260 B.C. It was translated into Greek by Aquila Ponticus in the second century A.D.

History in the Old Testament ends with the Maccabees, the world of the Old Testament really died in A.D. 70, when the Roman Army under Titus sacked Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple and killed or dispersed its Jewish citizens.

It is said that Mark wrote his Gospel about A.D. 65 or 68. A few years later the Gospel of Matthew was written, then the Gospel of Luke was composed. A fourth Gospel, that of John, appeared about A.D. 100. The first New Testament printed in English appeared in A.D. 1522 and the entire Bible was first published in A.D. 1535.

The discovery of the remains of the ancient civilizations mentioned in the Bible - the cities and monuments of Babylonians, Egyptians, Assyrians, Persians and Greeks - have more or less proved the Bible correct. Deciphering the mysterious languages found on tablets of clay and on ancient buildings and monuments have helped the scholars to piece together the history of the Ancient Near East.

Excavations at Jericho, near the northern tip of the Dead Sea, have uncovered evidence of the complex of settled life estimated before 8000 B.C.

In the time of the Apostles there were many copies of the Gospels for use of the Church in different duties in the languages of the localities - Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Syriac, Coptic, Ethiopic and Arabic. The authors are unknown.

In 1604, 47 men served in making a new translation into English. They were all distinguished for their learning in Oriental Languages. It has been said the translators of the Bible were masters of English style.

Prior to the Revolutionary War the English Bibles used in this country were obtained in Europe. The first Bible published in this country was a translation in the Natick Indian dialect by Rev. John Eliot and printed in 1663 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Natick Tribe have long been extinct and no one can now read it.

The next Bible printed here was in German at Germantown, Pennsylvania (now a part of Philadelphia) in 1743. The first Bible published in English in America was in 1782. Many others were printed. In 1872 the first edition of the Holman Quarto Bible appeared, known as the King James Authorized Version.

"There is no doubt that the Bible is the Book of the Law."

"MODERN LIVING"

by R.W. Bro. Lester Snyder, D.D.G.M. District No. 16, 1940

If you will bear with me for a few moments I would like to draw your attention to a temple in which I am sure we are all interested, our body.

Every normal human being is entrusted with the development and operation of a marvelous temple in which he lives, his body, and I feel that it is up to each of us to make sure that this bodily temple of ours is a fine one.

Many books have been written about the wonders of our body and the way in which it develops to meet all the changing purposes of the life which it holds, how it reacts to emergencies, repairs itself, withstands privations and normally keeps all of its delicate functions in perfect adjustment, despite the stresses which it is called upon to undergo.

Although these temples of ours can successfully withstand a great amount of punishment, we all know that continued mistreatment or neglect will inevitably exact its toll, impairing and shortening the life and appearance of this temple. This temple is the place where we all must live, and it behooves us to give nature some assistance in this care. We cannot discard these temples and get new ones when they begin to wear out, or when they fail because of abuse. Therefore, it is up to each of us to live sensibly if we want to enjoy physical well being.

One of the great influences affecting the appearance of this temple is that exerted by mental hygiene.

All of us have seen selfishness and fault finding written on an unpleasant face which, if it mirrored generous, grateful habits and happy thoughts, might be attractive, if not really beautiful.

Mental attitudes have their effects on our nervous and digestive systems. Our bodies and minds are superbly co-ordinated mechanisms. Whatever is in the mind is usually pictured on the living tracing board of the temple, our faces. Happy is the one who can continually look for the good and the beautiful in his daily surroundings. Delight in the beauty and perfection of a flower, the softening glow of a moonlit night, the carefree joyousness of a bird's song, the heart warming forgiveness of a charitable friend. All these will contribute to the appearance of our temple by soothing the mental aches from which we may be suffering, for appreciation of goodness and beauty is a most happy and healthful form of recreation. Obviously appreciation of these things cannot exist in a mind filled with bitterness, hatred, or any similar form of destructive emotion.

Our bodies develop a taste for whatever we feed them, even though it may be harmful.

Our minds work in similar fashion and if we feed them ugliness and trash, if we read cheap fiction instead of good literature, if we persist in looking for the worst instead of the best in all that surrounds us, the time will come when fineness is beyond our comprehension. It is well to remember that we have never lived this moment before, and will never live it again, and it is imperative that we live the present moment right if we would have our own personal Masonic temple with the best equipment.

There is an exhilarating sense of accomplishment in making the human machine, the body, obey one's will. It is generally far from easy and demands all the mental and spiritual power we have, but the result pays. Rarely is anything worthwhile attained without great effort. The richest people in the world are those who lead happy contented lives. The commonest things which lie within everyone's grasp are more valuable than the riches and power which so many people sigh and struggle for.

This was illustrated when King Midas was granted the Golden Touch. King Midas decided he would never again trade the warm hand of love and companionship for all the gold in the world.

Anyone who leads a happy life, must of necessity, live a Masonic life, because we cannot be happy without loving our fellow creatures and fellow men. Loving our fellow men, charity, the backbone and principle tenet of our institution follows easily.

Any man who lives with dislike and hatred in his heart is a poor, unhappy and sick man, who is more to be pitied rather than hated in return, for hatred acts like a cancer in the body of he who nourishes it and eventually ravishes that body and destroys it. There is nothing finer to see than a man or woman who for many years has led a Masonic life, whether they belong to our organization and have enjoyed its benefits or not, the fact that they have led the kind of life Masonry stands for will surely be written on their faces for the world to see.

The little acts we do from day to day, the thoughts we think from week to week, the way we give from month to month, and the way we live from year to year will be written on our faces as clearly as the seasons of the year are marked on the face of the Earth by the Divine Architect of the Universe.

The best Masons to my mind are not necessarily those who are best at getting up the ritualistic work and giving it ably, or those who know our constitution and by-laws from beginning to end.

He may be a better Mason who quietly and regularly tends his lodge with malice towards none, and charity towards all, and who cheerfully

and willingly performs many duties about his lodge and community which his more distinguished brothers might consider menial, if they noticed him at all.

He did not join his lodge to get something, but to be in a position to give something; give of himself, give of his means, and make some useful contribution to the time in which he lives.

Masonry offers every one of its members a philosophy to live by, a society to live in, and an ideal to live up to and to look up to.

There is no place in Masonry for the materialist, the pessimist or the atheist.

The ideal person may be one who
 "Has lived well, laughed often and loved much,
 Who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children.

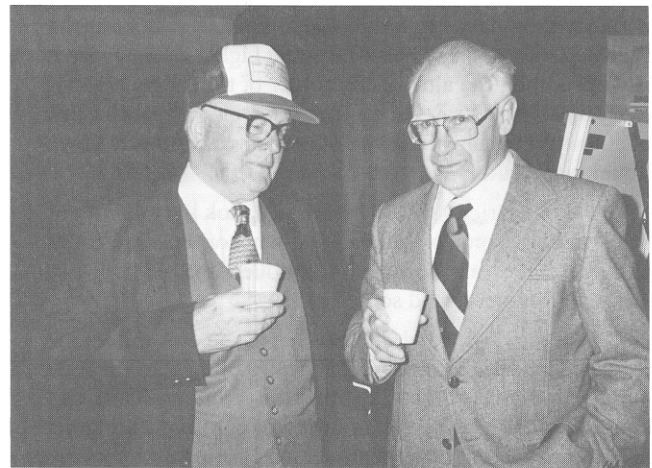
Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task.

Who has left the world better than he found it,

Whether for an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul,
 Who has never lacked an appreciation of the earth's beauty, or failed to express it,

Who has always looked for the best in others, and given the best he had,
 Whose life was an inspiration,

And whose memory is a benediction."



W. Bro. Cyril Batham, wearing his 20th Anniversary Masonic Spring Workshop hat, chats with an Alberta Brother over coffee.

VISIT OF R.W. BRO. C. BATHAM

Our Alberta Jurisdiction suffered through a "Good News - Bad News" time during April of this year. The Good News was that some brethren were able to meet and enjoy R.W. Bro. Cyril Batham, a Past Master and now Secretary of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the premiere research lodge in the world today. The Bad News was that no arrangements had been made (through no fault of Alberta) to have this most knowledgeable and charming brother make one or two speaking stops in Alberta where more brethren could have shared his wealth of Masonic history.

R.W. Bro. Batham flew into Calgary on Tuesday, the 9th of April and was, within hours, enjoying the Third Degree that was being conferred by Crossfield Lodge No. 48, with all the pomp and pageantry of the Ancient York Rite, as well as the oysters that were served later in the evening.

After an hour in the Grand Lodge Office, Wednesday was taken up with a sightseeing tour of Calgary and a luncheon attended by some hastily convened brethren, including R.W. Bro. Senn, the Secretary of Alberta's Research Lodge, Fiat Lux Lodge of Research.

After a night at the Grand Secretary's home at Bragg Creek, the next day was given to travelling and sightseeing in and around Banff, Friday. After a visit to Lake Louise and Field, B.C., R.W. Bro. Batham took in, as a guest of the Workshop Committee, every facet of the weekend seminar, from the early morning breakfast to the late-night "fraternization" that is such an integral part of the Workshop.

R.W. Bro. Batham, an Insurance Broker by profession, retired from business some time ago to devote his full time to Freemasonry and its study. What better way to do that than by accepting the honour to be the Prestonian Lecturer for the United Grand Lodge of England in 1981 and now the Secretary of the Research Lodge that has members, literally, in every country of the world. Our visitor spoke very highly of the work that is being done in our Workshop, and to those brethren who took in the Research School; he charged them to "keep up the good work". Bro. Batham left Calgary to embark on a visitation and speaking tour that will take him to both the United States and Canada during the six week visit to North America.

"TOAST TO NEWLY INSTALLED AND INVESTED OFFICERS"

The following is a toast given by W. Bro. Sandy Sanderson of Concord No. 124 at another Masonic Body and adapted to the Craft Lodge with his permission.

Brother Toastmaster:

I deem it a great pleasure to be called upon to give this toast to the newly elected and appointed officers. I am aware that the Offices to which you will be installed or invested, can be very demanding and time consuming. However I am sure you must feel proud of the confidence placed in you by the brethren of this lodge and that you realize that you are now our management team for 1985-86. All of you, I'm sure, will devote the time and effort required for the success of your lodge during 1985-86 and for the years to come.

If I may pass on some words of wisdom, I give you the following food for thought. Do not gauge yourself by what someone else may have done or not done. Have a positive approach. Do the best you are capable of - no man can give more. Select the style of leadership that is natural, not only for you, but your lodge brethren.

Remember you cannot lead or manage others, if you cannot manage yourself. Set your priorities and objectives, making sure that they are worthy of the lodge's best efforts and interests.

Display enthusiasm and energy in pressing your objectives to a successful conclusion. Motivate your subordinate and support people. Be sure they know what portion of any project or work they are responsible for and set out for them the standard you expect of them. But always give them their fair credit for the part they played. Be sure they know that they are appreciated.

Communicate! There is no substitute for getting your message across to the people from whom you expect response. If you do not communicate, you may very well fail in whatever you may attempt. You are dealing with people. Tell them what is going on; tell them what you expect of them; tell them what you hope to achieve, but always, be sure to communicate.

Delegate chores, responsibilities and committees. You should not overtax your capabilities to manage the affairs of the lodge. Intelligently spread the load around. The delegation of any authority creates interest and participation and this will go a long way in activating the brethren of your lodge; to keep it in a healthy condition.

Finally brethren, do not let your numerous tasks, your increased work load and the increase in your responsibilities panic you. You are more capable than you think. If you will but work at your new chores, show enthusiasm and energy, seek out all of the aids available to you to set a wise course, then I am sure that 1985-86 will be a most enjoyable year for each of you in your respective offices and a banner year for this lodge. We have all worked with you in the past, we look forward to serving you in the future.

Will the brethren of this lodge and any visitors present who wish to do so, please rise and join with me in this toast to our newly elected and appointed officers.

EDITORIAL

The past year has been most interesting for me, in that, I was given the opportunity to be your editor of the "Bulletin" and I have received such great support from various parts of the jurisdiction. It has been appreciated to have received articles and photos and by so doing has added to the success, if any, of the Bulletin's publications. I must thank the Grand Lodge staff for their assistance. This year the computer revolutionized the Grand Lodge bulletin, in that, all articles were printed on the word processor and assembled for further processing by the printing company. Great studies have been made to cut costs and review lodge requirements.

I must apologize to W. Bro. K. Gewers of Lodge Renfrew No. 134 of Calgary for not giving credit for his contribution in the April 1984 bulletin under the heading of "How Can We Attract New Members to Our Lodge, or Should We?"

In regard to the April issue on the History of the Temple Organ, I received a letter from Bro. McNeil White stating that the Perfection Lodge site was incorrect. The Bank of Montreal site should have been shown as the S.W. corner of 8th Avenue and 1st Street West. Bro. White was a staff member of the Bank of Montreal during the time the old bank was torn down and a new one constructed on the same site.

AGE OF MAN

A man is not old when his hair turns grey,
Nor is he old when his teeth decay,
But he's well on the road to that long, long sleep,
When his mind makes commitments, his body can't keep.

* * *

It may not be my happy lot
To be of service great
To all the folk with whom I meet
Because of my estate;
But one wish is my constant prayer
As on through life I wend;
"May I in all a brother see
And find in each a friend."

For folk have need of many things
Besides the things we see;
Right glad I'll give whatever I can
That they may need of me.
What matters that I cannot give,
Or wealth on others spend,
If "I in all a brother see
And find in each a friend."



Left to right: Bro. Gordon P. Berard; R.W. Bro. Ed Hunter; M.W. Bro. Albert Dutton; W. Bro. Cliff Henders and R.W. Bro. O.E. Mything.

The regular meeting of Lodge Renfrew No. 134, held on February 11th, 1985, was honoured by the attendance of M.W. Bro. Albert J. Dutton, Grand Master of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Saskatchewan. Accompanying M.W. Bro. Dutton was R.W. Bro. O.E. Mything, Grand Senior Warden.

Of special interest was the fact that M.W. Bro. Dutton is an uncle of Bro. Gordon P. Berard, Lodge Renfrew's Chaplain.

Another highlight of the evening was the visit of the D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Ed Hunter, D.D.G.M. District No. 1.

Following a brief address by R.W. Bro. Hunter, M.W. Bro. Dutton reviewed highlights of the "Friendship Nights" program now being conducted in Saskatchewan as a method of reaching prospective candidates in a community. "It is often said that we should not be concerned with attendance or membership. However, having listened to the Grand Master of Saskatchewan, it may well be that we should be addressing these problems before it is too late", was the general consensus expressed by the Brethren following his address.

Photos and information supplied by Bro. Max L. Malden.



Pictured are W. Bro. Ernest Briggs (left) being presented his 50 year jewel by W. Bro. Spence Morrison, also holder of a 50 year jewel.

W. Bro. Briggs originally a member of Nanton Lodge No. 17, later affiliating with Cornerstone No. 19 in High River.

God in His infinite wisdom has sown the seeds of love and tenderness in the soul of mankind, through the power of compassion. All of us must bear our share of the burdens of those around us. If we allow our conscience to reveal to our heart someone nice to remember, we may discover a worthy person too nice to forget.

WELL KNOWN MASON HONOURED

The Alberta Jurisdiction was recently honoured when R.W. Bro. Herbert Laycraft was appointed Chief Justice of Alberta. Also, to serve as Deputy Lieutenant Governor in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor Helen Huntley.

R.W. Bro. Laycraft is a 30 year member of Zetland Lodge No. 83 and served as Grand Registrar in the Grand Lodge of Alberta for the year 1967.

KLONDIKE LODGE

Edmonton - Main Masonic Temple

July 24, 1985

7:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Officers and Members of Redwood Lodge No. 193 under the direction of M.W. Bro. Stan Harbin, who will confer the Third Degree. Mark your calendar for this important event.

MEDICINE HAT LODGE NO. 2 100th ANNIVERSARY

In regard to the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2, A.F. & A.M., a Notice of these activities in the June Bulletin would be very much appreciated.

In anticipation of your usual fine co-operation, I am enclosing the following particulars for your consideration:

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13

Registration and Informal Cocktails — 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

Noon Luncheon for Brethren

Noon Luncheon and Activities for Ladies

Lodge Meeting — 1:30 p.m.

BANQUET & DANCE AT LEGION

Cocktails — 6:30 - 7:30

Banquet & Dance — 7:30 - 1:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15

CHURCH PARADE

Cost Per Couple: \$55.00

Registration Deadline is August 31, 1985

Respectfully submitted,

DUNCAN STRACHAN,
Worshipful Master
Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2