



## MENTORING

Address to the Brethren and Visitors of Temple Lodge No. 324 on Nov 13, 2018 by R.W. Bro. Robin J. Colville – DDGM Hamilton District “C” on his Official Visit.

Good evening my brethren:

Tonight I would like to talk to you about the importance of, and the benefits of Mentoring in Masonry.

The dictionary would describe a “Mentor” as a true and trusted counselor or teacher, or a senior sponsor or supporter. So the act of mentoring would be to share knowledge with a student or apprentice and to be that true and trusted teacher.

The term Mentor originates from ancient Greek Mythology and Mentor was a friend of Odysseys who was a great adventurer. One of his great adventures was the Trojan war, during which he left his home and financial affairs in the keeping of Mentor, who did such an admiral job at his task that the name Mentor became known as a term to describe a person who gives good advise to a junior colleague.

Mentoring can involve regimented teachings and formal subject matters, but often it is as casual as passing a kind remark. It demonstrates the wide range of influence the term can invoke.

Every new Mason is charged to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge, and it is each of our responsibility to learn more, and each of us should take the personal initiative for our own advancement. However, the search for knowledge should not be a lonely one, and as we advance in Masonry we learn the importance of mentoring and we grow to embrace it.

Masonry’s purpose is “to make good men better”, and the purpose of mentoring is “to assist and promote that goal” !



I have so many fond memories of the great Mentors and Masons that have guided me through my 37 years in Masonry. As a young Mason my Mentors didn't have the technology that is available today, but they did have the understanding, the wisdom and the foresight to help the younger men to move through, and be guided through Masonry and indeed through life.

Mentorship is a form of passing on "Masonic Enthusiasm" on to a younger member. Every Mentor has some form of Masonic Enthusiasm, and they got it from someone, but they probably can't put a finger on exactly who or where they got it from, but they definitely got it. It's contagious, you're not born with it, and you can't take it with you ... but everybody catches it from somebody else and that brother.... if you can think of the brother who helped you along the way ... one of your first mentors .... he guided you and provided you with the enthusiasm to carry on. I was originally initiated as a member of the Hamilton Lodge which has since gone dark, but one of my earliest mentors was V. W. Bro Joe Hobson, very much my senior and also a member of my current Lodge, the Buchanan Lodge No. 550. Joe had such a kind nature and always a word of encouragement, and of course answers to any of my questions about Masonry. But there were many like Joe at Hamilton Lodge,..... Fred Scott, Tom Chardine, Dowton Thompson, Victor Girvin, and my Father George Colville. Since joining Buchanan Lodge our Treasurer V.W. Bro. Bill Rutledge likewise took me under his wing as a successor to his workings. All of these great mentors have long passed to the Grand Lodge above, but the way they lead by example both as Masons in Lodge and men in society was a true inspiration to me, and I try my daily best to follow in their footsteps.

I never realized it at the time, but I can look back now and appreciate the magnitude of impact these great men have had on my Masonic journey !

My Father was my biggest Mentor in both Lodge and Life. He was extremely proud to be a Mason, and the instant friendship you can share with a stranger anywhere in the world just because of a common connection through the Craft.



We used to drive to Lodge meetings together, and on one occasion shortly after I joined he told me that I had been made a Mason .... That I will meet men of all types and all occupations, and from all places, and that I will be able to call them brothers, .... A special fraternal bond and something I will have for the rest of my life.

I learned that all the key mentors in my Masonic career were extremely committed to our Craft, and they taught me the meaning of commitment.

Our mentors teach us by example to work hard, and then to work harder to achieve our goals.

After receiving the long lectures in the first degree, I am sure the new mason can hardly remember a word that was said to him in the ritual. The long formal lectures often do not get across as well as those little casual moments of concern and good will that are expressed. Comfort in our fraternity is a feature we can all benefit from.

We must always remember that Masonic Education should be a pleasure to be enjoyed..... not a chore to be endured. Let's present it and receive it in this context.

Brethren, we are in a phase of Renaissance in Masonry. Just because men are once again expressing an interest in the Craft, does not mean that we simply sit back and enjoy the glow of their membership. It is a two way street; our senior brethren owe them the courtesy of teaching and helping them to learn and, our newer brethren owe themselves and the Craft the duty to become good Masons.

It is so important to compliment the new mason, and to encourage him and to guide him through the first few years of his Masonic experience so that he can become an educated, mentored Mason.

In the words of a past Grand Master – "Get Knowledge, Get Wisdom but with all thy getting, get Understanding".



May the GAOTU give us strength to work in the quarries for years to come, and may our Mentors be remembered until time shall be no more.

Thank you for you kind attention.