

Official Visit to Valley Lodge No. 100

February 12th, 2007

Lecture

New Young Masons

Brethren:

Every month, as District Deputy Grand Master, I receive lodge summons from every lodge in the district, plus from other lodges in neighbouring jurisdictions. The District Secretary and I, keep track of the activities going on in all the lodges. I feel that it is important for the office of D.D.G.M. to be aware of what is happening in the district, identify any given direction and/or trend within the district; whether positive or negative, and once a direction and/or trend has been identified, it is the responsibility of the District Deputy Grand Master to assist individual lodges in facilitating and/or correcting that trend. - As far as positive trends go, it has become quite clear that in the last two years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of initiations in several of the Lodges in District "C". For reasons unknown at this moment, some lodges have done better than others. Grand Lodge has recently given similar reports with respects to the rest of the province. It was also reported that the number of deaths has increased in the last two years, which along with suspensions and demits have kept the membership numbers at a ceiling. But there are new trends. The numbers may not be going up as much as we would like, but, in many cases, what we have noticed is that the new Mason is younger. I remember the days when the average age of a new initiate into Masonry was in the early to mid forties. I personally recall wondering why we had the age of 21 as a requisite for membership, since most everybody joining was middle age any how. But today, we are beginning to see many young faces in lodges. Some of them don't even look old enough to join the Craft. The age requirement of 21 finally becomes relevant. These young Masons are energetic, and highly committed. They are eager to learn and to become active in this new organization they have joined. In my official and unofficial travels throughout the district this year, I have also noticed that they are taking early responsibilities, and challenging positions in their respective lodges. In many cases they show advanced knowledge of the ritual and confidence in their performance of the work. They are well spoken and sharp on the floor. Many of them appear to have learned about Freemasonry before they joined the Craft. It is most certain that the Internet has much to do with their ability to learn more about the Order than previous generations. Today, any one can research just about any topic in the Internet. Many young Masons in our district have expressed to me the reason they joined Masonry is because they learned about the

principles and tenets of the Order, and these appealed to their spiritual needs. Many observers would agree that films such as “National Treasure”, “The Da Vinci Code” and others, along with a large number of popular books such as “Angels and Demons”, “Freemasonry for Dummies”, etc., along with a general interest in Secret Societies which has become popular in the early part of this century in our societies, all together have attracted many searching young men into Free Masonry. -

My message to all the young Masons who are joining the Craft today is that I am confident that Freemasonry, and all it stands for, will be the proper venue for many of these young inquisitive minds, to grow and develop in a positive and constructive way, not only in body and mind, but in spirit. I say it will be the proper venue with the expectation that the learning they will obtain will be **wise** and **proven**. **Wise** by truly understanding the precepts Freemasonry professes and **proven** by living their entire lives under those same precepts. This will take time. It will not happen overnight. Life has to take its course. What Freemasonry has to offer is not something you can learn in a weekend seminar. What Freemasonry has to offer is a life time experience; filled with lessons which in my opinion, need to be savoured and lived in order to be fully understood and personally applied.

Finally Brethren, I would like to say to those young Masons that I am proud to call myself a Mason. That one of the biggest lessons I have learned in this fraternity is that, as in everything in life; “you get out of it what you put into it”. Our Craft is wise and challenging. There are many phases in Free Masonry. There are many ways in which you can become involved. Find as many as you can, and if possible, make yourself a part of them. Always live in search of Truth, never stop loving your brother and remember that blessed is the one who gives as well as the one who receives.

Seeing young men join Freemasonry today assures me that our Order is in good hands, that the future of our Craft is secured and that Freemasonry will continue to be a large part of our lives for generations and generations to come.

Written by:

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