



Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels receives a donation towards the Sankey Centre for Masonic Studies at Brock University from W. Bro. John McKinlay, Trustee of the Landmarks/Doric Lodge.

Succession planning ought to be a major concern at all levels of administration. With the adoption of the constitutional amendment (Section 50b) at Grand Lodge, completion and certification of the D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course becomes a prerequisite for nomination as D.D.G.M. Be a talent scout: identify those Past Masters with talent and ability and encourage them to enroll in the course. It is a great way to gain Masonic knowledge and understanding. Be certain to invite all potential successors to attend the D.D.G.M. Orientation sessions being held during the fall. One cannot be too well prepared for the duties and responsibilities of this high and important office.

When attending the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture in the lodges of your District, please be vigilant that the provisions of Section 221 that require dispensation from the Grand Master for a member to hold two offices concurrently either in the same lodge or in more than one lodge have been followed. If in doubt, you should ask that the dispensation issued be produced for your perusal. When you make the final Proclamation, you must be certain that the officers have been “duly and *legally* installed and invested.” Any irregularities in this regard must be reported immediately to the Grand Master through the Grand Secretary.

Canada Lodge UD established at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan under the direction of V.W. Bro. Rick Fulford, Assistant Grand Chaplain, is providing “a retreat of friendship and brotherly love” for our brethren serving in the armed forces. We have received many expressions of thanks for the opportunity this lodge affords for fraternal association and social converse. I ask every D.D.G.M. to survey the lodges in the District to compile a list of those members who have served, are serving in Afghanistan, or are about to be deployed there with the Canadian Armed Forces. I suggest that the list be kept current and posted above the Tyler’s desk in the anteroom as a reminder to keep these Brethren and their families in our thoughts and prayers. I would also encourage the members of those lodges with brethren on a tour of duty there to keep in touch by e-mail. It is but a small gesture of our respect, support and encouragement for those valiant men protecting our liberty and freedom.

As September begins, it is also “back-to-school” time in Freemasonry, the oldest and largest organization devoted to adult education in the world. The General Charge reminds us that the ‘noble object’ of Freemasonry is *‘the cultivation and improvement of the human mind.’* It is a life-long journey of discovery. Properly considered, we are all Entered Apprentices learning our Craft. Geoffrey Chaucer, writing in the fourteenth century, stated it succinctly: *“The lyfe so short, the craft so long to lerne.”* Understanding the profound and comprehensive meaning of Freemasonry comes only from thorough study, thoughtful reflection, and forthright discussion. Bro. Albert Pike wrote in his magnum opus, *Morals and Dogma* (1871): *“It is for each individual Mason to discover the secret of Masonry, by reflection upon its symbols and a wise consideration and analysis of what is said and done in the work. Masonry does not inculcate her truths. She states them, once and briefly; or hints them, perhaps darkly; or interposes a cloud between them and eyes that would be dazzled by them.”*

‘Seek, and ye shall find,’ knowledge and the truth.”

Get **Knowledge** – get **Wisdom** – but with all thy getting, get **Understanding**.

Raymond S. J. Daniels
October, 2010