



Jerusalem Times

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The View from the East...

By Robert L. Blackburn, Worshipful Master

As a few of you may have noticed, the title of this article has changed for the first time in 20 issues. It is certainly my pleasure to be addressing you as Worshipful Master. I can assure you that I take this office knowing full well the responsibilities that accompany it, and am sincere in my intentions to serve you all to the best of my ability.

That being said, I do want to point out a few things that I am extremely proud of. First, I address you as one of the youngest Masters in our 150+ year history, one of the youngest Masters in the state, and I am extremely proud to say that I am the first 3rd generation Master of our Lodge. I cannot put into words how honored I am to say that, and know how proud both my father is and my grandfather (although he is looking down from the Celestial Lodge Above)..

I have thought for some time about what I would write in this column. There are several things that I considered, but I will limit it to two. First of all, I want to set forth my goals for the year. I have been extremely fortunate to have gone through the officer line following in the footsteps of some great Masters. They have established a foundation at this great Lodge that I hope to build on. They have allowed me to participate very actively in the degree work, letting me confer both and EA and a MM degree while sitting as Junior Deacon, and conferring the FC degree while Senior Warden. My goal as Master is to do the same, and encourage ALL of my officers to learn a part and become active in the conferral. Speaking of officers...I, like many other Masters, feel that I have an incredible line. All of them have been working extremely hard to perfect their parts and confer the degrees in a way that credits the fraternity. Not only have they been working on their current jobs, they have been encouraged (and are doing so) to go beyond and work ahead so that when they take their next office the job will be much more enjoyable. My hat certainly goes off to all of them!

I also want to note that as the year progresses there are some goals that I want to accomplish. First, I want to continue to show the community that we are alive and well. I intend to continue the child ID program, Labor Day festivities, ladies night, and scholarship golf outing to name a few. I want both myself and the officers to attend the Leadership Development/Ritual classes held throughout the state. I sincerely hope to confer a number of degrees (which from early indications appear will happen), and hope for another year of membership gain. One of the tools that I will use to aid us will be the criteria for the Grand Master's Award, something that I would love for this Lodge to obtain in 2009 as a token of our hard work and success.

The other thing that I want to share is a story that occurred in December that shows what true Freemasonry is all about. As you will read, we again held one of our child ID programs this December. As an incentive, we advertised that we would give away a free bicycle at the conclusion. During that Saturday after we got done cleaning, we pulled a little boy's name from the box, after which I called and left a message with his father.

The next day I had a voice mail message from the mother and I could tell that she was somewhat shaken. I returned her phone call, only to hear delight from the other end of the line. She told me how excited the little boy was and proceeded to tell me a story that not only got to me, but several others in the Lodge. It turned out that the father had recently been laid off, and the reason that they came to the program was that the kit they had completed at an earlier ChIP event had been ruined due to the floods that hit their house earlier in the year. Because of all this, they had told the little boy and his brother that there wasn't going to be much of a Christmas this year. The next day, both dad and myself met the family at Wal-Mart so that we could fit the boy with a bike that would be appropriate. After hearing the family's circumstances, a number of us (especially Kevin Williams who came up with the idea), decided that it wouldn't be fair to just give away one bike, but rather to surprise big brother with one as well. This was reaffirmed after we found out that he had gotten a paper route to help out, and the bike he had was falling apart. After seeing the look on the family's face, it really made us proud to be Freemasons and reminded us, that we should always practice outside of the Lodge those important lessons that are taught inside of it - especially Charity!

If there is anything that I can do, please don't hesitate to give me a call. Thank you, and may God Bless!

Jerusalem Lodge #99, F & AM
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Scholarship Forms Still Available

Each year, over \$500,000 is provided by the Masonic Fraternity to Indiana students who need assistance to continue their education in Indiana. Grants now total over \$40,000 to which Jerusalem Lodge #99 has been able to provide toward Clinton area youth education. For the 2008-2009 school year, 3 local students received Masonic scholarships; Jessica Dugger, Jordan Guinn, and Khaim Helms.

It is not too late to receive a Scholarship Application. The deadline for applications to be turned into the Lodge is March 1, 2008. For a copy of the application, please call the Lodge Secretary, Ron Smith at 812-466-6001. We have already sent out a number of scholarship applications, and there is no limit to the number of scholarship recipients that a Lodge can have.

There is one important change for this year's scholarships. Due to the downturn in the economy, the revenue/interest generated from the scholarship accounts have diminished. Thankfully, the Grand Lodge Scholarship Board has been putting money back for the past several years just in case this situation occurred. Unfortunately, they have eliminated (at least temporarily) the eligibility of granddaughters and grandsons of Master Masons. For this years applicants, you must be either: a Master Mason, the son or daughter of a Master Mason, or the step-daughter or step-son of a Master Mason. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Secretary, Worshipful Master, or you can visit the Indiana Grand Lodge Scholarship Board's web site at www.iglsb.org.

Show Your Masonic Pride



Remember that you can show your Masonic pride everywhere you go by purchasing a Masonic License Plate for your vehicle! The cost is only \$10.00 per year, of which \$6.00 comes right back to our Lodge (or you can now purchase a 3 year plate for \$25.00). They are available for not only cars and trucks, but for your motorcycles too! This great program is just one of the ways that

we can promote ourselves in the community. Last year, Jerusalem #99 had 41 Masonic Plates on the road, which is a tie for 22nd place among all Lodges in Indiana! For more information or to get a form, just give our Secretary Ron Smith a call at 812-466-6001!

From the Secretary

We start the month of February with three Brothers waiting to take their Master Mason Degree, have already conferred one Fellow Craft Degree, elected one member to transfer into our Lodge, balloted successfully on two new candidates and read another new petition! We enjoyed another year of membership increase in 2008, making 3 years in a row! Hats off to our leaders and full steam ahead! To the best of my knowledge, Jerusalem Lodge #99 is the only Lodge in the Wabash Valley area to show a membership gain this many years in a row.

I do need to note that there are still several of you out there that have not yet paid your 2009 Lodge Dues. The fees were due by January 1st. I have sent out a couple of reminders, and urge you to give me a call at 812-466-6001. All you have to do is call, and we will be there to help!

If there is anything else we can do, don't hesitate to give me or WM Rob a call; a sick brother, a funeral, or even someone that is interested in Masonry! May God Bless!

Ronald K. Smith, P.M., P.G.M., Secretary

YOUR 2009 Officers

On Saturday, December 13, 2008 Jerusalem Lodge #99 installed its 2009 Officers



Pictured from the left:

Front row:

Barry E. Lilley, Outgoing Master
Robert L. Blackburn, Worshipful Master
Gary L. Blackburn, P.M.

Second Row:

Kevin Williams, P.M.
Kenneth Helms, Senior Deacon
Charles Johnson, Senior Warden
Kris Cloyd, Junior Warden
Barry R. Lilley, Senior Steward

Top:

C. Robert Bartlett, Chaplain
Jim Helms, P.M.
George Williams, P.M.
Art Nowling, P.M.
David Hudgens, Junior Steward
Ron Lockwood, P.M.

Not Pictured:

Tim Morgan, Treasurer - Ronald K. Smith, P.M., P.G.M., Secretary - Ed Magee, P.M., Tyler

Officer Contact Information

Worshipful Master	Robert Blackburn	765-832-6452
Senior Warden	Charles Johnson	765-832-2156
Junior Warden	Kris Cloyd	765-832-2594
Secretary	Ronald K. Smith, P.M., P.G.M.	812-466-6001
Treasurer	Tim Morgan	765-832-9412
Senior Deacon	Kenneth Helms	812-877-9381
Senior Steward	Barry R. Lilley	812-230-0773
Junior Steward	David Hudgens	812-535-1351
Tyler	Ed Magee, P.M.	765-832-2369
Chaplain	Robert Bartlett	765-832-1958
Trustee	Gary Blackburn, P.M.	765-832-6452
Trustee / Custodian	Ron Lockwood, P.M.	812-466-5619
Trustee	Kevin Williams, P.M.	765-832-2764
Jerusalem #99 Lodge Hall Phone		765-832-9026

www.jerusalem99.com