



# Jerusalem Times

Jerusalem Lodge #99 F & AM

Issue 15 November 2007

## Worshipful Master, Wardens, & Brethren...

By Robert L. Blackburn, J.W.

What do young Freemasons want? While I can't speak for everyone, I can give you my viewpoint and that of many other young Brethren that I frequently speak to.

The one thing that I hear more and more about is TRADITION. Many of the young Masons that I know (including myself) come from generations of Masons (in my case, my father and both of my grandfathers were members of Jerusalem #99). We don't always want to take the easy way out. Many young men that I talk to want to take their degrees the traditional way, and work to learn and memorize their lectures. We want the Masonry of our fathers and grandfathers. We want serious and solemn degree work that is performed with heart, soul, and emotion. We want lasting memories, and want to pass them along to the next person. Personally, I know that it is an amazing feeling to give a lecture or say a part, and know that I am standing in the same spot saying the same things that multiple generations before me have said.

While I could go on about how much tradition means to me (I will save that for another issue), there must also be change to stay alive. As many of you that live in the Wabash Valley are aware, there is currently a TV and radio advertising program going on (if any of you have not seen/heard the ads and wish to, please e-mail me). Jerusalem #99 was the clearinghouse and driving force in getting this program done for the local Lodges. During the process of building funds, I traveled to many other Lodges (as I have done many other times for degree work). For me, it was a little interesting to see the difference that young Masons can make in a Lodge.

During my travels, I noticed a peculiar thing. The Lodge's that had young membership, and that were successful and driven, were thrilled with the project and the opportunity to do something different and to show that Masonry was alive and well. Where I was awakened were in the Lodge's that resisted.

The resistance I felt came from the Lodge's where the average age of those in attendance were in their 70's. I am not saying that this is a bad thing, but they were the Lodge's that met for stated meeting and nothing else. They had no fundraisers, no newsletters, websites, outings, and the list goes on. Freemasonry may be the greatest thing out there, but if you don't pass it on, IT WILL DIE! Brethren, you have no idea how fortunate you are to have a Lodge where there are people that are motivated, and that feel so strongly about this organization to keep it going like it is. What a thing to be thankful for sitting here on Thanksgiving writing this editorial to all of you.

As always, I would like to thank all of you for your support. It has truly been a pleasure to serve you this year as Junior Warden, and look forward to more success and prosperity in 2008. May God Bless!

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Lodge  
Dues  
Are  
DUE By  
Dec.  
31st

Jerusalem Lodge #99, F & AM  
C/O Rob Blackburn  
315 1/2 South Main St.  
Clinton, IN 47842

May God Bless You & Yours During This Holiday Season!

## From The East

By: Gary Blackburn, Worshipful Master

2007 was a great year for Jerusalem #99. As the year draws to an end, the pace seems to quicken. Degree work continues, our scholarship fund was established and growing, the building fund is increasing, TV and radio ads are now on the air, Labor Day was a tremendous success, a Child ID program is quickly approaching, two Lodge of Inspections are completed, officer elections are soon to come, and a special Award of Gold will soon be presented. Wow, what a year!

Degree work will continue through December (and then some), and something is scheduled every Tuesday night. Watch the newspaper or message board for an exact schedule. The Scholarship Fund is continually growing due to your generosity and several fundraising efforts, and there is now over \$2,000 in the account. Additionally, the building fund is growing, and we were able to purchase another CD this year for our future growth.

The TV and radio ads you have read about have hit the airwaves in the Wabash Valley, a program which was spearheaded by Jerusalem #99 members. Labor day this year was terrific, and this years sales exceeded those of previous years. The profits from this event will help fund future projects both in the Lodge and community, and we would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the event! Lodge of Instruction went very well this year. Unity Lodge #344 participated with us, and the work was performed on the Master Mason degree. We continue to score high marks every year, keeping Jerusalem #99 among the finest Lodges in Indiana.

In December, we have scheduled another Child ID program. This event has seen great success, and if anyone is available to participate, please give me a call. It takes a great deal of people to put this event on, and your help is truly needed. December will also bring election and installation of officers for 2008. Again, watch the newspaper and message board for the date and time of installation!

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has made my year as Master a great one, especially our Past Masters who fill in whenever we need them. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Master of Jerusalem #99 in 2007. I will continue to work to help build and maintain our Lodge. I hope your holiday season is a great one! May God Bless!

Gary Blackburn, W.M.

Don't forget to check out our NEW web site at

[www.jerusalem99.com](http://www.jerusalem99.com)

Download petitions, view updates, see newsletters, get contact information, online events calendar, and much, much more!

## Vermillion County Low Twelve Club

There may be many of you that are not familiar with this organization, so here is a little background about the Vermillion County Low Twelve Club.

This is a social wing of our Blue Lodge. It meets once a year on the third Thursday of January at 6:30 PM at the Lodge. Officers are elected at this meeting for the following year, and a meal is provided (oyster soup or chili coup and a variety of sandwiches). There are approximately 115 current members, all of which pay dues of \$20 per year (which are to be paid by the 15th of April). All members declare a beneficiary, who upon your death receive a \$300 benefit. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Tim Morgan at 765-832-9412 or Clay Mack / Dave Waite at 765-832-3511. We hope to see everyone in January!

Questions, Comments, Input? Please Contact the Editor:

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## Fellowship Meetings

1st Tuesday of Each Month - 7:00 PM

Everyone Is Encouraged To Attend!

## From The Secretary's Desk

By Ronald K. Smith, PM/PGM/Secretary

We are completing a most successful year of membership and fellowship with seven candidates yet to finish their degrees. The new chair lift is installed, a third child ID program to be done, and our golf and Labor Day outings were each very successful. Peace and harmony truly prevails when fellowship and hard work stand side by side.

You should all have your dues statements with my attached note by this time (the mail delivery is questionable at times). You have until January 1, 2008 to pay without being delinquent. After that date, if not paid, you are considered delinquent and may be assessed a \$5.00 late fee on top of your arrearage. To avoid this, you can do one of the following:

1. Pay your dues promptly.
2. Let me know if you need more time to pay.
3. If you are unable to pay, let us know your situation so that we may help.

You must let us know if #2 or #3 apply BEFORE January 1st to avoid the potential late fee. Also, if you lose or misplace your dues statement, let me know and I will gladly send you another one.

Also, please keep in mind that if you want the Lodge to conduct Masonic Services at your death, please let us know your wishes in advance, and by all means let your family know what you wish along with your funeral director. Advance notice means the Lodge will be better prepared to serve your surviving family and friends.

Best Wishes Toward The New Year!

Ronald K. Smith - 812-466-6001

## Child Identification Program Set For Third Time

Jerusalem Lodge #99, in cooperation with the South Vermillion School Corporation, Clinton Police Department, and Vermillion County Sheriff's Department, will hold a FREE CHILD ID PROGRAM!

Date: Saturday, December 8th, 2007

Place: Central Elementary - Clinton

Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM



We need help to put on the event! If you can assist, please call Rob or Gary Blackburn at 765-832-6589.

Bring the kids by from 1:00 - 3:00 to visit with Santa!

# LABOR DAY FUNDRAISER ANOTHER SUCCESS

Due to the hard work of several Brothers, this year's Labor Day Fundraiser was the best one yet. Once again, Jerusalem #99 showed the community that we are alive and well, and gave them a good excuse to stop by and have some outstanding food. This year we broke records every day. The change from chicken to pork chops turned out to be a terrific idea! Once again a special thank-you goes out to Norm Shepherd for the use of his refrigerated semi trailer.

Ticket data from this year's event:

### Paid Tickets

119 Members paid for ALL tickets in advance

7 Members paid for SOME tickets in advance

5 Members paid for tickets AND returned them

### Returned Tickets

23 Members returned ALL tickets

We would like to thank all of the Brethren that helped support this year's event - your help in buying tickets, coming down to eat pork chops, or volunteering your time is GREATLY APPRECIATED!!! THANK YOU!!!

