



### Dates to Remember

- **October 11 - Aberdeen (Roman Eagle Lodge No. 550)**

*The Road of a Grand Master*

- **December 13 - Greensboro (Gso. Masonic Temple)**

*Officer Installation*

- **February 14- Eden (Leaksville Lodge No. 136)**

*Program to be announced*

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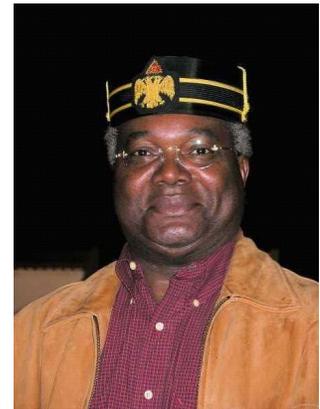
# The Traveler

Volume 2, Issue 2

September - October 2008

## Masonry, Godliness & Membership

By: WB Joseph Adegboyega, M



### THE RAMBLING OF A MASON :

Our world is in turmoil for several reasons.  
God only is perfect.

Freemasonry takes good men to make them better.  
You are today whatever you have been through over a life time.  
**Ignorance and Intolerance** divided our world by race, religion,  
etc....

Our birth is an accident over which no one has control. So therefore  
our race or nationality is not by choice. Whereas our race is permanent,  
it is possible to change nationality. One can hope that race and  
nationality change at every incarnation.

Only the ignorant would favor racism or discrimination, because no one  
knows what race or nationality the next incarnation will bring.

**KNOWLEDGE my friend is POWER!**

**WB Joseph Adegboyega, M**

### REMNANTS OF SLAVERY IN AFRICA OF MY YOUTH :

There was a time when slavery was common and an integral part of the economy in America, Europe and Africa. At one time the Holy Bible was used to support slavery. Out of ignorance people indulged in the enslavement of their fellow humans. Despite its inhumanity, slavery still exists today in some parts of this world.

I am a member of the ROYAL OSEMAWE family of Ondo, Nigeria. I am obliged to admit that my ancestors benefited from slavery. African Kings and their chiefs captured and sold fellow Africans captured during inter-ethnic wars. As late as 1957, I observed old men bowing down to my father, when we visited a small community village on the outskirts of the City of Ondo, Nigeria. As a young boy, I was amazed to see older men prostrate for (or greet with utmost respect) my father. The old men treated my father as if he was superior to them. The utmost respect they displayed for my father, seemed contrary to Yoruba tradition and customs. My father being younger than the old men was supposed to prostrate before them! My father explained that the community members were descendants of slaves from the estate of his paternal grandmother. According to history, my father's paternal grandmother was a princess of the palace of Ondo district of Nigeria. This princess, according to history, had over two hundred slaves. The princess at one point took one of her male slaves as husband. Since the abolition of slavery, slave descendants stayed and worked on the land of their previous owners. During the period of slavery, African Kings and chiefs owned the people and lands in their areas. Today, in a civilized Nigeria, every man is free to enjoy equal rights and prosperity. I must note that my mother descended from children of slaves. As a little boy I visited my mother's great Uncle, Chief Akinbi, who was the head slaves at our Osemawe

Royal Palace. At that time my father's cousin was the sitting King.  
masons to **"do good unto all. Most especially to the household of the faithful"**. Freemasonry regards all men as created equal. If any man is **racist or prejudiced**, let him call himself anything but **freemason**. **A true freemason is loving and tolerant**. Freemasonry in USA was segregated for many

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## Chaplain's Page

by: WB Richard Smith, PDDGM



*“Trust in the  
Lord with all  
your heart and  
lean not on  
your own  
understanding”*

While we are adapting to a changing world, including computer technology, which was used to research, compose and transmit this article, the basic concepts of the Fatherhood of God, of Brotherhood, of honor, of uprightness and decency will never change. Its foundation is a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being. This is the first and fundamental principle in the life of every Mason. Hear again the question, “In whom do you put your trust?”

King Solomon is credited by most Biblical scholars for the words in Proverbs 3:5- 6, words written three thousand years ago, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

There is no religious bar to anyone to become a Mason, provided he is not an atheist. So, a Hindu, a Parsee, a Buddhist, a Moslem, a Hebrew, a Christian can all agree on the inscription on our coins, “In God We Trust.”

From its very beginning, Masonry has been consistent that religion and politics are not suitable subjects for consideration within the Lodge Room. We are taught to leave our opinions on religion and politics outside the door of the Lodge Room.

In whom do you put your trust? Throughout the seasons of my life, again and again my trust in God has strengthened me. We are guided by the great teachings of Masonry, the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the chief Masonic virtue, Charity or Brotherly Love.

**Acknowledgment is given to Bro. and Rev. Harold Schieck who is a member of Penn-Morris Lodge #778, Morrisville, PA and is a Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.**



*Our beloved Chaplain along side of Grand Master David Cash at this years Wilkerson College graduation ceremonies. We love you “Dr. Rick” and hope you a safe return home from your travels in the Southwestern US. Oh, by the way, what did you bring us !!!*

## A Pleasant Diversion

by: WB Dan Weatherington, PM

Masonry declining? Sure it is. It doesn't take much to see that. Look at any report from the Masonic study groups or better still, attend your lodge.

Quick fixes come and go, but for the most part, Masonry is declining. Why? The answer is quite simple.

During the 1950s, Masonry was growing like mad. Men just back from WWII had enjoyed the fellowship of other men and wanted to continue the experience. Men's clubs were gaining membership in record proportions... including Masonry. Within a decade, the trend would reverse. By the end of the century, most of the men's groups would have lost all their new numbers and be begging for new members. Again, why? Again, the answer is simple.

The men returning from WWII and those that followed soon after were of a certain mind set. In his book, *The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw described these men. Many of them had learned the lessons of the Great Depression and had forged attitudes guided by that time. These were the men who filled the ranks of Masonry during the late nineteen forties and fifties. Those that followed had heard about that horrible time, but as the years passed, the Great Depression and even WWII itself were no more for the men to come than an entry in a history book which grew smaller with every printing.

Yet, even today, what do we pattern Masonry's needs upon? Those things taught us by *The Greatest Generation*. And not only do we pattern our needs upon their teachings... we hold fast to those teachings. In a way, this is like patterning our transportation needs on the mentality of the 1850s. The mentality of the 1850s was a horse. If we were to depend upon that mentality we would be discussing the best food, how to properly shoe that animal and the best methods of grooming... all while one model of car is improving on the next.

Masonry doesn't think for itself. It depends on its leaders to do its thinking for it. Even then, all its leaders don't do the thinking... only a few know the facts of leadership. Most people are followers. They enjoy following a good leader. There is a form of safety in the experience. Just look at what you are. Most likely you follow the lead of either your parents or someone you admire. Are you a Democrat? Most likely, your parents were Democrats. Are you a Baptist? Most likely, your parents were Baptists.

People follow the example before them. If we continue to follow the lead of men whose lives centered on fifty year ago, we will continue to decline because we re only providing a diversion for eighty year old men. If Masonry is to grow, if Masonry is to prosper, we must do it in the mind set of men who live today.



WB Dan Weatherington, PDDGM  
Dean Emeritus Wilkerson College

## Happy Birthday to the Following Members

### September

Brandon Scott - 18  
David Blanton - 17  
James Earl Vann - 21  
Parker Stevens - 19  
Richard Prest - 17  
Steve McGowin - 4  
Wendell Powell - 4



### October

Dick Lyon - 17  
Jonathan Phillips - 2  
Lloyd Wilkerson - 31  
Walt Clapp - 27



Roman Eagle Lodge  
No. 550

## A Fall Blast in Aberdeen

By: WB Mark Connors, PM

Just a few words about Roman Eagle No. 550. The Lodge was chartered around 1907. In 2007 Roman Eagle celebrated their 100th year, with many festivities in the community, also with the help of the other three lodges in our area. 484 was the original number for Roman Eagle in Aberdeen. Many of the members lived in Southern Pines and had to attend lodge on foot, from Southern Pines about 5 mile north, by walking the railroad tracks, that was very dangerous. These brethren saw the need for another lodge in the area and moved 484 to Southern Pines around 1905. # 550 was the next number in sequence to come about in 1907, at that time Roman Eagle No. 550 chartered. The first Master of the lodge stayed in the East for about 6 terms. We look forward to having Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760 as our guest at Roman Eagle and all that will attend.

We our located on 15-501 just past the 211 intersection to Laurinburg. I Hope that you come and spend a few hours with us.

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# October 11, 2008 - Aberdeen, NC

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## Pictures from our last meeting



## Highlights from St. John's No. 1

By: Bro. Steve Viers

Wilkerson College Lodge #760 held its regularly stated bi-monthly communication Saturday August 09, 2007 at St. Johns # 1 in Wilmington, North Carolina.

The meeting was called to order and the business of the Lodge was conducted.

A petition for affiliation of Brother Brian Langhoff, having been properly investigated, was read for the final time and he was duly elected for affiliation.

After Lodge was closed, and a delicious lasagna meal provided by the host lodge, all present, both Masons and Non-Masons were invited to return to the Lodge room for a very informative program entitled "The Secrets of Freemasonry Revealed" presented by Worshipful Brother Terry Cox, Past Master Guilford Lodge 656, Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to the Lodge meeting on Saturday, several of the members and their families had dinner together on Friday evening. This is one of the many things that make this Lodge special; social time together as we travel across the state and build the bonds of brotherhood.

St. Johns # 1 is a beautiful lodge, and the membership should be commended for their hospitality in having us visit there. I am looking forward to returning.



## Welcome to our new Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest member.

**Bro. Brian Langhoff - Bula Lodge No. 409 & Wilkerson College Class of 2008**

**Welcome Brother !!**

## Community Bulletin Board

Brothers, This is a new idea for our newsletter. A community bulletin board for Masonic events from around the state. If anyone would like to place a listing for Degrees, Reunions, Festivals & Ceremonials; please send your information to our Secretary by **November 8, 2008** for events between **Nov.10, 2008** thru **Jan.10, 2009**. We have members from all over the state and this will be a great way to share information with them. Each issue will have a cut off date for the next issue's information.

- *Greensboro Scottish Rite Reunion - October 10/11, 2008*
- *Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Reunion - October 11 & 25, 2008*
- *Walnut Cove Lodge No. 629 Outdoor Degree - September 27, 2008*
- *Oasis Shrine Ceremonial :Asheville - November 7/8, 2008*



## Our Lodge's Mission

*The mission of Wilkerson College Lodge is to foster a flame of brotherly love and friendship that will surpass all differences, envelope all similarities and consistently travel that level of time in search of how to make good men better. As speculative Masons, education will be our greatest tool, so as to instill in our future Masters qualities of leadership, responsibility and compassion*

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## Masonry...continued from front page.

slowly changing. In those years of “darkness”, **True Masons** could not practice as true Freemasons. It is the practice of **TRUTH, BROTHERLY LOVE AND RELIEF** without regard for the skin color. Segregation could not stop some TRUE MASONS from doing right; discretely. Prince Hall Freemasons were forced to organize separately because of segregation. During one deliberation about recognition, a “**true brother freemason**” stated thus : “**My grandfather told me to never sit in the same lodge with a man of color.**”. No one with such a hateful feeling should be allowed to call himself a freemason. Segregationist truly believed that they were right to refuse admission to a man of color, because they did not know the true meaning of freemasonry. The recognition or lack of recognition of Prince Hall masonry must not prevent any good AF & AM brother from doing good to all irrespective of the skin color, race, language, etc..

### **MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:**

The Freemasonry tradition of “**Ask One To Be One**” prevents forced recruitment of members. This has not help membership growth in the busy world of today. Members in many NC AF & AM lodges are growing very old and dying. This means that membership is dwindling fast. I regret to state that my lodge - of Piedmont -Pioneer Lodge # 485 - lost nine members in the first half of this year. All of the deceased members were in their 80s. Dr. Elsner sent me a SC AF & AM lodge newsletter recently, in it I read that they lost ten members since January 2008. **r**

How we act do affect membership.

When others see us doing **Good** to **ALL**; they would like to emulate us or join efforts with us. Our behavior will invite others to seek membership. A fellow AF & AM lodge member accused me of violating the Code because I called a Prince Hall mason – a man I supervise professionally – my brother. I told my fellow lodge brother that there is no NC AF & AM Masonic law that forbids me from calling anyone my “brother” provided I am not sitting in the same lodge with Prince Hall members. Whether Prince Hall freemasons are recognized or not, nothing can stop a true mason from doing good discretely.

### **CONCLUSION :**

The world in turmoil needs Truth, Brotherly love and Relief. Our fraternity needs to grow and its needs to open itself up for more light for all to see. NC AF & AM needs to practice true freemasonry; freemasonry without prejudice in order for growth to happen.

