

# THE GRAND EAST

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 Issue 8

JAN 2025

### Grand Master's Message

Greetings Brethren,

As the calendar turns to the year 2025, we find ourselves with a renewed opportunity to reflect on the past and prepare for the future. Let us celebrate the bonds of brotherhood that unite us, the eternal light that guides our paths, and the noble work we have undertaken in service to the principles of our ancient and honorable Craft.

May this year bring us growth in wisdom, compassion, and understanding. Let us strive to exemplify the virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, inspiring others by our actions and leaving a lasting legacy for those who follow in our footsteps.

This year holds special significance for the Craft in our Province, as the Grand Lodge of Manitoba marks its 150th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone celebrating 150 years of charity, relief, and the practice of Brotherly Love. This isn't just about looking back; it's a chance to renew our commitment to the future of Freemasonry in Manitoba.

As lodges resume meetings in the new year, let's keep this historic anniversary front and center. Whether as a lodge or individual brethren, we encourage everyone to take part. Lodges can sponsor the event, and for those with financial constraints, members are encouraged to come together and secure a table, ensuring their lodge is proudly represented on this special day.

Save the date: April 25, 2025! On this day, we'll gather at the RBC Convention Centre for a celebration like no other. Our goal is to bring together at least 500 brethren and their loved ones to honor this milestone. By getting your tickets now, you're ensuring that you and your lodge are part of this unforgettable chapter in our history. In addition, it will allow us to showcase our Province to visiting brethren from other jurisdictions.

As we continue building toward a brighter future, let's embrace each new year as a fresh chapter—a time to grow, strengthen our fraternity, and share our light with the world. And as we do, let's keep things simple and strong: **KISS—Keep It Simple and Strong.**

Wishing you and your loved one's health, happiness, and harmony in the year ahead!

Fraternally,

**MW Bro. Emad Bisharat**  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of Manitoba



# Grand Lodge Officers and District Deputy Grand Masters

2024-2025

Grand Master	MW Bro. Emad Bisharat (3)
Deputy Grand Master	RW Bro Rey Galapon (136)
IPGM	MW Bro. Mason Jardine (62)
Sr. Grand Warden	RW Bro. Richard Lacoursiere (1-175)
Jr. Grand Warden	RW Bro. Glenn Ramos (111-189)
Grand Treasurer	RW Bro. Gord Greasley (3)
Grand D of C	RW Bro. Thor Weidenbacher (3)

## APPOINTED BY THE BOARD

Grand Secretary	<b>M.W. Bro. Kris Goodmanson (136)</b>
Grand Librarian	<b>R.W. Bro. Brian Rountree (174)</b>
Grand Archivist	<b>Bro. Trevor Millar (1)</b>
Grand Chaplain	<b>R.W. Bro. Dennis Henney (182)</b>
Grand Historian	<b>R.W. Bro. Ted Yorke (183)</b>

## APPOINTED BY THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Lodge Education Officer	<b>V.W. Bro. Jeff Price (186)</b>
J.R.C Evans Lecturer	<b>R.W. Bro. Thor Weidenbacher (3)</b>
Sr. Grand Deacon	<b>R.W. Bro. Gerry Derhak (3)</b>
Jr. Grand Deacon	<b>V.W. Bro. Michael Hall (136)</b>
Grand Organist	<b>V.W. Bro. Gordon MacDonald (4)</b>
Sr. Grand Steward	<b>V.W. Bro. Don Benson (25)</b>
Jr. Grand Steward	<b>V.W. Bro. Jan Andrew Beloro (136-192)</b>
Gr. Sword Bearer	<b>R.W. Bro. Roy Van Luven (178)</b>
Gr. Standard Bearer	<b>V.W. Bro. Kevin Latozke (186)</b>
Grand Pursuivant	<b>V.W. Bro. Elmer Maranan (136-192)</b>
Grand Piper	<b>V.W. Bro. Troy Blair (1)</b>
Grand Tyler	<b>V.W. Bro. Joward Rosales (14)</b>

## DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

First Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Jeff Olafson (186)</b>
Tenth Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Tim Klassen (154)</b>
Thirteenth Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Arnold Calambacan Sr. (136)</b>
Assiniboine Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Robert Nicolas (36)</b>
Parkland Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Ronald Morton (68)</b>
Unity Masonic District	<b>R.W. Bro. Jeffrey Chartrand (180)</b>
Grand Master's Area	<b>R.W. Bro. Bryan Cruda (174)</b>

## Grand Master's Itinerary 2024 – 2025

DATE	DAY & TIME	EVENT
January 6, 2025	Monday @ 7:00 p.m.	MMT Board Meeting
January 7, 2025	Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.	150th Anniversary Committee Meeting at MMT
January 8, 2025	Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.	Unity District Annual Meeting
January 11, 2025	Saturday @ 10:00 a.m.	Masonic Family Meeting
January 15, 2025	Wednesday @ 2:00 p.m.	Management Meeting
January 16, 2025	Thursday @ 6:00 p.m.	Grand Lodge Officers Meeting
January 17, 2025	Friday @ 6:00 p.m.	Board General Purpose dinner and meeting
January 22, 2025	Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.	Acacia Lodge O.V.
January 23, 2025	Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.	District Meeting # 13
January 25, 2025	Saturday @ 10:00 a.m.	Grand Lodge Education
February 3, 2025	Monday @ 7:00 p.m.	MMT Board Meeting
February 5, 2025	Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.	Beaver Ionic O.V.
February 7, 2025	Friday @ 11:30	R.O.S. Meeting
February 9, 2025	Sunday @ 2:00 p.m.	Ophir Lodge – Rubbie Burns
February 14 – February 18		Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America 2025

## Masonic Education

### So Mote it Be

*SHORT TALK BULLETIN – Vol.V June, 1927 No.6*

How familiar the phrase is. No Lodge is ever opened or closed, in due form, without using it. Yet how few know how old it is, much less what a deep meaning it has in it. Like so many old and lovely things, it is so near to us that we do not see it.

As far back as we can go in the annals of the Craft we find this old phrase. Its form betrays its age. The word MOTE is an Anglo-Saxon word, derived from an anomalous verb, MOTAN. Chaucer uses the exact phrase in the same sense in which we use it, meaning “So May It Be.” It is found in the Regius Poem, the oldest document of the Craft, just as we use it today.

As everyone knows, it is the Masonic form of the ancient AMEN which echoes through the ages, gathering meaning and music as it goes until it is one of the richest and most haunting of words. At first only a sign of assent, on the part either of an individual or of an assembly, to words of prayer or praise, it has become to stand as a sentinel at the gateway of silence.

When we have uttered all that we can utter, and our poor words seem like ripples on the bosom of the unspoken, somehow this familiar phrase gathers up all that is left – our dumb yearnings, our deepest longings – and bears them aloft to One who understands. In some strange way, it seems to speak for us into the very ear of God the things for which words were never made.

So, naturally, it has a place of honor among us. At the marriage Altar, it speaks its blessing as young love walks toward the bliss or sorrow of hidden years. It stands beside the cradle when we dedicate our little ones to the Holy life, mingling its benediction with our vows. At the graveside, it utters its sad response to the shadowy AMEN which death pronounces over our friends.

When, in our turn, we see the end of the road, and would make a last will and testament, leaving our earnings and savings to those whom we love, the old legal phrase asks us to repeat after it: “In The Name Of God, AMEN.” And with us, as with Gerontius in his Dream, the last word we hear when the voices of earth grow faint and the silence of God covers us, is the old AMEN, So Mote It Be.

How impressively it echoes through the Book of Holy Law. We hear it in the Psalms, as the chorus answers to the chorus, where it is sometimes reduplicated for emphasis. In the talks of Jesus with his friends, it has a striking use, hidden in the English version. The oft-repeated phrase, “Verily, Verily I Say Unto You,” if rightly translated means, AMEN, AMEN, I say unto you.” Later, in the Epistles of Paul, the word AMEN becomes the name of Christ, who is the AMEN of God to the faith of man.

So, too, in the Lodge, at the opening, at closing, and in the hour of initiation. No Mason ever enters upon any great or important undertaking without invoking the aid of Deity. And he ends his prayer with the old phrase, “So Mote It Be.” Which is another way of saying: “The Will Of God Be Done.” Or, whatever be the answer of God to his prayer: “So Be It – because it is wise and right.

What, then, is the meaning of this old phrase, so interwoven with all our Masonic lore, simple, tender, haunting? It has two meanings for us everywhere, in the Church, or in the Lodge. First, it is the ascent of man to the way and Will Of God; assent to His Commands; assent to His Providence, even when a tender, terrible stroke of death takes from us one much loved and leaves us forlorn.

Still, somehow, we must say:” So it is; so be it. He is a wise man, a brave man; who, baffled by the woes of life, when disaster follows fast and follows faster, can nevertheless accept his lot as a part of the Will of God and say, though it may almost choke him to say it:

“So Mote It Be.” It is not blind submission, nor dumb resignation, but a wise reconciliation to the Will of the Eternal.

The other meaning of the phrase is even more wonderful; it is the assent of God to the aspiration of man. Man can bear so much – anything, perhaps – if he feels that God knows, cares, and feels for him and with him. If God says Amen, So it is, to our faith and hope and love; it links our perplexed meanings, and helps us to see, however dimly, or in a glass darkly, that there is a wise and good purpose in life, despite its sorrow and suffering, and that we are not at the mercy of Fate or the whim of Chance.

Does God speak to man, confirming his faith and hope? If so, how? Indeed yes! God is not great I Was, but the great I Am, and He is neither deaf nor dumb. In Him we live and move and have our being – He Speaks to us in nature, in the moral law, and in our own hearts, if we have ears to hear. But He speaks most clearly in the Book of Holy Law which lies open upon our Alter.

Nor is that all. Some of us hold that the Word Of God “Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us, Full Of Grace and Truth,” in life the loveliest ever lived among men, showing us what life is, what it means, and to what fine issues it ascends when we do the Will of God on earth as it is done in Heaven, No one of us but grows wistful when he thinks of the life of Jesus, however far we fall below it.

Today men are asking the question: Does it do any good to pray? The man who actually prays does not ask such a question. As well ask if it does a bird any good to sing, or a flower to bloom? Prayer is natural and instinctive in man.

We are made so. Man is made for prayer, as sparks ascending seek the sun. He would not need religious faith if the objects of it did not exist.

Are prayers ever answered? Yes, always, as Emerson taught us long ago. Who rises from prayer a better man, his prayer is answered – and that is as far as we need to go. The deepest desire, the ruling motive of a man, is his actual prayer, and it shapes his life after its form and color. In this sense, all prayer is answered, and that is why we ought to be careful what we pray for – because in the end we always get it.

What, then is the good of prayer? It makes us repose to the unknown with hope; it makes us ready for life. It is a recognition of laws and the thread of our conjunction with them. It is not the purpose of prayer to beg or make God do what we want to be done. Its purpose is to bring us to do the Will of God, which is greater and wiser than our will. It is not to use God, but to be used by Him in the service of His plan.

Can man by prayer change the Will of God? No, and Yes. True prayer does not wish or seek to change the larger Will of God, which involves in its sweep and scope the duty and destiny of humanity. But it can and does change the Will of God concerning us because it changes our will and attitude towards Him, which is the vital thing in prayer for us.

For example, if a man living a wicked life, we know what the Will of God will be for him. All evil ways have been often tried, and we know what the end is, just as we know the answer to a problem in geometry. But if a man who is living wickedly changes his way of living and his inner attitude, he changes the Will of God – if not His Will, at least His Intention. That is, he attains what even the Divine Will could not give him and do for him unless it had been effected by His Will and Prayer.

The place of Prayer in Masonry is not perfunctory. It is not a mere matter of form and rote. It is vital and profound. As a man enters the Lodge as an initiate, prayer is offered for him, to God, in whom he puts his trust. Later, in a crisis of his initiation, he must pray for himself, orally or mentally as his heart may elect. It is not just a ceremony; it is basic in the faith and spirit of Masonry. Still later, in a scene which no Mason ever forgets, when the shadow is darkest, and the most precious thing a Mason can desire or seek seems lost, in the perplexity and despair of the Lodge, a prayer is offered. As recorded in our Monitors, it is a mosaic of Bible words, in which the grim facts of life and death are set forth in stark reality, and appeal is made to the pity and light of God.

It is truly a great prayer, to join in which is to place ourselves in the very hands of God, as all must do in the end, trust His Will and way, following where no path is into the soft and fascinating darkness which men call death. And the response of the Lodge to that prayer, as to all others offered at its Altar, is the old, challenging phrase, “So Mote It Be!”

Brother, do not be ashamed to pray, as you are taught in the Lodge and the Church. It is a part of the sweetness and sanity of life, refreshing the soul and making clear the mind. There is more wisdom in a whispered prayer than in all the libraries of the world. It is not our business to instruct God. He knows what things we have a need before we ask him. He does not need our prayer, but we do – if only to make us acquainted with the best Friend we have. The greatest of all teachers of the soul left us a little liturgy called the Lord’s Prayer. He told us to use it each for himself, in the closet when the door is shut and the din and hum and litter of the world are outside. Try it Brother; it will sweeten life, make its load lighter, its joy brighter, and the way of duty plainer.

Two tiny prayers have floated down to us from ages ago, which are worth remembering; one by a great Saint, the other by two brothers. “Grant Me, Lord, ardently to desire, wisely to study, rightly to understand and perfectly to fulfill that which pleaseth Thee.” And the second is after the manner: “My two brothers enjoy and serve Thee together, and so live today that we may be worthy to live tomorrow.”

***SO MOTE IT BE***

# NEWS AND EVENTS

Bro Bob Lane, Sturgeon Creek Lodge #145  
70 Year Bar Presentation



Ancient Landmark #3  
Official Visit  
December 16, 2024



Beaver Ionic Lodge  
Official Visit  
December 4, 2024



Capitol Lodge #136  
Official Visit  
December 6, 2024



International Oder Of DeMolay  
Installation of officers  
January 4, 2025



Fil-Can Cabletow Lodge Christmas Party  
December 7, 2024



Grand Lodge of Manitoba  
Christmas Family Celebration  
December 8, 2024



Kilcona Lodge Installation of Officers



King Edward Preceptory No. 24  
Christmas Observance  
December 19, 2024



Manitoba Maharlika Lodge #192  
Christmas Party  
December 13, 2024



Sturgeon Creek Lodge #145  
Installation of Officers  
December 14, 2024



# VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!



Help cancer patients in your community



Canadian  
Cancer  
Society

**WHEELS  
OF HOPE**

**For more information**

Email [volunteer@cancer.ca](mailto:volunteer@cancer.ca)  
or call 1-888-939-3333



## WHEELS OF HOPE TESTIMONIAL

*I just wanted to drop you a line saying how helpful and wonderful the Wheels of Hope program is! I had seen the vans around, but it never really clicked in how essential they would be until I started going through my treatments. Especially during radiation, I noticed JUST how many people it is helping! Watching van, after vehicle picking up so many people in the loop outside the hospital, it's really overwhelming how much love people have to give.*

*All of the drivers are so kind, and it was really interesting learning about their stories and how they became volunteers. Cancer is so consuming, and they decided to give back. I love that. In particular, there was an absolute wonderful driver I had named Trevor. His wife had battled breast cancer twice, and was doing well. He is a gem of a human being. Super funny, always with a fun anecdote about what he had done on the weekend. Open with his wife's battle, and just so so kind.*

*Trevor always made my day better. Made me realize that there is hope, that if his wife could do it, so could I. That there's still no reason not to smile, and be kind toward others.*

*Cancer can be super lonely, and until you are in the thick of it, you don't realize what a gift just seeing a smiling face can be.*

**Holly Thiessen**

# Grand Lodge of Manitoba 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA

### GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA



APRIL 25, 2025

RBC CONVENTION CENTER  
WINNIPEG

HONOURING THE PAST  
CELEBRATING THE FUTURE  
150 YEARS OF MASONRY IN  
MANITOBA



# SAVE *the* DATE

## APRIL 25, 2025

RBC CONVENTION CENTER  
YORK BALLROOM WINNIPEG

COMMEMORATING 150 YEARS  
AN ANNIVERSARY GALA TO CELEBRATE  
BROTHERHOOD & COMMUNITY  
&  
THE GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA'S ESTEEMED LEGACY



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE

CONTACT  
EVENTPLANNER@GLMB150.CA

# Grand Lodge of Manitoba

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS



October 10, 2024

**Brethren,**

As you are aware, the Grand Lodge of Manitoba is approaching a momentous occasion—the 150th anniversary of its founding. This historic celebration will not only commemorate the longstanding legacy of our Craft but will also serve as a beacon of inspiration for future generations of Freemasons to carry on the great work we have been entrusted with.

Accordingly, we are calling upon all brethren to support this gala by securing their attendance through the purchase of tickets. Your participation is not only a gesture of unity but also a vital contribution to the continued strength and prosperity of our sacred institution.

*The event will take place on April 25, 2025, at the RBC Convention Centre, York Ballroom (375 York Ave.). For members from outside the city, we are making arrangements with two hotels within walking distance of the venue. Please be sure to indicate in the notes when purchasing your ticket if you will require hotel accommodations.*

For purchasing tickets, the event page is accessible here or via barcode:

**[GLMB150.ca](https://GLMB150.ca)**

We trust that you along with your families and friends, will join us in this most auspicious occasion. If you require any further information, please feel free to call the Grand Secretary, MWB Kris Goodmanson at 204-453-7410.

Together, let us celebrate our craft and mark this significant chapter in our Masonic journey.

Faternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. N. Bisharat'.

MWB Emad Bisharat  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of Manitoba



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Articles published in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba or any of its officers or members, but are solely those of the writer. Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternity. It is comprised of adult men (18+) of good character from every country, religion, race, age, income, education, and opinion. Its body of knowledge and system of ethics is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve himself while being devoted to his family, his faith, his country, and his fraternity.

For submissions/requests and inquiries please contact:

TGEMonthlyNewsletter@gmail.com

*Deadline of submission(s) and request(s) for the Feb issue is on Jan 31*

