



The Significance of Christmas *'tis the season to... counting our blessings!*

VWBro Barry W. Horner, Grand Chaplain

Dear Brethren:

As I write this it is the middle of October, and as I contemplate my Christmas Message, my thoughts are on celebrating Thanksgiving and the need to be mindful of, and indeed thankful for, all that we as Canadians and Albertans enjoy.

A review of some of the Grand Chaplains' Christmas Messages in recent years reveals such common themes as celebrating life, birth, spiritual renewal and brotherly love. This season of the year is recognized by many cultural traditions as a magical and sacred time. The universal values of family, compassion and generosity to all, love and world peace are proclaimed in word and song.

For Christians, the great festivals of the church year are Christmas and Easter. The symbolism is remarkable and remarkably powerful. Both begin in darkness and proclaim new life. In the midst of our winter darkness, the midnight service on Christmas Eve celebrates Jesus, the light in our darkness and the light of our world, who in the Apostle Paul's words, "shines in our heart!" The Easter Vigil service begins in the darkness of the tomb and climaxes in a flood of light as "Christ the Lord is proclaimed Risen" on Easter morning. These two festivals are rooted in the Egyptian-style, equinoctial mode of thinking which still continues today. For example, Pope Julius decreed in 345 AD that Jesus' birthday be celebrated on December 25th, rather than in the spring as it had been, as December 25th was three days after the "death of the winter solstice" and the same day on which the births of two other Gods were celebrated by Romans: Mithras the God of Mithraism and Dionysus the God of Sol Invictus.

In the December 2008 Christmas Message, Grand Chaplain VWBro Timothy Thomas stated, "It is not just a coincidence that many ancient peoples chose the time of the year that is closest to the winter solstice to give thanks to the giver of life — God — through some kind of celebration of the gift of light." The concept of light is a dominant theme in both Christmas and Hanukkah religious observances. For Christians it is the birth of the Christ child that provides a heavenly light that shines to illuminate the whole of creation. For people of the Jewish faith, Hanukkah, or the Festival of the Lights, is celebrated for eight nights with a new candle being lit nightly by the centre candle in the nine-branch menorah.

We Masons are no strangers to the concept of light that is employed within Freemasonry. For us the symbolic use of light has always been associated with the acquisition of knowledge or wisdom. In his December 2006 Christmas Message, Grand Chaplain VWBro Cyril Abbott made the observation that what unites these celebrations is that they are considered times of light and hope for a troubled world. They are occasions for contemplating the future — to anticipate future events and

their impact on mankind. They are also intended to make us consider carefully the roles that we play in our daily lives, particularly in our interaction with others.

Masonic ritual has taught us that the receipt of light or wisdom, though personally beneficial, only becomes truly meaningful when shared with others. As Masons we are directed to be generous — to share our time, our talents and our resources within the means of our ability. Thus it is, my Brethren, if we practice what we have been taught in Lodge, those fundamental tenets of Masonry, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, we will continue to build our spiritual temple and demonstrate to the world an unquenchable love for all mankind.

Finally, I wish you, your family and friends an enjoyable, memorable and peaceful festive season.



"We wish you a Merry Christmas"

It seems that in a blink or two of the eye we have gone from summer days to Christmas Carols being played in shopping malls.

We in the Grand Lodge Office want to thank our membership for their dedication and commitment. We would not experience the successes we do without you.

On behalf of Judy, Sue and myself, we thank you for your continued support, assistance and cooperation. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas season with family and good friends. May the year ahead be filled with great personal joy.

RWBro Jerry Kopp, Grand Secretary

Royal Society Stamps

The Philatelic Freemason — May/June 2010

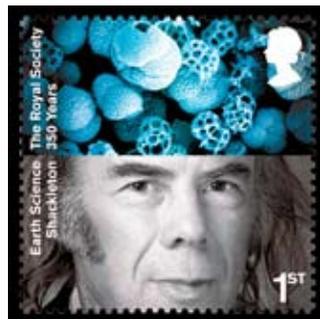
Great Britain issued a set of stamps on 25 February 2010 to honour several members of the Royal Society of London for improving Natural Knowledge. Benjamin Franklin, Ernest Shackleton and Edward Jenner are included.

Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, was a leading author and printer, satirist, political theorist, politician, scientist, inventor, civil activist, statesman, soldier and diplomat. As a scientist he was a major figure in the history of physics for his discoveries and theories. He was the first Postmaster-General of the USA.



Ben Franklin printed the first Masonic book to be printed in America, a 1734 reprinting of *Anderson's Constitutions*. He received his Masonic degrees in February 1731 in St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia and was Secretary of that Lodge from 1735 to 1738. On 24 June 1732 he was elected Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and became Grand Master on 24 June 1734. While serving his country in Europe, he visited many Lodges in the UK and other countries. He assisted in the initiation of Voltaire in the Lodge of the Nine Muses, Paris and later officiated at the funeral of that great writer.

Ernest Henry Shackleton was born in County Kildare, Ireland, 15 February 1874. Educated at Dulwick College he entered the mercantile marine



service and was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy Reserve. He made four expeditions to the Antarctic attempting to reach the South Pole. Being more interested in survival than glory, he turned his men around on the first three. During World War I he attempted to traverse the entire continent but, caught in heavy ice, he had to leave the vessel. After drifting on an ice pack and sailing in an open lifeboat across 800 miles of rough seas, he and his men were rescued

without a single loss of life. He died on 5 January 1922 at the start of another expedition.

Bro Shackleton was initiated 9 July 1801 in Navy Lodge No. 2612, London. He attended the first meeting of Guild of Freeman Lodge No. 3525 in 1911 and was passed in that Lodge on 2 November 1911. He was raised there on 30 May 1913.



Edward Jenner, originator of vaccination, was born 17 May 1749 at Berkeley, Gloucestershire, and educated at local schools. Studying surgery at Sudbury and London he returned to his native town in 1773 as surgeon-apothecary. For many years he considered the feasibility of inoculation with the virus of cowpox as a preventative of smallpox and made his first vaccination of a patient in 1796. He announced his successful discovery to the world in 1798 and within a few years the

process was accepted with universal enthusiasm. He died at Berkeley, 26 January 1823.

Dr. Jenner was made a Mason in Lodge of Faith and Friendship No. 449 (now No. 270), Berkeley, around 1789 and was raised to the degree of Master Mason there on 30 December 1802. The long interval between the EA and MM may be accounted for by his prolonged visits to London in connection with his great discovery. He served as Master of Faith and Friendship Lodge in 1811-13.

Stampede Lodge 2010

RWBro Glenn McConnell, DDGM, Alpha District



Bow River Lodge No. 1 once again hosted "Stampede Lodge" at Freemasons' Hall, Calgary. The 14 July event attracted 64 Brethren, including four non-Masons as guests with an interest in Freemasonry. MWBro Gerald Waldern, Grand Master, was the special guest this year. He is captured in the photo with WBro Bill Kirk, Worshipful Master of Bow River Lodge.

"The Hubcaps" duo provided fine musical comedy during dinner, led by WBro Brock Smith of King Solomon Lodge No. 41. Lodge education was provided by WBro Kurtis Frederick, Worshipful Master of Renfrew Lodge No. 134. A professionally-filmed lecture dealing with ethical behaviour was introduced and stimulated reflection on Masonic values.

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Another Successful Event

The Alberta Wish Trail Ride has ridden into the sunset for a second year with another significant donation to the Children's Wish Foundation.

The Wish Ride committee turned over a cheque to the Foundation for \$26,300, representing the funds collected at the ride on 21 August 2010. This year's contribution is over \$6,000 more than last year's donation despite the event having fewer riders. Sixty-five horses and riders took part this year.

The one-day event took riders and their horses through trails in Kananaskis. Riders were provided a pancake breakfast prior to the ride and a hot supper, prizes and entertainment on their return. The top prize, a saddle donated by Frontier Western Shop in Claresholm, was won by a young rider who was visiting from Germany.

The ride is organized by WBro Roger Matas of King George Lodge No. 59 and his wife Irene, with members of King George helping out with the event.



Shown here are WBro Chuck Rose on the sausage station, WBro Vern Stuber on the hashbrowns at the back and WBro Ted Cripps, bending over to get his pancake batter.

Masonic Compact

Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the State of New York

Because I am a Freemason...

I believe that **freedom of religion** is an inalienable human right and **tolerance** an indispensable trait of human character; therefore, I will stand in my Lodge with Brothers of all faiths, and respect their beliefs as they respect mine, and I will demonstrate the spirit of Brotherhood in all aspects of my life.

I know that **education** and the rational use of the mind are the keys to facing the problems of humanity; therefore, I will bring my questions and my ideas to my Lodge, and strive to advance the growth of my mind alongside my Brothers.

I know that the rich **tradition of Freemasonry** and its framework of **Ritual** are important platforms for growth and learning; therefore, I vow to stand upon these platforms to improve myself as a human being, and I vow to help in the mission of the Craft to provide tools, atmosphere, challenges and motivation to help each Brother do the same.

I know that **charity** is the distinguishing human virtue, and that **personal community service** is the best demonstration of one's commitment to humanity; I acknowledge that words without deeds are meaningless, and I vow to work with my Lodge to provide service to the community, and to promote charity, friendship, morality, harmony, integrity, fidelity and love. I know that my obligation to community extends beyond my local sphere and is partly fulfilled in my **patriotism**: love of my country, obedience to its laws and celebration of the freedoms and opportunities it symbolizes.

I know that **leadership** is best demonstrated by **commitment to serving others**; I will therefore participate in, and help work at improving individual leadership skills, and serve the Brothers of my Lodge to the best of my ability.

I know that **friendship, fidelity and family** are the foundations of a well-lived life; I therefore vow to be a faithful friend to my Brothers, as I expect my Lodge to respect my personal obligations, and to treat my family as though my family were their own.

I know that the last great lesson of Freemasonry — **the value of personal integrity and the sanctity of one's**

word— is a lesson for all people in all times; I therefore vow to be a man of my word.

I know that **Masonry's power is best exercised when its Light is shared** with the world at large; I therefore vow to bring the best of myself to my Lodge, in order that my growth might be fostered and nurtured, and to present myself to the world as a working Freemason, on the path to building a more perfect temple.

Because I am a Freemason, these values and aspirations are guideposts for my progress through life.

Grand Lodge of Alberta

Christmas Open House

The Grand Lodge staff and I extend an invitation to you, your spouse and friends to share some Christmas cheer with us at our Open House at Calgary Freemasons' Hall, 330 – 12 Avenue SW, on Sunday 19 December from 13 00 h to 15 30 h. Please mark this date on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there so we can wish you a Merry Christmas in person.

RWBro Jerry Kopp, Grand Secretary

Grand Master's Itinerary

December

- 7 Kenilworth Lodge No. 29 73rd Annual Moose Supper; Red Deer Masonic Hall; Cash Bar 17 30 h; Dinner (\$15) 18 30 h; tyles 19 30 h.
- 9 Drayton Valley Lodge No. 182 Annual Christmas Dinner; Drayton Valley Masonic Hall; Dinner 18 00 h; tyles 20 00 h
- 31 Calgary Masonic Temple New Year's Celebration; Calgary Freemasons' Hall; Cocktails 18 30 h; Dinner 19 30 h; Dance 21 00 h; Lunch Midnight.

January

- 1 Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 Grand Master's Levee; Edmonton Freemasons' Hall; 11 00 h

Lewisies in St. George's Lodge



St. George's Lodge No. 169 in Elk Point may be a relatively small Lodge, with fewer than 40 members, but it has a large contingent of Lewisies.

Over the period of a few months, a number of Lewis jewels were presented in the Lodge, with the result that one evening in May, four fathers and Lewisies were present, with the most recent (who was Initiated that evening) due to receive his Jewel in September. The Lodge also has another five or six Lewisies whose fathers have passed to the Grand Lodge. *Back Row (l-r):* WBro Bob McRae, VWBro Allen Berg, WBro Russell Graham, WBro David Pynten. *Front Row (l-r):* RWBro Fred Bowker, Bro Sean McRae, WBro Dean Berg, Bro John Russell, Bro Layne Pynten

Masonry in Action

RWBro Ken Montgomery, DDGM Pal-liser District

On my recent official visit to Oyen-Crocus Lodge No. 82 in Oyen, Alberta, I thought it unusual that the Master and Wardens sat on "regular" chairs rather than on the larger custom-made chairs used in most Lodges. On making inquiries, I learned there was no real reason for this — that's just the way it was. Now Oyen-Crocus is a pretty proud Lodge, and of course any Lodge wants to look and present itself as well as may be done. As luck, or perhaps fate, would have it, word was soon after received that the Brethren of Ionic Lodge No. 31 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan,



had come into possession of a set of officers' chairs and lodge benches

from a Saskatoon Lodge that they then found they couldn't use. These would be perfect for Oyen-Crocus. In early September arrangements were made for the two Lodges to communicate. This resulted in the North Battleford Brethren transporting the furniture to Oyen where it was proudly received. The officers' chairs will remain in Oyen and the benches now have a new home in Medicine Hat.

I know the Worshipful Master of Oyen-Crocus has passed on a big "thank you" on behalf of his Lodge to the Saskatchewan Brethren, but I would now like to personally thank all involved for being involved with this worthwhile project and for helping to remind us all about "Masonry in Action."

In the photograph are back row (l-r): RWBro Ken Mick (Oyen-Crocus); WBro Gary Wiechnick (WM, Oyen-Crocus); WBro John Welykochoy (WM, Ionic); and front row (l-r): WBro Gerry Meekins (Oyen-Crocus); and WBro Dave Dishko (Ionic).

Celebrations in Mayerthorpe



Although the presentation to Brethren of 50-year jewels is not an unusual occurrence, two Brethren of Mayerthorpe Lodge No. 148 have taken the standard for long service a step further. WBro Ken Clark was initiated 18 November 1955 and WBro Frank Wilkinson was initiated 16 January 1956. Both received their 50-year jewels a number of years

ago. Then last summer, just over a week apart, WBro Wilkinson and his wife Hazel and WBro Clark and his wife Gerry celebrated their 60th wedding anniversaries. They have raised the "service" bar for Mayerthorpe Lodge (and all lodges in Alberta) with this combination of occasions. In the photograph left to right: the Wilkinsons and the Clarks.

Your DDGMs 2010–2011

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2010–2011 term. This will be continued in the next issue of The Alberta Freemason.

Alpha District

RWBro Glenn McConnell received a BA degree in history and psychology from Lake Superior State College in 1969 and a Master of Arts degree in psychology and administration from Western Michigan University in 1971. He taught at Cambrian College and the Detroit College of Business and later held executive management positions in several university teaching hospitals in the United States and Canada. He has provided consulting services in health care systems, services, finance, legislation, facility construction and programming to the USA, Germany and the Philippines.



Bro McConnell was initiated into Freemasonry in 1965 in Hatherly Lodge No. 625 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Over the past ten years he has served on several Grand Lodge committees and held a number of positions in Alpha District and with the Masters', Wardens' and Deacons' Association of Calgary and District. As Alpha District Education Chairman in 2009, he promoted the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan and "Best Practices" for Alberta lodges with a particular emphasis on member selection, mentoring, improved education and training. He works with the Masters', Wardens' and Deacons' Association of Calgary and District to produce two officer workshops annually. The 2010 workshops were in support of MWBro Gerald Waldern's theme of "retention, revitalization and renewal." He has published numerous articles in *The Alberta Freemason* and the research lodge journal *Vox Lucis* and has developed many documents in support of Masonic lodge management.

He retired recently from his construction business and enjoys attending Bow River Lodge No. 1 with his son Lorin. He also is very proud to be an honorary life member of Lodge Renfrew No. 134 and Ashlar Lodge No. 28. He is a member of Royal Arch Masons and Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980.

Athabasca District

RWBro Peter Rodger was born and educated in England, the youngest in a family of six. In 1982 Peter was recruited as a computer system consultant for a Canadian company and immigrated to Canada with his wife, Stephanie, and two sons, Charles and William.

RWBro Rodger worked for several computer consultancy companies over the years before settling to work full time for IBM, his current employer. He is a certified project manager with special responsibilities for US, Europe, Australia and Canada, mainly in the area of technology infrastructure deployment. His job enables him to work from home, which he has done successfully for the past ten years. Peter has several professional designations,



which include PMP (Project Management Professional), ISP (Information System Professional) and CITP (Canadian Informational Technology Professional). He has served on multiple boards as a director, including Canadian Information Professional Society, St. Albert Judo Club and the TLC Unit of Al Shamal Shriners.

RWBro Roger was initiated in England in 1976 and, after immigrating to Canada in 1982, affiliated with Balmoral Lodge No. 185. He became Worshipful Master of Balmoral Lodge in 1987 and is still actively involved. Peter instituted the Balmoral Masonic Bursaries for two high schools in St. Albert, which the Lodge has supported for the past ten years. In the summer he can often be found at community parades driving his "fire engine" representing the Shriners, an organization that he is extremely proud to be associated with. His experience as the Chairman of Speakers Bureau and assistant PR Chairman for the Shriners makes him a well known figure at many charity and social functions.

Lakeland District

RWBro George Arthur (Art) Boggs was born in Daysland, Alberta

on 31 May 1929. Art grew up in a period of time when he knew the consequences of being hungry and living in a depression. From the age of eight he found jobs to bring in a few pennies to help buy his clothes and help his family through the hard times. The last two years of his high school he managed to run a grocery store after the manager died, and he had to keep it running until it was sold. He left the rural community and moved to Edmonton in 1947 to further his education. He worked for two years in Liggett's Drug Store in both Edmonton and Calgary before he saved enough money for his education. In the next six years he received a Drafting Technology diploma, a Journeyman's Carpentry Certificate and a Bachelor of Education Degree in Industrial Education.

In 1956 Art married Margaret Gould of Rosalind, Alberta. They were married for 50 years and six months before Marnie passed away in 2006. They raised six children and Art now has 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Art and Marnie's first home was in Olds, where he spent four years before transferring to the Vermilion School of Agriculture. Because of his drafting and carpentry training, Art taught Drafting and Construction at the Lakeland College through the 1960s. During those ten years, Art spent every summer going to school to work on his Master of Education degree and in 1970 began the Department of Continuing Education at the College. In 1975, he became the Dean of Trades and Technologies for the last 15 years of his working life. He took early retirement in 1990, wishing to do volunteer work. Between 1990 and 1995 Art and Marnie had three stints of volunteering in Portugal with a group of Rotarians. In 1995 Art spent three months in Borneo and in 1997 spent three months in Sumatra organizing furniture plants. The last 15



years has been a life of continuing volunteer work in his world, province and community. For 10 years he worked with the Provincial Apprenticeship Board and for eight years he served on the Foundation for the Performing Arts and did projects for CESO. He has received many national, provincial and local awards.

RWBro Boggs' Masonic life began after he was Initiated and Raised in Melrose Lodge No. 62 in 1956. In 1960 he affiliated with Vermilion Lodge No. 24, working his way through the chairs until he was Master in 1974 and again in 1979. In 1985 he became the Secretary Treasurer and this year marks 25 years in that position. He Joined the Order of the Eastern Star in 1964 and served as Worthy Patron 17 times. He was the Grand Representative to Texas in Alberta in 1980-81. In 1994 Art was appointed the Masonic Grand Representative of Oregon in Alberta and enjoyed many years corresponding and visiting Oregon and Texas. In 1989 Art was presented with the Gold Honour Award for his outstanding service in York Rite Masonry. Art manages the Vermilion Temple and was the Representative on the Higher Education Bursary Committee for RWBro Bowker. With his Secretary duties and being the DDGM he is not hunting for any more work.

Northern Lights District

RWBro Lawrie Bruton was born 24 June 1948 (St. John the Baptist Day) at a maternity home on Queen Street in Watford, Hertfordshire, England. Lawrie attended Charter Elementary School and later attended Victoria School for Boys, leaving at age 14.



Lawrie always knew he wanted to be a plumber, and started work at a paper mill with the promise of being put on the plumbing crew. As this never happened, he left and started with a heating firm, again with the promise of an apprenticeship. This also did not come to pass, so again he changed jobs to begin work with W.J. Fayers Builders. Lawrie started a five-year apprenticeship and attended the Hertfordshire College of Building. At the end of the first year, the 20 top plumbing students were selected to take an accelerated course towards the ordinary city and guilds exams after two years instead of three. On passing these exams the class was then placed in accelerated classes for the final and advanced city and guilds exams. He completed his apprenticeship on 24 June 24 1968 and emigrated to Canada 8 Aug 1968.

RWBro Bruton has worked at many aspects of the mechanical trade, from houses to gas plants. In 1976 he became a partner in the service department of H.L. Jewell Plumbing and heating. In 1978 a new company, JB Mechanical (later to be JB Controls), was formed to perform service work and the installation of new control systems in commercial buildings and in 1979 he and a new partner bought out the other partners of JB Mechanical. In 1982 Bruster Plumbing was started, to perform commercial plumbing, heating and air conditioning service work, and he is now its sole owner.

RWBro Bruton's interest in Masonry started with the owner of W.J. Fayers. Bill, as he was known, would disappear every Wednesday afternoon. And where did he go? To Lodge, of course. While working at the Gulf refinery in 1972 he meet RWBro Bill Towers, who became his sponsor. He

was Initiated 24 May 1973, Passed 28 June 1973 and Raised 25 Oct 1973, was Worshipful Master of Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 in 1983 and was a founding member of Ye Olde Craft Lodge No. 196.

Calgary-Highwood District

RWBro Ib Moller was born in Denmark. In 1953, when he was eight, his family emigrated to Canada and settled in Calgary. Ib met Carol in the early 60s, and has now been happily married for 43 years. Carol and Ib have two children and five wonderful grandchildren.



RWBro Moller obtained a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering at the University of Alberta and has worked in the Oil and Gas industry for 40 years. He is co-founder and partner in a consulting company, Gas Processing Management Inc., that provides senior consulting services to oil and gas companies and governments. He is Past President and a life member of the Petroleum Joint Venture Association, a 750-member industry association, and he has taught Joint Venture courses to the industry and at Mount Royal University. During the 80s he also took time to be a scout master for 10 years and volunteered for the '88 Winter Olympics, serving as the Biathlon Course Maintenance Supervisor. Bro Moller is currently trying to retire, or at least cut back on his consulting work, if only his clients would quit calling him for interesting projects

RWBro Moller was initiated in Gleichen Lodge No. 36 in November 1976. He served as Worshipful Master of Gleichen Lodge in 1984 and 1989. In 1991 he affiliated with Glenbow Lodge No. 184 and served as its Worshipful Master in 2003-2004. He is also a member of the Royal Arch, Preceptory and the Mystic Shrine, and was Commander of the Tin Lizzie Corps in 1988. During the summers, he can often be seen driving a tin lizzie in parades around Calgary, or golfing at Nanton.

White Hatted in Calgary

Grand Lodge Officers from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Montana were officially welcomed to Calgary with a White Hat Ceremony at the Saturday morning session of the 2010 Grand Lodge Communication. The Ceremony was performed by White Hat Volunteers from the Calgary International Airport, and was arranged by VWBro Murray Pay.

Left to right in the photograph are MWBro Kris Good-

manson, Grand Master of Manitoba, RWBro Bruce Lahti, Grand Treasurer, Grand Lodge of Montana and MWBro Rick Galloway, then Grand Master of Saskatchewan.

