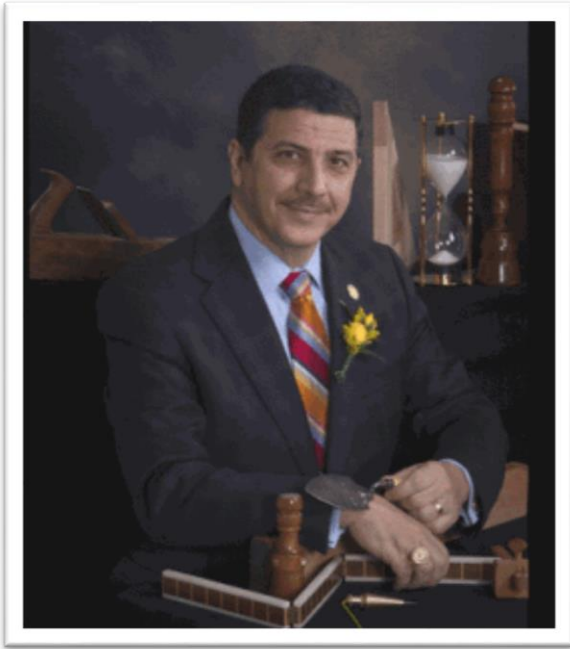


*January, February 2013: Direction*

**"212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"**



How do you go from where you are to where you want to be? Without question, effective **leadership** is **essential** to the future of us, our family, civic, fraternal or business organization. **Leadership** is seen as the key to strategically positioning the future of humanity. This may be even more critical for schools, colleges and fraternal organizations. It is imperative for leaders to begin today, in developing, and supporting circle of acquaintance. Without vision you will wonder aimlessly. How this vision is communicated will to a great extent determine your success. Each person who influences others will have the same core values. Given what we know from history or personal experience, one must acknowledge that an influential person has to be someone with an extraordinary vision, someone that has made an impact on the world always began first at home. Influence can be defined in countless of ways. I define

"influence" in terms of direct change in the concrete circumstances of individual lives. Leaders like Moses will see the promise land although they never will live to enter. The promise land of having those we support grow into the person we know they can be. Leaders encourage others to step outside of their self-imposed boundaries and dare to dream. There are four things I want to challenge each of you to do each day of your life.

1. I would like to challenge you to laugh.



It seems when we start our week the first interaction we encounter sets the tone for our Monday and perhaps the remainder of the week. Laughter is a powerful tool for combating stress and conflict. It can dissipate anger, sadness and other negative emotions. In addition to making you feel good; laughter can improve your health and make your relationships with others closer and stronger. There are a wide variety of benefits to be gained by making daily laughter a priority:

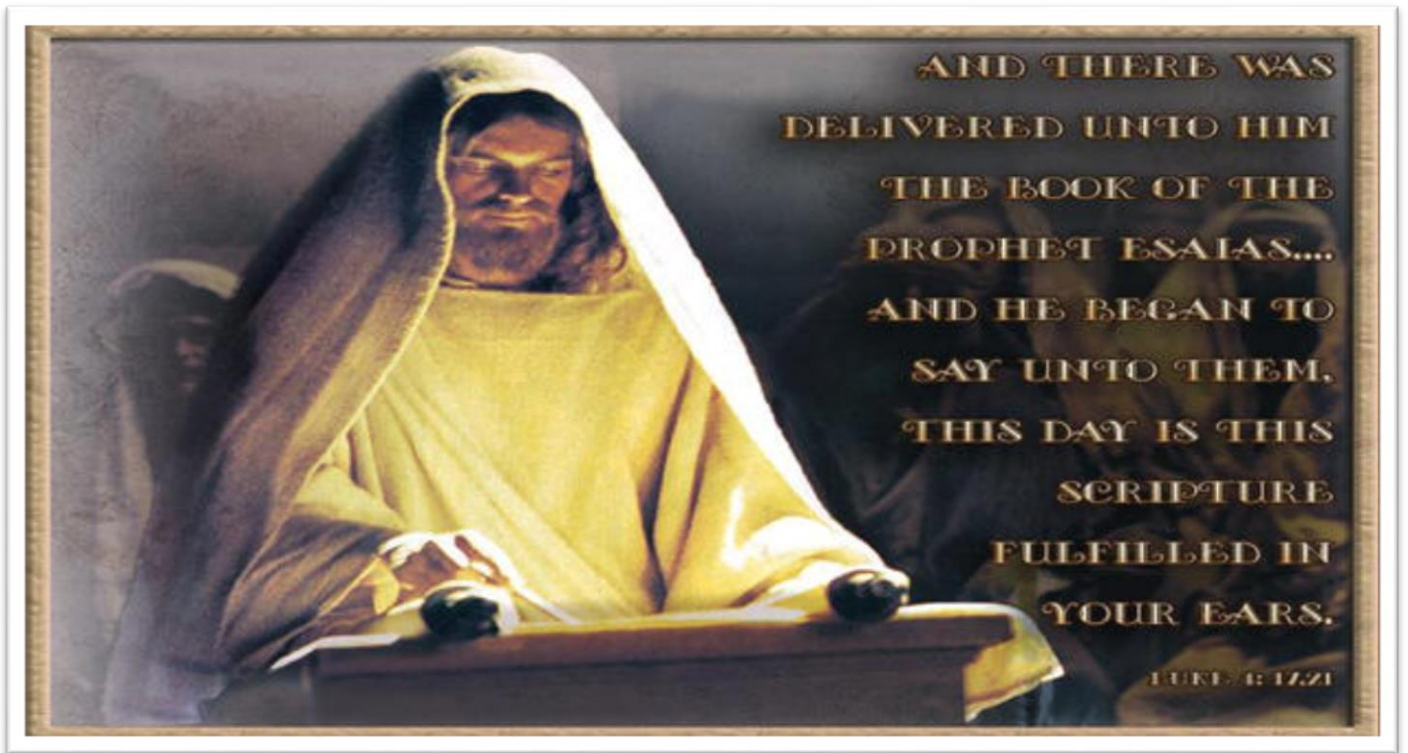
- **Laughter is relaxing.** A good session of laughing can relieve muscle tension and make you feel more relaxed. This in turn can calm you and bring a general sense of wellbeing.
- **Laughter can boost your immune system.** Infection-fighting antibodies are released when you laugh. Stress hormones are decreased as laughter reduces stress.
- **Laughter can reduce chronic pain.** Medical studies have shown that 10 minutes of laughter can diminish chronic pain for up to 2 hours.
- **Laughter can improve your creativity.** You can face challenges with more perspective with a good sense of humor. This leads to more creative problem solving.

**The physical benefits of laughter can lead to an improved outlook on life.** Laughter can bring optimism and a more positive attitude. It can also bring resiliency that will help you bounce back from disappointments and survive tough times. Laughter will leave you feeling energized and renewed, ready to face life’s daily stresses without being overwhelmed.

**Laughter is a contagious social activity.** When people are in a group and they hear someone laughing, they often join in spontaneously. Laughing with other people helps us to make a connection with them, opening the door to communication and creating a bond. When two people in a relationship share a common sense of humor, it can reduce stress between them and defuse conflict. By introducing more humor and playfulness into your relationships at home, work and in Lodge, you can strengthen them and make them more satisfying.

## 2. I would like to challenge you to Study.





There are many books that when studied and their truths applied the knowledge we glean will help us develop and reach our GOD given potential. Consider the Great Light of Masonry. *Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.* Reading regularly helps improve the mind and memory. Although you can be the most well-read pupil and if you cannot communicate that knowledge it is of no useful purpose. What makes someone a good communicator? We have all met someone we enjoy listening to and talking with in good conversation. Aristotle identified the three critical elements for a great communicator they must have ethos, pathos, and logos.

**Ethos** is in essence your credibility – the purpose people should believe what you're saying. They must have faith in your knowledge regarding the chosen topic.

**Pathos** is making an emotional connection –the purpose people believe that what you're saying will matter to them, based upon your common life experiences. They must be able to relate to whom you are, and what you are sharing.

**Logos** is your mode for appealing to others' sense of reason, ergo the term logic. The purpose is to provide people thoughtful analysis to make clear their decisions.

My Brethren you are your best critic, therefore concentrating on your weaknesses, and rely on your strengths will help you achieve success. Have difficulty speaking in public; study how to become an effective speaker. If you determine you are well rounded then perhaps just read a book and broaden your horizons. We are raising a generation of children who are socially inept because they are electronically dependent. The times I remember best as a child was when my family was gathered around the table and we all enjoyed good wholesome conversation.



### 3. I would like to challenge you to Teach.

The command to teach is found over 216 times in the Great Light of Masonry. I believe it is time we teach our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews the way they should go. We need to teach them the lessons we have learned in life to make their road of life a little easier to travel. No command is recorded greater than the command to teach, Go yea therefore and do likewise.

### 4. I would like to challenge you to Share your heart.

I beseech each of you to be enthusiastic each day and share your heart. Nothing great can be accomplished without enthusiasm. As we prepare for a new year it is my prayer we each, laugh, study, teach and share our heart. There is always something you can give, a smile, a warm embrace, a friendly grip, and a word of encouragement. Behind every need there is a story and when we allow ourselves to be in a hurry...well my Brethren that is the death of kindness, and a lost opportunity to give and experience God's grace. While traveling through this pilgrimage of life the slower we go, the more we will see. Embrace every opportunity to share your heart because life is fragile and fleeting. It is my prayer we each remember that this world is not our home; we are merely residences and recipients of God's grace until he leads us home.

Your friend and Brother from Inman

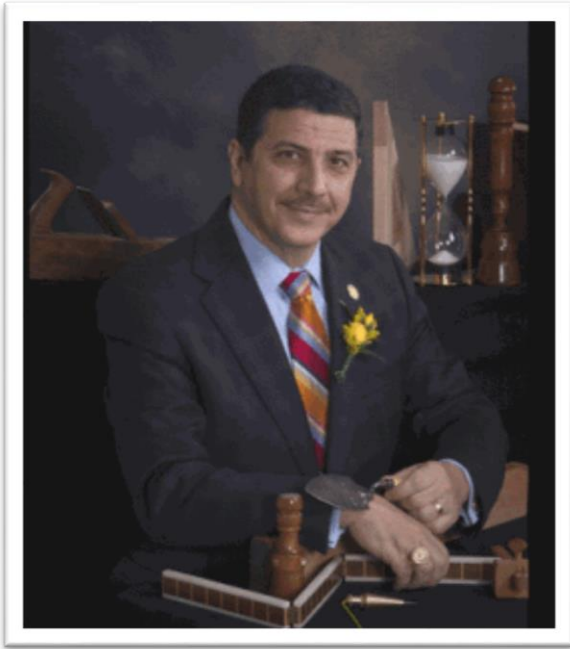
*Jay Adam Pearson*  
*Grand Master*

---



## October- November 2012: Duty, Honor, Country

### "212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"



At the conclusion of the memorial service for our veterans, the Honor Guard removes and folds the American Flag and then there is a twenty one gun salute. Then one of the Honor Guard retrieves three of the expended shells and places them inside of the folded flag and informs the family the three shells represent **duty, honor and country**. At the conclusion the American Flag is presented to the family on behalf of The President of the United States and a grateful nation.

Duty, honor and country the three reasons, one answers the call of their country in time of war or to serve in the military. The soldier despises war like no other. They do not seek glory, honor, accolades or medals. They seek the solitude of their family and cherish every breath they take. This is why they answer their country's call.



Perhaps it is the words penned 149 years ago on a battle field that exemplifies the soldiers feelings "...the world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion..." Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863 The Gettysburg Address.

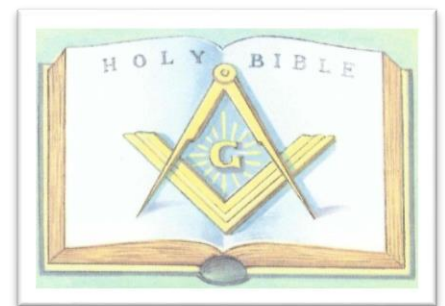
Brethren as Americans we must come to the stark reality to the

following facts:

- These are serious times before our country and they demand serious citizens.
- We have a duty to our families, our ancestors and our posterity to be responsible citizens.
- Freedom is not free.

As masons we understand the imagery of the compass and its purpose for the geometrician. I suggest that America has lost her moral compass and we are fast becoming one nation forgetting GOD, rather than one nation under GOD. There is currently over 6 billion people in the world. There is a baby born every 2-3 seconds and someone dying every 8 seconds. There are over 890 million people on the North American continent. There are over 2,523,156 people in the state of South Carolina. There are 38,847 masons in this Grand Jurisdiction and 300 lodges. There are several lodges that are considering merging and at our 276th Annual Communication there may remain only 295 lodges.

When one considers the enemies of masonry, ignorance, fanaticism and indifference to need; it seems we are combating overwhelming odds. How can 300 defeat such an overwhelming force?





There are several lessons we can learn from the past. Through studying past battles in history one can learn military strategy and we can gain renewed strength for the task before us. Two such examples are General George S. Patton and General Norman Swartzkoph. General Swartzkoph had studied the past wars in the Persian Gulf and he had developed a good strategy. I find it interesting to note a quote General Swartzkoph gave, "Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character, but if you must be without one, be without strategy."

General Patton was a descendent of a first cousin of George Washington, Frances Gregory. General Patton studied the war strategy of the Carthaginian General Hannibal. Here is a quote from General Patton worthy of our consideration "Moral courage is most valuable and usually the most absent characteristic in men." Each General studied past military battles and applied what worked and incorporated them in their strategy. The result was military victory based on divine providence and historical data. But there is a third example that we can gain strength from. When we consider the 300 lodges and the enemies of masonry that we must combat, the task is overwhelming. How can a mere 300 overcome such overwhelming odds? Remember Thermopylae?



In 480 BC, Xerxes, the son of Darius who was the King of Persia assembled an invasion force of over 350 thousand to invade Greece. Xerxes had set his sights on the Athenians vast achievements. Athens was the leader of the Greek City States, and they were considered to be the panicle of society in the Western Civilization. They had made significant advances in architecture, sculpture, poetry and drama. This was the prize that Xerxes sought. His goal was to erase Greece from the hearts and minds of man. His motivation was the oldest known to man...revenge. In the 6th century the Greeks found themselves under the control of the Persians. In the years 499-494 B.C. the Ionians aided by the Athenians revolted against Persia. During the revolt, Miletus a Persian city was burned. After Darius was informed of the Athenian involvement, he shot an arrow into the air while saying "Zeus, allow me to punish the Athenians." Every time Darius dined

he ordered one of his servants to say three times aloud "Master remember the Athenians." In 490 B.C. Darius remembered the Athenians and he sent an invasion force across the Aegean. They were greeted by the Athenians on the plain of Marathon. In a glorious victory the Athenians lost a mere 192 men, while the Persians lost over 6000. Darius would not live to launch another invasion; this task would fall to his son and heir Xerxes.

Xerxes sent heralds to King Leonidas demanding earth and water. The demand for earth and water symbolized that those surrendering to the Persians gave up all their rights over their land and every product of the land. Thus giving earth and water they recognized the Persian authority over everything; even their lives belonged to the king of Persians. King Leonidas responded at that time by throwing the heralds into a pit and the remaining emissaries into a well, with a suggestion to dig out earth and water for themselves. King Leonidas being made aware of the Persian advance put aside traditional enmity and formed an Ally Force. Then he devised a plan with his lifelong friend Themistocles. They agreed on a combined army and navy attack, Themistocles would lead the naval forces while Leonidas would march to meet the Persian Army at Thermopylae. This Ally Force was formed in the beginning of 480 B.C. When Xerxes had reached Mount Olympus it was August and the Olympics and Carneia were both about to be held.

The Carneia was one of nine major festivals on the Spartan calendar held in honor of Apollo. The Spartans were very devout in their religious beliefs and to miss either would offend the Gods. Leonidas not willing to risk blasphemy or divide the council; he would leave the army in Sparta, then hand pick 300 Spartans and marched to Thermopylae. On the march to Thermopylae, 7000 Greeks would join the Spartans. The Spartans were a brutal people with one of the most militaristic cultures in history. At the age of seven every Spartan boy was taken from their families and enrolled in a state operated "Spartan Boot Camp". Mothers would tell their sons "bring your shield home or be on it". The Greeks held the best possible defensive position at Thermopylae, at its largest point it is a mere 200 yards wide. On the south side is Mount Colyodromus which is 5000 ft. tall, the base of which is 300 ft. of sheer vertical cliff. To the north, is another cliff looming over the Aegean Sea. They would make their stand at a mountain pass called the "hot gates" named for its thermal springs. The mountain pass along the coast was about 50 ft. wide; this is where King Leonidas and the Spartans would make their last stand. Their motto was "stand and die." Xerxes had excellent reconnaissance and he knew the Greeks were waiting. His spies told him that 7,000 Greeks awaited the mighty Persian Army, so he set up camp on a plain below the pass. Xerxes was confident to the point of blind arrogance, but the army was so large they could not afford to camp in one place for very long due to the vast food and supplies they required. Xerxes could not believe they intended to fight; he announced his presence and waited four days for them to leave. After all, Xerxes mighty army outnumbered the Greeks 50 to 1.

When King Leonidas was preparing to make his stand, Xerxes sent another envoy to explain the futility of standing in opposition of the Persian Army. "Our archers are so numerous" said the envoy, "that the flight of their arrows darkens the sun." "So much better", replied Leonidas, "for we shall fight them in the shade." The Spartans fought in platoons of what was called a phalanx. A phalanx was a group of 8 men across and 4 deep. This would allow fewer men with greater flexibility to combat a greater army. The mountain pass would be a choke point and would serve as an ally for the Spartans and a fierce advisory for the Persians. On the fifth day Xerxes ordered an attack. He sent the 5000 Medes, ordering the Spartans be taken alive. The Spartans advanced through the choke point in the mountain pass and after the first volley the Spartans broke ranks to the point of turning the backs. The Medes now were confident that they were winning the victory broke ranks to pursue. Once the Spartans reached the choke point they turned and regrouped into phalanxes. The Medes were caught off guard, and were soon defeated. After the first day of battle each side were allowed to retrieve their wounded and clear the battlefield. In an act of sheer defiance the Spartans would take the dead bodies of their enemies and build a wall creating a mockery to greet the Persians upon their return. The 2nd day of the battle was now the 6th day. Now the Persian moral was dwindling with the regular army being butchered before their very eyes. It must have been very demoralizing to see a wall of thousands of dead Persians. Xerxes exasperated at not being able to defeat



the Spartans would now send the immortals, his best troops numbering 10,000 against the Spartans. They were a magnificent sight, but they lacked full body armor. They were called immortals due to the fact when one would be killed another was in the rear ready to take his place. The Spartans would use the same strategy as before, with the same results.

Now treachery would rear its ugly head and would undo their heroic efforts. A Greek traitor went to Xerxes and sold his integrity, by informing Xerxes of a goat path that went around the Spartans position. Xerxes sent spies and soon discovered he was telling the truth; so he made preparation to out flank the Spartans and come behind their lines. Leonidas knew about the path and he had posted the men of Phocis to guard the goat path. The Phocians were outnumbered and lacked the dedication of the Spartans. Hearing the sound of 10,000 troops advancing filled their hearts with terror; they put up little resistance and soon retreated to guard their families' miles away. Leonidas learned of the treachery shortly before day break. Unwilling to sacrifice the entire Greek army Leonidas orders the army to retreat and fight another day. The 300 Spartans would remain, after all this was a day they had waited for since childhood. The Spartans welcomed death and fought all the more fiercely. Four times the Persian advance was defeated with heavy losses, including two of Xerxes brothers. The phalanx would soon break and the Spartans would make their last stand on a small hill. They would form a circle facing outward. When Leonidas fell he was separated from the remaining Spartans.

Seeing their King fall a small group formed a unit, fought their way to their King, not willing for his body to be mutilated. They would retrieve his body and fight their way back to the remaining group. Herodotus was known as "the father of history". Herodotus's purpose was to give a rational account of the cause of war, and to preserve the memory of heroic deeds. Herodotus informs us the Persians demanded the body of Leonidas in return for the remaining Spartans lives. This demand was promptly refused declaring "A Spartan leaves the field with his shield or upon it." Xerxes would withdraw his forces to fulfill his envoys proclamation by "darkening the sun." So the last Spartans were killed by a barrage of arrows due to the fact the Persians were fearful of the hand to hand combat with the Mighty Spartans.



The goat path in our masonic battle is the ante room. We must guard against not only the Cowan and Eaves dropper from entering our lodges, but also those deleterious excretes who seek entrance into Appendant Masonic Bodies. We must be ever vigilant against them from entering the anteroom by way of a petition



and the ballot box. If a man does not have temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice then he should not be given a petition, no matter how many times he asks. It is our blue lodges that have failed our great fraternity. We have allowed those unskilled and unworthy to enter by way of the goat path; they have outflanked us as they did at Thermopylae. They have entered the Shrine and other Appendant Bodies. These Cowans are not desirous of laboring in the quarries of Freemasonry. They seek glory, titles and self-gratification. We in the blue lodge have allowed the aspirants to become diluted with men filled with vain glory. Just because a man asks for a petition does not mean he is worthy to receive one. Masonry is not for everyone and everyone is not for masonry. Recently I was asked a question by an older mason, He asked me, "how he could solicit someone for membership?" I realized this question was asked in ignorance. His intentions were noble, but misguided. "We do not solicit membership," I replied. I shared with him what I do if there was someone in my circle of acquaintance, I felt had masonic attributes. I encouraged him to invite them to their Inspirational Meeting and perhaps the ladies night or a friends and family day. A mason is prepared first in his heart by applying the tenants of masonry long before he hears them in the work. A man does not become a mason first in his ear when someone solicits him for membership.

The path of enlightenment does not begin in a club or bar. Therefore when you hear someone complaining about our membership declining, remember we will not defeat the enemies of masonry by sheer numbers. We will win with our fraternity dedicated to duty, honor and country. So if you are disheartened think of quality not quantity and remember Leonidas and the last stand at Thermopylae. Yes a Spartan leaves the battle field with his shield or upon it.

A mason realizes life is not about self and leaves the battle field of life with his honor intact, and with his dying breath he say's my life you may have, but my integrity never.

Your friend and Brother from Inman

**Jay Adam Pearson**  
**Grand Master**

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening cold and gray  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
The rapids held no fears for him.  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Old man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You're wasting your time in building here.  
Your journey will end with the closing day;  
You never again will pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide;  
Why build you this bridge at even-tide?"  
The builder lifted his old gray head.  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There follows after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This stream, which has been as naught to me,  
To that fair youth may a pitfall be.  
He too must cross in the twilight dim —  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Allan Dromgoole

---



## ***August 2012: Something, Someone, Everything***

### **"212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"**

Last week I began my day like every other day, trying to get through the hustle and bustle of everyday life. I was busy with my day's activities and then I heard a familiar sound in an unfamiliar place. It was Christmas music.

Yes I believe we all would agree that the older we get the faster Christmas comes and the commercialization of the season does not allow the public to enjoy one holiday before they sprint off to the next holiday. It's no longer talking about Christmas and the joy the season brings, but black Friday and cyber Monday dominates the subject of many conversations.

I believe we each need to focus on 5 principles. I am convinced that if we; Me and You focus on these principles

than the joy many are searching for will once again return.

I would like to ask each of you 5 questions.

1. Do you have something to do?
2. Do you have something to hope for?
3. Do you have something to believe in?
4. Do you have someone in your life you love?
5. Do you fear death?

### ***Something to Do***

Do you have something to do? We don't have to search for an opportunity to serve; all we have to do is embrace the first opportunity we see. Historians claim that President Roosevelt would never have been elected President of the United States had the American public realized the severity of his physical limitations. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt suffered with paralysis due to polio. Polio was one of the most dreaded illnesses of the 20th century, and had killed or paralyzed thousands of Americans during the first half of the 20th century. President Roosevelt saw an opportunity to serve his fellowman; therefore January 3, 1938 he had a vision to raise money for polio research and to care for those suffering from the dreaded disease. The name of the foundation would emphasize the national, nonpartisan, and public nature of the organization, as opposed to private foundations established by wealthy families. The disease spanned across economic lines and due to the enormity of those that were being stricken daily, each American would be needed to do something.

He settled upon the name "The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis". The idea was simple, he would kick off the foundation with using the newest technology that was being used in the war...radio. Yes it was settled that an appeal would go out over the radio asking every American to donate 10 cents to fight polio. In 1945 President Roosevelt would die in office. Talk soon began after his death and conversations began to circulate and a campaign started to place President Roosevelt's portrait on a coin. Divine providence had been at work years earlier, because every other coin save one had a president or founding father's portrait upon it, therefore to put Roosevelt image on any other coin would have required displacing a president or founding father. The only coin in wide circulation which had a purely allegorical figure (Lady Liberty) on

the obverse was the dime. Over the years President Roosevelt's foundations name would gradually change and in 1979 the name would change from "The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis" to "The March of Dimes".

In the post-World War II years, the number of polio cases in the United States increased sharply, making the cause even more urgent. Then, on April 12, 1955 the University of Michigan held a news conference announcing to the world that the polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk was "safe, potent, and effective" the research was largely supported by President Roosevelt's March of Dimes. The largest clinical trial in U.S. history, involving 1.8 million schoolchildren, had shown the vaccine to be 80 to 90 percent effective in preventing paralytic polio. The March of Dimes rather than going out of business began to search for something else to do, and in 1958 decided to commit its charitable infrastructure to serve mothers and babies with a new mission: to prevent premature birth, birth defects and infant mortality. The March of Dimes has hosted The March for Babies, formerly known as Walk America, annually since 1970, helping to raise more than \$1.7 billion dollars to fund research and programs to prevent premature birth. To date the research and vaccines developed by The March of Dimes has been recognized through receiving 10 Nobel Prize winners. Yes a cure was developed and birth defects and infant mortality rates reduced because one person decided to do something, can or should we do less?

### *Something to Hope for*

Do you have something to hope for? We have hope for a better tomorrow, yes many hope, few pray, and seldom has someone put their hope into action like a young girl from Baltimore. In the mid 1800's our country was growing fast an expansion was moving as fast as a family could purchase a wagon load their belonging and travel west. Let us consider one woman of "great faith and a dreamer in action". On May 24<sup>th</sup> 1900 she said "I believe we have left a century of small things and are on the outlook for larger things, ways to work we never dreamed of in the past". Annie Walker Armstrong was a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of mission efforts throughout the world. She put hope into action by writing letters. As a prolific letter writer in 1893 alone, she wrote almost 18,000 letters expressing her hope! Annie never hesitated to use her hands to reach out to hug a child, distribute food and clothing, and "the bread of life" God's Holy Word to those in need. As she held her own Bible and studied to know how best to share Gods love with others her thoughts ran to those who didn't have a copy of God's word. One of her most vital qualities was that Annie was a woman of prayer. Annie would fold her hands daily in prayer to intercede for the missionaries and for those they were helping discover Christ by preaching and freely giving God's word. Annie would see the immigrant's fresh off the boats and their plight pulled at her heart strings. Annie organized woman and help establish a new organization to help serve the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1888 the WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) was established as a direct result of Annie's hope and action.

The WMU would serve all Americans and immigrants, red, yellow, black and white. Her hope and heartfelt work established change. Under Annie's leadership Southern Baptist women became a vital resource and a major supporter of home missions. The WMU established a week of prayer and self-denial, which is now The Southern Baptist week of prayer for North American Missions and they named it "***The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering***".

Annie looked for God in unexpected places...where do you see GOD?





### *Something to Believe in*

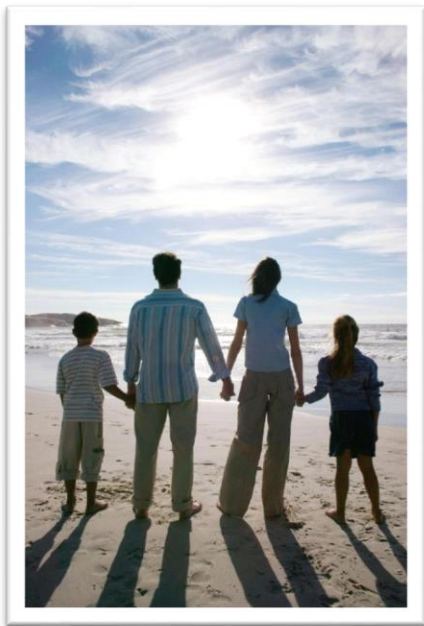
Do you have something to believe in? Faith is personal, and must it must be real. There comes a time in everyone's life when they must decide something to believe in. For me this occurred 36 years ago. My father spent 30 years in the United States Air Force and this afforded our family to travel and be educated in the public schools around the world. My mother's family is from Greer South Carolina and after 20 years of traveling she wanted to move a little closer home. My father only had one viable option, he volunteered for a year remote tour of duty so he could chose his next duty station, which would be closer to South Carolina. My father went on his remote tour. We were renting a home in California at the time. Our lease came up 3 months before Dad would return, since we had a motor home it was decided we would camp out since we would be out of school. It was decided we would go to *Harden's Flat* a campground just outside of Yosemite National Park. It was here that my near death experience would change my life.

I was swimming in one of the Park Rivers with several friends. There was a sand bar in the middle of the river and it was a day of play, ***nothing electronic required for the day of fun***. After a particularly long day of playing on the sand bar (I was 14 at the time) I swam back to the river bank with my friends, when I got to the bank I put my foot down in an attempt to climb out of the river. I searched for the ground with my feet to get a good footing and then it happened. My foot slipped into a crevasse and became trapped in tree roots. I was not more than 3 foot from the river bank and the water covered everything but my eyes. I was unable to call for help, just wave frantically for help. My friends thought I was joking so they gathered their things and began to leave the river bank. I determined then that I needed to remain calm and go down and try to free myself. Through God's grace I was successful and made my way to the river bank, climbed ashore and collapsed with exhaustion, fear, and gratitude. I lay alone what seemed like hours before I had the strength to return to our camp site. I have thought often about that situation. I believe that many people see or neighbors, like my friends beheld me floundering and never realize the severity of their troubles. I began that day to live my faith rather than to practice it.

It is not enough to believe that Christianity is true! Having a Christian faith, would mean following a Christian way of life. I determined then to stop looking at people and see the individual and meet their needs. Be it with a smile, to listen, give a word of cheer, a friendly hand shake, and just let them know I

see them and I care. Have you seen someone floundering and you stood idly by like my friends did 36 years ago on that river bank? Soren Kierkegaard was a Danish writer and a devote Christian who was unrelentingly critical of the church as an organization. He lashed out at the “crowd” for their forgetfulness of what it means to exist. One of my former Pastor’s Henry Stanford shared what his mother once said “the church would be a lot better if we took all of the people out.” Mrs. Stanford, like Kierkegaard was asserting that the church was more than people frozen to a church pew. It is when we walk out of our houses of worship that our work begins. We are responsible as individuals for the choices we make. I challenge each of us to take a leap of faith and share the love of God with those floundering around us. Charity is not measured by the size of our gift; do you remember the widow’s mite? God does not consider how finite an act of charity you extend; he looks at the spirit in which you gave it.

You may never know the outcome of your choices, but I assure you God knows and he will remember. Yes a life spent in fellowship with God, believing in and acting upon square in accordance with his Holy word, serving others and sharing the love of God will be enable us to embrace life with no fear of death.



### *Someone to Love*

Do you have someone in your life you love? God created us for fellowship, fellowship with him and each other. Do you tell your family, not in words but deeds that you love them unconditionally? In the hustle and bustle of life the times our families will remember is **not** the gifts we purchase for them, but ***the time we freely gave them.***

There are three things that will change a person’s life:

- The books we read
- The people we meet
- The memories we share

I would like to challenge each of you to spend family time with your spouse, your children , grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Perhaps you can read a book, or just spend time in conversation. Take a walk and enjoy God’s creation. Yes children are a gift from our Father and we need to cherish them and each moment we have with them.



We have just begun a new school year and the days will begin to run together with school work, homework, school activities, and community activities. Our families need us now more than ever! I believe that the lessons we lay on our children’s hearts will enable them to face the trials of life and embrace life with no fear of death.

### *Do you embrace life with no fear of death?*

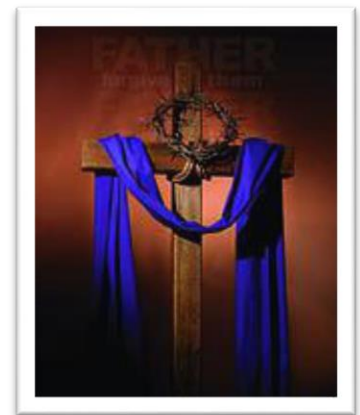
As Grand Master I have attend many funerals of our brethren. Each time I have been asked to attend it was my honor to stand with the family and support them as we remembered our beloved brother. Such was the case when I was asked by my dear friend and Brother R.W. Eddie Mitchell when the patriarch of their family Brother Ed Mitchell Sr. was called home. Masonic Rites were given by M.W. Jerry Carver and then I read a poem God gave me to share with the Mitchell family...perhaps God gave me the poem for you as well.

### *The Master Called*



I am not afraid of dying for this world is not my home  
Many winters I labored searching, and often I have roamed  
I am not afraid of dying; it holds no fear for me  
When my dear Lord summoned, I bowed on bended knee  
To receive his gift of love and grace which my Lord freely gave

Covering a multitude of sin and shame, that was buried in the grave  
One day, two days, three days would pass until the Fathers call  
Which broke the chains of sin and death, releasing Christ from the thrall  
I am not afraid of dying; it holds no fear for me  
My days are now filled with memories and a life well spent with thee  
Once I was afraid of leaving familiar faces, beckoning me to stay  
But this fear no longer binds me; I welcome death more each day  
For I have bid farewell to family, friends and brethren all  
Now that host waits beside the crystal sea, patiently enthralled  
The pull is greater to yield up the ghost than to remain and tarry here  
Longing for days of yesteryear, of childhood friends with laughter and cheer  
In youth I stood erect and tall, with faith, great courage and grit  
But now the years have taken their toll on me, and it's difficult to admit  
For this world has left its imprint upon my hands and in my face  
My legs are weak and failing, they no longer hold my place  
With eye sight dimming I often gaze, though I see more clearly now  
Than the fair haired youth who ran and played with sweat upon his brow





My Father in heaven has sheltered me within his loving care

I often retrace the faithful times I acted upon the square

All the noise of life can cause confusion, but His voice I will always hear

When my Father calls should I leave your side let there be no sadness there

In the sunset I dream and listen for the music, morning can't be that far

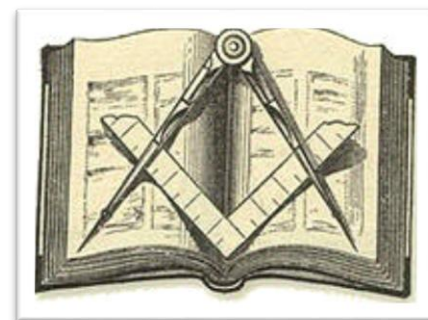
The dawn as promised at Bethlehem, hope in a manger under *His* star

So hold me in your memories, where moth and rust cannot decay

The love we shared with each other, will shelter you each day

For I am going to a reunion where God's love has conquered death

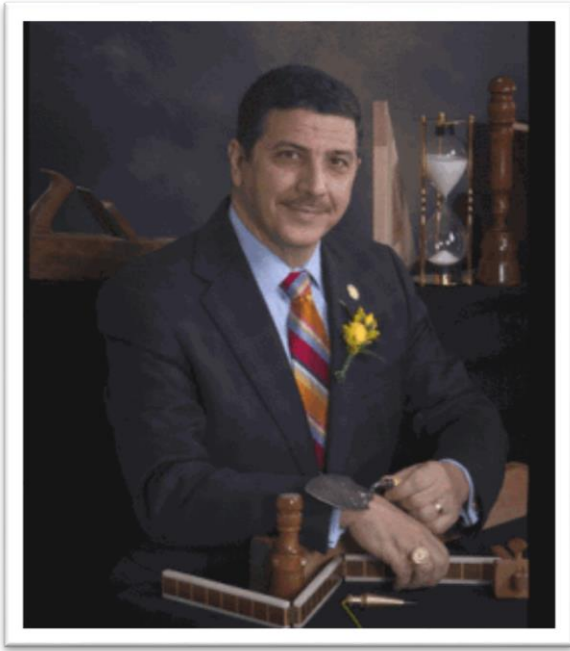
I am not afraid of dying; I will welcome it with my dying breath



Your friend and Brother from Inman

*Jay Adam Pearson*  
*Grand Master*





*June 2012: Do you know your A, B, C's?*

**"212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"**

There are two essential lessons every Grand Master, Worshipful Master and leader must remember and apply when serving others.

The first lesson is: Everyone does not desire to know what you know.

The other lesson is more challenging to learn and apply. This is the lesson of your A, B, C's.

The year was 1975 and our family was living in Atwater California. My father was stationed at Castle A.F.B. and I had just reached the age to attend the youth group at the Base Chapel. Excited about being in the "elite group", I was eager to inform everyone of my vast knowledge which I had

gained in 13 years. I was thrilled to learn that the youth group visited a nursing home once a month to share Christ and sing a medley of songs. We practiced for several weeks and a date was set for our visit. Although the songs we had selected were not familiar to our audience, we were received with open arms. Yes everyone appreciated us attending and sharing. Our leader's then challenged us to visit with the residents and share what Christ had done in our lives.

Here was my chance to expound knowledge upon the masses! I would go from room to room and tell everyone everything. However each room I visited had another youth there engaged in a conversation, so I walked the halls until I happened upon an old man sitting at a table in front of a window.

I barged in and began to tell the gentleman everything I knew and what he needed to do. He just smiled and said "I know my A, B, C's." To which I responded and said, "Ok, but let me tell you what I know."

He listened patiently and then when I thought he would respond as I had determined to be the appropriate course of action, he smiled and said "I know my A, B, C's." Undeterred by his inaction to respond I doubled my effort by increasing my volume and I began to speak frantically. Again his response was the same. A fourth time I barked my vast knowledge, now completely out of breath and patience, his response was the calm and reserved; he just smiled and said "I know my A, B, C's." It was then I decided to listen and I said ok sir "please tell me you're A, B, C's."

- A- All things work together for them that know the LORD
- B- Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved
- C- Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me
- D- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- E- Each one walking in his uprightness
- F- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- G- Go ye therefore and teach all nations
- H- He that hath an ear let him listen what the Spirit saith unto the churches
- I- I am the bread of life
- J- Jesus sayeth "Suffer the little children to come unto me."
- K- Keep me from evil
- L- Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation

M- Make thy face to shine upon thy servants: save me for thy mercies sake  
N- No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.  
O- Open my eyes that I may see  
P- Pray ye one for another  
Q- Quench not the spirit  
R- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy  
S- Stand firm in the Lord  
T- The grass withereth, the flower fadeth but the word of our God shall stand forever  
U- Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift my soul  
V- Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep  
W- Wait on the LORD, and keep his way  
X- Except a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone: but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit.  
Y- Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me  
Z- Zacchaeus climbed up into a sycamore tree so that he might be able to see Jesus

Now 37 years later the lessons I gained through listening to a Senior Saint share the gift of the A, B, C's have stuck with me. Additionally I became aware that to learn you must listen. Yes everyone does not desire to know what you know, but if we listen to their point of view often they will respond and listen to our point of view. Today we live in the information age and society is more connected, yet we have become a disconnected people. We are disconnected from family and one another. People do not listen today, they are too busy texting, e-mailing, or rushing off to another meeting. Children today are being raised by "Sponge Bob", "Dora the Explorer" and a host of television shows that do not have the ability to listen.

I believe in my heart it is time to become reconnected with each other and listen. Have you ever noticed the great lengths to which people will go when they want to do something? If somebody is determined enough to be somewhere or do something there is nothing on earth that can keep them from being there and doing that particular thing. Tragically we often get in the way of some of life's greatest blessings. I thank God that early in my life, that 13 year old child listened, because if I had not listened I would have missed a blessing.

Often when obstacles or difficulties arise excuses are not far behind. Perhaps you or somebody you know have made statements like these: "Well, I would read the Bible, but I'm just too busy." Or, "I would go worship God, but I work six days of the week and I need one day for myself to rest." What do statements like that actually say? They say that something is more important to that person.

Often today we cannot get someone to sit down for five minutes to listen, to share our day, or to attend a church or civic meeting. It has been projected that for our next general election less than 30% of registered voters will cast their vote. Imagine if like Zacchaeus they had to climb a tree to vote, how many concerned citizens would even attempt the difficulty? A sycamore's branches are long and strong enough to bear extended weight. The key is Zacchaeus was willing put forth the effort to listen because this was a priority.

I would like to challenge you to learn you're A, B, C's and then when the opportunity presents itself share them in your circle of acquaintance. We do not have to look for opportunities to serve. What we do need to do is to listen and embrace the opportunities in our lives. Opportunity for growth occurs through the storms of life. Brethren, storms will always be on the horizon. What do you see written below?

TBHLEESSTSOIRNMG

Let's start with the letter B and remove every other letter and find what we see



## BLESSING THE STORM



Consider the ravens for they neither sow nor reap which neither have storehouse nor barn; and GOD feedeth them: how much more are you better than the fowls?

Listening, giving a kind word, and sharing you're A, B, C's reminds us of God's grace. Imagine how connected humanity would be if we would open our hearts and listen. Listening will require us to stop walking away. We may not have to climb a sycamore tree, but we will have to leave our comfort zone. Yes the storms of life assail each one, and when we listen to each other we become aware of their circumstances providing us an opportunity to bear one another's burdens. I cannot promise you that you will always know what to say or how to assist those you meet in this pilgrimage of life...but I can promise you that when you pause and listen you will receive as much of a blessing as the one whom you came to comfort will receive. Because, in 1975 I entered the room of a nursing home with one purpose; and I left with a blessing, the gift of the A, B, C's, and a friend. Returning each month I found myself listening, and learning. I also had the opportunity to share what was going on in my life. I often recall those conversations, and smile and thank GOD for the blessings I received through listening.

When the storms of life come and the thwarting wave's crashing are preventing you from hearing a sparrow sing...and you cannot feel the melody of life...recall from the recess of your heart the lesson of the A, B, C's. Because I assure you God sees and he is listening, yes there is a secret place full of grace! There is a Blessing in the Storm.

Perhaps the lesson of the A, B, C's can be summed up as:

**Attitude** - Have a positive attitude

**Believe** - Believe in GOD, Believe in yourself and live your faith

**Commitment** - Stay the course by remaining faithful to your calling

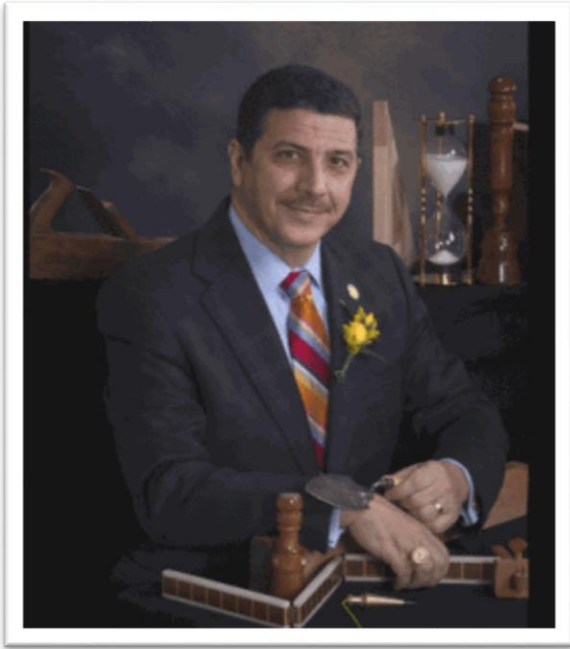
*"Lead by example, remember leaders influence others by example Not by authority or position." Jay Adam Pearson*

Your friend and Brother from Inman

**Jay Adam Pearson**

**Grand Master**

*April 2012: Our Mothers, Sisters and Daughters*



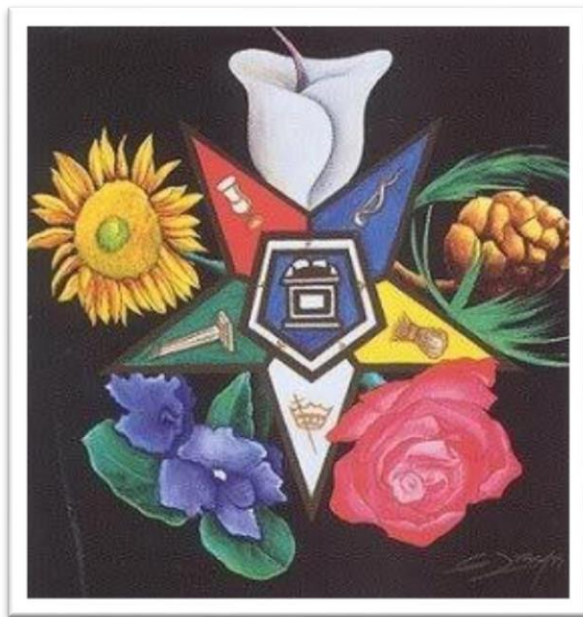
**"212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"**

Recently I have been very concerned with our Brethren who do not want our mothers, sisters, and daughters attending their Lodges, or using the Lodge facilities. We stand here on the threshold of our 105th Grand Chapter Meeting. I would like to invite everyone to attend this historic meeting to be held in Spartanburg.

There will be an informal opening on Monday and the installation of our newly elected Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, and their Officers will be an open installation, please attend and witness the honor Sister Sara Jane Mock, Worthy Grand Matron Elect has afforded your Grand Master during the installation.

If we as a fraternity are going to fulfill our mission, little alone survive the inundations of time we must unite. The

family of Freemasonry consists of our Blue Lodges, the York Rite, The Scottish Rite, Shriners International, Order of the Eastern Star, Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America, DeMolay International, Order of the Amaranth, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, and many more orders connected with Freemasonry. While each of the aforementioned Appendant Bodies are worthy of our support and consideration as Grand Master I would like to address the Order of the Eastern Star.



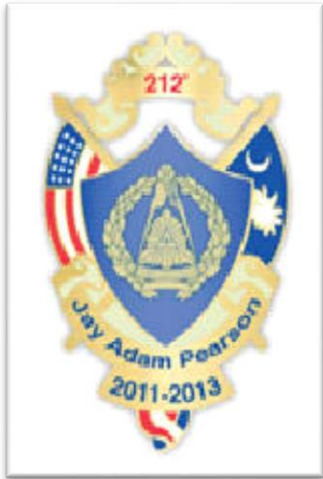
**The Order of the Eastern Star** is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both women and men may belong. Eastern Star is a social order comprised of persons with spiritual values, but it is not a religion. Its appeal rests in the true beauty of the refreshing and character-building lessons that are so sincerely portrayed in its ritualistic work. A deep fraternal bond exists between our members. The wholesome relationship of sisterly and brotherly love brought about through high principles exemplified in our lives which makes us near and dear to each other.

The Order of the Eastern Star is composed of people of deep spiritual convictions; it is open to all faiths, except no faith. The personal welfare of our members is vital to all of those in the Eastern Star, and it is considered a privilege to help another member whenever we can. Perhaps you have a local chapter meeting in your Lodge, and you are not fully cognizant of what they do?

Please allow me to share our purposes:

- Charitable- we believe that we should help support our fellowman through philanthropic activities.
- Educational- there are two things which will change your life for the better or worse. They are the books you read and the people you meet. OES activities consist of presenting public forums, lectures, and programs to promote social welfare to combat community deterioration.

- Fraternal- we are a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to foster fellowship and mutual benefits among our members to the benefit of society.
- Scientific- study allegorical symbols detailing the lessons of 5 heroines.



However there is much more to do, because when the family of freemasonry unites there will be no mountain too high or valley too deep which we can overcome. Dr. Rob Morris PGM, the Poet Laureate of Masonry, founded the Order using the beautiful and inspiring Biblical examples of heroic conduct and moral values. These portray the noble principles which should adorn the personal lives of Eastern Star members. Eastern Star strives to take good people and through uplifting and elevating associations of love and service, and through precept and example build an Order which is truly dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness.

With this in mind why would our Lodges not welcome our mothers, sisters, and daughters into our facilities? I am aware that disagreements exist between certain factions in each organization, however we must find common ground and unite. We do not always have to agree, but we need to unite in harmony. Unity will help the Blue Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star apply spiritual

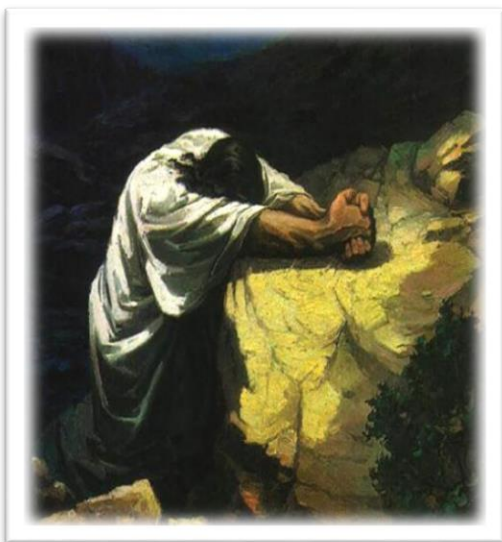
principles enabling each one to renew our strength.

As an Entered Apprentice I learned that it is impossible to meet our Brethren on the level while standing three steps above them. I can well remember when Worshipful Brother Jackie Gregory met me on the level and was the first to officially welcome me into our beloved fraternity. Perhaps it is time for our brethren who disagree with welcoming our mothers, sisters and daughters to use our lodges to turn their sights inward and examine their motivation. I know that the walls which have been built will not easily be removed; all I am asking is that if you do not agree with welcoming our mothers, sisters and daughters into your lodges to examine the walls and pick up the gavel we presented you in the North East Corner and remove one brick at a time.

Our Worshipful Masters and Worthy Matrons are instructed to meet on the level. Our Great Light informs us that all gifts are from GOD. Consequently we see recorded in the loom of time countless reminders of those whom climbed the ladder of fame, and those who stumble under the weight of praise. Additionally there are those who serve as presiding Officer and refuse to relinquish the authority they received at their installation. I see nothing positive from holding on to resentment and clinging to our territorial prominence.

Remember that:

- Titles and honors are fleeting, be meek
- Talent is God-given, be humble
- Fame is man-given, be thankful
- Conceit is self-serving, be careful



Therefore let us humbly welcome our mothers, sisters and daughters into our lodges so that the honor of our Fraternity may remain unsullied.

Your friend and Brother from Inman

*Jay Adam Pearson*  
*Grand Master*





## February 2012: *Carpe diem*

### "212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"

Have you been worn down by life, beaten and battered, and now circumstances in your life have surrounded you causing you to forget, if only for a moment all the blessings of life? I can relate! So I now write this for myself as much as for my Brethren.

*Carpe diem* is one of the most recognized quotes from Quintus Horatius Flaccus (Horace). Essentially Horace is challenging us to embrace the day, put no thought for tomorrow. For that day will hold its own joys and sorrows, and if we spend our time peering into the future we will miss the joy of today. I would like to share the poem from which the quote derived.

*Ask not—we cannot know—what end the gods have set for you, for me; nor attempt the Babylonian reckonings Leuconoë. How much better to endure whatever comes, whether Jupiter grants us additional winters or whether this is our last, which now wears out the Tuscan Sea upon the barrier of the cliffs! Be wise, strain the wine; and since life is brief, prune back far-reaching hopes! Even while we speak, envious time has passed: pluck the day, putting as little trust as possible in tomorrow! -Horace*

Essentially Horace is declaring that:

- It is best if we do not know the future.
- Babylonia was originally known as the cradle of astrology, and science was viewed with skepticism. Horace declares, do not look to the stars, look to GOD who made the stars.
- Humanity must endure our fate.
- Winter is the close of the season, live today as if this is your last.
- The waves are fatigued by striking the rocks.
- Do not get in a hurry, strain the wine...do that which is right!
- It is best to enjoy the present moment.



Do you remember the joy you once experienced by just being surrounded by family and friends?

Perhaps walking home only to find a puddle waiting to be stomped, or blowing bubbles just to watch them carried by a cool spring breeze.

Perhaps what we need to do is to recall the memories of years gone by and with a child like faith recall and relay on our Heavenly Father to see us through the valleys we are traversing.

We need to be courageous and trust the Good Shepherd. People have often found solitude in reciting the 23 Psalm of David.

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

I believe that David choose a sheep for his psalm because as a Sheppard he knew that sheep are ignorant and fearful animals. A sheep does not need courage to fight its enemies. The most courageous sheep would fall victim to the least wolf. A sheep does need courage to trust the Shepherd; each one simply follows the crowd.

Our Great Light tells us that we fight against an enemy that is not made of flesh and blood. We cannot fight this enemy on our own. Our enemy is too clever, too powerful, and goes about seeking whomever he may devour. Our hope is in the Good Sheppard, whose rod and staff comforts us. The rod was a small club, usually about 2-3 feet long, with stones embedded in a cavity in the top. The Shepherd would use it like a missile or as a weapon to beat off a predator. The staff was the long stick with the crook at the top. The staff was used to keep the sheep in line, or to rescue a sheep that had stumbled into a ravine or narrow valley in the mountainside.

I pray we each cease the day and fall on our knees and ask the Good Sheppard for the courage to fear no evil and to follow him all the days of our life. I believe that the first verse when spoken and claimed will ease the heaviest burden. The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

***Carpe diem*** for this is the day the LORD has made; have courage and let each of us claim the promise, rejoice and be glad in it!



Your friend and Brother from Inman

***Jay Adam Pearson***  
***Grand Master***



## December 2011: Do You Believe in Santa Claus

### "212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"

I would like to ask each of you two questions:

1. Do you believe in Santa Claus?
2. Do your actions demonstrate your belief?

It is not easy to be a leader. When we serve you, we see the good and bad, but recently the bad has overshadowed the good because far too often when the Grand Lodge is called it is not in celebration, it is because of neglect, despair and apathy on behalf of our membership.

We are a band of brothers united by a lamb skin or white leather apron. Just because you join and travel in Appendant Bodies seeking further light your foundation must be in the blue lodge. Brethren your Grand Lodge needs your help!

Far too many masons have forgotten that there is a Santa Claus, and that our fraternity has helped Saint Nick since 1616. Christmas is more than one day a year, it is spirit, a state of mind, a willingness to put others first. Perhaps if we remember what Virginia learned one hundred and fourteen years ago, many would return to the teaching of masonry.

From the New York Sun News  
Tuesday 21st, 1897

DEAR EDITOR:

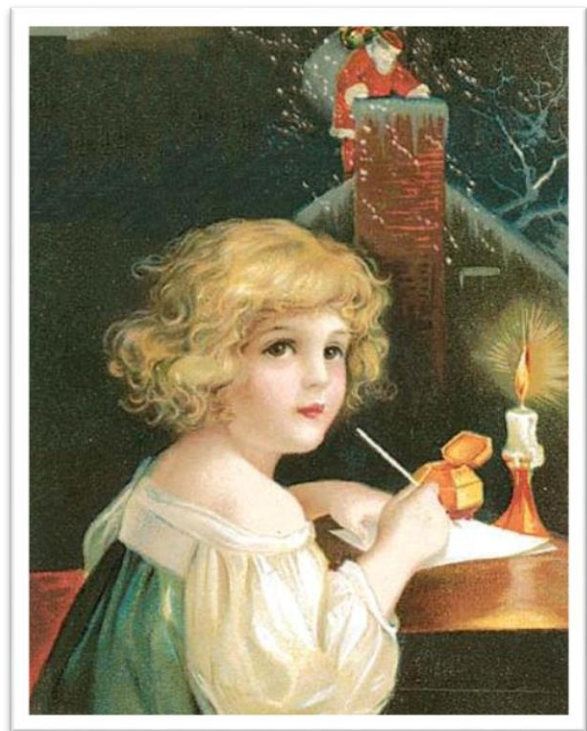
I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN (News Paper) it's so.'

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON  
115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET

"VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.





Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.”



The time has come that each of us remembers the true spirit of Christmas. Let us unite as Santa Claus's helpers to once again spread the good news, help others less fortunate, reach out to our brothers when they stumble, and spread the mortar of brotherly love, relief and truth.

So tonight brethren I would like to say, Yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus and sometimes he dons a Red Fez, or an Apron from the Chapter or Council. Sometimes he dons a Red Cap or kirtle as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. Sometimes he is a shining Knight in his Commandery Uniform. Yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus and in neighborhoods all around the world he puts on a lamb skin or white leather apron in the service of humanity.

So Virginia if in the pilgrimage of your future you find yourself once again surrounded in darkness by skepticism and you lose your way. Remember that there is a Santa Claus and our Father in heaven has told us that one day the storms will come, the rains will fall, but in the darkest hour of all Santa Claus and the true spirit of Christmas will always shine the brightest!

With this in mind I began to wonder what will happen in the coming days when that midnight journey takes place.

Will Santa Claus find you and me spreading relief, joy and cheer to our fellow man? Let's all dream about that night, and what it could and should be.



## Saint Nicholas witnesses the gift of Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas, plenty of work to be done  
All huddled together in a one room home  
The children united asleep in their bed  
With visions of health playing around in their head  
In an hospital filled with love and care  
On this special day, a miracle was in the air

I had chosen the portal instead of the chimney  
To begin this long nights journey  
With a bag of presents, a wink and a flutter  
Up the elevator I traveled, without a shutter  
Every chair filled with sickness, sadness and despair  
All the sudden, I saw him kneeling there  
On bended knee, his eyes with compassion and care  
He had reverently bowed; interrupt him, I do not dare!

Beside him a red hat, unlike my very own  
This Fez of compassion, since 1922 had shown  
In a room of children crippled and burned  
He was there offering grace seeking nothing in return  
I left that room my presence not needed  
For a Shiner's love had succeeded  
In the stillness of the night, I wondered would joy ever return.  
Look another, stooped over putting together a toy with look of concern  
His eyes so focused intent on this deed  
What kind of man was this, and what is his creed?

On his jacket a clue  
I moved closer to view  
A Double Headed Eagle  
So Noble and so Regal  
A Scottish Rite Mason was he  
This man on bended knee

Yes I had heard of the Rite Care and their gift to so many T  
his gift of speech would cost the parents, no not one penny!  
There were others to see and the night almost gone  
Soon darkness would flee and then comes the dawn  
Passing by the lab I noticed a clinician  
Focused on the task committed to the mission  
I asked him what help he had, to fight the dreaded disease?  
He smiled and said, "Santa, The Cryptic Masons charity holds the key!"  
Once a year each home I do visit, leaving joy and cheer  
But it is the masons who freely give, every day of the year!  
I began to wonder how many children lay alone  
On Christmas Eve in a bed not their own

Just then carolers began to sing  
Proclaiming the birth of Jesus the King  
Silent night, Holy night, Jingle bells with a bang  
An apron, square and compass uniting this gang

Looking back I noticed a Fez, cap and aprons  
These masons freely giving with no aspirations  
It's not the words they say that points to our Father  
It's the gift of Love, and Grace to all, each one his brother  
Back to my Reindeer with my sleigh now in tow  
My mission ahead, each child safely cared for below  
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!  
Around the world we must go, let's begin our flight!  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

*Jay Adam Pearson*  
*Grand Master*

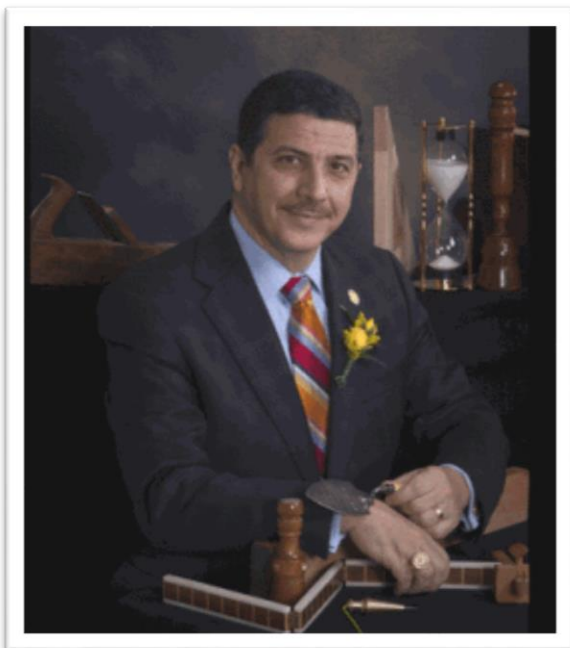
---

Just a glimpse of how South Carolina Masons are serving humanity



October 2011: True Success

### "212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"



Each generation must face the stark reality that we are responsible for our actions and accountable for the message our lives are sending to our children, grandchildren, and youth. I see television ads and testimonials about quick fix surgeries, breast implants, liposuction, face lifts and tummy tucks, not to mention hair implants, hair growth and hair removal...yes America's biggest loser is fast becoming our youth.

Today humanity has allowed itself to be trapped with indifference and we have forgotten each generation has the **duty** of raising our youth in the principles that founded our nation.

There are eight guiding principles transfixied into the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America.

- We the People of the United States
- In order to form a more perfect Union
- Establish Justice
- Insure Domestic Tranquility
- Provide for the Common Defense
- Promote the General Welfare
- And Secure the Blessings of Liberty To ourselves and our Posterity
- Do ordain and establish this Constitution For the United States of America



Consequently the Preamble defines America's core principles to be imparted to each generation unimpaired. It reflects the ardent desire of our founding fathers to ensure government would be just. The preamble does not affirm the sovereign authority of the state or sovereignty of man. Rather that each generation must have their body of work secure the blessings of liberty to our posterity.

Have you shared with your children, grand children, nieces and nephews the following principles?

- The Sovereign authority of God
- The Absolute Truth
- The Veracity of objective moral values
- The Fixed standards
- The Sanctity of human life

When our Founding fathers were looking for guiding principles to establish the constitution, they turned to our Great Light the Holy Bible, and the result was the birth of America. Before, during, and after the birth of America; humanity has experienced many trials and tribulations. I believe Noah Webster said it best when he declared, "the moral principles and precepts contained in the scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime,

ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible”.

Therefore since the Holy Bible is the Great Light of masonry we should follow its direction and allow its truth to light our path. Consequently we should never try to be better than others. We should not seek to raise our selves up at the expense of another’s character, worth, or reputation. Our reputation is what we are perceived to be, our character is what we are when no one is looking.

There are those special bonds we form on earth with family and friends. What makes these bonds special is they know us for who we are, warts and all...and they still love and accept anyway. Yes sometimes there are in life bonds that can never be broken, the bonds of family, the bonds of friendship, the bonds of marriage, fraternal bonds, bonds formed from athletic competition, and the bonds of comrades in arms. Each of these bonds accepts and acknowledges us for who we are, no more, no less and affirms the fact we matter. This is another lesson we need to teach our youth!

While attending Eastern Wayne High School I formed many such bonds. In my junior year there were a few team members on our wrestling team who had set the goal of a perfect season, while some of us began working on another goal. The year was 1979 when my wrestling coach introduced a philosophy that would change my life. We were all asked to remain after practice to learn precepts that ensure “true success”. The concept was simple, it was called John Wooden’s Pyramid of Success.

Now as an avid UNC basketball fan I had heard of John Wooden the “Wizard of Westwood”. The first quote I learned that day from Coach Wooden was “a player who makes a team great is more valuable than a great player”. John Wooden the long time basketball coach and teacher coined his personal definition for success. “True success is peace of mind attained only through self satisfaction and knowing you made the effort to do the best of which you are capable”.

Coach Wooden was never satisfied with his initial definition. He constantly looked for improvement; therefore he determined it was insufficient. He sought after something more tangible - more visual manifestation. His journey would span 14 years identifying 25 behavioral traits he believed were essential to achieve his idea of success. The outcome culminated in a simple but profound diagram Wooden called "The Pyramid of Success", which he completed in 1948. Now six decades later these foundational behaviors have weathered the test of time.





The bedrock of a mason's foundation is in our Great Light. Additionally the three precious jewels of a Fellow Craft encourage us to seek, preserve and teach divine truth. Brethren if your pilgrimage through life has been stagnate and unawares; then I challenge you to search for "true success".

Beginning at the foundation John Wooden's Pyramid of Success we perceive the foundation of:

- Industriousness - anything worthwhile requires dedication and work.
- Friendship - respect and camaraderie.
- Loyalty - "To thine own self be true". Do not betray yourself and those you lead.
- Cooperation - If you wish to be heard listen.
- Enthusiasm - is contagious, so is despair and negative rhetoric. If you are not enthused about where you are leave!
- Self- control - You cannot lead or function effectively unless your emotions are under control.
- Alertness - There is always something going on around your circle of acquaintance from which knowledge can be gained if you are alert.
- Initiative - Have the courage to make decisions and take action. Often failure to act is the greatest failure.
- Intentness - the ability to resist temptation and stay the course.
- Condition - You must have mental and moral condition, without proper conditioning in all areas; you will fall short of your potential.
- Skill - You must know what you are doing and be able to perform quickly and properly. Regardless of the specific skills required in your profession you must master each one.
- Team Spirit - Eagerness to sacrifice personal interests or glory for the welfare of all. Praise that comes because of your contribution to the group is the kind of praise that should be desired.
- Poise - remaining true to oneself, not getting rattled, thrown off, or unbalanced regardless of the circumstances or situation.
- Confidence - Is earned only by a tenaciously pursuing and attaining those assets that allow you to reach your own level of competency. However confidence must be monitored to ensure it does not spoil or rot and turn into arrogance.
- Competitive Greatness - "A real love for the hard battle, knowing it offers the opportunity to be at your best when your best is required." Instilling a joy derived from the struggle itself, the journey, and the contest.

I believe applying the 15 precepts of John Wooden's Pyramid of Success will help our lodges become effective pillars in our communities. Brethren the successes of your Lodge, District and our Grand Lodge have endured since October 1736. Our brethren who have gone before us knew and applied the eight guiding principles transfixing into the Preamble which had been imparted to them by our founding fathers. If our lodges are going to endure for future generations we must recommit, dedicate and teach true success.

Our founding fathers came to this wilderness in search of religious freedom, not agnostic despotism. The foundation of masonry was built upon the precepts contained in Holy Bible and many of Coach Wooden's 15 character traits contained in his Pyramid of Success.

During the life of the children of Israel they faced a similar fate as we do today in America. They had reached a point where the current generation could no longer rely upon the previous generations commitments to ensure the blessings of liberty. Each one had to decide the path they would travel to the future. On bended knee they heard GOD provide the solution. "If my people, which are called by my

name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” 2 Chronicles 7:14.

I pray our Nation turns back to GOD. My hope is for a new sense of patriotism to engulf our nation, and that our Fraternal Bonds are strengthened. It only takes one brother with an eagerness to sacrifice personal interests or glory for the welfare of all to begin a reformation. In my heart I know Coach Wooden’s Pyramid of Success can benefit each mason under the whole canopy of heaven.

Collectively with our Great Light True Success will be attained. Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, my brothers...it is the only thing that ever has.

Your friend and brother from Inman

*Jay Adam Pearson*  
*Grand Master*

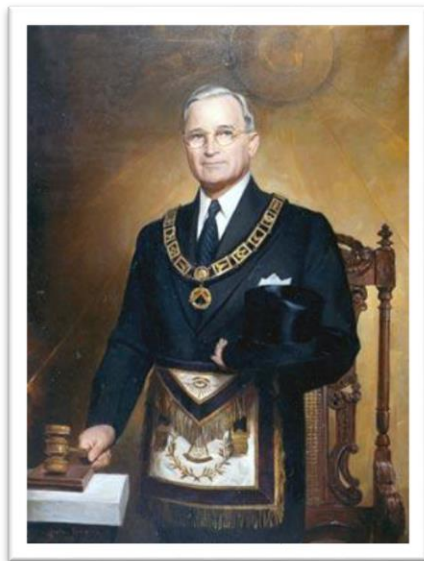
## August 2011: A Noble Calling

### "212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"



What is the noblest calling one can receive? I have thought a lot about this question since being installed as Grand Master, wow it's been a whirl wind since April 29th! I want to thank each of you for your prayers, support and countless acts of kindness. I am truly humbled to be serving in this high office.

I have no doubt with the leadership of our 302 Worshipful Masters, and the support of our Appointed and Elected Grand Lodge Officers, together we will accomplish great strides helping our fellowman. It will take each of us working together, and a commitment to keep the communication lines open, thus ensuring we can listen to and talk with each other remaining united to make a difference.



As I have reflected on those in our communities who give of themselves daily I have pondered the question, what is the noblest calling one can receive? Perhaps it is the calling to be a teacher, serve in the military, public service as a school board member, fireman, policeman, or perhaps our first responders. Let us never forget the 911 responders! And let us not forget the calling to being a spouse, parent, or President of the United States.

I have always admired President Truman, particularly the way he handled adversity. During his first weeks as Vice President, Truman scarcely saw President Roosevelt, and received no briefing on the development of the atomic bomb or the unfolding difficulties with The Soviet Union. The winds of change would swiftly cause these and a host of other wartime tribulations to become Truman's duty to solve when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died in office.

On April 12, 1945, Harry S. Truman became our 33rd President of the United States of America. Shortly after taking the oath of office for President, Truman said to reporters, "Boys, if you ever pray, pray for me now. I don't know if you fellas ever had a load of hay fall on you, but when they told me what happened yesterday, I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."

Brother Truman's noble calling began in 1884 when Harry S. Truman was born in Lamar, Missouri. Truman did not have a middle name. In southern states, including Missouri, parents typically used initials rather than a middle name. Truman said the initial was a compromise between the names of his grandfathers, Anderson Shippe Truman and Solomon Young. He grew up in Independence, and for 12 years prospered as a Missouri farmer through hard work and dedication. Truman would enter The Great War as a captain in the Field Artillery, and be deployed to France.

Over four years the Great War would leave in its wake a toll of death, carnage, and destruction such as the world had never seen. World War I would forever shape the 20th century and leave its mark upon

Truman and those who served home and abroad. Returning from The Great War, he married Elizabeth Virginia Wallace, and opened a haberdashery (a men's clothing store) in Kansas City. Active in the Democratic Party, in 1922 Truman was elected a judge of the Jackson County Court. Eventually in 1934 Truman would hear the calling to become a Senator. During World War II he headed the Senate war investigating committee, who was task with checking into waste and corruption. It has been estimated Truman saved our government an estimated cost of 15 billion dollars.

President Truman made some of the most decisive decisions in history. Soon after V-E Day, the war against Japan had reached its final stage. Allied Forces issued an urgent plea for Japan to surrender, which was promptly rejected by the Empire of Japan. President Truman, after consultations with his advisers, ordered atomic bombs dropped on cities devoted to Japan's war effort. The two cities selected were Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japanese surrender quickly followed. In June 1945 President Truman witnessed the signing of the charter of the United Nations. Thus far, President Truman had followed his predecessor's policies, but he soon developed his own. He presented to Congress a 21-point program, proposing the expansion of Social Security, a full-employment program, a permanent Fair Employment Practices Act, and public housing and slum clearance. Truman wrote this program, "symbolizes for me my assumption of the office of President in my own right." It became known as the Fair Deal.

In 1947 President Truman would face re-election and he would have to campaign for the office of President. In foreign affairs Truman's life experiences provided his most effective leadership for the American people. President Truman's second term would be marked with many social and foreign affair challenges. In 1952 President Truman would decide not to accept the nomination of his party for President. Weary and worn from the conflicts of politics and burdens he had faced President Truman retired to Independence; and at age 88, he died December 26, 1972, "after a stubborn fight for life". President Truman's life or what I call his body of work was committed to do "that which is right"! His obituary read "He left a major mark as a world leader".

Regardless of your station in life, are you committed to do that which is right? Often this will be a willingness to answer a call and accept a position of service. We each must be willing to churn or till new ground and break free from our comfort zone. Breakthroughs require commitment, engagement, and imagination. Leaders must embrace their calling like President Truman and commit themselves to have their body of work stand for that which is right! When faced with adversity look for new ideas, insights, and ways to solve the problems we are facing. I challenge each of you to commit yourselves to make your "body of work" stand for that which is right! Our communities, state, nation, and world are facing many challenges and difficulties. Our beloved fraternity has within its power to make a difference. This will only occur when the craft challenges itself to rediscover, the wonder, and curiosity of their youth. Are you willing to go beyond your self-imposed boundaries and help those in need?



## In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae, 1915



One of the most memorable poems ever written is "In Flanders Fields".

Several years ago I visited the World War I Museum in Kansas City. As you enter the museum you walk over a glass bridge and beneath it laid a field of poppies. Have you ever wondered why McCrae used poppies in his poem?

Wild poppies flower in abundance when other plants in their direct vicinity are dead. The poppies seeds can lie on the ground dormant for years and years, patiently waiting until there are no more competing flowers or shrubs in the vicinity. Additionally when someone firmly roots up or tills the ground, these seeds will sprout.

"Flanders Fields" was literally born of fire and blood during the hottest phase of the second battle of Ypres. There was enough rooted and tilled up soil on the battlefield of the Western Front for the poppies to flourish.

Indeed trench warfare had left its toll upon Europe and literally churned up the soil. Therefore in May of 1915, McCrae sat down for 5 minutes rest and in anguish he wrote his poem.

Wild poppies burst forth from the ditches

and graves on the battlefield; around him blood red poppies blossomed like no one had ever seen before.



As Grand Master I ask you to till new ground. Cultivate new Ideas. Reach beyond your comfort zone.

Take time for internal reflection, and evaluate your body of work. Remember breakthroughs require commitment, engagement and imagination.



Let the poppies remind you of the sacrifices our countrymen have made for our Great Nation! The time has come for this generation to have their body of work stand for that which is right!

Earlier I asked you, what is the noblest calling one can receive? I believe that the noblest calling you can receive it is to realize and achieve your potential!

Your friend and brother from Inman

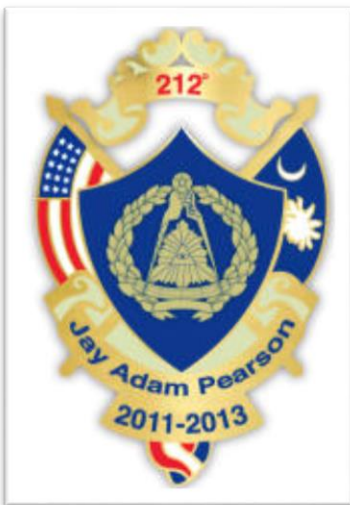
***Jay Adam Pearson***  
***Grand Master***



## April 2011: Grand Master's Message

### "212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond"

Most Worshipful, Right Worshipful and Worshipful Brethren: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election, or appointment to the position of Grand Lodge Officer or your appointment to a Grand Lodge Committee. Thank you for being willing to serve and sacrifice *your* time and resources to serve our beloved fraternity.



As South Carolina Masons we have a rich history. I am as proud of our history as I am of each of you. I designed my Grand Master's pin as a tribute to our history and your dedication. Our State flag is on one side and our country's flag *Old Glory* is on the other side, they are intertwined signifying unity. On the top you can read 212 degrees.

My theme is "212 degrees of Fidelity, Today and Beyond". At 211 degrees water is hot, at 212 degrees it boils. And with boiling water comes steam. And steam can power a locomotive. One extra degree makes all the difference. Imagine how our relationships with family, business and fraternity would be enriched if each of us were to commit ourselves to give one extra degree of fidelity. Fidelity is exemplified when we are trustworthy, dependable and committed.

As an Entered Apprentice we were placed in the north east corner and presented our working tools to begin the moral and intellectual task of erecting the spiritual temple in our heart. Fidelity must be the chief building block in our foundation and the rule and guide of our life. "Without fidelity between man and man the entire social structure of the world would fall into ruin and become utter chaos. Through fidelity we remain faithful to God, our family, and in all our obligations to our country, to our fraternity, and to ourselves". And, that one extra degree of fidelity will be a testimonial of a great life! We now have a target for everything we do. Having this simple, clearly defined goal will lift our spirits, capture the imagination, and inspire passion.

It is my vision that those that will come after us will say of us "that together in our time of service, our work was good work, square work, and true work"! Today we embark on another opportunity of service. Make everyday count. There will be meetings to attend, reports to generate, data to gather and analyze, and our 275th Annual Communication to celebrate. Do not be consumed in the task before us. Take time to share with your family and friends the joy of life, not the drudgery of Masonic meetings. Remember God first, family next and vocation and fraternity to follow.

As Grand Master I am aware that many of you are still in the workforce. I too am still employed and we each have obligations with family. Keep your priorities in order. If time permits, I encourage you whenever possible to travel with your elected Grand Lodge Officers as we attend meetings throughout our state. Your companionship on those long and often late night drives is most coveted by your Grand Lodge Officers. As Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen, we are expected to attend all Grand Lodge Communications including the Special called communications.

When attending Masonic events and meetings, we must remember that we are representing our Grand Lodge and we should dress and act accordingly. Coats and ties should be worn to Lodge meetings along with your Grand Lodge apron, name/office badge, and jewel. My brothers we attend lodge to support the aspirants through the esoteric work and for fellowship. Therefore, as Grand Master I am asking that no more than three Grand Lodge Officers sit together during refreshment. Why do you want to ride often 2-3 hours to a meeting and then sit with each other? You need to sit with the craft, because they are your brothers. It is only through listening to them; and talking with them that we appreciate their hopes, dreams and aspirations...and this is vital if we are to serve the craft. Each of us have been elected or appointed to a position of service.

Several years ago the church I attend went to Romania on a mission trip. We have a carpenter's for Christ ministry and we participate in local, State, and International mission projects. Prior to the trip the Pastor informed the group that the families we would be staying with would prepare a meal and that often this would be their food supply for the month. Yes like those in developing countries and even in America families are struggling to meet their financial obligations.

Our lodges are facing the same financial obligations with limited resources. Never attend lodge to eat a meal, and never request a meal. Every lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction does not eat a meal at the business meeting or at each degree; it often is a matter of paying a bill. If they have a meal fine, and if they do not have a meal fine, remember the decision is up to the Worshipful Master and brethren of the Lodge.

Regardless of the projects, fund raisers or other activities in which we or our Lodges become involved, the life's blood of our Lodges and the life's blood of our Great Fraternity is the conferral of the masonic degrees upon good, faithful, and honorable men. The lessons of Freemasonry are based upon truth, and they will keep on being true. The pages of history prove over and over that truth never wears out and that it does not succumb to the passage of time but rather provides the courage to face times of trial and despair. It promotes within the individual compassion to be generous to his fellow man in all his distresses. It enables one to realize the greatest charity is not when we give from ourselves rather when we give of ourselves.

I believe that arrogance and vain glory do great injury to Masonry. In the eulogy over Doctor Mackey, M.W. Brother Buist PGM of Georgia reminded us that "he never betrayed a trust. He was eminently sincere and loyal to his friends...his monument is in the hearts of those who knew him best."

Albert Pike said "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." Mackey was a physician and Pike a General. Each began in the quarry of life as a servant. It takes the labor of each mason to fulfill our purpose. The contributions of each officer, committeeman, ritualist, and our brethren working in the kitchen are vital to the mission of masonry.

Never forget that successful leaders openly respect their brethren and care about their ideas and well being. The reason *accepted* was added to the term Freemasonry was because when Masonry in its



infancy was being born from the Cathedral builders of the 10th and 11th century, those who did not work in the trades desired to take the implements and apply a moral significance. Our ancient brethren, who built the cathedrals desired to have our history recorded and in the spirit of unity they accepted those who were not craftsmen into our fraternity.

As Fellow Crafts we were incited by fidelity, love, virtue, and the desire for knowledge. Yes from the winding staircase we are encouraged and challenged to practice speculative masonry with fidelity, today and beyond. By speculative masonry we learn to subdue our passions, act upon the square, keep a tongue of good report, maintain secrecy, and practice charity. We are encouraged and challenged to daily search for divine truth. I pray we never lose sight that our brethren built that stair case, painted the edifice, and served the tables at refreshment. Each mason has worth and value because every man, woman, and child were created in the image of GOD!

We are all servants of the craft, from the youngest Entered Apprentice in the North East Corner, to the Fellow Crafts ascending the winding staircase, to myself as Grand Master in the Grand East. We are a band of brothers united by the mystic tie!

Your friend and brother from Inman,

***Jay Adam Pearson***  
**Grand Master**