

## **Concord Lodge Official Visit – Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

R.W. Bro. Brian Lowery – D.D.G.M.

### **Brotherly Love**

Brethren my talk this evening will be on Brotherly Love  
Remember upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all. ~Alexander  
the Great

When we speak of Brotherly Love what exactly do we mean? We are a world-wide family, no matter one's colour, class or creed we accept each other for what we are, as families do. We are there to help each other in times of need and give support during times of sorrow (this is relief and will be the subject of a later lecture) But "relief" is a two way street, we need to know that help is needed and wanted. It is no good saying after the fact 'no one did anything' if:

A: You did not tell anyone in the first place, or

B: You 'Happened to mention it in passing'.

You need to get the information to the right people, the Master of your Lodge and the Secretary. Brotherly Love does not just mean we help each other when needed. We also accept each other's particular quirks and idiosyncrasies and do not pull each other down. Brotherly love also extends to families of Brethren. What do we do for our widows, anything?

The answer as far as I've seen is yes. I do not know of a Lodge that does not do at least one thing for their widows, which is excellent. Part of the Corner Stone Project is to assist shut-ins and widows and/or hold a social event for families and widows. Maybe we as members of this district should make this a mandatory requirement instead of a basic standard.

Quote from M W Bro Raymond S J Daniels; “It disappoints me greatly to report that, during the last months of 2010, far too many issues have arisen in our Lodges resulting in Masonic Complaints being laid before the Grand Master.” Many of these disputes begin as differences between brethren that are best defined as ‘private piques and quarrels’ which, unresolved, escalate into division, discord and dissension that disturb the peace and harmony of the Lodge. Ego can be a powerful incentive, but it can also be a deadly poison. Simply put, ‘Where ego is master, we reach disaster faster.’ In a fraternity that claims brotherly love as its first fundamental principle and equality as one of its distinguishing characteristics, there is no place for the destructive influence of self-inflated ego. The general Charge reminds us that ‘humility is an essential duty.’ In my opinion, this derives from what I have referred to above: the absence of understanding of what it means to be a true Mason. If we understood what we say and hear on the floor of the lodge; if we practiced what we preach, any differences of opinion that arise could and would be settled amicably as gentlemen.

We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers.

~Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love*, 1963

Thank you brethren