

# *B 2 B FaciliFacts*

*Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Team  
of the Lodge Resources Committee*

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4



**APRIL 2009**

## Message from the Lodge Resources Committee Chairman

*Taking the next Progressive Step ...*

Over the past three years the B2B Team of the Lodge Resources Committee has had the privilege of providing (electronically) to you the B2B FaciliFacts, a publication that highlighted the many benefits which the Brother 2 Brother program may deliver to your lodge, while at the same time featuring feedback, on how your lodge is benefiting from its implementation.

This publication presently has a direct distribution list of almost 1,300 Masons across our great Province as well as a few others across Canada, and indeed around the world. This number is greatly enhanced by its further distribution through lodge, district and personal address groups, while also being featured on many District and Lodge websites, where it is conservatively estimated that in excess of 11,000 Masons receive each edition.

Freemasonry has endured for over 300 hundred years because of its ability to adapt and meet the needs of its membership. Today is no different as we take up the challenge of building on the momentum created by this publication.

It is with great pleasure that the Lodge Resources Committee announces an evolutionary change forward in focus for the publication; as it is the Committees desire to bring added benefits to the readership.

Effective with the May 2009 edition, the publication will be re-branded as the "Lodge Resources Program Review". Each edition will contain valuable information about the programs of the Lodge Resources Committee, namely; Friend to Friend, Mentor, Brother 2 Brother, Officer Progression and Protocol & Etiquette.

This five to six page publication will be distributed on a bi-monthly basis and will feature sections for each program, i.e.: "The West Gate" (FTF), "The First Steps" (M), "B2B FaciliFacts" (B2B), "Moving Forward" (OP) and "Essentials" (P&E).

As this Lodge Resources publication moves forward we encourage you to provide us with your feedback and suggestions. Our goal is to provide information that may enhance your knowledge and provide to you value added benefits which will increase your lodges success, to the betterment of its members..

Fraternally,

*David R. Dainard*

R.W. Bro. David R. Dainard  
Chairman - Lodge Resources Committee

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### B2B FaciliFacts Back Issues Available

Submit your request to the B2B Team Leader

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As Presented by the Grand Master  
at the Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges of Canada  
Winnipeg, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009



**“What we do to teach good men to become better men.”**

...or, how does Masonry take good men and make them better?

When a man joins Freemasonry, he has no concept of what is about to take place nor any real idea what the organization is about.

How do men become better men? I shall try to answer that with the following random thoughts:

The obligations that are taken in the three degrees instil in us a feeling whereby one would not want to violate his oath.

Fraternizing with other like minded brethren keeps us on the straight and narrow.

Attending Lodge meetings regularly, learning memory work, planning meetings, sitting on the executive, taking part in the chairs, obligates us to our responsibilities towards the craft in such a way that we have little time for idle thoughts or deeds.

The example set by the brethren that we meet and trying to live up to the expectations of these brethren behoves us to try our best. We do not want to let them down.

Through repetition of the ritual and understanding of the work we, just as in reading the Holy Volume, become more aware of what it is to be a Mason and how one should act as Masons.

Our constitution gives us a pattern for living with our neighbours, our lodge members, our families, our God, and a guide to our behaviour within and without the lodge and our civic responsibilities.

*We are taught to cultivate brotherly Love.*

*We are taught that all men are equal.*

*We believe in the immortality of the soul.*

If one takes to heart and into practice all that one learns both in the Ritual and in the Constitution then I feel that gradually one cannot help but become a better person.

When you type in “making good men better” in the Google internet search engine, 9 out of the first 10 hits take you to either an article about Freemasonry or to a Masonic Lodge. The same holds true for the Yahoo search engine.

One of the hits is a video on YouTube. It's a black background with a greyish-white set of a square, compass and the letter 'G'. A Gregorian plainsong is quietly sung in the background.

One word appears on the screen then fades to present the next word and then the next, and the next ....and for the next 92 seconds, 19 words are presented.

What are some of the words?

***HONOUR, LOYALTY, FRIENDSHIP, RESPECT, VALUE, FRATERNITY, EXEMPLARY, ENLIGHTENMENT, TRUTH, CHARITY, FAMILY, KNOWLEDGE, TRADITION.***

Brethren, these are some of the words that appear, and are connected to the term “making good men better”.

The phrase “making good men better” has long been associated with our gentle craft. But what is a better man? That, my Brethren, is what Freemasonry attempts to answer and nurture. One who merely passes through the degrees receives little, and will never be a Mason in the truest sense of the word. He must first put something of himself into it, by working at it, studying it, learning its lessons and then put them into practice in his everyday life and actions. He will then begin to receive that for which he began to search as an Entered Apprentice Mason.

By giving of himself, his time, his ability without any kind of fee or reward, a Mason gains many things whether he accepts an office or just works in the lodge.

- He learns how to speak in public,
- He learns how to conduct a meeting,
- He learns how to interact and get along with others,
- He learns reverence for the Great creator,
- He learns how to pray,
- He learns how to walk uprightly and proudly as a Mason,
- He gains a better understanding of human nature, its weaknesses and its strengths under different conditions,
- He makes life long friends,
- He shares in the happiness and sorrows of others,
- He improves his habits, and learns courtesy,
- He practices tolerance with a smile,
- He takes part in teaching others the Masonic way of life and in doing so he has learned more than those he has taught,

Hundreds of lessons have come his way and his life is made richer, better, happier and more satisfying in every way. By upholding the basic tenet of Freemasonry, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” he has learned that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

As you know brethren this is how “Masonry Makes a Difference” in a man’s life and how he becomes a better man and the effect shows in our homes, our lodges and in our communities.

A few weeks ago a master mason proposed the toast to the GM and GL at one of our major receptions. He so wanted to become a Mason that he literally had to stop someone in his car who had a Masonic emblem and that then led to him becoming a Mason. On the night he received his third degree, after the ceremony, he pulled out a crumpled piece of paper with the following poem that he had scribbled on it.

### Being a Mason

I approached a man one day  
Whom I had never met before  
To ask if I can be a Mason  
From there, its opened doors

A door that's opened many facets  
That's helped me through and through  
It's shown me how much I can be  
And how much that I can do.

Being a friend, a helper,  
Or even a volunteer.  
The potentials here are endless  
It just depends on where you steer.

If you steer towards pursuit  
And involve yourself in more  
There's no telling what will lie ahead  
And furthermore, what's in store.

The pride I have inside a Lodge  
Holds true when I'm outside  
With the rules that govern this beautiful craft  
Forever I will abide.

From Apprentice, to Fellowcraft,  
To what I am today  
It's made me stronger as a man  
What more, can I say

In my brief time as a Mason  
I feel there are no others;  
Knowing how many friends I've made  
How many life long Brothers

Many Brethren have helped me through  
There's so many Brethren to thank  
Without their guidance and support  
My ship would have sank

-Nick Andras

Brethren, in conclusion, it is not the Masons who make the man better, but the man himself when subjected to Masonry's teachings.

Thank you,  
M.W. Bro. Allan J. Petrisor, Grand

*Much of the above thoughts have been acquired over many years and from many great Masonic writers whose efforts are gratefully acknowledged by the Grand Master.*

## *Around The Jurisdiction - Feedback On B 2 B Activities*

*The B2B Team is very grateful for the feedback that it receives from the lodges of the jurisdiction. Being able to highlight success stories plays an integral role in the creation of program momentum across this great Province. Learning from the success of others fosters a spirit of cooperation that we can all build on. The following was received from W. Bro. Douglas Gray, B2B Chairman for Alpha Tuscan Lodge No. 384 in Toronto East District.*

W. Bro. Gray reports that with the permission of the Worshipful Master, R.W. Bro. Darwin Willoughby, he developed some lodge goals for the 2008-2009 year; they included the following: Encourage the brethren to identify & realize their potential, Help build a shared common focus for the lodge, Develop a plan for communicating the B2B program & Advance the lodge in a positive direction. Following the approval of these goals the lodge moved forward with a parliamentary style survey of the membership. This resulted in some great discussion & it generated many ideas that were included in the lodge records. Two of the most discussed ideas were suggestions of getting to know our members better, by having them present a personal biography at a regular meeting and the other was the implementation of a second monthly meeting. The impetus to move forward was driven by a challenge set out in a recent edition of the B2B FaciliFacts; *"Take a calculated risk, enjoy the occasion and take the opportunity to get to know your fellow brethren better. You will reap the benefits of your initiatives; plus have fun planning & participating in them."* The lodge took up this challenge & both suggestions are being implemented.

The development of the "This Is My Life" program has begun, with a proposed format taking shape & a backgrounder being developed to outline the purpose of the program. The lodge is eagerly anticipating the start of this new program. W. Bro. Gray also reports that as a result of a recent B2B FaciliFacts, the lodge is now providing a hardcopy of the new pamphlet "The Masonic Family Welcomes Your Family to Freemasonry!" to all newly Initiated members.

## Notice

### To all B 2 B Lodge Chairmen or Team leaders

As we are now approximately three quarters of the way through the Masonic Year the B2B Team is eager to hear from each of you with the progress that you have each made. REVITALIZING your lodge is not something that can be accomplished in a few months and neither can it be accomplished in one short year. Improving the vitality of your lodge is like the principles of Freemasonry; It Must Be Lived to succeed.

At every visit and presentation that the team makes, we see evidence of the commitment that lodge members are making to improve the sustainability of their lodge. More and more lodges are having great success by engaging and involving the membership in activities within the lodge and the community.

The B2B Team asks that all Chairmen or Team Leaders keep us informed of your activities. Send us your **Feedback**. Provide a brief activity report informing us what B2B initiatives you have implemented and describe to us the difference they have made in your lodge. We will be pleased to include your success stories in an upcoming edition of the B2B FaciliFacts.

*Send your reports to VWBro. Iain Wates, B2B Team Leader, Lodge Resources Committee at ...*  
[idwates@sympatico.ca](mailto:idwates@sympatico.ca)