

**GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
Ottawa District 2**

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D.D.G.M.'s Monthly Message

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Brethren, over this past year I have noted in the reports from the Lodges that both our membership numbers and average attendance at meetings is waning. I came across the following poem that was circulated by V.W.Bro Cross, the Secretary of Renfrew Lodge several years ago and think we could draw some valuable lessons from it.

Ten Master Masons.

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine; one listened to a rumour and then there were nine.
Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late; one didn't like the "Master" and then there were eight.
Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven; one joined too many clubs and then there were seven.
Seven Master Masons, life dealt some hard licks; one grew discouraged and then there were six.
Six Master Masons, all very much alive; One lost his interest and then there were five.
Five Master Masons, wishing there were more; got into a great dispute and then there were four.
Four Master Masons, busy as could be; one didn't like the programs and then there were three.
Three Master Masons, was one of them you? One grew tired of all the work and then there were two.
Two Master Masons with so much to be done; One said "What's the use?" then there was one.

One Master Mason, found a brother - true! Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two.
Two Master Masons didn't find work a bore; each brought another and then there were four.
Four Master Masons saved their Lodge's fate; by showing others kindness, then there were eight.
Eight Master Masons, loving their Lodge's bright sheen; Talked so much about it, they soon counted sixteen.
Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true; were pleased when their number went to thirty-two.
So we can't put our troubles at the Lodge's door; it's our fault for harming, the Lodge we adore.
Don't fuss about the programs or the "Master" in the East; Keep your obligation by serving even the very least.

I am sure that we can all relate to one or more of the circumstances in the first part of the poem or know of brethren to whom they apply; however, let's not focus on the negatives. Instead, while we are on the summer break, start thinking about those brethren who don't actively participate in Lodge, get in touch with them and try to renew their interests that led them to join Freemasonry in the first place and have caused them to pay their dues and maintain that membership in the Craft.

Until next month, yours sincerely and fraternally,

R.W.Bro. Peter G. Harbert
District Deputy Grand Master