

The R.W. District Grand Master then delivered the following address:

Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Distinguished Brethren and Brethren.

My first pleasant duty must be to welcome all of you to this the Ceremony of my Installation. In this regard, I reserve a very special welcome for you Bro. Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing and Brothers Begg and McGhee who headed the Grand Lodge team that has done such a wonderful and novel job in installing me today. As far as the record shows this must be the first time in the over two hundred year history of this District that we have been so blessed. The memory of it will remain fresh in my mind as I perform my duties in this District Grand Lodge. Most Worshipful Grand-Master Mason we are indeed deeply honored and thank you most graciously for doing us such a great honour and making today such a memorable and historic event.

To the visiting Deputations I express my gratitude that you have graced us with your company and as I said in Trinidad we hope that this will mark a great change in how we relate to each other over the next five years of my incumbency.

To all my Jamaican brethren from all three Constitutions I thank you for turning out in such great numbers. My heart rejoices with you. Thanks and thanks again.

On behalf of the District Grand Lodge I wish to thank the out-going Commissioned Office-bearers for a job well done, especially Bro. Col. Lemuel Lindo, who directed the affairs of this District during the illness, and most notably, after the passing, of our late District Grand Master, Bro Frank Mitchell. I welcome the new team and put you on notice that much is expected of you. There is serious work to be done.

I welcome every Mason present here tonight and thank The Most High God that He led you to select me as your District Grand Master for the time being. I pray that He will continue to direct us and hold my hand as I come to grips with the duties of this office. I know I can depend on your support and that of the District Grand Lodge Office-bearers.

Without having wandered and stumbled and maybe fallen; without the encouraging words and the helping hand of a Brother, who if we are fortunate we may also call a friend, our lives could or would have been so very different. Most of us may never have been here tonight as Masons or be in the capacity in which we find ourselves within and out-with Freemasonry. In this regard I must thank my Proposer Bro Sylvester Morrison and my Seconder, the late Bro Hugh Wilson even as I acknowledge that the help, friendship and mentoring of Brother Bernard Wong has gone a long way in strengthening my Masonic commitment.

My fulsome thanks must also go to Lodge St. John. my Mother Lodge that grand old lady of 128 years, that moulded and nurtured me and afforded me the opportunity to develop Masonic confidence; also to Brothers Hugh Wynter and Neville Gibbs, for having spotted me, as I was only ten months out of the Chair of my Mother Lodge, when in November 1991, at their hands, I was made a Honorary Junior District Grand Deacon of this District.

Lastly, I thank all the many senior brethren who were always generous with their wise council and advice. I hope you will all be amply rewarded by my performance in this challenging position, etched as it is with the indelible mark of the greats that have preceded me. Brethren I have no intention of trying to copy any of them, I hope to make my own mark; and with the assistance of TGAOTU, I intend to be present, in the flesh, at the installation of my successor.

Brethren for this brief address to you I wish to focus on the saying: ***“It is the journey not the arrival that matters”***

My journey did not begin when I became a Freemason, but many years earlier, when my mother

inculcated in me four great lessons. The first is, ***“work hard and sincerely at whatever you choose to do, however humble; you will be greatly rewarded”***. The second is, ***“Share; share freely with everyone; not just with those you judge to be needy but with anyone who will receive. You will benefit from the sheer joy that comes from giving”***. The third is, ***“Choose your friends carefully, but who ever you choose, never allow yourself to be pulled down by them; carry yourself so that they will be lifted up to you”*** The fourth and last lesson she taught is, ***“Whatever you do, be honest. You can fool everyone around you but yourself; your actions will always betray your guilt”***

My mother was a woman wise beyond her humble circumstances and education and whenever she caught me out as I tried to cover up a misdeed, would use a phrase which to the best of my knowledge she coined and which with great effort, I have resisted the temptation to claim. She would say, “Ruddy, don’t lie to me, ***‘Your action speaks so loudly I can hardly hear you’***”. I think you will forgive me that I find comfort not in the philosophy of one of the greats but in the wisdom of a humble and proud mother. These, what we call in Freemasonry, tenets of life, have lived with me and guided me successfully up to the time I became a Freemason, nearly twenty-seven years ago and more since. You see Brethren, ***Masonry Begins At Home, “For what we seek in Masonry was there within us all along but be bothered not to possess it”***. (L. Moore)

That I stand before you today “on the floor of my new assignment” is testimony to the fact that I have learned and applied my mother’s lessons well and that on the journey they have been beautified and adorned by an Institution whose aim is to make good men better men; ***to erect superstructures perfect in all its parts***, on the foundations of the good men we admit to our Order.

However Brethren, my own experience speaks to one thing other, ***“The importance of mentoring”*** to the young Masons into our Lodges. Every young Mason, with a little guidance and help from an older and more experienced Mason, is a potential ruler of the Craft.

Every bright young Mason we engage has the potential to reshape the course of Masonic history and add to its already glorious luster. Every young Mason we nurture and retain is a source of life for the institution, literally a reservoir for Masonic resuscitation, for it is he who will bring in the next young Mason and the next, and the next by sevens.

That I can stand before you today, and on the floor of the Lodge, is testimony to the fact that anyone of you young Masons can aspire to be District or Provincial Grand Master; a Grand Master even; and I sincerely hope that maybe in my lifetime we will speak with one voice rejoicing in the pride of territorial Grandness.

That I stand on the floor of the Lodge to address you today symbolizes many other things, some of which you will readily decipher, but most importantly, it conveys that I will not hold myself above you in the mission to lift every Jamaican Mason, English and Irish included, up the Masonic Ladder of knowledge; that the only route to the top is from the floor; and that I will not allow you to isolate me on an elevated platform but will continue to work with you ***‘on the level’***, so that we may grow together; together in harmony and love to build a gentler more harmonious Masonry; a Masonry characterized by Charity, Tolerance and Compassion. A Masonry where merit is the only basis for reward; where Integrity walks proudly and uprightly and where we so value each other’s opinion that we can boast transparency in all the business of our District.

So now you think that the journey is over and I may be deemed to have arrived; but, arrived where I ask? Is the journey ended? For me the answer is no. For me, my new role as District Grand Master is but a new beginning; a new challenge; a challenge not simply to maintain but to build. To build on the fine legacy of those who have passed this way before me. After some of the events of the past year, I consider it my task to reassure our predecessors in their uneasy slumber, and to restore to them, their pride in this monument that they have ***buildded***. I intend ***“to make a difference”***. Freemasonry is as old as the hills but it is its willingness to do what it must to remain relevant that has assured its preservation and longevity. I am sure you will support me as I strive to make that difference.

My Brethren, many years ago Freemasonry became my second family and now that I have the honour and privilege to lead this District, I consider it my duty to put it to work “*with good and wholesome advice and council and with LOVE*”, and to nurture it with tender loving care. In this regard, as is my charge, I cannot over-emphasize that I will work to build a more loving and gentle Masonry. A Masonry where we speak to each other in gentle, friendly and conciliatory tones, and demonstrate respect for the most junior among us; a Masonry where the word **Brother** is not just a title but implies that we share the concerns of every man that bears this title; a Masonry where we respect the feelings of our Brethren, for if we do we will be sensitive to do in his presence only those things which are MASONIC in nature; and most importantly, those things that take full account of his comfort. Not that we encourage you to do un-Masonic things when no one is looking, BUT if you must, please keep it to yourselves, we will NOT hear of it.

Brethren, I have many plans for Scottish Freemasonry in Jamaica but I will spare them for the next Quarterly Communication which is only a few weeks away when I will deliver a policy statement outlining my plans for the next year in particular and the five in general. I will close with the promise that, “*I vow to lead you well and wisely with much emphasis on Charity, Kindness, Love and Respect; and a high regard for INTEGRITY*”

Brethren please join me as we pray THE MASON’S PRAYER to be found on the inside back cover of the Commemorative booklet:

*Lord we ask Thy blessing to,
Guide our footsteps so they go
Only to those places that are acceptable to Thee,
Guide our hands so that they to give
Freely rather than receive.*

*Guide our thoughts so that they
Know to espouse Thee constantly, and
Guide our tongues so that we speak not
Of what we see and hear, but
Only of what is complimentary and good*

*Lord, so that at the end of our journey
We may leave bold footprints for our successors to follow,
Laudable works their hands to continue,
And volumes of spoken and written words
For them to ponder in their moments of introspection,
All of this we humbly ask of Thee
Thou great and Omnipotent ruler off all, TGAOTU
Amen. So mote it be.*

Brethren the word is LOVE.

May you enjoy the remainder of the proceedings and may the Lord bless and keep you all.

Lloyd R. Moore
Installation Ceremony- Hilton Hotel
February 16, 2007