

## Grand Lodge Presentation

Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, distinguished Brethren and Brethren all we bring warm fraternal greetings from Jamaica.

Most Worshipful we thank you for your most gracious welcome and the brethren for the hospitality we have been experiencing since arriving here in Scotland. We thank you too Brethren for the way you acknowledged this welcome but your approving applause was so haughty that already I am thinking that should I receive one half, no one quarter of it when I am finished, I will be well pleased; even as I must admit that standing here I find that I could do with a wee drop of rum to steady my nerves, but alas it is now too late.

Brethren when the history of Jamaican Freemasonry for this era is written it will record that in June 2008 the largest deputation on record consisting of twenty eight Freemasons accompanied by fifteen wives, set off from Jamaica to visit the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It will also record that in February 2007 the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Sir Archibald Orr Ewing presided at the largest assembly of Freemasons on record in the English speaking Caribbean. It consisted of over five hundred and fifty brethren who came to witness the installation of the District Grand Master and Officer-bearers of the District Grand Lodge of Jamaica. What it may not have recorded, had I not stated it here today, is the excellence of the work done by your Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Brother Ramsay McGhee and Grand

Secretary, Brother David Begg. What it may also not have recorded, is how much of a hit they were with us. Brethren, they stole our hearts. Their presence has given a tremendous boost to Scottish Freemasonry in Jamaica, and has enhanced the esteem in which we hold the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason it has also restored in us a sense of pride to be Scottish Masons and inspired us not just to preserve but to embellish and expand Scottish Freemasonry in Jamaica as expressed in the initiatives we undertook shortly after you left our shores.

Brethren, we decided that it could no longer be business as usual and in spite of some reservations divided our District into two Divisions each headed by a Substitute District Grand Master. We revised our Bye-laws and appointed three Lecturers mandating them to set a full program of Masonic education within each Division. The District Grand Lodge Office-bearers were increased and allocated in such a manner as to support official visitations within the boundaries of each Division.

In addition, the strengthening of each Lodge and identifying methods to increase membership received more than passing attention. Finally, we replaced the old secret method of recommending appointments to the District and as a bit of encouragement mandated that reporting by Masters and Substitute District Grand Masters play a significant role in the process.

Measured by the results we have seen it appears that these bold initiatives are working well. Our young Brethren seem more interested and informed and already we are reaping

rewards in increased membership. Intra visitations have improved, joint functions are now more common and brethren are better acquainted. Notably, there is an air of excitement as attendance at our last two Communications was at record levels. The last was open only to Scottish Brethren to encourage participation in discussions on matters of importance as cautiously we recognize that each Brother is entitled to a voice and that the future of Freemasonry in this modern world of bright educated men and competing attractions depends heavily on being able to exercise that right in a disciplined but open manner. All of this is happening when a few months ago we consecrated our twentieth daughter, Lodge Portmore, and a few weeks later consecrated its own Lodge building in a new city that holds great prospect for more Lodges. Also worthy of note is that we are planning a new Lodge to accommodate the Lecturers and to be responsible for Research, preservation of local Masonic history and training for the entire District. It will be supported by a website soon to be launched. It appears that Scottish Freemasonry is indeed invigorated and alive and well in Jamaica. Brethren, the real message I bring is that as leaders we ought not to be bashful to post on our Trestle Boards bold plans worthy of the support of the brethren we lead and to initiate change where necessary being ever mindful to preserve the traditions of your Lodges and the Landmarks of this wonderful institution.

Before ending I would like to acknowledge the support and assistance we received from Brothers Ramsay McGhee and

Ken McNab in planning this trip, we heartily thank them and the Scottish Brethren who have so warmly welcomed us. We will be most happy to reciprocate and invite you to visit our beautiful Island soon.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, like your father, you have written a wonderful chapter in the history of Scottish Freemasonry. It is a chapter full of love, graciousness and a high regard for your brethren, of which you can be justly proud. It was wonderful to have lived it with you, in my own small way, and our sons will delight to read of it. May The Most High bless you with long life and an abundance of happiness.

My Scottish Brethren, once again you have captured our hearts and we will be delighted to return. One of the gifts we brought you is wonderful Jamaican weather but we can give you no assurance that it will remain with you after we have returned.

Lloyd R. Moore  
District Grand Master  
Grand Lodge Communication  
June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Presented at the Grand lodge of Scotland at its June 2008  
Communication.