

# Masonry IN ACTION

## Masons hand over charity of over R1 000 000!



*District Grand Master Gerald Fotinakis hands over a cheque of R1 000 000 to a representative of Woodside Childrens Home.*

March 7th , UGLE District of SA North held annual banquet where a cheque for R1m was given to Woodside (a childrens home) at the same function an additional cheque for R200k was given to Forest Town School (info on site) for the purchase of specialised software for the children. In excess of 150 brethren, wives and guests attended this function.

### Wheelchairs made available!

Through a generous donation made by the TIMC (Transvaal Interconstitutional Masonic Charity) we have purchased 20 Wheelchairs. These will be made available to brethren and their immediate families on short term loans.

A deposit will be requested to provide for the MSC to maintain the wheelchairs . If you need to loan a wheelchair contact your MSC representative to arrange it.

# Tarentaal recieves Christmas Hampers



*Distinguished brethren with some of happy residents of Tarentaal Retirement Village.*

As you may or may not know, Brethren of the Emrys Lodge were instrumental - with members of Lodge Lurgan (I.C.) and Princes of the Rosepark Rose Croix Chapter - in starting a food assistance scheme for the aged at the Tarentaal Village.

After hosting three Rose Croix lunches at the Tarentaal hall, we were surprised at the number of "oldies" that asked for left-overs after each function. This prompted an investigation by one of our own, who is resident at the village. He, along with one of the ladies, invited themselves to "tea" at the flatlets of those folk trying to manage on a government pension (R970.00) minus R400.00 for rent i.e. on R570.00 PM. The findings were SHOCKING!

Although their flats were spic and span, their cupboards were bare of provisions between 7 and 10 days before month end.

These are our MOMS and DADS. Some have, due to inflation, outlived their pensions. Some have little left after medical expenses. Mostly, they have been neglected by family who perhaps can't help or who have emigrated. The forgotten tribe who actually built the country. Their plight is a shocking testament to the decline of the moral and social fibre of our society.

SO, in step the Freemasons.

Discussions with the "office" at Tarentaal and the investigatory visits, identified EIGHTY people as those existing on government pensions, only with no outside assistance.

In the first year, Emrys, Lurgan and Rosepark each put R2500 into the pot to assist the FOURTEEN worst cases with a packet of provisions each month. The decision was taken to deliver (by hand) the packages directly to each of the recipients to preserve their pride and self respect. Their gratitude for even such limited assistance was heart-warming. (Colin Smit would interject here by saying "pass the tissues" if he was writing this....the old softie!)

In the second and subsequent years, we were able to increase the number of packages, mainly due to our then organiser (Charity Steward), the inimitable Percy Jackson, squeezing Pick 'N Pay for a R5000 donation. The next year, the squeezing continued with R10,000 cash or R20,000 of food (which we took) and last year, a donation of R50,000 of food. What a boykie! We look forward to his organisation skills providing this assistance for years to come.



*Santa and his elves hard at work.*

Along with increased amounts from Rosepark, Lurgan and individual donations - we now deliver to all EIGHTY of the needy at the village.

The amounts may seem large, but when divided by 80 people and again by 12 (months), it amounts to + R58.00 worth of groceries each month....which are very gratefully received.

What would otherwise have been a bleak Christmas, was brightened by 40 Christmas hampers gifted via the Masonic Services Committee from the T.I.M.C. (Transvaal Inter Constitutional Masonic Charities). These hampers were divided in two and added to our usual monthly delivery, to provide a bumper package of cheer. We received many cards and letters expressing the recipients' blessings and thanks.

This is truly MASONRY IN ACTION.

Many thanks to Chris Reynolds, our Masonic Services Committee Member, for his hard work and generosity, as well as Chris and Christine, Tony O'Shea, Keith Landro and Jun\_Kretzschmar for their assistance with the making up and delivery of parcels to the "oldies." Anybody who would like to help on the last Monday of the month is most welcome.

A collection box for canned food is to be placed at Park Lane shortly (with the blessing of the DGM). I really would appeal to all brethren to bring in a few cans of food each time they visit PARK LANE. I will try my best to HI-JACK a proportion for our Tarentaal oldies.

My thanks in anticipation for your generosity.

Yours fraternally,

**Brian Kretzschmar**



*The Emrys Lodge lads and lasses.*



*The Lodge Lurgan lads.*

## In Appreciation

27 January 2009

The Chairman, Masonic Services

Dear Sir

Re: Food Sponsorship for those in desperate need.

Would you please pass on the grateful thanks of all the needy pensioners at the Tarentaal Retirement Village for the wonderful sponosrship from the Masonic Services Committee.

Your generous donation of 40 magnificent Christmas Hampers made a significant difference to what would have been a rather bleak festive season season for these elderly pensioners.

Yours faithfully,

David Levy

Distribution Convener, Rand Aid

# “Stranger Danger”

A presentation and talk on the environment our children and grandchildren face, were held on the 30th of March, at the Orange Grove Masonic Centre.

The talk was open to friends, family and the general public, and carried a PG13 content rating.

The main speaker for the event was Bro Capt

Colin Morris, of the Witwatersrand Lodge.

The talks covered important topics like sexual, physical and family child abuse, as well as how existing and new legislation protects children.

Important information about technology and our children was also discussed, and covered items like Mixit, Facebook and Youtube.

After a session for questions, a talk was also

presented on Freemasonry and the community.

Colin Morris is the head reservist of the Randburg Child Protection unit, a level 5 paramedic, and is currently studying towards a LLM (Child Witness) at NMMU. He lectures to Life line counsellors, Police reservists, and has worked with numerous international Police Departments.

## Free Masons learn from Clem Sunter



Brethren from the Free Masons Lodge of Kendal Franks 265, of the Irish Constitution, recently held their first annual Open Lecture evening at Carnival City.

Scenario planner Clem Sunter was the speaker at the function, which proved to be a great success.

Scenario planning is not about predicting the future, but rather identifying trends and exploring their implications.

Trends can be political, economic, social or technological.

Sunter, who was voted by leading South African CEOs as the speaker who has made the most significant contribution to, and impact on best practice and business in the country, gave a talk on “The World and South Africa in 2010”.

The talk focused on what the global economy might look like in 2010, its uncertainties and other scenarios, as well as South Africa's possibilities within the global context.

“We wanted the function to be an interesting and neutral platform for the public to interact with masonry,” said the lodge's past Worshipful Master Gerhard Cilliers.

The lodge has entered into negotiations to secure well-known entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson as the speaker for next year's function. Members of the public interested in Free Masonry can contact Cilliers on 083 632 1952 for more information.

*Distinguished brethren in attendance at the annual Open Lecture evening of the Free Mason Lodge of Kendal Franks 265, included Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Masters Koos Gouws (second from left) and Gawie Rousseau (right). They are seen with past Worshipful Master Gerhard Cilliers and speaker Clem Sunter.*



*Gerhard Cilliers (left), past Worshipful Master of the lodge of Kendal Franks 265, presented speaker Clem Sunter with a certificate.*

## New centre brings hope for disabled children

Pathways is a stimulation centre for children with special needs.

The eight Pathways centre in South Africa was officially opened on Wednesday, 22 October 2008, in Mookgopong (Nabookspruit).

Pathways Naboom opened its doors on 10 January 2009 at 62 Seventh Street on a premise made available by Mr. Wimpie Botha.

A correspondent explained that for each child, a unique program is developed according to their special needs to comprehensively develop them.

The children are equipped and prepared for all challenges on their life path. “The Children must also feel that they are ordinary, and that they can function normally within the society.”

Therapist from Pathways in Polo wane told guests about their own success stories, and how they joined in at Michell House to make the children feel just as normal as other kids in their care.

The children are even taken to shops and nurseries to buy their own goods like anybody else, to make them feel actively involved in day-to-day life.

The centre also serves as a support group for parents that experience serious emotional and financial difficulties, to ensure that they can best provide for their children.

To keep the centre running is a very expensive undertaking, though. They want to be able to pay the teachers competitive salaries, and because the class groups are so small, urgent funds are needed.

Pathways is dependent on donors, and request everybody in the community to open their hearts to the children, and give their support. Debit orders and any donations like stationery and groceries are always welcomed.

Please feel free to contact Pathways in Mookgopong by phone on 076 766 2484. Banking details are as follows: Pathways Naboom; Cheque Acc. 621 7895 0913; FNB Naboomspruit.

# Sunday, sweet Sunday



*Donation of sweets and cool drinks to children at the Sunday School at St Patrick's Church, Malvern by George Buchanan assisted by Helen Charlesworth on behalf of Masonic Services.*

## One man's junk is another man's gold

It is a privilege to be a Freemason and to be able to subscribe, without reservation, to a set of principles, which are exemplary in the modern world. The support structures which freemasonry affords its members depend on the collective efforts of individuals within its ranks. These individuals give freely of their time to ensure that the charitable goals of the organisation are achieved.

The Masonic Services Committee is a team of brethren, with representatives from all the Masonic constitutions, who provide ongoing assistance to various charities and welfare organisations throughout the province, by personally organising and distributing much needed items donated by various lodges, members and constitutions. This is not economic relief, but rather practical items that will clothe, feed or benefit the recipients on a very practical level.

With this in mind, we request you to take a moment to check that storage cupboard, unpacked box, garage and store room, and take out all the "stuff" you no longer use, wear or want, and bring it along to any of our meetings, where we will gladly take it from you and make sure that it gets to someone who could really benefit from it.

Current projects for which items required include:

### Appliances

Functioning domestic appliances are collected and distributed to causes considered worthy by the Committee. Old age homes and Shelters are hopelessly underfunded since Government subsidies have been reduced and by donating domestic hardware to them, it allows them to

deploy the funds they are able to raise to more immediate needs.

### Blankets

Blankets are supplied to relieve the cold and misery of the underprivileged during the cold of a Highveld winter.

### Books and magazines

Books and magazines are available to provide entertainment for those who are restricted in their movements. They are used to stock libraries at Old age homes. They are also available for individual Lodges to sell at "Book sales" in order to raise funds for their charity collections.

### Cards and toys

Used cards, such as birthday and Christmas, are given to Old age homes where the inmates recycle them. They take the pictures and recreate the backing and inside message. This provides exercise for stiff fingers and income for the home when sold at their fund raising efforts. Toys are always welcome at children's homes.

### Clothing and food

Items of food and used clothing are collected and distributed to needy causes such as shelters and feeding schemes. Surplus clothing is available for Lodges to sell at "Jumble Sales".

### Computers

Redundant computers are donated to schools, rehab centres and deserving individuals.

### Employment

The loss of a job in the current workplace is devastating. This portfolio attempts to use the network to relieve the impact of this loss.

### Entertainment.

Pensioners are entertained each year.

### Masonic regalia

Un-needed regalia is collected, identified and recycled into the fraternity as a source of funds.

### Spectacles

Complete spectacles and single lenses are supplied to "Operation Brightsight".

### Stamps

South African stamps are "foreign" outside of our shores. The stamps complete with envelope, are collected and processed by handicapped persons to whom it provides therapy and a source of income.

### Wheelchairs

MSC has a number of wheelchairs and walking aids that are available to Masons who meet with a temporary crisis in mobility. A phone call is all that is required.

### Plastic containers

Plastic containers of 500ml and upward are desperately required by Meals on Wheels. They are used to distribute food. Containers represent a significant drain on the limited resources of this well respected organisation.

### Christmas parcels

Food hampers are distributed to worthy recipients identified by your Lodge. It is always a joy to see the look on the face of a Masonic widow when you have just provided those "unaffordable extras" for the festive season.

The dedicated Brethren who man the above projects are only too aware of the proverb "many hands make work light". A few Lodges have taken the concept of MSC to their hearts and support their undertakings without reservation. We would like to spread the load and hence are appealing to you to consider implementing the following actions in your Lodge:

- 1 To include the MSC report in the agenda of your meeting.
- 2 To appoint a member of the Lodge to be the MSC representative.
- 3 To provide us with an address, preferably e-mail, for that representative.
- 4 To encourage your representative to attend the monthly meeting of MSC, which lasts for approximately 1 hour.
- 5 To encourage your Brethren to donate to the above projects. We do not want your money, we would like your "cast offs", which we can then recycle.
- 6 Create a "collection point" at the Masonic Complex at which you meet and then, if your representative cannot deliver to Park Lane, some one else will on your behalf.

We trust that you will be able to motivate a positive response from your Lodge and that you will soon become one of our staunchest supporters.

May I be presumptuous and leave you with the following quotation from Samuel Johnson. "He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything". If every Brother gives a little, we can achieve a lot.

Yours fraternally,  
D J Duncan.