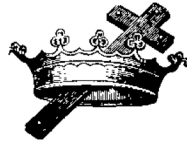


ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT

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KNIGHT MASONS MEET

Vulcan Council # 22, Knight Masons USA met at the Birmingham Metro York Rite on March 14th for a regular meeting. We were also pleased to induct seven new cousins into the Order. The next meeting of Vulcan Council is scheduled for Oct 10th.



Pictured from left to right:
Cousins; Chris Atchley, Leonard Easter, Don Beasley, Nathan Godwin, Brian Autrey & Joel Bryant. Jeff Green was also part of the class but not pictured.

GRAND PRELATE'S APARTMENT

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged"—Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

When my wonderful wife of over 56 years, Libby, died suddenly last July, I was totally unprepared for the desolation her loss created in my life. Thankfully, I had family and friends who were then and still are a source of comfort and strength to me, yet I had a very difficult time working through my grief and sorrow.

During my daily devotional and prayer time a few weeks after her passing, I was led to the Bible passage quoted above. This was Moses speaking to Joshua, who was about to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. And then I realized I was like Joshua, fearful of what might lay ahead as I was entering an "unknown land", in my case a life without my helpmate of over half a century.

GRAND PRELATE'S APARTMENT (CONT.)

Although I have missed my wife so much, my faith has sustained me. I have learned that God is with us in our losses, that we can rejoice knowing that our loved ones are with God and his Son Jesus in heaven. And I am persuaded that the words of Isaiah are true: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand...For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."* Isaiah 41: 10, 13.

In His Name,
George Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT, KGT
Grand Prelate

THE CARPENTER'S TOOLS

Brother Hammer served as the chairman. The other members of the tool belt informed him that he must leave, because he was too noisy. But brother Hammer said, "If I have to leave this carpenter's shop, then brother Gimlet must go too. He's insignificant and makes a very small impression." (A gimlet is a small tool with a screw point, grooved shank, and a cross handle for boring holes).

Little brother Gimlet arose and said, "All right, but brother Screwdriver must go also. You have to turn him around and around to get anywhere with him."

Brother Screwdriver turned to the other tools in the belt and said, "If you wish, I will go, but brother Plane must leave too. All of his work is on the surface; there's no depth to what he does."

To this brother Plane leveled his terse reply, "Well, then, brother Saw will have to depart too. The changes he proposes always cut too deep."

Brother Saw complained, saying, "Brother Ruler will have to withdraw if I leave, for he's always measuring other folks as though he were the only one who is right."

Brother Ruler then surveyed the group and said, "Brother Sandpaper doesn't belong here either. He's rougher than he ought to be, and is always rubbing people the wrong way."

In the midst of the discussion, the Carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He had come to perform his day's work. He put on His tool belt and went to the workbench to make a pulpit. He employed the ruler, the saw, the plane, the hammer, the gimlet, the screwdriver, the sandpaper, and all the other tools. When the day's work was over, the pulpit was finished, and the carpenter went home. All the accusations against each of these tools were absolutely true, yet the carpenter used every one of them. No matter which tool He used, no other tool could have done the work better.

You and I are God's "tools". While we have our flaws, each of us has a purpose, ability, and a task to perform. Won't you let God use you today?

-- Author Unknown
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