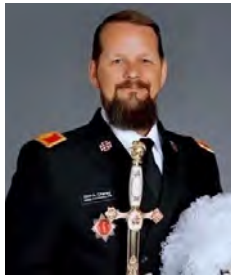


**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for June 2024**

Web Site



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GRAND COMMANDERS MESSAGE

The year has started with a flurry of activity, and we are well on our way to an energetic Templar Year! Since Grand Sessions at the end of April, I have had the honor and privilege of visiting a few of our important partners in York Rite. In May, the Knight Masons, USA, the Allied Masonic Degrees, and the Oklahoma York Rite College received and acknowledged our York Rite leaders during their spring meeting. Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Blaine McKnight, Most Illustrious Grand Master James R. Taylor, and I were officially recognized during the Oklahoma Grand Assembly of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls over the Memorial Day weekend. Congratulations to Miss Elisa Gregg on a fantastic year as Grand Worthy Advisor 23-24! It is always such an honor to spend time with those most responsible for the care and direction of our several Masonic orders both adults and our youth.

On the horizon, the calendar is full of wonderful events. We are beginning our visitation and inspection season. As you are aware, this year will function a bit different than years past. Each Commandery has selected a date to host the office of Grand Commander at their individual Commanderies. They will each perform the opening ceremony, receive the Grand Commandery Officers present, and close. The Recorder's books and operation will also be reviewed. The important distinction this year is that the Order of the Temple, our most impressive and instructional ceremony of the Commandery, will be performed at the discretion of

each Commander. This will be a competition mechanism to encourage esprit-de-corps and morale within each Commandery. All York Rite Commanders are encouraged to compete and to instill pride and growth in the Knights of their Commandery.

We have worked with the Commanders to give ample time for them to get a new member through the degrees of the Chapter and Council and be prepared to perform during the competitive portion with a live candidate. I look forward with great anticipation, to visiting each body, and observing the work the Knights have worked so hard to learn.

Let us remember that is not a “go through the motions” exercise. We must see each scene of each degree as it is intended. It is to teach an important lesson to us as we travel through the different time settings and conditions they illustrate. These degree ceremonies culminate with some of the most beautiful lessons in all of Freemasonry and we should strive to share them with our Christian Brothers.

This summer and fall bring us many more opportunities to be involved in events outside of the Commandery. In June, the Order of DeMolay of Oklahoma will hold their annual Grand Conclave where I will have opportunity to visit with many young men in the Order who are poised to enter their formidable years. Congratulations to the newest DeMolay Chapter in Mangum, the Nemesis Chapter. We know we will see you there and just maybe you will begin your history of award winning.

In September, the Social Order of the Beauceant will be holding their Annual Supreme Assembly in Tulsa. This event will take place September 24-26, 2024. I am calling on all Sir Knights who may be interested and available to join me there to perform escort duties for these great ladies who support our Grand Commandery. More information and times will be published later to all the Commanders. We will also perform the Arch of Steel for our National Colors. Additionally, Save-the-Date for our upcoming York Rite Department Conference which will be in Tulsa 20-21 September! Visit okyorkrite.org to find out more.

In conclusion, I want to thank every Sir Knight within our great State of Oklahoma and beyond. It is all of you that make up the Grand Commandery. This vital arm of Freemasonry not only stands for and defends the Christian religion but extends its teachings and lessons throughout our world and our Fraternity. I

am truly honored to serve you in this role. Thank you for this amazing experience and I stand ready to serve you in our Saviors name.

Sir Knight Glen A. Chaney
REGC



GRAND PRELATE'S MESSAGE

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. (Acts 11:25-26)

Do you recall what David did after he killed Goliath? God had already appointed the young shepherd as the next king of Israel. Most young conquerors would have located the nearest Macy's and tried on crowns. Not David. He went right back to the Judean hills to keep his father's sheep—a true shepherd with a servant's heart.

Paul kept a similar vigil in Tarsus. He waited patiently until Barnabas tapped him on the shoulder. Only then did he step into that critical, highly visible role of leadership. I find nothing more attractive in a gifted and competent leader than authentic humility. Paul's giftedness was framed in the crucible of solitude where he had been honed and retooled by the living Christ.

The evangelist Dwight L. Moody, although unschooled, was a gifted man of God preaching in Birmingham, England, far back in 1875. A noted congregational minister and well-respected theologian, Dr. R. W. Dale, cooperated in that enormously successful campaign. After watching and listening to Moody preach and witnessing the incredible results of the ministry of that simple man, Dr. Dale wrote in his denominational magazine, "I told Mr. Moody that the work was most plainly of God, for I could see no real relation between him and what he had done. Moody laughed cheerily and said, 'I should be very sorry if it were otherwise.'" No

defensiveness, no feeling of being put upon, no embarrassing uneasiness. Moody was the most surprised of anyone that God chose to use him so mightily.

That was Paul. No wonder Barnabas wanted Paul to lead the program in Antioch. What a duet they sang! For an entire year these two men served side by side, and God was greatly glorified.

I love Warren Wiersbe's succinct definition of ministry: "Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God." Paul and Barnabas could have sat for that portrait. Why did Paul and Barnabas experience such pleasure in serving together? No competition. No battle of egos. No one threatened by the other's gifts. No hidden agendas. No unresolved conflicts. Their single-minded goal was to magnify Christ. It didn't matter if the crowds multiplied to thousands or shrank to only a few. All that mattered was that Christ be proclaimed and worshipped.

Praise God for the power of two!

Respectfully submitted.
Sir Knight Steven Cox
Excellent Grand Prelate