



DISPATCHES



SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA

Spring Issue 2025

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By Issue of the Supreme Grand Master
M. Em. Kt. Clive Stephenson G.C.T.





From the Supreme Grand Master

Sir Knights,

Welcome to the updated version of the “*Dispatches from Headquarters*”.

The Dispatches were an excellent communication tool and have been produced by the Sovereign Great Priory since 2010. Before this, we had a very successful newsletter called the Beauseant. Both of these publications provided messages from the Senior Officers of Sovereign Great Priory and interesting articles related to Knight Templarism. As I promised at my address in Regina, I want to take the current “*Dispatches from Headquarters*” and expand it to include more good news stories from the Preceptories of our Great Priory. I also want to expand on educational elements where possible. This issue is the first step in

expanding this medium to tell the stories that need to be told, and to provide interesting educational articles.

I am grateful to Em. Kt. Alistair Munro of Burleigh Preceptory No. 21 and Sir Kt. Preston Meyer of Edmonton Preceptory No. 46 for agreeing to be the Editors of this publication. Distribution will continue through the Valley Registrars, and as such, they will be an important conduit for sharing the information we want to provide. In addition, the newsletter will be posted on our website.

I mentioned that, in part, I wanted this publication to tell the good stories of our Preceptories, and the sources of these stories are you, the members of Sovereign Great Priory. Contained in this issue are instructions regarding guidelines for the submission of articles and where to send them. Tell us about the summer BBQ you had, the amalgamation ceremony, the rededication of the Chapel, the milestone anniversary, and anything else that demonstrates what a vibrant and relevant organization we are. Share your ideas, pass on educational material, and anything else that may be of benefit to your Brother Knights. We will try to print all that fits the message we are trying to convey.

It was only 5 months ago that I had the distinct honour of being installed as your Supreme Grand Master. What a special ceremony! The Assembly in Regina is something I will never forget. I am deeply indebted to my Installing Supreme Grand Master, M. Em. Kt. Gerry Tetzloff G.C.T. for carrying out this duty and for his prior and continued guidance and support. I have assumed the responsibility of this high office from my predecessor, M. Em. Kt. Geoff Perry G.C.T. exhibited, in the carrying out

of his duties, the dedication to Sovereign Great Priory that was the hallmark of those who served before him. Going forward, I fully realize the challenges ahead and the responsibility I have inherited from these great men who have come before me.

And how can I not mention our Grand Chancellor, R. Em. Kt. Howard Adams, K.C.T., and recognize him for all he does for Grand Priory and his assistance to me as Supreme Grand Master.

So, what have I been up to since Regina? Immediately following our Assembly in Regina I spent five days at the Triennial of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The welcome was warm, and the visit was filled with many fraternal offerings. They only meet in Assembly nationally every three years, so this was something that I, as your representative, simply had to attend. I must say that I learned quite a bit from attending and am extremely grateful for the assistance given by the Canadian Knights that accompanied me on the trip.

On Saturday, September 7th, I attended the Consecration of the Preceptory Chapel for Offanto Preceptory No. 40 at the Port Elgin Masonic Hall. I was warmly welcomed, had a great meal, and participated in a very well-delivered ceremony. My thanks to the Knights of Offanto Preceptory and the visitors for a memorable first duty in my home province.

I followed this up between September 10th and 14th by representing Sovereign Great Priory as an invited guest at the 150th Session of Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada, in Ottawa. This was the 150th Anniversary of the Supreme Council in Canada, and there was

representation from many Scottish Rite and other Masonic bodies. I was honoured and pleased to be able to attend to represent and promote our Sovereign Great Priory.

On September 16th I completed an Official Visit to Harington Preceptory, No. 14 in North Bay. I was warmly received by a Preceptory I know very well and am an Honorary member of. They had an excellent program including an order and a very nice repast.



On the 19th of September, I flew to Calgary, Alberta, and from there traveled to Lethbridge to officiate at the rededication of Acre Preceptory No. 66 and to take part in their 100th Anniversary celebrations. What a special event with a very special rededication ceremony and a well-run social event. To say I was treated royally by the brethren of Acre Preceptory would be an understatement. Special thanks go out to R. Em. Kt. Don Gillies K.C.T., V. Em. Kt. Jerry Kopp, Em. Kt. Gerald Waldren, R. Em. Kt. Terry Gould K.C.T., and Provincial Grand Prior R. Em. Kt. Rod Ponech. I am also grateful for the opportunity to attend the memorial service and masonic funeral of M. W. Bro. Kyle Scott, a recent Past Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. A very moving ceremony that was extremely well attended.

Then it was off west again, this time to Winnipeg, from October 9th to the 11th, to participate in the Amalgamation of King Edward Preceptory No. 24 and Mount

Carmel Preceptory No. 44, to become King Edward Preceptory No. 24. Any amalgamation tends to be a bit of a split emotionally; part being sadness that a preceptory is ending its singular journey, but part also in the hope for the future, that the amalgamation will result in a vibrant “new” entity going forward. The evening was well attended by knights from both preceptories, and I was extremely pleased by the participation and positive attitude on display. There is definitely hope that this amalgamation will be successful.

I would like to thank all the Knights who were in attendance; through them, there is hope for the future. I would like to additionally thank R. Em. Kt. Cliff Hartmier, R. Em. Kt. Robert Willett, R. Em. Kt. Robert McMillan, R. Em. Kt. Tim King (P.G.P.), R. Em. Kt. Richard Laronde K.C.T. and Em. Kt. Jon Romu (P.P.) for the courtesies extended to me and their dedication to Sovereign Great Priory.



On October 19th, I attended a social event in North Bay which was put on to recognize the 150th Anniversary of Supreme Council, Scottish Rite, the 150th Anniversary of Harington Preceptory No. 14, and my investiture as Supreme Grand Master of Sovereign Great Priory. The apt name for the event was “Unity-in-Masonry” and my thanks go out to Em. Kt. Jacques Lacourse, Presiding Preceptor of Harington Preceptory, for his hard work in bringing this event together. However, as Jacques will easily concede, he had a great deal of help

from his lovely wife, Michelle. Of particular note were the donations of \$750 each to the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation and our own Knight Templar Charitable Foundation (K.T.C.F.). Our heartfelt thanks go out to the organizers for this donation.

On October 22nd, I was invited to and attended the Ontario Masonic Leadership Forum, held at the Grand Lodge offices in Hamilton, under the chairmanship of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, M.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland. This was an initial meeting between many of the “heads” of the various Masonic bodies in Ontario with the aim of forging closer ties and identifying common problems and solutions thereof. I felt that many important issues were presented, and the discussions were open, frank, and beneficial. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2025, again in Hamilton.

So, a busy couple of traveling months for your Supreme Grand Master, came to a bit of a halt on November 15th as I underwent total replacement of my left knee. The upside is that I have, over the past weeks, been able to catch up on many administrative matters and, as he will no doubt attest, be in closer contact with your Grand Chancellor. I think that’s a good thing...right? As I write, the surgery staples are out, and I am walking without a cane; in fact, my mobility is quite good, with no pain, and I am clear to drive again. So, very early in the New Year, I will be back to full duties.

My calendar over the next few months currently includes: a second visit to Harington Preceptory in North Bay for their Installation on January 20th; attendance at the Easter Service of the Grand Encampment Knight Templar USA, held in Alexandria

Virginia; attendance at the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Burlington, April 24th to 26th ; attendance at the Ottawa District Field Day in Kingston on May 3rd, attending the Grand Lodge Masonic Leaders Meeting on May 30th ; a London District Field Day in early June; participation in the Pilgrimage to the grave of Colonel MacLeod-Moore in Montreal on June 8th ; Official Visits to Mavar Preceptory in Sudbury on June 22nd , Gibson Preceptory in Sault Ste. Marie on October 2nd ; and attendance at various Grand Assemblies over the spring and summer.

One other event you should mark in your calendars is the 142nd Annual Assembly of Sovereign Great Priory, held in conjunction with the Grand Imperial Conclave of Canada, slated for August 18 and 19, 2025, in Montreal, Quebec. The host venue will be the Grand Lodge of Quebec. The event promises to be a little different this year, with plans in the works for a tour, a special degree, and a joint banquet, all in addition to the business of your Great Priory. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

In closing, I would like to recognize the support I have been so lucky to receive from so many of you. It is both humbling and invigorating to have this high level of support and to know we are all working for the benefit of our beloved Grand Priory. Stay safe and keep the faith.

Yours in the Bonds of Our Order

M. Em. Kt. Clive D. Stephenson, G.C.T.
Supreme Grand Master
Sovereign Great Priory of Canada
- Knights Templar



From the Grand Chancellor

Happy New Year Sir Knights,

It continues to be a pleasure to serve you as the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada. It has its challenges, but S.G.P. has a great leadership team that assists me in keeping the Sir Knights informed.

As we come to the end of January, I must remind all the Registrars that the Annual Returns and Financial Returns are due no later than **January 31st** (Statutes 6.10.1). Statutes 5.1.16: “A Preceptory that has not filed the Annual Return required by Statues 6.10.1 by the due date of January 31st, shall have a late penalty assessed on the first of February of \$25.00 and the penalty shall increase to \$50.00 for the second month, \$75.00 for the third month and \$100.00 for the fourth month. Returns not filed by May 31st will have their warrant suspended. These penalties may be waived by the Supreme Grand Master for compassionate reasons”.

Note to Registrars Regarding Summons:

Statutes 6.7.7.1: “He shall send copies of the summons of each assembly, regular or emergent, to the Supreme Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Prior, the Grand Chancellor, the Chairman of the Condition of the Order...” Their email

addresses can be found in the 2024-2026 Directory which has been forwarded.

The Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Conclave and Sovereign Great Priory 2025 will be held in Montreal, Quebec, August 17-20. Registration and Hotel information will be finalized and forwarded to all in the next few weeks.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,

R. Em. Kt. Howard Adams, K.C.T.
Grand Chancellor

From the Deputy Grand Master

Sir Knights,

I cannot begin to tell you how proud and pleased to be elected to the Office of Deputy Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada. It was an Office to which I had aspired for a number of years. My Masonic history has enabled me to gain some knowledge and experience which will be of great assistance to me in the years ahead.

I am planning, with the help of the officers—and, of course, my predecessors—to continue to lead and guide this body to a bright future. There will be certain challenges ahead (there always are), to which I plan to be part of the solution, and not part of the problem. During the next few years, I will endeavor to travel to meet various Preceptories across Canada to discuss with you how to move us forward in Freemasonry. I look forward to hearing everyone's thoughts on this. COVID has taught us that sometimes we need to think outside of the box to accomplish our goals while still retaining our rich history and practices.

Fraters, the winter season has returned, bringing not only colder weather but a return in earnest of our masonic duties and commitments, such as installations of new slates of Officers and—more importantly—the business of consecrating Knights into our Order.

During my visits and in the reading of those notices I have received, there appears to be a good number of candidates throughout the jurisdiction. This is great news!

Unfortunately, we are also in a period of having to watch Preceptories make the unpopular decision to close their doors. A number have chosen to amalgamate with another Preceptory in order to keep the Order alive in their area. I congratulate those of you who have decided to take what can sometimes be a difficult path.

Reasons for these decisions are varied, but they all fall into two categories: those that are out of our control to stop; and those in which we have some control to change. The first of these categories includes reasons such as attrition (we have yet to gain mastery over death) and members dealing with a change of lifestyle or work demands.

The second category is the one I would like to delve into a little more. One of these concerns has to do with retention. When a Knight demits, who is to blame? We might need to ask ourselves, where did *we* fail? What did we do or not do to cause this? Are our meetings plain old boring business meetings with no education, or a lack of welcoming involvement in our discussions? During the delivery of our ritual—including the opening and closing—what sort of demeanor do we display with respect to our candidates and towards ourselves? We need

to display the pride we have in ourselves, and in the fact that we are members of an august body called Sovereign *Great* Priory of Canada. We need to perform our tasks with some type of enthusiasm, not as if we were coerced into standing in for that night (even if we occasionally are). Read over your duties before the night, so that you are aware of what is asked of you. It is a fact that not all are ritualists. Some need to read their parts. If so, read your piece over a few times so that when it is delivered, there is meaning to the words, and not having your pieces sound as if the book had remained closed until that very second. Why would a new member invest their own time and money when it may appear to them that the Preceptory Officers seem themselves to be unconcerned in making a concerted effort?

I would like to continue in future dispatches to discuss possible ideas concerning membership and ways and means of retaining those excellent knights that are working hard in keeping our Sovereign Great Priory to the standards we all deserve.

Yours in the Bond of the Order

Rt. Em. Kt. Ken Overy, K.C.T.

Deputy Grand Master



From the Grand Chaplain

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

(Genesis 1:1-3)

If there's one common theme in Masonry, it's light. We are constantly admonished to seek further light in Masonry as soon as we become Entered Apprentices.

The prelude to Christmas begins in the Church with the season of Advent which simply means "coming," in anticipation of the birth of our Saviour. We decorate our houses and trees with festive lights and other ornaments. In our churches, we light a candle on each of the four Sundays before Christmas, representing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Finally, on Christmas, we light the fifth candle, the Christ candle, signifying the Light of the World.

The scriptures draw on light images as well. In the Gospel of Luke, Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, refers to Jesus as having come "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet unto the way of peace". (Luke

1:79) In describing the appearance of the angel of the Lord to the shepherds, Luke says “the glory of the Lord shone about them.” (Luke 2:9) And again, when Jesus is presented in the Temple, Simeon recognizes Jesus saying, “For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” (Luke 2:30-32)

John’s Gospel is the most specific, describing Jesus as the divine light of God: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him, nothing was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” (John 1:1-9)

The season of Christmas ends in Matthew’s Gospel with the arrival of the Magi, or wise men, seeking the King of the Jews. The journey from the East resulted from the appearance of a star, which they faithfully followed to Jerusalem, the place where they found the infant Jesus, presented Him with gifts, and worshipped Him.

But what is Masonic light? For us, the answer is found in John 8:12:

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”

We are called to seek the light of Jesus, to follow it as did the wise men. To seek the light is to walk the way of Jesus, following His teaching and imitating His love for all. The precepts of our Order give us all the instructions we need. Of particular importance are those precepts which speak to Jesus’ new commandment to “love one another as I have loved you”. (John 13:34)



In the fifth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, immediately following the Beatitudes, Jesus reflects on the emptiness of words without action and instructs us: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matt 5:16)

We might not be able to solve all the problems of the world, whether as individuals or bodies of Knights, but by acting in our daily lives as our precepts teach us, we may be an influence on others to assist in bringing the light of the Kingdom of God ever closer.

God bless you on your journey.

Rt. Em. Kt. Alan Akehurst, K.C.T.
Grand Chaplain



Unity in Strength: The Amalgamation of Two Preceptories

On October 10, 2024, King Edward Preceptory No. 24 welcomed the Sir Knights from Mount Carmel Preceptory No. 44 into the amalgamated King Edward Preceptory. Although this amalgamation was a necessary event, it was sorrowful to see another Preceptory go into darkness here in Manitoba. The Knights present at the ceremony, although it was a somber moment, left with a sense of enthusiasm and excitement for the future. It had been a long while since the room was full of the colours of the Knights in full regalia.

Sir Knights, today marks a significant moment in our shared journey as we witness the union of two noble Preceptories into one. This amalgamation is not an end, but a powerful beginning. It is a testament to our shared purpose and an opportunity to gain experience and strengthen together in our service to the Order and our faith.

In the spirit of chivalry and unity, this joining of forces symbolizes the very essence of what it means to be Knights Templar: a brotherhood rooted in loyalty, commitment,

and unwavering dedication to our principles. By coming together, we pool not only our resources but also the collective wisdom, traditions, and talents that define each Preceptory. This unity enables us to do more, achieve more, and extend our charitable endeavors further than ever before.

The amalgamation brings many benefits: It fosters a sense of renewal, breathing fresh life into our shared rituals and practices; it allows for greater fellowship as bonds of brotherhood are strengthened through new connections. Together, we can support each other more effectively, ensuring that no Knight feels isolated and that every voice is heard. Additionally, the combined strength of our Preceptories enhances our ability to engage with the wider community, exemplifying the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Let us embrace this new chapter with enthusiasm and determination. May we honor the traditions of the past while forging a path forward that reflects the enduring strength of our Order. Together, we stand united, not as two separate entities, but as one Preceptory, ready to uphold the values and mission of the Knights Templar with greater resolve.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the presence of the Supreme Grand Master, M. Em. Kt. Clive D. Stephenson, G.C.T., who performed and led much of the amalgamation ceremony. His presence and support added greatly to the sense of a positive future for the new Preceptory.

As we move forward, let this amalgamation serve as a shining example of what can be accomplished through unity and mutual respect. With faith as our guide and brotherly love as our foundation, we will continue to uphold the honor of our Order and fulfill our purpose as Knights in the service of the Great Captain of our Salvation. Deus Vult!

Em. Kt. Jon Romu, P.P.

King Edward Preceptory No. 24, Winnipeg, Manitoba



Meditation: What's In a Name?

Once I visited a country and felt that there would be nobody at the airport who would know me. Suddenly I heard my name called, and there was an old friend with a wide smile

and outstretched hands to greet me. I really felt good about it. After all, there was somebody in that crowd who knew me by name.

Now, it may not be possible to remember all the names of everybody we have met. However, it is good to make an effort to remember the names of people, especially if we come in contact with them on several occasions. You see, the name of a person points to the identity of the individual concerned. I need not tell you that people have often been careful what names they give to their children. In some cases, it may even be felt that there is some virtue or power in the name itself. We all know that when we say "In the Name of," we are also saying "By the Authority of." Even in a casual conversation, you may have been asked, What is the meaning of your name? In the Bible, in Hebrew as well as in Greek (Koine), often the names have meaning. For example, the name Jesus means "Saviour" (You shall call him Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins). Christ means the "Anointed One".

There is even the admonition: "Live up to your name." I recall reading a story about the French statesman Napoleon Bonaparte. According to the story, one day he was inspecting a detachment of his soldiers. One of the soldiers seemed not up to standard. Napoleon looked at him and asked: "What is your name?" The soldier replied: "My name is Napoleon." The story goes on to relate that Napoleon Bonaparte then said to him something like: "You must change your ways or change your name."

Knowing the name of someone with whom you associate in some way is important. Do not let the gardener work for you without knowing his name. And what

about the lady or gentleman who may have sat next or near you in church for several months? What about the newcomer to your club or organization? It may seem a rather trivial thing to find out the name of the person, but it can mean a lot more than just an exercise in speech. It may convey to that person that you take them seriously as a person. Should you not remember their name, does not mean that you do not take them seriously. However, knowing and being able to call them by name may just add “that magic touch” for the person. I understand that people most likely will not fully retain the names of everybody they have met. It may be also that not everybody has the same ability to remember names.

In a world that may be perceived as impersonal, being known by name and hearing that name called, can make a difference. In my opinion, that’s why I always felt that when you write the name of a person, you should not only put their initials and surname but at least one of their full names. The same goes when a street is named in a person's honour.

Not long ago, Christians celebrated the Resurrection of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. According to the Resurrection Narrative (Gospel of John, Chapter 20), Mary Magdalene went to the sepulcher early in the morning, while it was still dark, where the body of Jesus was entombed. She was confused about what had happened when she observed that the stone had been rolled away. She ran to tell Peter and John what she had seen. They came and saw that, indeed, the stone to the tomb had been rolled away. They saw an empty tomb with linen clothes and napkins, but the body of Jesus was not there. Peter and John left. Mary remained weeping. Fast forward. As she looked around, she saw a person who asked her why

she was weeping. She explained why. Thinking that he was (maybe) the gardener, Mary asked that, if he had moved the body, to let her take the body of Jesus away. Then Jesus said to her: “MARY.”



How she must have felt to hear the voice of Jesus calling her by name – “MARY.” Is it not wonderful and comforting to know that the "Risen Christ" called Mary by name, that God knows every human being by name, knows each one of us by name? As Christians, as followers of the Risen Christ Jesus, can we say, in the words of John Newton “How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ears! It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the troubled breast: ’Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary, rest.”

Hallelujah!

Sir Knight Rev. Dr. Neville L. Smith

Edmonton Preceptory No. 46, Edmonton, Alberta



The Spiritual Arsenal: Exploring the Symbolism and Significance of the Armor of God

Sir Knights, as Knights of the Temple and as Freemasons, we are told that the V.O.S.L. should act as a guiding light through our Journey of Life. It should shape and direct our morals and conduct, as our soul navigates through this life. It is known as the Book of the Law and God's Word made tangible. It is one of the Greater Lights in Freemasonry and we are obligated to follow its laws and edicts. We are told that it holds the unerring standard of truth and justice. It teaches us of the duty we owe to God, our neighbour, our country, and ourselves. I will direct your attention to one passage that stands out for me, and its role in my daily life:

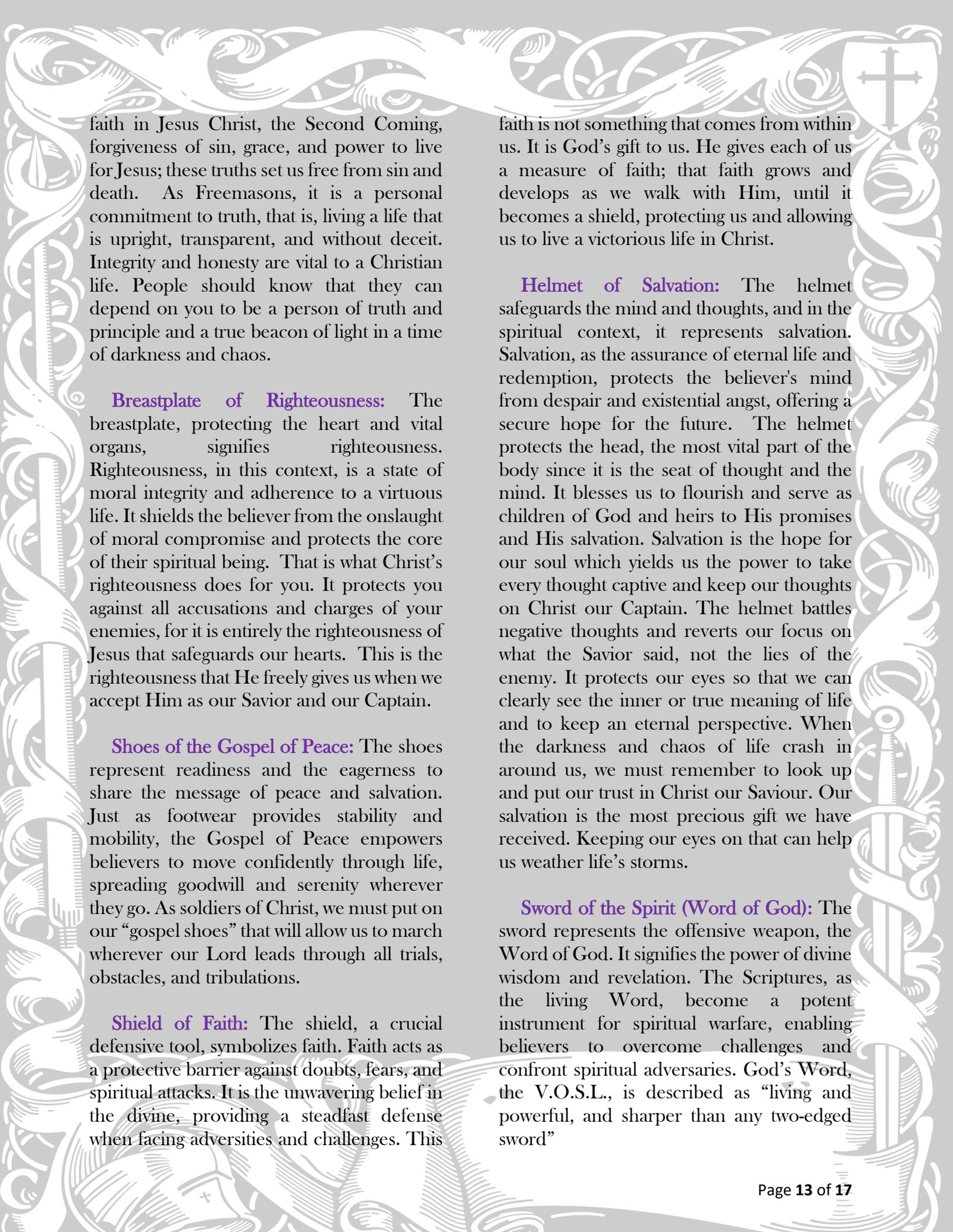
Ephesians 6:10-18 (King James Version)

- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- 14 Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Embedded within the sacred pages of Ephesians 6:10-18, the concept of the Armor of God unfolds as a powerful symbolic framework for spiritual resilience and preparedness. As the apostle Paul implores believers to "put on the full armor of God," the imagery conjured in this passage encapsulates a set of virtues and spiritual attributes symbolized as armor. This essay endeavours to delve into the rich symbolism and profound significance of the Armor of God, shedding light on its timeless relevance for believers seeking strength in the face of life's challenges.

Belt of Truth: The belt of truth represents the foundational virtue of honesty and integrity. It symbolizes the strength derived from a commitment to truthfulness, both in one's inner convictions and in interactions with the world. Just as a belt secures the warrior's garments, truth is the stabilizing force that fortifies the spiritual warrior against deceit and falsehood. The great truths of the Bible: the love of God, salvation through



faith in Jesus Christ, the Second Coming, forgiveness of sin, grace, and power to live for Jesus; these truths set us free from sin and death. As Freemasons, it is a personal commitment to truth, that is, living a life that is upright, transparent, and without deceit. Integrity and honesty are vital to a Christian life. People should know that they can depend on you to be a person of truth and principle and a true beacon of light in a time of darkness and chaos.

Breastplate of Righteousness: The breastplate, protecting the heart and vital organs, signifies righteousness. Righteousness, in this context, is a state of moral integrity and adherence to a virtuous life. It shields the believer from the onslaught of moral compromise and protects the core of their spiritual being. That is what Christ's righteousness does for you. It protects you against all accusations and charges of your enemies, for it is entirely the righteousness of Jesus that safeguards our hearts. This is the righteousness that He freely gives us when we accept Him as our Savior and our Captain.

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace: The shoes represent readiness and the eagerness to share the message of peace and salvation. Just as footwear provides stability and mobility, the Gospel of Peace empowers believers to move confidently through life, spreading goodwill and serenity wherever they go. As soldiers of Christ, we must put on our "gospel shoes" that will allow us to march wherever our Lord leads through all trials, obstacles, and tribulations.

Shield of Faith: The shield, a crucial defensive tool, symbolizes faith. Faith acts as a protective barrier against doubts, fears, and spiritual attacks. It is the unwavering belief in the divine, providing a steadfast defense when facing adversities and challenges. This

faith is not something that comes from within us. It is God's gift to us. He gives each of us a measure of faith; that faith grows and develops as we walk with Him, until it becomes a shield, protecting us and allowing us to live a victorious life in Christ.

Helmet of Salvation: The helmet safeguards the mind and thoughts, and in the spiritual context, it represents salvation. Salvation, as the assurance of eternal life and redemption, protects the believer's mind from despair and existential angst, offering a secure hope for the future. The helmet protects the head, the most vital part of the body since it is the seat of thought and the mind. It blesses us to flourish and serve as children of God and heirs to His promises and His salvation. Salvation is the hope for our soul which yields us the power to take every thought captive and keep our thoughts on Christ our Captain. The helmet battles negative thoughts and reverts our focus on what the Savior said, not the lies of the enemy. It protects our eyes so that we can clearly see the inner or true meaning of life and to keep an eternal perspective. When the darkness and chaos of life crash in around us, we must remember to look up and put our trust in Christ our Saviour. Our salvation is the most precious gift we have received. Keeping our eyes on that can help us weather life's storms.

Sword of the Spirit (Word of God): The sword represents the offensive weapon, the Word of God. It signifies the power of divine wisdom and revelation. The Scriptures, as the living Word, become a potent instrument for spiritual warfare, enabling believers to overcome challenges and confront spiritual adversaries. God's Word, the V.O.S.L., is described as "living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword"

The Armor of God emphasizes the necessity of being spiritually prepared for the challenges of life. It encourages believers to cultivate virtues, grounded in truth and righteousness, fostering a state of constant readiness for spiritual warfare. In the face of trials and tribulations, the Armor of God provides a source of resilience. The virtues it symbolizes act as a spiritual defense, enabling believers to stand firm and resilient against the adversities of life.

The metaphor of the Armor of God underscores the collective nature of the Christian journey. As believers don the same spiritual armor, it fosters a sense of unity and mutual support within the faith community.



The Armor of God empowers believers for spiritual warfare, equipping them not only to defend against challenges but also to actively engage in spreading the message of peace and salvation.

In conclusion, the Armor of God stands as a potent metaphorical framework within Christian theology, offering believers a roadmap for spiritual resilience, preparedness, and empowerment. Its symbolism, deeply rooted in virtues and spiritual attributes, underscores the timeless significance of cultivating a strong and unwavering faith in navigating the complexities of life. As believers embark on their spiritual journey, the Armor of God

serves as a reminder of the divine protection and strength available to those who embrace the call to spiritual warfare with unwavering conviction. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." (Romans 13:12)

Em. Kt. Jon Romu, P.P.

King Edward Preceptory No. 24, Winnipeg, Manitoba



Acre Preceptory 100th Anniversary
Saturday, September 21, 2024

Celebrating a 100-year anniversary is not only a special gift to all attending, but it also requires careful planning and sufficient time to have all parts come together. The officers and preceptors of Acre Preceptory were ready for the challenge, and they had a depth of experience that allowed a plan to come together for this celebration. This, of course, included the assistance of the Grand Chancellor and our Supreme Grand Master, M. Em. Kt. Clive Stephenson, G.C.T. Recognizing the importance of this anniversary to Acre Preceptory, our S.G.M. readily agreed to travel to Alberta to participate in the festivities.

Our S.G.M. was aware of a significant funeral planned on Friday, September 20th, at the Al Azhar Shrine Centre in Calgary,



Alberta. The immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, M. W. Bro. Kyle Scott, had suddenly passed away after a motorcycle accident, and a large turnout was expected. Sir Knight Kyle Scott was also a member of Cyprus Preceptory 33 in Calgary, and he was a strong supporter of York Rite Freemasonry. Our S.G.M. traveled to Calgary on Thursday, September 20th to attend the funeral and was picked up at the airport by R. Em. Kt. Don Gillies, K.C.T. who also hosted our S.G.M. at his house during the visit. Our S.G.M. attended the funeral wearing his Craft regalia as was required for all in attendance. With over 600 Masons in attendance, our S.G.M. was able to greet many Masons who were also members of Preceptories in Alberta.

After the funeral, Don and his wife, Diane, drove our S.G.M. to Lethbridge. The social part of the Re-dedication Ceremony was open to wives and partners. Don dropped off our S.G.M. at Em. Kt. Gerald Waldern's house for the overnight stay. Gerald is a Preceptor of Acre Preceptory, a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, and a key organizer for the Re-dedication. The agenda was for practice on Friday night, the Re-dedication Ceremony at 10 am on Saturday, a social lunch afterward, and a steak barbeque starting at 4 pm.

The Friday night practice was well attended by the Sir Knights of Acre Preceptory, who specifically paid attention to the process of providing the Arch of Steel during the arrival of the S.G.M. at the meeting. Our S.G.M. quickly calmed those in attendance with his friendly style. The Saturday morning meeting was opened in form and allowed the S.G.M. to take over for the Re-dedication.

Well in advance of the meeting, the Grand Chancellor provided the formal script for *The Re-dedication of a Knight Templar Preceptory*, and officers were assigned their parts. The six-page Script required the SGM to lead the Re-dedication, which included significant prayers led by the Chaplain, R. Em. Kt. Terry Gould, K.C.T. A brief history of Acre Preceptory was summarized by R. Em. Kt. Eric Weigelt, K.C.T., prior to the Provincial Grand Prior, R. Em. Kt. Rod Ponech provided the closing prayer to finish the formal part of the Re-dedication ceremony. The Sir Knights of Acre Preceptory then assembled to receive from the Presiding Preceptor and our SGM their new gold star and a 100-year patch that can be sewn onto their mantles.

After the meeting was formally closed and pictures were taken, the Sir Knights and their ladies enjoyed lunch in the Lodge Hall, which allowed for more friendly banter and less formality with toasts and speeches. The membership then gathered at a beautiful park in nearby Coaldale for a well-organized steak barbeque with all the trimmings. The rib-eyes were huge, and the bar was certainly busy as the social evening was enjoyed by all. Don and Diane drove our S.G.M. back to Calgary for the evening, and then to the airport on Sunday morning for his return to Ontario.

Alberta Sir Knights, in general, and Sir Knights of Acre Preceptory in particular, were very grateful our S.G.M. was present at the funeral of Sir Knight Kyle Scott and actively in attendance for all parts of the Re-dedication ceremony.

R. Em. Kt. Terry Gould, K.C.T.
Acre Preceptory No. 66, Lethbridge, Alberta

Unity in Masonry: A Celebration to Remember

On October 19, 2024, the Masonic community got together for “*Unity in Masonry*,” an event hosted by Harington Preceptory No. 14 and the Valley of North Bay, Scottish Rite.

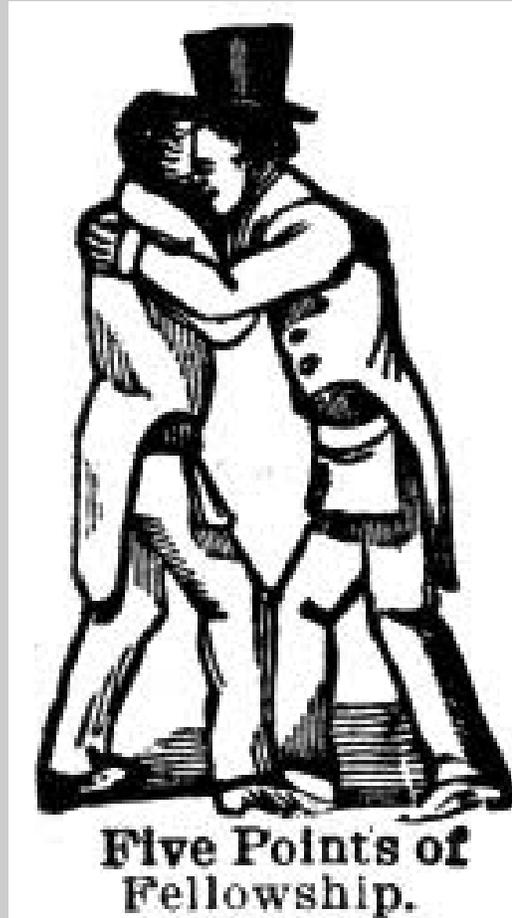
We were marking the 150th anniversaries of the Supreme Council and Harington Preceptory. That’s 150 years of sticking to the values of brotherhood, charity, and enlightenment! Plus, it was a special day because it recognized the installation of M. Em. Kt. Clive D. Stephenson G.C.T. as the Supreme Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada. This was a huge moment, signaling a new chapter for us.

The Best Western North Bay was the perfect spot for this historic event. Picture sixty-eight Brethren and guests, all in one place, celebrating together. The vibe was amazing, full of the timeless connections that Masons share.

But it wasn’t just about looking back. We raised over \$1500 from draws, auctions, and the dinner, which will be split equally between the Knights Templar Foundation of Canada and the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada. These funds will support the charitable work that is so important to us. We heard inspiring words from M. Em. Kt. Clive D. Stephenson, G.C.T., our Supreme Grand Master, and from Ill. Bro. David A. Bennett, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada.

Speaking of M. Em. Kt. Stephenson, his installation was definitely the highlight, as his

leadership marks a big moment in the history of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada. Clive’s vision and dedication to Masonic principles are set to guide us into a future full of enlightenment and charity. His speech really hit home about the importance of unity and our shared mission.



The *Unity in Masonry* celebration wasn’t just about our past; it was a step towards a future full of promise and purpose. Through unity, we keep moving forward on a path of enlightenment and charity, embodying what Freemasonry is all about. Here’s to the next 150 years and beyond—may our bonds grow stronger, our causes stay just, and our spirits remain united.

Em. Kt. Jacques Lacourse, P.P.
Harington Preceptory No. 14,
North Bay, Ontario

Do you have a story to share?

Ours is a rich and noble tradition; one forged through faith, service, and the courage to act.

But our strength today, as it was in centuries past, lies not only in the deeds we do, but in the stories we tell. The *Dispatches* exists not merely to inform, but to inspire – to unite Knights across the dominion through shared reflections, histories, ideas, and light.

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Have you uncovered a little-known chapter in Templar history?

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We want to hear from you.

Your contribution – whether a full article, a thoughtful essay, or a brief dispatch – may be featured in a future issue.

To be considered for publication, reach out to:

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