

## OREGON

### SUPPLEMENT

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### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear Sir Knights,

With the coming of the summer season, our thoughts tend to turn toward pursuits other than indoor activities and, at times, those beyond Freemasonry. We spend more time outdoors, perhaps working in our yards, enjoying our patios, trying our hand at the grill or maybe we are out and about in this wondrous world we share; camping, golfing, fishing or pursuing some other pastimes we enjoy. These changes in our pursuits and activities are good and they enable us to fully enjoy the beautiful creations of the Great Architect. Hopefully, this summer breather will bring to each of you a time for relaxation and a time to contemplate the wonder we feel when we experience God's creations. Excitement is in the air, Sir Knights; the world is alive and recharging! Feel the warmth of the summer sun – feel the newness of life and the wonders of the season. Catch the feeling that God is instilling in his creations and be thankful for what we share in this world of wonder!



Sir Knights, as our thoughts, pursuits and activities change with the season and many of our Masonic functions enter a period of slumber for a time, we must not allow our love for this great fraternity to slumber. Now is the time to rekindle and recharge our enthusiasm for Masonry. This is a time to remember the excitement we once felt for the lessons and teachings relayed to us during our Masonic journeys. This is the time to rebuild and rekindle the wonder, fascination and amazement that we have experienced while participating in the activities of our Lodges, Chapters, Councils and Commanderies.

I am a firm believer that the mortal enemy of apathy is enthusiasm and excitement! If we dwell continually on the negative, live with and sow the seeds of 'woe is me,' then that is what we will reap. Each of us must catch hold of that which many of us have lost

and regain the enthusiasm and excitement we once had for our Masonic endeavors. I ask each of you, "When was the last time you talked to a Brother from your Blue Lodge about the Light and Knowledge available in the "Other" Bodies of the York Rite?" When was the last time you talked to a Non-Mason about the benefits and vastness of our Fraternity? Sir Knights, I'm in Masonry because I love it and enjoy it. I'm here because I like the association I share with each of you. No one has forced me to be here nor has anyone caused me to dedicate the time I spend on Masonic endeavors. Sir Knights, do you think it would be timely to recall the experiences of our Masonic journey, to recharge the wonder of its teachings and rekindle the enthusiasm and excitement we enjoy as members of this great fraternity?

Courteously,

SK Garrett K. Cooke, Grand Commander



### EXCERPTS FROM "The Bethel Bell" –by Pastor Ron Zschoche, Bethel Lutheran Church

I am back from Israel, not much worse for the wear and tear of so many miles and so many places to be in so short a time. .... I hope the things I saw and learned while in Israel will help me to help you understand God's Word more clearly.

Probably the biggest problem with a trip like this is trying to absorb and process all that we saw and did. I could use another several weeks to just think and write about it, and even then most likely would still be feeling that I need more time. Unfortunately, time is one thing none of us has enough of. ... After all, part of my responsibility to you is to lead you forward remembering what has been but not holding you in the past. So...keeping my word to share the trip with you while moving ahead into 2009.... I am already trying to put together a PowerPoint presentation of the things I saw while in Israel touching on some of the places where Jesus walked and lived while he was among us....

I also want to express my appreciation to Lowell Amundson and the Knights Templar for making this Pilgrimage to Israel possible. They provided me with an all expenses paid trip to tour the Holy Lands. I have not been on many tours, but it seems to me that this had to have been one of the most carefully organized trips possible. That is an amazing gift and I am grateful beyond measure. –Pastor Z