

South Central York Rite Conference
September 14, 2012
A Presentation by S. Lane Pierce

Where have all the good men gone? Will we have enough members present to open a meeting tonight? Every man in this room has looked around his lodge room and asked that question. Many of you remember a time when that was not the case.

I will tell you where the good men are. They are in school educating their minds. They are working jobs to make a good living for their family. They are spending their leisure time with friends and family. They are involved in ball games for their kids and other activities in their community. They are working in all level of government to help provide a better life for everyone. They are volunteering their time and life, if needs be, to ensure our freedom.

They are practicing the tenants of freemasonry every day. They are masons at heart, it's just that they have not taken upon themselves the obligation of a mason.

Are they then too busy for Masonry? Is Masonry now a relic in the mind of the modern man?

I do not believe so.

My name is Lane Pierce. I am a PHP of Haggai Chapter #53 RAM, PTIM of Haggai Council #38 R&SM and a PC of McKinney Commandery #34. I am currently sitting as the WM of White Rock Lodge #234 and the Commander of Denton Commandery #45. It is also my privilege to serve the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas in the capacity of Grand Orator.

Companions, Sir Knights, Brethren all,

I submit to you that Masonry is still as functional at it was 100 years ago.

I submit to you the Masonry is still as respected as it was 100 years ago.

I submit to you that Masonry is still as important as it was 100 years ago.

I submit to you that Masonry has even a greater awareness in the public mind today than it ever has in its history.

If that is the case then why are our numbers so small?

In order to answer that question, we must look at the makeup of a man and understand what motivates him to action.

The field of psychology continues to intensely investigate this matter. Perhaps you have heard of “Maslow’s Hierarchy”? Abraham Maslow described something called a ‘hierarchy of needs’. Basically, the hierarchy of needs says that a man will give his attention and energy to certain activities in his life in a predictable order. These being; physiological, safety, belonging, esteem, and self-actualization.

It is fair to say that so long as a man is receiving food, sleep, and is able to have his physical needs met then his next concern is to be safe. Assuming he is safe, then and only then will he turn his attention to creating relationships. He is seeking to belong.

In days past, people were much farther apart and time was spent working to make sure that their families were safe and all of their needs were attended to. Men came to Masonry in order find ‘belonging’, Maslow’s third level of the hierarchy. Being a freemason, gave a man the relationships he desired with others and, it also gave him Maslow’s fourth level, Esteem. To be a mason was, not so long ago, to be quietly acknowledged as a man of character. A mason was to be held in esteem and many people knew about masons.

On more than one occasion I have had an elderly lady, a masonic widow perhaps, smile at me and say, “I know what that is”, pointing to my ring. “I know you are a good man.” Brothers, that feels good. That gives a man “Esteem”.

Today, we find that most men already have a sense of belonging. There are so many social groups a man can join with a vast array of activities. What makes freemasonry more appealing than his other options? I think we know is it the concept of universal brotherhood however, to the unobligated, who does not understand the depth of our commitment to each other; for them, ‘belonging’ is easily satisfied by golfing with a neighbor or finishing a big project with his co-workers.

Esteem is gained by being acknowledge for good work at the office, in sports , or volunteering.

Today, a man easily has the first four levels of Maslow’s hierarchy satisfied without masonry. So where then can freemasonry drive a man’s desire to join our ranks as a brother?

One thing Maslow hinted at with “self-actualization” was that a man needs, craves, legacy.

Legacy is what drives the urge of a man to perpetuate his name through procreation.

Legacy is what compels a man to give his time and money to be a part of something bigger than him.

Legacy is what drives a man to give his very life in the protection of noble masonic precepts such as temperance, prudence, fortitude, and justice.

The secret desire of every man, my brethren, is to have his family and friends remember his successes long after he has passed through the portal of eternity. The dream of having his name recalled with pride and respect for his accomplishments is a song that rings sweet in the deepest places of his mind and heart.

A man, who would be a mason, comes to our door seeking to fulfill that need, the need for legacy. "Belonging" is no longer what a man seeks from Masonry. Those who seek "Esteem" easily get it through leadership positions outside of freemasonry. It's "Legacy" that calls a man to our door and compels him to knock. To be a part of a fraternity of men that has existed for so long its true origins are unknown today, is to be a part of something much bigger than one's self.

I think that most men are not aware of our legacy and generally they are not aware of our existence. Masonry is something that their grandfather did. Thanks to Dan Brown, we have seen some men join our ranks because their curiosity aroused by his books and movies. They get an inkling of our history, our legacy, and they find it calls to their unconscious desire for self-actualization.

So, I wonder... how does Masonry create legacy for a man in your community?

As I considered this question myself I found that I could not really identify any significant project today that might call men to be a part of a legacy.

In the past, there were some significant projects masons were involved in.

Mt Rushmore

- Mt. Rushmore National Memorial is situated in the Black Hills of South Dakota and has the largest figures of any statue in the world
- Designed by Brother Gutzon Borglum
- Lincoln Borglum, his son, and also a Freemason in Battle River Lodge No. 92 of Hermosa, South Dakota, worked with his father on the Mt. Rushmore memorial since 1932
- Following the death of his father in 1941, he was assigned to complete the memorial

Washington Masonic National Memorial

- On the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia, overlooking nation's capital
- The building is 168 feet wide, 248 feet long and 333 feet high

- The cornerstone for the building was laid November 1, 1923 at a special communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia
- More than 25,000 persons participated in the procession to the Memorial where the cornerstone was laid using the same trowel employed by Washington in laying the cornerstone of the United States Capitol
- Two large murals of George and a large bronze statue measuring 17 feet 3 in
- Royal Arch Room which displays the Masonic Ark of the Covenant: The Ark of the Covenant... or of the Testimony, was a sacred chest, constructed by Moses at God's Command
- The George Washington Museum which contains the most outstanding Washington memorabilia to be displayed to the public was dedicated in 1966. Its central item is the Washington Family Bible donated to the Memorial by collateral descendants in 1965

Statue of Liberty

- Official dedication ceremonies held on Thursday, October 28, 1886
- At the feet of the Statue lie broken shackles of oppression and tyranny
- Its designer, a Freemason, was Brother Frederic A. Bartholdi (1834-1904) who conceived its design while on a visit to America
- As his ship sailed into New York, Bartholdi had a vision of a woman standing on a pedestal, holding a torch and welcoming immigrants to a new life in a free land
- Along with Brother Bartholdi, Brother Gustave Eiffel was also responsible for the statue
- On August 5th, 1884, the then Grand Master of Masons in New York, William A. Brodie laid the cornerstone of the pedestal of the statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" with full Masonic ceremony

The United States Capital

- The United States Capitol, at Washington, D.C., was the creation of a succession of architects who were almost all Freemasons including James Hoban, the architect of the White House
- The cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol Building was laid with Masonic Honors on September 18, 1793

The White House

- The official residence of the Presidents of the United States, *The White House*, at Washington, D.C., was designed and built by Brother James Hoban

The Washington Monument

- The Washington Monument was built between 1848 and 1884 as a tribute to George Washington's military leadership from 1775-1783 during the American Revolution
- Its construction took place in two major phases, 1848-56, and 1876-84
- The Washington Monument is the most prominent structure in Washington, D.C
- The 555-foot, 5-1/8" marble obelisk honors the nation's founding father George Washington, who led the Continental Army to victory, and then became the nation's first president under the Constitution
- Laus Deo!
Two seemingly insignificant, un-noticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world. So, what do those two words, in Latin, comprised of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say "Praise be to God!" [Laus is Praise be and Deo means God]

The Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children is a world leader in the treatment of pediatric orthopedic conditions. We strive to improve the care of children worldwide through innovative research and teaching programs, training physicians from around the world.

TSRHC treats Texas children with orthopedic conditions, such as scoliosis, clubfoot, hand disorders, hip disorders and limb length differences, as well as certain related neurological disorders and learning disorders, such as dyslexia.

- The hospital was established in 1921 when a group of Texas [Masons](#) approached Dallas' first orthopedic surgeon Dr. W. B. Carrell about caring for children with polio regardless of the family's ability to pay.
- As a leading pediatric orthopedic center, the hospital has treated more than 210,000 children since its inception, with more than 40,000 clinic visits each year.
- In 2010, 200,000 patients treated
- Chartered in 1921 and in 2011, celebrated 90th birthday
- Great achievements:
 - 1965 – Dr. Waites defines dyslexia
 - 1981 – 1st Amputee ski trip
 - 1993 – Researchers @ TSRHC develop ground breaking TRUE/LOK system
 - 1997 – 4 acre fitness park opened
 - 1998 – Family Recourses Center opened

- 2005 – Spine Research Center opened
- 2006- Hand Center opened
- 2010 – 200,000 patients treated

**WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH US.
WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS
IMMORTAL - ALFRED PIKE**

Above a statue/bust of him in the House of Temple, Washington D.C

Companions, My call to action is for you to go back to your respective lodges, chapters, councils, and commanderies and ask, “How are we creating a legacy?”

Give your members something to be proud of.

Think big and...

No matter how big you are thinking... think bigger!