



The chisel, in the Mark Master degree, is one of the working tools and symbolizes the effects of education on the human mind.

William Preston (Illustrations of Masonry, 1812, page 86)



Official Newsletter of the Masonic Education Fund of South Africa

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**Masonic Education Fund
Public Benefit Organisation 930009242**

In Memoriam: WB Brian Fell PAGDC PDistGSec.

It is with great sorrow that the General Committee has heard the sad news of Brian Fell having passed to higher service recently. His service to masonry generally will long be remembered.

He served as the Worshipful Master of Mowbray Lodge No: 2993 EC in 1978/79. Due to re-location with his current employer, he resigned in good standing from that Lodge and on his return to Cape Town re-joined Mowbray Lodge. In total he served the Lodge for 42 years.

During this same period he became the District Grand Secretary (PDistGSec.) and served the District well for 5 years until he decided to retire to the UK. His service at District Grand Secretary was recognised and he was awarded Grand Rank from the Grand Master as PAGDC.

His involvement in the Masonic Education Fund (MEF) will not be forgotten. After serving some time on the General Committee he was elected vice-chairman on the 25th July 2006 and stepped in as chairman in 2007 when the Chairman, PH Ferreira was suddenly called to higher service.

He served in this position with distinction until his retirement at the AGM on 5th July 2011.

After spending some 6 years in the UK he returned to South Africa after the passing of his wife and lived with his daughter in Tableview until his final call to higher service.

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**You too
can wear
a MEF
Jewel
with
pride!**

See application
form



Don't miss the deadline!

The deadline for MEF applications is 31 August of each year. Application forms can be obtained via email request to pegged@iafrica.com



You can now complete the MEF forms directly without printing the pages, save the completed document and mail it to pegged@iafrica.com.



Message From The
CHAIRMAN'S DESK

The year is rapidly drawing to a close. Our thoughts in the MEF (Masonic Education Fund) at this time are for our supported scholars and students writing their final course and end-of-year exams. We as the Fund representatives wish them all well.

It has been a while since our 135th AGM which, as the current chairman, unfortunately I could not attend due to ill health. By all accounts the AGM was a successful meeting thanks to our vice chairman stepping into the breach. It was pleasing to note that the General Committee has been largely re-elected providing for the essential continuity and for ensuring stability. It also demonstrates the serious commitment to the Fund of this band of stalwarts.

Looking at our financial statement of 31st December 2023, the Fund is generally sound with all the investments being carefully managed by professional investment agencies under the ever watchful eyes of the treasurer and the Finance Committee. These investments continue to grow and improve which is helping toward the eventual realization of one of the stated goals of the MEF, which is to be able to be in the financial position to provide support to the children of needy masons in full. This is not yet possible at present. I look forward to seeing the next financial statements. I do think appointing the CA Fiona van Coller as the current bookkeeper and producer of the financials was a very wise decision as we in the Fund are dealing with donated monies and these should be properly and professionally accounted for.

Our Life Memberships are steadily growing and I think with Cobus Wilson promoting the fund and presenting life certificates during his visits, we will definitely see growth. Another of the stated goals of the MEF is to have every mason become a voluntary Life Member of the Fund. I still find it amazing that so many Masons don't even know

of our existence due to lodge secretaries not forwarding our newsletters which are regularly sent out.

So, PLEASE Bro secretaries get these out to your Lodge members. There may be masons out there that really do need MEF assistance and *The Chisel* is one of those vehicles which can be effectively used to get that message out to them. It is both pleasing and reassuring to note that two of our former beneficiaries in the persons of Etienne Bester and Kovilan Reddy have taken the step of becoming Life Members.

As usual I appeal to Lodges, Chapters, District and Provincial lodges to kindly assist us, some of which have not done so in years. The MEF IS a charity and is specifically set up to provide financial assistance to the children's educational requirements of needy masons or their widows across ALL FOUR of the Constitutions. As far as I am aware, it is one of the very few charities set up for the dedicated purpose of assisting the children of masons.

On the 28th of November 2024 the committee will meet to discuss the Enquiry Committee's suggested grants for next year based on the monetary allocation proposed to it by the Finance Committee.

I wish all the beneficiaries a great success in their final exams.

Fraternally,

Bro. Jock Wood
Chairman: Masonic Education Fund

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Personally, he was a very quiet and dedicated freemason who worked hard for the well-being of his Lodge and its members as well as the District. He will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of sharing his company.

