

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA

State News for November 2021

Website: <https://alyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

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HUNTSVILLE COMMANDERY KNIGHTS FIVE NEW TEMPLARS



On Tuesday, September 28, Huntsville Commandery No. 7 conferred the Order of the Temple on five candidates. The new knights are Zach Wade, Joshua Wilson, Charles Cozelos, Benny Ledford, and John Pennington. Assisting in the conferral were two current Grand Commandery officers, William “Doug” Burfitt, Jr., Grand SW; and Johnny Strickland, Grand Sentinel. Two past Grand Commandery officers taking part were George Marshall, Jr., PGC, KGT; and Emory “Smokey” Ferguson, PGC, KCT. Other cast members were Jason Crowe, EC; Lee Gibson, PEC, KTCH; Drew McKay, PEC; John Meyers; Raymond Lamp; Jared Webster; Davis Smallwood, and Chad Thrasher.

GRAND CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. 2 Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever.
(Psalm 136, 1-3. NIV)

Companions, during this month when we celebrate the abundance of both material and spiritual blessings which our loving God and Heavenly Father has provided for us out of His unceasing and unconditional love, let us resolve anew to say a resounding “YES!” to life, to love, and to new experiences of service to Him and to humankind. Let’s make a concerted effort to look beyond seeming difficulties no matter how trivial or unimportant they may seem, to discover the blessings, with the calm assurance that saying Yes provides all situations with new opportunities for service and the energy to deal with the task at hand. As we give of ourselves, through our gifts, our talents, and our love, we indeed make the world a brighter and happier place when we say Yes to living and to life.*

Autumn colors, family and friends, and a table filled with the bounties of the season are some of the blessings of Thanksgiving. May yours be filled with warmth and love, my Companions.

George Marshall, Jr., PGHP
Grand Chaplain, Grand Chapter RAM of Alabama

*Adapted from *Daily Word*, March-April 2020, p.17

FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

(This is probably in the mailed version, but you may see it here first!)

Attention all SKs and Masonic Brethren wherever dispersed:

On November 11, 2021, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States is holding its first Grand Encampment Day of prayer. Please share this with brethren, whether they are in the York Rite or not. We need more prayer in this world.

<https://www.knightstemplar.org/gektdayofprayer2021.pdf>

THE SEED

In the Far East the emperor was growing old and knew it was time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or his children, he decided to do something different. He called young people in the kingdom together one day. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you."

The children were shocked, but the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today - one very special seed. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next emperor."

One boy, named Ling, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his mother the story. She helped him get a pot and planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it, carefully. Every day, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown.. After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Ling didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by -- still nothing in Ling's pot.

He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends, however. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow. A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But his mother asked him to be honest about what happened.

Ling felt sick at his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace. When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other youths. They were beautiful -- in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other children laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey, nice try."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the emperor. "Today one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. He thought, "The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!"

When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name. "My name is Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quiet down. He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!"

Ling couldn't believe it. Ling couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor?

Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds that would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust. If you plant goodness, you will reap friends. If you plant humility, you will reap greatness. If you plant perseverance, you will reap victory. If you plant consideration, you will reap harmony. If you plant hard work, you will reap success. If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation. If you plant faith, you will reap miracles. So be careful what you plant, now; it will determine what you will reap tomorrow. The seeds you now scatter will make life worse or better for you or for the ones who will come after you. Someday you will enjoy the fruits or you will pay for the choices you make.

Two thousand years ago someone else told the same story with fewer words, "What you sow, so shall you reap". If you know who said this, nothing else needs to be said.

-- Author Unknown

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