

Altar Bible presented Canada Lodge U.D. Afghanistan, by Lebanon Lodge No. 139, Oshawa.

As the result of e mail correspondence between Bro. Steve Spence and W. Bro. Peter Watling, members of Lebanon Lodge No. 139, Oshawa and Bro. Joe Curry, the Junior Warden of Canada Lodge U.D. Kandahar, Afghanistan, it was determined that Canada Lodge required an Altar Bible. It was decided that this would be our gift to Canada Lodge.

Lebanon Lodge's Secretary, V.W. Bro. Gord Smith, made the arrangements to obtain a Masonic Deluxe Reference Edition Bible. The Blue leather cover of the bible is engraved with the square and compasses and is also engraved "Presented to Canada Lodge, Afghanistan by Lebanon Lodge No. 139, Oshawa, Ontario, December 2010" The inside presentation page bears a similar inscription. (calligraphy courtesy of R.W. Bro. Robert A. Ough IPDDGM, Ontario District.)

The original intention was to mail the Bible to Afghanistan, however, in correspondence between V. W. Bro. Gord Smith and V.W. Bro. Rick Fulford, W.M. Of Canada Lodge it was determined that he was in Canada and would be returning to Afghanistan on Dec. 28th. We therefore made arrangements to meet with V.W. Bro. Fulford to present the Bible to him.

On Dec. 17th, 2010, a number of brethren assembled at the Oshawa Masonic Lodge to make the presentation.

V.W. Bro. Fulford gave a short talk to the assembled brethren on the founding of Canada Lodge and the progress they were making. Of particular interest was the stories of the generosity of Lodges and brethren all around the world and the universality of the membership of Canada Lodge. The brethren in Afghanistan have determined that they would start a project called "Boxes of Hope" which was to donate school supplies to Afghanistan schools. They have been overwhelmed by the response to this appeal. A short Q & A period followed.

The Altar Bible was presented to V.W. Bro. Fulford, by W. Bro. Mark Riley and V.W. Bro. Gord Smith. We also presented him with a cash donation towards their project.

Bro. Kevin Sharp and Bro. Paul MacArthur, members of our sister Lodge Parkwood No. 695 made a similar presentation of cash. W. Bro. Peter Watling of Lebanon Lodge presented V.W. Bro. Fulford with a box of school supplies purchased with donations from employees of Ontario Power Generation. W. Bro. Watling and Bro. Murray Ringrose also presented a number of Tim Horton Cards for use by our Afghanistan brethren.

The brethren then retired to the banquet room for a social hour.