



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Wisconsin John M. Pratt, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Companions,

Freemasonry is 300 years of tradition, unimpeded by progress. There, I said it.

People no longer know Freemasonry exists; except for what they watched on the History Channel. Nor do they know what we do. It's like we've stopped trying to grow. The, "wait for them to come to us" approach doesn't work! Those days are loooooong gone. Well, for myself, no longer.

For those of you that don't know, the Northern Jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite has put together excellent materials which all Masonic Bodies may use to recruit new Masons. It's called *Not Just a Man. A Mason.* www.notjustaman.org It was introduced to us at our Grand Lodge Annual Communication in June. I'm not in the Scottish Rite, but I'll steal a good idea in a heartbeat. We need to utilize this resource. Absolutely not for the purpose to recruit ultimately for our Order. But to grow the ranks of Freemasonry, without favor to any of its Bodies. In this way we all grow.



The Brothers of my Lodge, Theodore Roosevelt #322 in Green Bay, decided to grab the idea and run. So far, we have twice had a booth at Green Bay's Wednesday Farmer's Market. We're going to be at the Saturday Market in October. We're also working our way into other public venues and events. We set up a stall, handed out materials about Masonry in general and the charities of all our bodies in particular. We had members from the other three lodges in town come and help. My Lady came with her spinning wheel and spun yarn. Her spinning draws the kids, the kids bring their moms and dads. Yes, she's a lot smarter than I am.



Did we get 400 new members? No. But, we did greet every single person that walked by. We actively engaged the public. There's now hundreds of people that associate the Square and Compasses with people that smile and tell total strangers; "Hello.", "Good afternoon.", "Beautiful day, isn't it?", "How are you today?!", "Have a great day!" We spoke about Masonry to everyone that stopped. We put a lodge business card in their hand. We answered questions - even stupid ones. We told people who we are and what we do. And, we had several people ask about our next meeting.

"But, we've never done it that way before." You're right; and we're dying from it. Get out there and let people know who we are and what we do. That's how we fix our membership problem.

With Brotherly Love, Affection and Zeal,

Most Excellent Companion Brian J. Hudry, Grand Secretary
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