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### +Greetings and Welcome +

**Should'a, Could'a, Would'a** – This is a phrase that was taught to me by my friend, R.:W.: Brian R. Dodson, PGM, and it's a phrase that most of us have heard at one time or another, usually spoken by someone else, as a friendly reminder, after the fact, that we should have performed some function in a more timely fashion, resulting in a more effective outcome! I still get this comment occasionally, in an effort to push me to do a better job!

I am sharing this with you, as wise counsel, to encourage you not to put the important things off until it's too late. Normally, we all have great intentions, but they are not worthy until we put a plan into effect, to attain the goal intended. If your goal is to increase your Commandery's membership this year, not to mention winning the Grand Commandery's Membership Award, the time is getting close to being too late... By the time you read this, you are preparing to host your District's Grand Officer for his Annual Visitation and Inspection, and there is no better time to practice for this than performing the Order of the Temple upon a 'LIVE' candidate, it's just like the inspection, without the Grand Officer and prepares you for all of the little things that occur with a 'LIVE' candidate... Your Commandery could also host a York Rite Festival, or share that with another Commandery, or take your candidates to a 'Festival' so they can enjoy the camaraderie of the masses... You could also host or a York Rite 'Field Day', performing just the Chivalric Orders in a half day event. **IT'S NOT TOO LATE...YOU CAN DO IT!!!**

**October 5, 2013 / Burnet, Texas** – PLEASE post this date onto your calendar & be in Burnet, Texas, on October 5, 2013, for a very special day, honoring our PGCs, and 2 PGMs of DeMolay International, from Texas.

Beginning about 9:00 am, with a conferral of the DeMolay Initiatory Degree, followed by the DeMolay Degree, in a full scale castle in Burnet, Texas. We will adjourn to Burnet Commandery #113, for a great lunch, then return to the castle for the Order of the Temple.

This will be a great opportunity for you to bring a candidates for your Commandery and a young men (between 12 - 21 years of age), to be initiated into the greatest young man's leadership organization in the world! A special certificate will presented to the candidates (DeMolay and Knight Templars) as well as a commemorative pin for the event.

Because of the limited size of the room we will be using at the castle, seating will be limited, so **DON'T DELAY!** Full information and registration is on the Grand Commandery website... **ONLY REGISTERED** guests will be admitted.

**Visualize Greatness** – During June and July, as Grand Commander, I was privileged to attend and address the Grand Assembly of Texas, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, and the annual Texas DeMolay Conclave, on behalf of all of the Sir Knights of Texas. Besides the regular protocol and pageantry, I witnessed our future, for both the ladies and the gentlemen and I can confidently say that we are "in good hands"! Their ritual and performance were truly great and their sincere friendliness was most welcome.

Our DeMolay Brother, Walt Disney stated "If you can dream it, you can do it"! He wasn't talking to anyone in particular, but he was talking to all of us! I love this quote and try to live by it, but we have to remember, along with the dreams, come plans and execution... But first the dream!

Part of my presentation to both groups is below and it applies as easily to us, as it does to them:

***Like the Order of DeMolay (Rainbow), Rainbow (DeMolay) extends the opportunity to grow intellectually and responsibly, adding the lesson of Grace to our daily lives. These three things I bring to you tonight:***

- 1.) ***A recommendation to you, just to be you; God gave us all many gifts, some of them are obvious and some of them are not, but put together, each of you are very special to your family, to your school, to your community and to this organization and when we all work together, we can become a powerful force;***
- 2.) ***An admonishment to you to step out of the box of normality and dare to be a leader; if what you are doing is not working the way you want, challenge the system, and do something different. <<Remember, water is tranquil and sedate, and at 211 degrees, it is very hot, but at 212 degrees, it converts to steam and everything changes; Water becomes a great and powerful source of energy...>> So light the afterburner, turn up the heat and be prepared to visualize and embrace greatness... you all have it, just realize it and put it to work!***
- 3.) ***((Check Presentation)) And lastly, I have a token of our Grand Commandery's love and appreciation for all of you and I hope, in some small way, this gift can be put to good use...***

Both the Youth, and their Adult Leadership were appreciative of the monetary gift that we (you and I) presented to them, and while it was sizable, they can always use more! I hope that you all will take the opportunity to visit a Rainbow Assembly or DeMolay Chapter soon, and visualize greatness!

**"From a Small Seed, a Mighty Trunk May Grow" – Aeschylus** – All journeys begin with a first step, and as Knights Templar, I know that your journey in Freemasonry is well on its way. It is incumbent upon you to share this journey with your Blue Lodge Brethren, who may not be fully aware of the York Rite and the history and lessons it teaches us. You are the seed that grows our organization and your invitation to join us, is most important. Sometimes, it is the smallest things that lead to the biggest outcomes. Your invitation to join the York Rite might be the beginning for someone else to be a part of something great. Be the seed, so that we may grow!

– Don't be afraid of greatness, step up to the challenge and promote Templary!

**+ H. Bart Henderson + Grand Commander + 2013-2014 +  
"Do right, and risk the consequences!" - Brother Sam Houston**