



SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION
(CAPE TOWN BRANCH)

PBO 93000796

CAPE TOWN BRANCH NEWS DECEMBER 2020

Christmas message from the branch chaplain, Ralph Thornley

In a collection of children's letters to Santa Claus collected by the US post office we have this letter from a boy called Robert. It reads as follows. **Dear Santa Claus, my name is Robert. I am 6 years old. I want a rifle, a pistol, a machine gun, bullets, a hand grenade, dynamite and tear gas. I am planning a surprise for my big brother. Your friend, Robert.**

There is no doubt that for children Santa Claus/Father Christmas is the most important character during the Christmas season. Although the origins of the character go all the way back to the middle ages to St Nicholas, the dress that he wears today goes back to 1880 and was devised by a certain Thomas Nast, a newspaper cartoonist. There is the true story told of a Chinese family who escaped from communist China when it was a more closed country than it is today. They managed to get to Hong Kong which was then under British rule. For the first time they were free and it also happened to be Christmas. The lights and the decorations were all very new to them and everywhere there was this man in a red suit with a long white beard. He seemed to be central to everything. The parents had no answers to their young son's many questions. One day he was out walking when he discovered a Mission Hall and a lot of children inside singing. A kindly man came up to him and invited him in. They were practicing the nativity scene and the man explained the story of Jesus' birth to him. He then asked the inevitable question "Is the man in the red suit – Jesus? For many people, the real meaning of Christmas is lost in the empty paraphernalia of the commercial world. Pagan and atheist alike will celebrate the season. The question is "What are we celebrating?" In the Gospel of John chapter 1 verse 1 we read; **"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."** That is what the early church was celebrating. I think the most poignant words to come out of this story as found in Luke chapter 2 verse 25 – 32. The infant Jesus was being presented in the Temple. Simeon an ancient Holy man took the baby in his arms and praised God saying; **"Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace for mine eyes have seen thy SALVATION which thou hast prepared before the face of all people . A light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel."** This is the crux and heart of the Christmas story. This is what we are celebrating. Anything outside of that is irrelevant.

May you have a happy Christ filled Christmas and remember Jesus is the reason for the season.

Induction of new members

A new members' evening was held on Friday 30 October. 21 new members to the branch were welcomed with National President, Brian Klopper officiating.



Poppy Day

A big thanks to those who shook a tin for the Poppy Day collection on Saturday 14 November and to those who generously donated towards this important part of our welfare efforts. The money collected is still being counted so it's too early to say how much has been collected other than, given the scaled-back nature of the collection, the amount is likely to be significantly down on previous years.

A well-attended Remembrance Service, lead by Rev. Ralph Thornley, was held at Rosedale on Sunday 8 November. Given the inclement weather on the day the service was moved indoors.

Things are changing

Please note that the branch has a new bank account and that all future deposits should be made into this account. Details are:

Mercantile Bank
Branch code 450105
Account SA Legion
Account number 1050804759

Further, from 1 January 2021 our Mweb email addresses will be discontinued. In future use admin@salegion.co.za or the email address of the specific person you wish to contact. The persons first name followed by @salegion.co.za should get you to them.

Preferred rates for funerals

Constantiaberg Funeral Home have offered all Legion members, their spouses and dependents a discounted rate on their services. The discount equates to around 15% of their standard fee.

They are located next to Kenilworth racecourse and while they operate throughout the peninsula, the collection of the deceased further than 30 kms from their premises will attract a surcharge.

Thank you to Bill Bussey who put in the hard work in researching funeral costs for the MOTH and recommended to Constantiaberg that they extend their offer to Legion members as well.

Have a laugh

Puns to raise a laugh:

- Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana
- The midget fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large

In closing

2020 has been a tough year for many and uncertainty hangs over the year ahead. When will our lives return to normal and what will normal be? We read of vaccines and medical advances in fighting the pandemic but there is still a long way to go before Covid 19 is beaten. History has many examples of nations and humankind in general overcoming adversity so stay determined, sanitise, and keep your distance.

The Branch Chairman, Ray Nasset, and members of the Executive Committee wish all members and their families a peaceful and happy Christmas.