



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

M. W. EDWARD G. GILBERT

Grand Master
159 POTTERS ROAD
BUFFALO, NY 14220-2036

January 20, 2010

RES: (716) 822-2051
BUS: (212) 337-6640
FAX: (212) 633-2639
E-MAIL: RWE.GILBERT@ROADRUNNER.COM

My Dear Brethren and Friends,

This past decade has seen the world stage beset by a multitude of cataclysmic events caused by Nature and others far too frequently caused by the consequents and interventions of Mankind. The Masonic Fraternity has consistently and swiftly hastened to the calls of the needy and the distressed as is wont by our basic tenets and obligations. A code of belief that emanates from that enduring biblical verse, "*and now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity, these three: but the greatest of these is Charity.*"

Today, we have barely set foot upon the path of a new decade; when Nature has tested our resolve by unleashing a devastating earthquake of monstrous proportions, which has rained havoc, destruction and ruin upon our fellow brothers and sisters of the human family in Haiti. We at the Grand Lodge of New York shall do our part toward answering the call of these distressed Masons and their families in providing a source of much needed help, support and comfort. Together, we will stand united with our fellow brethren in Haiti, providing them with brotherly love to cement and heal their current hardship, and to offer a beacon of hope to rebuild stronger bonds of friendship for a better tomorrow.

Heeding the call I have established a *Special Haitian Relief Fund* under the umbrella of the Masonic Brotherhood Fund, to provide and augment aid and assistance to those members of our Masonic family that hail within the Grand Orient d'Haiti that have been devastated by the earthquake and its collateral damage in the Caribbean.

In an effort to help supplement and thereby better enable our Grand Lodge to offer financial assistance, I am appealing to every Lodge to keep these unfortunate Brethren and their families paramount in your prayers and to give genuine consideration in supporting this *Special Haitian Relief Fund*. Checks and Money Orders should be made payable to the *Masonic Brotherhood Fund* earmarked for the *Special Haitian Relief Fund* and mailed to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010.

Brother James Buchanan, fifteenth President of the United States, once said, "*The test of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there.*" Brethren, as members of our gentle Craft, I know that I can depend on each of you to lead with your heart, because you are truly a great brotherhood.

With kindest fraternal regards, I remain your friend and brother,

Edward G. Gilbert
Grand Master