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Summer 2009

Published Quarterly



Most Excellent Companion  
Aaron J. South  
Grand High Priest  
2009 - 2010

**Most Excellent Grand High Priest  
Aaron J. South  
2009-2010**

**It Just keeps Getting Better**

My Companions:

It has been such a joy visiting with you in your local chapters. While traveling around the state I have experienced the friendship and fellowship that makes this fraternity so great. In August I will complete my official visits to all of our chapters but I hope to continue traveling and visit many of you again. Please keep me informed of any scheduled degree work and I will do my best to attend.

Many of the new companions exalted earlier this year have progressed in the York Rite bodies and are now new Sir Knights in our Commanderies. Our challenge now is to keep them learning and working in our chapters. Every time your Chapter meets should be a learning experience. If you are not conferring or practicing degrees you should be teaching other ceremonies, By-Laws, or procedures. Remember your Most Excellent Master obligation and continue to dispense true Masonic Light to your brethren everywhere you go.

Fraternally,

Aaron J. South  
Grand High Priest

## Ananais Chapter, U.D.

Arkansas has a new Royal Arch Chapter! Ananais Chapter was Instituted Under Dispensation on March 24, 2009, by then Most Excellent Companion Bobby Bennett.



Ananais officers being installed. EHP Glen Mayhew, center.

The new Chapter meets the fourth Friday of the month at Doric Lodge #471 in Damascus, right off Highway 65 at AR 285.



Then Grand King, Aaron South worked hard to establish the new Chapter,



But, as GHP, ME Bobby Bennett got to make the presentations.

*More about Ananais on Pages 4 & 6.*



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## Newest Chapter Doing Their Own Work!

### Ananais Exalts Three



On June 15, 2009, several officers and members of Ananais Chapter, U.D. traveled to the hall of Union Chapter #2 in Little Rock to confer their first Royal Arch Degree on three candidates. Ananais Chapter decided to move their Charter, under dispensation from GHP Aaron South, to Union in order to utilize the facilities of Union, and so that the members of the new Chapter could see the work performed in full. "Union style", by candlelight with a full music sound track. The degree was conferred by Companion Larry Spradlin, a dual member of Union and Ananais Chapter. He was assisted by members of Ananais, Union, and Fay Hempstead Chapters, under the direction of Companion T.J. Henwood who performed the Principal Sojourner's part.

The new Chapter has at least two more candidates ready for the Royal Arch.



M. I. Companion Jeff Burks  
Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of  
Arkansas, 2009-2010.

## **Most Illustrious Grand Master**

**Jeffrey W. Burks  
2009-2010**

### **Still Moving Forward**

Greetings Companions:

I wish to extend my gratitude to the Councils that I have visited so far, they have all been very gracious.

As I travel around the state, I see York Rite bodies working to keep candidates coming in. We must continue to look for and accept new members, even as we all get busy and are not able to make all meetings. To the Councils that are struggling, only you can put your foot down and say we need more candidates and ask for help. If you need assistance, let any one of our Grand Council officers know, or your District Deputy, or contact me directly; do what it takes. There are many Masons willing to assist you and impart some of their knowledge in building and keeping membership. Only you can set the wheels in motion.

If you are comfortable where things are, then you are losing ground.

If you are standing still, you are being passed by.

In closing, keep those in your prayers, that are struggling with health issues. There are Companions and their families needing them right now. God Bless.

Fraternally,

Jeff Burks  
M.I. Grand Master  
Summer 2009

## Most Illustrious Grand Master's Itinerary

### July

6th - Council - Batesville  
9th - Council - Fayetteville  
13th - Council - Magnolia  
20th - Council - Blythville

### August

17th - Council - Pine Bluff  
22nd - Knight Masons - Fayetteville  
28th - Red Cross - Fort Smith  
29th - Council SEM - Russellville

### September

12th - Knight Mason - Jonesboro  
19th - South Central Conference - Oklahoma City  
26th - Council SEM - Memphis

### October

12th - Council - Texarkana  
19th - Council - Hot Springs



## Grand Lodge Supports New Chapter

At the Institution of Ananais Chapter, several Grand Lodge officers, some of whom also hold Grand York Rite office, were present to support the efforts of the new Companions.



## Where Does Our Money for CMMRF Go?

The information on the next two pages from a flyer printed by Indiana University School of Medicine, Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine. Editor

### Research Update for the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, Inc.

The Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine is a center of vascular and cardiology research led by Keith March, M.D., Ph.D., a physician scientist and cardiologist. It engages researchers from numerous other disciplines and departments on campus who work together to understand and provide solutions to problems relating to poor circulation. Approaches being pursued involve the use of adult stem cells from one's own body to grow new blood vessels. ICVBM investigators have identified two key readily available sources of these stem cells— fat and blood vessels. Research



related to these stem cells is applicable to numerous diseases including heart attack, poor leg circulation, difficult wound healing, stroke and diabetes, and it has already proven beneficial to patients. Work being conducted by Dr. March and other ICVBM investigators has led to the creation of new devices and technologies that have been used in more than 5 million patients. The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation has made significant contributions to support the ICVBM.

#### Current Projects, Peripheral Vascular Disease:

Dr. Michael Murphy, in collaboration with Dr. March, is completing the first FDA-approved Phase I trial in the United States that uses stem cells derived from one's own bone marrow to treat vascular disease in legs. Participants are patients who have been told their only hope is amputation. Thus far, only one patient of 28 treated has required amputation. This study forms a key platform to move into treatments for heart disease; developing new therapies in legs allows us to test safety in leg muscle before moving into heart muscle.

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## CMMRF

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### Current Projects, Diabetes:

Dr. Carmella Evans-Molina and Dr. Kono, in collaboration with Dr. March, have been performing the first transplantation studies using two types of adult stem cells — from fat and blood vessels— in combination with pancreatic islets. They already have obtained early information suggesting that this approach can prolong the survival of beta cells, or insulin-secreting cells, following islet transplantation. This has the potential to provide an exciting new treatment option for patients with diabetes. Our hope is that one day a patient will be able to augment insulin levels and reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental insulin injections.

### Progress in Projects, Wound Healing:

Planning is underway for trials of the fat-derived blood vessel stem cells to accelerate healing of problem wounds, such as those seen after radiation to treat cancers, or in areas of poor circulation like the legs of diabetic patients. ICVBM research demonstrating this concept for the first time in pigs was published last month in the leading journal of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

### New Project, Emphysema:

Early data from a collaboration between new ICVBM investigator Dr. Irina Petrache and Dr. March suggest that lung destruction from smoking may be reduced by the fat-derived blood vessel stem cells. This has led to a new area of interest focused on the kinds of lung diseases that might be improved by treatments involving these cells.

### Additional News:

The Indianapolis VA hospital on our campus has agreed to partner with the ICVBM to establish a focused effort in vascular adult stem cell research. In a press release about this new partnership, Thomas Mattice, director of the Indianapolis VA, expressed his enthusiastic support: "This type of research holds great promise for our veteran patients and fits squarely into the research mission of the VA. Typical of the research conducted within the VA, this research spans the spectrum from basic clinical science conducted in the laboratory to the application of that science to treat diseases." Critical patient needs that will be under consideration for early trial development include peripheral vascular disease causing either threatened amputation or severe leg pain with walking, stroke, diabetes, erectile dysfunction, wounds or ulcers, and emphysema, among others.



So, the next time Companion Lee Stringfellow "hits you up" for a contribution to CMMRF, you'll know where your money goes!