**WHY I AM A MASON**

While attending The Colegio Americano (a Presbyterian American Private School in Merida, Yucatan,) I lived in one of its dormitories. It was a requirement for all of the students living in the dormitories to attend the Presbyterian Church every Sunday morning. This church was more conservative than the Southern Baptist Church. Since the church was only five blocks from the school, we went to church walking. We walked in front of a building that had a Compass on top of a Square on the front of the building. Since I always liked math and science, I thought that this building was probably a Math School.

Upon graduating from The Colegio Americano, Mr. Albert Riddering, who was the Principal of the School and who gave me a scholarship to study at the Colegio Americano, invited me to go live with him and his family in Pontiac, Michigan to attend Pontiac Central High School and to have my eyes checked/treated at the Ford Hospital in Detroit. We also attended the First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac Michigan. In the church I met several church members wearing a ring with a Compass on top of a Square. Thinking of the building I saw in Merida and seeing their rings I couldn't maintain my curiosity of knowing what that “Symbol” was, so I asked. I was told that they were “Masonic Rings”.

I became very good friends with one of those “Masons” and he told me more about the requirements of becoming a Mason. I became interested in knowing more about Masonry. I noticed that all those Masons always conducted themselves with a high degree of integrity and with impeccable moral values. This Mason friend told me that Benito Juarez, a former President of Mexico, was also a Mason. Benito Juarez was one of my “Heroes” and if he was a Mason I would become one too. Later on I found out that some of the US Founding Fathers and Writers of the US Constitution were also Masons. Having admired and believed in the Constitution of the United States and by observing my new "Mason Friends" I then had three very good reasons for wanting to become a Mason.

When I returned to Merida I attended The Merida Institute of Technology to study Engineering. I was still very much interested in becoming a “Mason” but I did not know any Mason there. I did not have the time to visit the “Masonic Lodge” because I went to school during the day and worked the nights when the Lodge was open. However, I found out, through a friend, that the General of the Mexican Army in Merida was a Mason.

One day I decided to go to the Army Headquarters to talk to the General. As I was approaching the stairs to go to the General's Office I was stopped by two soldiers. With no nice words they asked me where I was going. I told them that I would like to talk with the “Army General”. With an unfriendly tone they asked me what I was going to tell the “General”. I politely told them that it was something that I can only tell to the General. Needless to say that they did not let me go to see him. Then two more soldiers came to interrogate me. They were ready to draw their automatic guns, but I told them that I needed to talk only to the General. They did not let me see the Army General either. Then here came the General's Personal Secretary who asked me why I wanted to talk to the General. Before I responded to him I saw that he was wearing a “Masonic Ring”. Trusting on his ring I whispered to him that what I wanted to discuss with the General was about Masonry because I wanted to become a Mason. Upon hearing what I told him, smilingly he put his arm on my shoulder and took me to the General. I told them that I wanted to become a Mason. We had an honest and wonderful conversation. They told me that they would put in a good word for me to become a Mason and told me who to talk at the Lodge. I did as they told me and in March 1, 1968 I had the great honor of being initiated (First Degree) as a “Mason” in the “Fraternidad #10 Lodge” of Merida, Yucatan. I got my Second Degree on February 21, 1969 and on September 19, 1969 I was raised to Master Mason. Before I returned to the USA to continue my education, I was Secretary of my Lodge “Fraternidad #10”.

After graduating from Auburn University, my wife and I eventually moved to Huntsville, Alabama where I got an engineering job at Marshall Space Flight Center. I was invited to join the Kiwanis Club in Huntsville and in one of our meetings I met the speaker who was Mr. William F. (Bill) Dendy. In our conversation we found out that we both were Masons. He invited me to join the Scottish Rite and on July 21 of 1984 I did. On June 3, 1997 I joined Helion Lodge with a dual membership.

Since I joined Masonry, I have been a very proud Mason and have conducted myself according to the Obligations/Oaths taken. Treating my Mason Brothers with decency, honor, respect, and with confidence has been always present with me.

Ed Adams
Member of:
-Helion Lodge No. 1
-Scottish Rite (32 Degree)
-York Rite
-Order of Eastern Star (PP)