

Religion is of life, and the life of religion is to do what is good
(Doctrine of Life 8)

The New Church is an international organization of people striving to improve their conscious relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, the one God who rules heaven and earth.

We extend a warm welcome to everyone, and invite you to take what you like and return it freely. We use the Bible and the Heavenly Doctrine revealed by the Lord and published by Emanuel Swedenborg to guide us in our lives, especially in our relationships. We freely share our love and understanding with each other, and try to give one another support in our spiritual journeys.

Our pastor is **Rev. Garry Walsh**. Garry grew up in the Hurstville congregation and is pleased that together with his wife and children, he is able to serve this group as their pastor. He is available on call to help people work through any of the life issues that affect their relationship with themselves, their neighbours and their Lord.

Worship Services are held each Sunday at 10:00 AM. **Sunday School** for children ages 0-14 runs concurrently with the Sunday Worship service. In summer there is child minding during the services.

Young People's Group is held every second week.

Doctrinal Classes are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month (summer excepted) beginning at 7 30 pm. Tea and social precede the class on the first Friday each month at 7.00 pm..

Discussion classes on fundamental New Church teachings are held on Wednesdays at 10.00 am.

The Swedenborg Bookroom, at 22 Dudley Street, Penshurst, contains books by and about Emanuel Swedenborg for sale or loan. It is open by appointment.

Our Address is 22-24 Dudley St., off Hillcrest Ave. in Penshurst
Tel (02) 9580-1589. Fax (02) 9570-8447
Email: newchurch@optusnet.com.au

<http://www.newchurch.org.au/hurstville>
Call or come at anytime.



See article on June 19th celebrations

The New Church Newsletter

Hurstville Society July 2004

Worrying About The Future

By Rev. Douglas Taylor

“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own evil” (Matthew 6: 34)

This Divinely given law, being true for all times for all people, involves one of the universals of religion – trust in the Lord and His merciful providence. Our text exhorts us to have complete confidence that the Lord will provide what is good and necessary for our eternal welfare.

The Lord is here referring to *anxious* thought, to *worrying* about the future. Obviously, it does not mean that *we* should never give thought to the future and its needs, living only in the present and believing that “the necessities of life are to be awaited daily from heaven” (AC 8478:2). For charity itself demands that we think about the future and plan for it with a

view to meeting our obligations and supplying our needs. In this there is a looking to *use*. But the text warns against a *useless* looking to the future – a fear that, despite our best efforts, we shall be overwhelmed.

Yet which one of us has not, at some time or another, allowed his or her mind to be filled with anxious thoughts about future states and responsibilities? There is no end to the forms of torment with which we afflict ourselves when we begin to wonder *how* the Lord will provide. No doubt the most grievous is anxiety about our salvation, our lot to eternity. How will we, who are so conscious of our failings and our inclinations to evil, ever be brought of our own free will to *love* the things of heaven and eternal life – to love them spontaneously and from the heart? How will this be accomplished? Where are the necessary good feelings and true thoughts, interiorly felt and perceived? “What shall we eat?...What shall we drink?...What shall we wear?”

But all such thoughts are vain, that is, empty conjectures – useless musings. While we are in them, we do not notice that we are denying the Divine Omnipotence. After all, what *use* do they perform? “Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?” No good thing ever results from anxious thoughts themselves. Consequently, they are condemned and forbidden from the mouth of the Lord Himself; not merely declared inadvisable or psychologically harmful, but forbidden – *Divinely* forbidden and condemned.

“Tomorrow” refers *inmosty* to the Lord, the Eternal One. Concerning *His* part we are to have no anxiety whatever; it is sufficient for us to concentrate our attention on *our* part, the active evils of our present state, “the evil of the day.” Let us not be too proud to implore His mercy, asking Him to “give us this day our daily bread.”

Remember that God helps those who help themselves. Act as if everything depended upon you, and pray as if everything depended upon God.

-- S. H. Payer

News Notes

We offer our condolences to **Sam Johnson** and his family on the passing of his great-grandmother **Madge Wallace**. Madge, who had been in a nursing home for a considerable time, was 95. Sam and wife Kristen (Heldon) attended the funeral in Canberra.

It is wonderful to announce the arrival of another new baby into the extended Heldon clan. **Matthew** and **Marna Heldon** from the Gold Coast in Queensland have become proud parents with the arrival of a baby girl named **Ainsley Marie**. We hear that both mother and baby are doing well. Matthew is the son of **Brian Heldon**. Little Ainsley Marie is the newest great-grandchild for **Dorothy Heldon**.

Farewell to Bishop and Lisa Buss

Carolyn Heldon and **Naomi Heldon** were there! To mark the bishop's retirement a special farewell was held in Bryn Athyn on 20th June. The following is an excerpt from an email from Carolyn.

“I got to see Peter and Lisa but didn't get a photo with them because it was so crowded with everyone coming and going and well wishes. The pages [of the Busses' visits to Australia] which you [Margaret Heldon] did for the book (which turned out to be six volumes!!!) looked great and I heard quite a few people exclaim how well they were done and were they done professionally do you think? I had great glee in pointing out that "my mum did those on the iMac at home" and they were very impressed. Peter and Lisa also got a quilt that was made by 16 different societies doing a panel each and it looks really good and they also got a stained glass window of the Open Word which I really liked.” [The contributors to the quilt from Australia were **Carolyn, Dot Heldon** and **Christine Ridgway**]

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Lachlan Hinds** (9th), **James Kermond** (10th) and **Theo Kirsten** (30th)

Perth General Church Circle 19th of June Celebrations

Word is that our friends in the Perth Circle of the General Church enjoyed a very full and successful 19th of June weekend. Many of those in the Circle met for a picnic by the water on Saturday the 19th. In the evening, eight General Church people joined with the Australian New Church congregation for a banquet that included a couple of New Church Day talks.

On Sunday the group met for worship at 5pm, followed by a shared meal. Even with some members of the Circle unavailable, there were still nineteen people in attendance.

It is great to see that the spirit of the New Church is very much alive and well on the west coast. And, it is pleasing to see that a strengthening friendship is growing between the various New Church organizations in Australia.

Betrothal and Upcoming Wedding of Robert Cooper and Huiling Sun

Friends gathered on Friday afternoon, 18th of June to celebrate the betrothal of Robert and Huiling. The betrothal service has been prescribed by the Lord because, as we read in *Conjugal Love* 303, "By betrothal the mind of one is joined to the mind of the other, so that a marriage of the spirit takes place before a marriage of the body." This is the proper progression of a couple's union from their initial consenting to be married to the full experience of the married state. The wedding itself will take place on a date to be announced soon.

We are happy to announce that **Huiling's parents** and **sister** have at last been granted visitors' visas and will be arriving at the end of June. It will be a great pleasure to be able to meet them and enjoy their company for a few weeks.

The Passing of William "Bill" Barrett

There are two New Churches. The more external one is the one with which most of us can readily relate to. This Church is comprised of the natural organizations to which we belong. We can know who belongs to this Church because they turn up to Sunday worship or classes, or because their names appear on membership rolls. Many of these people have been part of our lives for a long time.

The *other* New Church, the internal one, is harder to quantify. With the Lord's guidance we would hope that participants in the external Church were part of this internal one as well. This Church is not defined by participation in the activities of a particular congregation. It is more a state of life. The life of someone in the internal Church is guided by the principles found when he or she reads the Writings and believes that they are indeed the words of God.

Bill Barrett was such a person. He did have some passing contact with New Church groups in Sydney, but despite the fact that he lived here all his life, he never felt called to attach himself to any of them. Like so many other readers of the Writing, his spiritual advancement into the teachings of the Church was done in private. When he entered the nursing home where he knew he would soon die, one of the few things he took with him were his "Swedenborg books." He often declared that there were only two things that mattered in life; death and resurrection. These have now become a full reality for Bill. He passed from this world in the early hours of the 16th of June. His closest relative, his nephew Jim Cox, was by his bedside. The funeral service, on Tuesday the 22nd, was conducted by Rev. Garry Walsh. Below is his memorial address.

William Henry Barrett was born in the final years before the outbreak of World War I. He was the fifth of what would ultimately be six children. The young family struggled with their father away in military service. A

sixth child was born after his return. The post-war years continued to be tough. The family's trials were to increase some years later with their father's death. Making ends meet was difficult and they moved repeatedly between various homes and suburbs in Sydney's inner west. Somehow, despite their very limited means, their mother always found a way to put food on the table. It was also not uncommon for her to stretch out a helping hand to strangers who could often be found at the family table, sharing their meal. This spirit of charity is something that seems to have made a lasting impression on Bill as events in his later life attest.

Bill was in his mid-twenties when his mother died. Perhaps this was the event that saw much of the glue holding the family together, dissolve. The four sisters married and followed their husbands in new lives. Bill and his older brother, Fred, were never to marry. The two tended to move around. They would buy a new home, soon lose affection for it, then sell up and move to somewhere new.

Both became professional gardeners, with Bill often working a couple of days a week in one location and other days somewhere else. It seems that he was searching for something, something that perhaps he found in the theological books of Emanuel Swedenborg.

Bill's father had been Baptist. His mother was Church of England. It seems that the family spent time in both traditions. Their Sunday School experience seems to have been mostly Church of England. Bill, though, tended to more readily identify himself as Baptist. In his heart though, Bill had no doubt that he was really a Swedenborgian, or as these believers are generally known, New Church.

Bill's search for the meaning of life had taken him to meetings of spiritualists. It was there that he was introduced to Swedenborg. He recalls the time that he went to a book store and asked for a book titled "Heaven and Hell..." The attendant at the store finished the sentence for him by saying, "By Emanuel Swedenborg." From there Bill's collection of Swedenborg's books grew. And, it was in these books that he found his meaning of life.

Kerry Lockhart's home. There we dined on a terrific meal prepared by Dudley Street neighbour and Hurstville Society friend **Trevor Mahy**.

Sunday's New Church Day family service was followed by a luncheon program in Baringa. Sunday School students **Deanna** and **Ashley Walsh** gave presentations on their recent projects based on the book of Revelation. A pot luck lunch was shared followed by the unveiling of a spectacular cake (see front cover) prepared by sisters **Rhonda Hall** and **Beryl Laidley**. The cake presented the scene of the twelve disciples who had followed the Lord in the world, being sent out through the spiritual world to preach the Gospel that "The Lord Jesus Christ Reigns, and His kingdom shall be for ever and ever" (TCR 791). Gifts from the Theta Alpha Guild to the children were presented and gifts from the congregation to the church were opened.



Delight is obvious on the faces of the children. Klaire Horner with her lamb (representing innocence), Ashley Walsh admires her white horse (representing the understanding of Truth from the Word), Deanna Walsh displays her Word marker, hand woven in red, purple, blue and gold by Dinah Rose, wife of Rev Patrick Rose.

2004-2005 Early Childhood Religion Program

Children love learning about the Lord. They instinctively respond to the stories of His Word. Helping them develop a relationship with the Lord in His three-fold Word is one of the most important things parents can do. It can also be very challenging! The General Church Office of Education has developed this program to support you in meeting the spiritual needs of your children.

This will be the third year of our program, which will again have **all-new** projects aimed at three different age levels: A (0 & 1), B (2 & 3), and C (4 & 5). Starting in September and going through June, your family will receive a package each month based on a story from the Word and following spiritual concepts that have been specifically chosen for these early years. Each package typically includes an illustrated story (2-5) or talk-about picture (0-1), projects and materials to bring the story to life, musical selections related to the theme, parent pamphlet and inspiration cards, and optional activities for enrichment.

The cost of this program will be \$30 for each child that you enroll. Only one shipping charge will be applied per family. Interoffice addresses have no mailing charge. In the United States and Canada, shipping will be \$20 per family. Overseas addresses will be charged \$35 per family. Please note that scholarships and incremental payments are available. **We do not want lack of funds stop you from receiving this program.**

To sign up, call Janet Lockard at 215-914-4966 or e-mail her at; jclocker@newchurch.edu she will be happy to assist you.

19th of June Celebrations

Saturday evening (the actual 19th) saw the congregation gather for a progressive dinner. This began with appetizers at **Garry and Laurel Walsh's** home. An hour later everyone moved next door to **Mike** and

Bill had no doubt as to the reality of life after death. Perhaps, as a keen gardener, he would have been inspired by passages such as this one from Swedenborg's book titled, "Conjugal Love", or "Married Love".

After that the angel said to them, "It is not yet noon. Come with me to our prince's garden, adjacent to this palace."

So they went, and at the entrance he said, "Look, the most magnificent garden in this heavenly society!"

But they replied, "What do you mean? This is not a garden. We see only one tree, with what appear to be fruits of gold on its branches and at the top, and what seem to be leaves of silver, whose edges are adorned with emeralds. And under the tree we see children with their nursemaids."

At this the angel said with inspired voice, "This tree is in the middle of the garden. We call it the tree of our heaven, and some call it the tree of life. But go, get closer, and your eyes will be opened and you will see the garden."

So they did so. And their eyes were opened, and they saw trees loaded with flavourful fruits and covered with leafy vines, the tops of which swayed with their fruits towards the tree of life in the centre.

[2] These trees had been planted in a continuous series which went out and around in perpetual circles or rings, in a seemingly endless spiral. It was a perfect spiral of trees, with one species following another in unbroken succession in the order of the excellence of their fruits. The beginning of the spiral started at a considerable distance from the tree in the middle, and the intervening space was lit up by a sparkling stream of light, which caused the trees in the spiral to shine with a successive and continued radiance from the first to the last of them.

The first trees were the most excellent of them all, abounding with rich fruits, and called trees of paradise, which the visitors had never seen

because these trees do not and cannot exist in the lands of the natural world. After them came trees whose fruits are used in the production of oil. Next, trees whose fruits are used in making wine. Then trees marked by their fragrance. And finally timber trees whose wood is used in construction.

Here and there in this spiral or circular course of trees were places to sit, formed by the trained and interwoven branches of the trees behind them, and loaded and adorned with their fruits. This unending circle of trees had openings which led out into flower gardens, and from these to lawns, divided into areas and beds.

[3] Seeing all this, the companions of the angel exclaimed, "Look, a model of heaven! Wherever we turn the gaze of our eyes, some sight of a heavenly paradise comes flooding in that is beyond description!"

On hearing this the angel rejoiced and said, "All the gardens of our heaven are, in their origin, representative forms or images of heavenly blessings. And because your minds were elevated by the flowing in of these blessings, you cried out, 'Look, a model of heaven!' But people who do not receive that influx see these sights of paradise simply as woodsy scenes. Moreover, all people receive the influx who are motivated by a love of being useful. But people who are motivated by a love of glory, and this not for the sake of any useful purpose, do not receive it."

Afterwards the angel explained to them and taught them what each thing in the garden represented and symbolized.

The material things of this world meant little to Bill. He would much rather give than receive. An example of this was a time when he gave \$20.00 to a young neighbourhood girl whom he had befriended. Soon after there was a knock at the door. The girl's father demanded that this gift giving stop, fearing that it was the precursor to something more sinister. Nothing, it seems, could have been further from the truth. Bill was just trying to be kind, as his mother had so often been kind.

This desire to help people tended to sometimes have a less attractive side as well. He would speak up if he saw injustice. If something irritated him, others soon became aware. This did little to bridge the gap that had grown between Bill and others he had known though his life.

There were two people who never drifted out of Bill's life. One was his brother Fred. The other was his nephew Jim. It is clear that he was devoted to both of them, as they were devoted to him. Fred passed from this world four years ago, leaving Bill in no doubt that not only was Fred now in a better place, but that the two of them would be together one day.

That day has now come. Bill has passed into the spiritual world that he had contemplated for so long. He is being reacquainted with his mother and his brother. Perhaps he has already found a garden to work in and enhance by bringing his own vision and expertise to the talents already there. His body here had grown old. Over time it will grow young again, bringing him back into the full vigour of life.

While he has moved on, a part of him surely remains here. Perhaps he is looking down on this morning's service. On some level he may be aware of the grief that has come with his passing. No doubt he will appreciate that we will now read his favourite biblical passage.

* John 14 was read in the King James translation. Bill felt strongly that this translation was the only one that truly captured the spirit of the Lord's Word. He was 86 years old.

Baringa Book Club Ladies

Our first meeting is planned for July 25, following church, in Baringa. We'll be discussing "**Cry the Beloved Country**" by **Alan Paton**. Please bring a packed lunch. Beverages are provided. Good reading to you all. Contact **Laurel Walsh** (phone 9594 4205) with any questions or concerns. Friends are welcome to join us at any time. Spread the word.