

## ***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.

Temporarily the Hurstville Society is without a **Pastor**. During this period the Society will be served by lay leaders and visiting preachers.

**Worship Services** are held each Sunday at 10:00 AM except the first Sunday of each month. But please check the calendar for each month in case of changes.

**Young People's Group** is held once a month in conjunction with the Young People's Group at the New Church at 2 Shirley St, Roseville.

**A tea and social** in conjunction with **discussion** meets on one Friday of each month (January excepted) beginning at 7 00 pm. This will be conducted by visiting ministers when available or lay led as appropriate. Please check the calendar for the month for the exact date.

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

Temporary editors – Owen & Margaret Heldon  
22-24 Dudley St., off Hillcrest Ave. in Penshurst  
Tel (02) 9580-1589. Fax (02) 9570-8447  
Email: [newchurch@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newchurch@optusnet.com.au)

<http://www.newchurch.org.au/hurstville>

Call or come at anytime.



---

### **The New Church Newsletter**

**Hurstville Society February 2011**

---

#### **2011 Family Camp**

The 2011 Family Camp this year was hosted by the Canberra New Church group at the Greenhills Conference Centre which is set in a picturesque location in the hills around Canberra close to the Murrumbidgee River still swollen from recent heavy rains. However the week of the camp was blessed with mild fine conditions and this was enjoyed by all.

Whilst there was no overriding theme this year a varied program was presented by **Revs David Moffat, Julian Duckworth, Grant Odhner** and **David Millar** with additional contributions from **Chris Skinner** and **Martin Pennington**. Julian did a series on the five senses, David Millar presented on Tools for working with the sacred text, David Moffat gave several presentations under the banner of "Things my father taught me" and Grant Odhner gave some insights into Jesus' mental life and its link with ours.

Optional sessions included valuable presentations on Sunday School resources by **Sarah Odhner**, Newsearch by **Michael Chester**, a poetic interlude by **Norman Heldon** and a special treat by **Angela Heldon** and **Callista Barritt** who gave an illustrated presentation on their volunteer work in the Riounde New Church School and Orphanage near Kisii in Kenya last year. A feature of life in Kenya is the singing that the people do constantly and Angela and Callista sang one of the songs they had learnt in Kiswahili.

Another feature of the camp was the **musical talent** available. The choir and recorder groups were much appreciated as well as a number of musical items that were performed on the Talent Night. A special thank you to **Roger Gifford** and **Christine Ridgway** for compering a dance evening and teaching us some Scandinavian dances.

Finally let's not forget the special occasion that occurred on Saturday morning when **Sam** and **Kristen** shared with the camp the baptism of their little boy **Liam Johnson**, the **Rev Grant Odhner** officiating. It was good to see a number of friends and relatives join us who had made a special trip to be there.

Many thanks to the Canberra Group for their efforts in making the 2011 Camp a big success.

Footnote: During the Talent Night Owen Heldon took the opportunity to present **Grant** and **Sarah Odhner** with a small gift in appreciation of their work in December and January for the Hurstville Society. They departed for the USA on the last day of camp travelling directly to the airport.

### ***Changes to New Church Life***

Because of budget issues, *New Church Life* is shifting from monthly to bi-monthly publication, and the subscription price – which has been held at \$16 for many years – is increasing to \$30 per year. Watch for the first issue of the new *New Church Life* in late February, with Bruce Henderson as Managing Editor and the Rev. Walter Orthwein as Spiritual Editor. Much

### **News Notes**

**Huiling** and **Gengi** have recently moved from the manse to their home at 15 Rosemont Ave Mortdale. Gengi will be starting school at the nearby Mortdale Public School. Huiling's phone number is 0451 970 753.

**Carolyn Heldon** has successfully completed her move to the Smiths Beach Resort in the famous Margaret River area in South West Western Australia where she will be Reception/Duty Manager. Carolyn took her new car on the Indian Pacific train though she and her sister **Angela** had to drive to Adelaide to join the train due to floods near Broken Hill. Angela will be attending the engagement party for **Lisa Smuts** and **Shaun Hester** which will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> January in Perth.

**Rev Doug** and **Christine Taylor** will be staying at Baringa from 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February after spending a month in Adelaide visiting family and friends. Doug has kindly offered to take the service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Lori Heldon** is in Bryn Athyn to see her mother who has been in poor health recently. Lori felt honoured to be able to attend the Resurrection Service for **John Keal** (see separate report).

Work is underway on getting the permanent residency application for our next pastor **Todd Beiswenger** submitted to the Australian Government. We had hoped that Todd might have been able to get an interim degree from the Bryn Athyn College to expedite the process but this did not eventuate. Todd's graduation is now expected in May. It looks like the process is going to take at least a year.

### **Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to **John Hicks** (9<sup>th</sup>), **Mike Lockhart** (11<sup>th</sup>), **Anne Lawrence** (21<sup>st</sup>)

## Ambassador Program to be discontinued

(News Item found in Olivet Society Newsletter in Canada)

As of January 28th, 2010 the Ambassador Program will be discontinued. From its inception, the Ambassador Program's primary purpose was to create channels of open two-way communication across the Church and Academy. Good communication is a loop involving output, reception and return. While we have made good strides in some areas, in many others we are still critically challenged.

The Ambassador program has been intensely engaged in the output side of this communication. Try as we might, we have been unable to consistently inspire the return side of the loop. This has left the program misunderstood and under valued by many. At a time when spending needs to be curbed, discontinuing a program that is not wholeheartedly embraced and repurposing the funds back into both organizations is prudent.

## Pause – Make Space for God

As advised previously the 7 week Pause Make Space for God programme will commence on the first **Monday evening** in February (7<sup>th</sup>) at 8 00 p.m.

If you haven't done so already please pick up your workbook on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> after church. A set of daily tasks is outlined in the workbooks. The cost of the workbooks has been reduced due to printing these locally and a donation of \$15 will cover costs.

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January we can discuss the possibility of having at least some of the discussion groups in people's homes. This may enable some people to attend who might not be able to do so otherwise. Many thanks to **Kerry Lockhart** for offering to chair these groups. Each Sunday there will be a sermon to coincide with the theme of the week's discussion.

of what has made *New Church Life* so vital to the life of the Church will be retained, but look for increased content and new features. Your feedback will be most welcome.

## Taste

by Norman Heldon

I opened my copy of the Word and read this: "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who trusts in Him." (Psalm 34 v 8)

Yes, just a taste can be so helpful. Like this for instance: "Depart from evil and do good and dwell forever more." Which reminds us that its in living a teaching from the Lord that we need His help if we wish to shun what is evil and do what is good.

If we decide to dip further into the Writings concerning the sense of taste we find this: "As food and nutrition correspond to spiritual food and nutrition, therefore taste corresponds to the perception and affection of them. Spiritual food is knowledge, intelligence and wisdom." (Heavenly Secrets 4792) And also: "As the manna = truth Divine . . . it is described as to delight and pleasantness by its taste which was "like that of a cake kneaded with honey." (Heavenly Secrets 5620)

However, there is a warning that seems to apply especially to how many people these days indulge too often in what is called "fast food". (In Jupiter) "they do not prepare food according to taste, but especially according to the use . . . It would be well for man to prepare his food according to this rule . . . differently from what is the case with those with whom the taste exercises command which causes the body to be unwell; or at least to be inwardly languid and consequently the mind also . . . Hence too comes obeseness in such things as are of thought and judgment and skilfulness in such things as are of the body and the world. By this there is affected the likeness of a man to a brute animal." (Heavenly Secrets 8378)

But finally "The taste corresponds to the desire to know and be wise." (Apocalypse Explained 427)

**Memorial Address**  
for John Knowlson Keal  
January 24, 2011



The course and progression of a person's life in this world can remind us of the Lord's care. Often as we live our lives, various things happen that influence or dramatically change the plans we might have pictured ourselves. If we think of what we knew one or more decades ago and compare that to how things have turned out, over and over again we find ourselves in far different circumstances – sometimes from our perspective things are better than we might have pictured and sometimes they are sadly different.

One of the great truths of religion is that the Lord is watching over each one of us every moment of every day. He foresees how tiny aspects of present events will have an influence on us in the future. He works to bend and guide us to a better life through millions of more influences than we could imagine. He does this all in a manner that carefully protects our inner freedom and our sense that we are guiding our own lives. The Lord oversees these things because more than anything else, He wants to see us truly happy. He wants to see us happy not just for a moment, but as happy and useful as we can be to eternity. He offers each of us the joy of heaven. It is not so difficult to live the life that leads to heaven as some believe. We are not called to be perfect people. We are called to work at fulfilling the useful roles that the Lord brings to our attention justly, faithfully and honestly. We are called to attend to the Lord's Word and His commandments as we make our many decisions each day.

We prepare ourselves for eternal life by asking the Lord's help to have our words and deeds motivated by a wisely caring love. Who we will be to eternity is ever more clearly defined each day by the values that we accept

birth in South Africa more than sixty years ago through a life of many unforeseen elements, we can be sure that the Lord's guiding hand was preparing him all along the way for the useful things he would do in this world and for a role that he will be able to fulfil to eternity in the next life. Truly as the words of the Psalm so clearly state: "The Lord is good to all and His tender mercies are over all his works." (Psalm 145:9) AMEN.

(reprinted with permission of Rev Eric Carswell and Ellen Keal. Many New Church people in Hurstville and around Australia will remember John Keal. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family at this time.)

For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord.  
'For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

*Isaiah 55:8-9*

### **Bishop Tom Kline to Retire**

(News Item found in Olivet Society Newsletter in Canada)

"Allow me to remind you that the Council of the Clergy is in the 2nd year of the process leading to the selection of a new Executive Bishop to take office in 2014 when Bishop Kline intends to retire. According to the plan approved by the Clergy at the 2010 meetings, each pastor of a society, group, or circle is to actively seek counsel from their congregation about the qualities you would like to see in the next Executive Bishop so that we enter the next stage of the process in June 2011 with your counsel in mind. The pastor would like you to give us your honest thoughts about what kind of qualities you would like our next Bishop to have."

As we do not have a pastor in Hurstville we have so far not been part of the above process. Perhaps if the proposed episcopal visit at Easter is confirmed this might be a topic we can discuss with Bishop Keith.

guitar for one of his sons. He enjoyed sharing his humour with his family sometimes continuing on with rapid-fire jokes evoking enough laughter that made it hard for his children to eat their meals. He was very interested in his children's education and encouraged them to pay attention to their studies and get good grades. It was important to him that the family stay in one place for Ellen's and his children education so they could avoid the challenges of shifting schools and friendship groups. He read out loud to them and shared his love of quirky humour introducing them to various John Cleese, Monty Python and Mel Brooks shows and movies. He shared his delight in old science fiction movies whose special effects now strike many as comical rather than the frightening or sinister effect that was intended. Some of the anecdotes of his children and nieces and nephews showed his insightful interest in their lives and a desire to be an influence for good in the ways he could be.

His love for his wife, Ellen, showed in many ways. Her laughter at his humour no doubt encouraged him to entertain her more. He worked on the gardens around the house from a sense that they were important to Ellen. He kidded playfully about all sorts of things being Ellen's fault. In many ways he often showed a gratitude for the blessings her life had brought to his.

Clearly John was highly accomplished and people thought of him as brilliant and capable in so many areas, yet in a number of ways he successfully held on to the qualities of a little boy who never wanted to grow up. His wonderful playfulness showed in so many areas of life.

It is a cause of sadness that John's natural life ended far sooner than any could have wished. Though his recent months had been hampered with physical ills, the fundamental cause of these issues wasn't clear. The hole left in many people's lives by his passing is far from small. May we take comfort in the joy we can picture he will find in the wonders of his new life. He will get to meet his parents who passed away only in recent years. More fundamentally the person John has been will not change. Those who knew John can easily picture how the ways his life brought so many useful things to others and the gifts of humour and care that he so easily shared will have new opportunities for expression in the life he is entering into. From John's

as our own and live from. Our eternal home in the life after death will be determined by the inner core of our life that we have freely chosen and fixed by countless decisions.

The Lord oversees the spiritual direction of our lives and exerts a gentle uplifting effect on us. One of the blessings of life is being able to get some sense of this wonderful care.

We have gathered to acknowledge the passing from this world of John Keal. From his birth and early life in South Africa, to his family's immigration to Australia to the beginning of his career and his meeting his future wife half way around the world John's life has had a host of elements that have brought blessings to him and others.

John Knowlson Keal was born November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1948 near Durban, South Africa, the first of four sons born to Hugh and Doreen Lumsden Keal. His father had come to know of the New Church as an adult and was eventually baptized himself after the four boys were born and baptized. For the first fourteen years of his life, John lived in South Africa, starting his schooling at the Kainon New Church School, but then shifting schools as his father's profession moved him several hundred miles north to Pretoria. The decision to move again and to immigrate to Australia was motivated by a desire for a good place to finish raising their family. Anyone who has changed schools during their adolescence, let alone moving from one continent to another, knows this is often not an easy transition. A little note in a New Church Life news column from the Hurstville congregation welcomed the Keals and their four boys and giving clear indication of the local demographics of the time stated "We would now like a family with eight young girls. This is an invitation – are there any acceptances?" (New Church Life 1962, p. 252)

It is amazing for many who have known John's successful career in highly technical electronics and software to learn that he was not a particularly successful student in school including getting low grades in math. In the Australian educational system of his youth, given that John was obviously not university bound after finishing his secondary school education at 16 in the mid-1960s, John entered an apprentice-like employment with Qantas Airlines where he got the focused and applied training in electronics that

opened up both his strong intellectual capabilities and his future career. His work involved first radio and then radar systems and techniques. He also served in a technical standards role for the airlines.

During his youth he developed his musical abilities on guitar and banjo, even building an electric guitar. He built himself a very early computer. He also enjoyed building and flying radio controlled gliders including one with an eight foot wing-span. He also got a pilot's license to fly full-sized gliders himself. He had friends who went caving or spelunking together.

In his mid-20s John was able to use his employment at Qantas to easily afford the potentially expensive airplane trip from Sydney to the United States, coming to visit Bryn Athyn. He had been asked to drop off some things for the Clyde Smith family from their daughter Claudia who then also lived in Australia. Not being sure where their home was, John got in touch with Claudia's sister, Ellen who was working at Glencairn. She offered to take him there and met up with him at the Cathedral and walked together to her home. This first practical meeting led to a rapidly growing and deepening friendship, with John taking Ellen to the Glencairn Dance conveniently happening during his visit. Some clearly sensed that Ellen's presence made John light up. He has claimed that he wasn't a funny person until he met Ellen, but those who knew him see this far-from-accurate statement as more of a reflection on his love for her and appreciation of her presence in his life.

After a courtship carried on half way around the world in the pre-internet days, John and Ellen were betrothed in Hurstville when she visited there for the first time near Christmas and then were married the following June, within one week of John's brother, Ian. John and Ian each served as the other's respective best man.



John and Ellen in Hurstville 1978

John and Ellen began their married life in Australia living in the house right next to the Hurstville Church. During the four and half years they lived there, their first two children were born – Tiffany and Trevor.

John could see that his work at Qantas Airlines was not going to continue and recognized that there were few if any jobs for his background in Australia so they decided to move to the United States and for Ellen, back to near where she had grown up. They established their family near Bryn Athyn and had two more children, Amanda and Jason. He got a job working for RCA with the help of a Bryn Athyn acquaintance. As his part of the company morphed under several different names and company relationships, he worked, with extremely high security clearance, on the Aegis Combat System which is an integrated naval weapons system that uses powerful computers and radars to track and guide a boat's weapons. While pursuing this highly demanding technical work, he decorated his office with a totally backwards clock, not to mention little "Happy Meal" toys, and other playful items. He and his co-workers could have light-hearted esoteric conversations on the way to lunch about things such as how fast would their vehicle have to go for a red light to appear to be green due to the speed of their approach decreasing the wave length of the light.

Outside of his busy work, John served for a time as the vice chair of the General Church Sound Recording Committee and helped there and at the Cathedral with his knowledge and ability with electronics and sound systems. His interest in sound systems brought him in contact with a group of friends who played blue grass music. The man who played the upright or double bass for them decided he wanted to do something different and they invited John to take his role – with two days to learn the instrument before their next performance. He was introduced at performances as "The Thunder from Down Under." This blue grass band provided wonderful recreation and an outlet for his musical abilities including a keen ear for picking out the elements of a song, such as the bass line.

John worked long hours and not-infrequently weekends but when he was home he loved to putter around the house and use his understanding and mechanical abilities to repair things. He observed that almost nothing is ever really broken. Once he completely overhauled a discarded electric