



SOUL FOOD

April 2008

"Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

(Zechariah 9:9)

What does the Lord require of me?

To do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with my God.

The Lord desires any person's total submission so that He can make him blissful and happy. That is, He does not want him to be partly his own man and partly the Lord's, for then there are two masters whom a person cannot serve simultaneously.

(Arcana Coelestia 6138:2)

When the Lord rode a donkey toward Jerusalem on the day we call Palm Sunday, He was fulfilling the prophecy from Zechariah, which is given above. The people welcomed the Lord as their King, shouting "Hosanna" and spreading a carpet of clothes and palm branches along the way.

Our response today

*We, also, can welcome the Lord as our King by looking to Him and submitting ourselves to His rule. Choosing the Lord to be our King involves bowing ourselves down to His laws - His truths - recognizing that these have been given for our welfare and happiness. Like the crowds of people on that first Palm Sunday, we can rejoice as we do this, knowing that when we welcome the Lord, He will come with His great love to save us. For it is **when we want to do** the Lord's will that He can come to us as our King and bring joy and peace to our hearts.*

The Aurora New Church Perth

It seems that the name adopted by the Saturday afternoon growth group, and used for a Face book sight, has been welcomed as the name of our circle. First suggested by Alex as Aurora Conciergus, the group chose to use Aurora as the name on Face Book which is growing slowly and contributes to discussion with others viewing it and attaching other sites with values and philosophies compatible with ours.

The Journey Concludes

The Journey is being completed this month under the Leadership of Alex and Bernice. Much self appraisal and life change is necessary especially carving out a time each day to spend in contemplation, prayer and reading. The Journey has been progressing smoothly with most members attending consistently and hopefully growing in spiritual strength. Personal prayer, self examination and alone time for meditation and reading the Word top the list of necessities for spiritual growth.

We welcome Ann and Lynn who have joined us and look forward to sharing more times with you!

As far as outreach goes it has been successful through friendship rather than placing adverts.

Time and venue for Ongoing Outreach

The time slot on Sunday afternoon at three thirty has worked well, followed by Worship.

This seems to be a good time for ongoing Outreach for all of us to work together on. For example having a reading group at this time which is advertised in the Nova.or "Rise Above It "as outreach.

Mike Gladish has a suggestion that follows.

Doctrinal Studies by Rev Mike Gladish *The study of Heaven and Hell designed by Mike Gladish is used at Val's home for classes on the second and fourth Friday mornings of the month.*

Mike is planning another online study. This time he is suggesting some books that are not New Church but stimulate discussion on new Church values and principles. Here with is a letter emailed to us recently.

"Dear Friends,

It's been some time since most of you were involved in the Heaven & Hell book study we conducted online. For a good while I didn't think I had the time to produce another course, but something has come up that may be worth an extra effort. I wonder what you think.

*There is a "**spiritual teacher**" out there who has nothing to do with the New Church, but whose books are selling like water in the desert thanks to Oprah Winfrey's recent interest in him. His name is Eckhart Tolle and his first book was called "The Power of Now," his most recent one "A New Earth." You can catch a glimpse of Tolle giving a lecture if you Google his name and scroll down to one or more U-Tube videos. You can also get book reviews on any of the online bookstore websites - or Google.*

The interesting thing is that several in the church who have read Tolle feel that he is very close in many aspects of his writing to what the NC teaches. To be sure, much of it is clearly "new age" and cannot be integrated with the NC, but it has occurred to me (and others) that a thoughtful comparison of his ideas with NC teachings might be useful. WHY? Well, if nothing else it might help us build a bridge of connection with other spiritual seekers who find Tolle engaging. On the other hand, if we have a good look at this material from the platform of the heavenly doctrines, we might see even more clearly why the NC Writings are so special.

What do you think? Would you be interested in joining such a discussion/study group? If so let me know, and please feel free to make any suggestions as to what format would be most useful to you.

Cheerio - and happy Easter to you

all MikeGladish' www.dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca

Episcopal Visit of the Right Reverend Brian Keith

It was wonderful to have Brian and Gretchen with us for 5 days. Unfortunately it occurred during term time so that people were not free to join in all events. However John and Moira superbly hosted them and showed them a good time between classes and meetings.

On Friday evening the class was focused on the glorification of the Lord and His temptations while living with us on earth. Very profound doctrinal ideas were covered in this topic which was most useful to us just before Easter.

On Saturday afternoon Brian spoke to the group about guilt. He emphasized that guilt is only there to help us recognize what we have done

and effect change. If we allow the Hells to make us feel guilty beyond that and to give us an overarching sense that we are guilty it can cause us to give up or lose our perspective over small things. The Lord predestines us all to Heaven and if there is a hitch along the way He doesn't see our mistakes but bends our attempts to keep us on the path to heaven. It is up to us to remember not to wallow but to use the guilt to effect change in our lives that is positive and healthy.

On Sunday we enjoyed have Brian lead us in the Journey before taking the Holy Supper service. The evening culminated in presenting Brian and Gretchen with gifts in thanks and a cake with the writing "Aurora Circle Perth thank you Brian and Gretchen".

On Monday evening Brian and Gretchen spoke to us about their experiences in West Africa and Ghana, including the spiritual climate there. An example they gave was how when traveling on a bus in Africa a man alighted and spoke to the driver who gave him permission to preach to the busload of people. When he was finished he thanked the driver and got off the bus. (Little did he know that there was a Bishop on the bus!) Apparently this is common place and illustrates the complete trust that everyone seems to have in God. There are Biblical names everywhere for shops, restaurants etc and most people are very religious.

It was great to have Brian and Gretchen with us!



April *The Journey finishes*

Sunday 31st March		<i>The Journey 3.30pm -4.30pm</i> Week 6 5pm Worship 10 Broome Street South Perth
Sunday 6th April		<i>The Journey 3.30pm -4.30pm</i> Week 7 5pm Worship 10 Broome Street South Perth
Fri 11th April	Heaven and Hell class at Val's	
Sunday 13th		<i>The Journey 3pm -4.30pm</i> Concluding Meeting 5pm Worship 10 Broome Street South Perth Shared meal to follow
Sun 20th	10.30am Worship 10 Broome Street South Perth	
Fri 25th April	Heaven and Hell class at Val's	
Sun 27th		5pm Worship 10 Broome Street followed by a shared meal
Sun 4th May		5pm Worship 10 Broome Street followed by a shared meal

Worship Services are held weekly at 10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street) See calendar for times. You are invited to join in a shared meal afterwards if you wish.



10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)

www.newchurch.org

<http://www.newchurch.org/locations/asiaPacific/australia>

Based on the Holy Bible, The New Church gains further inspiration and understanding through the Revelation of 18th century scientist and theologian [Emanuel Swedenborg](http://www.swedenborg.com.au). In his 35 volumes of theology, Swedenborg helps set forth the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.

*For ordering books see www.swedenborg.com.au
Or phone Alex 0428517813*

*We sponsor **"The Loving Arms Mission"** in Nepal, a home for orphaned children. Donations gladly accepted.*