



SOUL FOOD

April 2009

AURORA CIRCLE PERTH

Joy, Sadness & Joy

**By the Rev. Patrick A. Rose
(excerpts)**

“Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you” (John 16:22).

The story of the Lord’s last days on earth is one of joy, then of grief, and then again of joy. On Palm Sunday He rode, triumphant, into Jerusalem and was hailed by a multitude of people. Joyful shouts of “Hosanna” filled the air, and people spread their garments and branches of palm trees in the road. So great were the numbers of people who thronged around the Lord, welcoming Him as their King, that the Pharisees, who had been plotting against Him, said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!” (John 12:19).

And, at the end, when the Lord cried with a loud voice, “Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit” (Luke 23:46), the grief and despair felt by the disciples must have been almost unbearable.

His disciples, you see, had followed Him and been taught by Him as He traveled throughout the land. Only a short

while before, He had ridden into Jerusalem as a King and had been welcomed as a King. Now it appeared as if all were lost. To the disciples it appeared as if the Messiah, the Christ, was dead. We are told that at the time of the crucifixion there was darkness over the whole earth. From noon till three in the afternoon, the sky was black. Surely, there must have been an even greater blackness in the hearts of those who had loved and followed the Lord.

Two days later, though, they learned the happy news! First there was a feeling of disbelief. The Lord had promised that He would rise again on the third day. But they had not really believed that He would rise again, not until now. Now, though, the evidence was irrefutable. The Lord had risen as He said. Once again He stood before His disciples. And they were happy!

This cycle—from joy, to grief and despair, and then once again to happiness—is a universal pattern. It occurs so often throughout life, in both the big and the little things. Take the overall cycle of life, for example. For most people their childhood is a time of happiness. Unhappiness, frustration and despair occur only later, when they face the problems of life as an adult. Then, as they face up to and live through whatever troubles life may bring, they often find a sense of peace that comes only with the wisdom of experience in their later years,.

It is not surprising that this general pattern is seen in so many areas of human existence, because the affairs of this world are but a reflection of the realm of the spirit. This cycle from joy to despair, and once again to joy, can be seen so often in this world, because it is the cycle of spiritual growth. The way in which we progress in various areas of life is a reflection of the general way in which our spiritual life progresses.

His life on earth might show that path which all must follow if they are to be conjoined to Him.

But while we still live on this earth, what we have done in the past is not what we will necessarily become. There is no need to focus forever upon the past. The past is dead. The Lord, and His salvation, does not lie buried forever under sins we have committed in the past. As the angels asked those who came to the sepulcher early in the morning, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5).

The Lord's salvation is not lost in the past. It lies in the future, in our future, if we but follow Him along the pathway to heaven. All we need to do is change our ways, and turn to Him.

The Lord will rise again in our hearts. When the night is over, morning will come, as the Lord brings spiritual light. And then the Lord will no longer seem absent, for we will have trust in His presence, and His many blessings will

seem so obvious, so apparent. Deep within, we will feel a sense of peace. Once again there will be joy and happiness. The Lord has RISEN! And then our happiness will be eternal.

It is a promise for all of us, today.

I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.... Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.... Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full (John 16:20, 22, 24).

Amen.

*Lessons: Matthew 20:29-34, 21:1-11; Luke 24:1-9, 33-43;
True Christian Religion 105*

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www.vineyard.org

Martin Luther King, inspired by Swedenborg.

Every January, America celebrates the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the great civil rights leader who sparked global consciousness of racial issues. Dr. King was not a stranger to Swedenborg theology. He credited Swedenborg with giving us the “best possible understanding of God’s message.”

The link with discovered in extensive library to Morehouse Some of his unpublished books were the auction. items was a A Modern



Swedenborg was 2006 when King’s sold at Sotheby’s College in Atlanta. handwritten notes, sermons, and key exhibited during Among display copy of Emerson’s Anthology (1958).

On the opening page, King had written: “Swedenborg enables us to understand why we were created, why we are alive, and what happens to us after our bodies die. Swedenborg enables us to have the best possible understanding of God’s message as it exists in those Bible books which constitute God’s Word.”

At present, the collection is closed while items are being catalogued. Swedenborgian scholars are eager to delve

into King's manuscripts as soon as the collection opens to the public. Rev. Mark Perry of the New Church in San Diego says, "I would love to have the opportunity to study Martin Luther King's Library for more evidence of Swedenborg's influence. Given the influence that Swedenborg's Writings had on people like Helen Keller, Jorge Borges, George Innes, Emerson, Blake and many others, it does not surprise me that Dr. King also read Swedenborg."

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Circle News.

Building Relationships Seminars. Agreed to start on the 20th September 2009 with meetings at 3.30 – 5.00pm and a service at 5.30pm.

Activities For 2009

Services planned for Easter: Special Easter Sunday 10:30 am service with picnic to follow. If the weather is unfriendly, we will picnic in the hall.

Services planned for June 19th: Friday June 19th special NewChurch day informal coffee morning at Zamia (Kings Park) for those who can make it happen at 10: 30 am.

Sunday 21st June special 5:30pm service with coffee and cake to follow.

Ps: Bring along a reading that speaks to you of NewChurch Day. As we sup we can share our readings.

Kings Park Saturday – coffee walk: every 2 months to start from Sat 18th April at 9.00 am followed by coffee/breakfast at Zamia Café.

Volunteer lay services: We would like to get more variety into our services and invite you to organize a service on a Sunday that suits you.

Pastoral visit of Rev. Stephen Cole will be the weekend of Palm Sunday. Final dates and itinerary are being finalized. Dates from Thursday 2nd of through until Tuesday the 7th of April inclusive.

Congratulations to Richard and Val Hart, the proud grandparents of a grandson, Kalani who came into the world on the 19th of March.

Ray is happily home again after being hospitalized for a procedure.

John Dwyer will be in hospital undergoing a spinal operation on the 9th April, in St John of God Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Visit by the Rev Henry Kalo (NCIA) Itinerary as follows:

*Saturday 18 April BBQ at the Moffats at 7 Penny St
Kauring York.*

*Sunday 19 4.30pm service by Rev Henry Kalo. Friendlies
Society Hall, Vic Park. Bring a plate.*

*Monday 20th Lunch at Meath Village 12.30pm. Goals of
Church in Southern Africa.*

*Tuesday 21 Evening at Ros and David Walker, 35 Dargin
Place Greenwood Work of the Church in Southern
Africa 7.30pm*

*Thursday 23rd Day at Whiteman Park at 12.00pm BBQ in
the Park.*

RSVP to Lyn asap.

APRIL CALENDAR

<i>Friday April 3rd</i>	<i>Heaven & hell</i>	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>Boronia Street, Innaloo</i>
<i>Sunday April 5th</i>	<i>Holy Supper Worship Service</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Broome Street</i>
<i>Easter Sunday April 12th</i>	<i>Worship Service~with Picnic to Follow</i>	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>Broome Street</i>
<i>Friday 17th April</i>	<i>Heaven & hell</i>	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>Boronia Street, Innaloo</i>
<i>Sunday April 19th</i>	<i>Worship Service</i>	<i>!0:30am</i>	<i>Broome Street</i>
<i>Sunday April 26th</i>	<i>Worship Service</i>	<i>!0:30am</i>	<i>Broome Street</i>

*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.*

'General Church of the New Jerusalem in Perth

10 Broome St. South Perth

www.newchurch.org

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for orphaned children. Donations gladly accepted.*

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