



SOUL FOOD

August 2007

*I am the Lord your God, who brought you
out of the land of Egypt, out of the house
of bondage.*

HIS LIFE WITHIN YOU

Adapted from a sermon on "I Am the Lord Your God" by the Rev. Peter M. Buss, Jr.

The Focus of Your Life

I'd like you to think for a moment about what your life may be like a year from now. Countless things will happen to you between now and then. Whatever activities or landmarks fill your time, you can be assured that life will keep rolling by. Each day will bring new experiences and challenges - some joyful and others which test your endurance. Through it all you will be developing as a person. Your perspective will change as you see more of life.

Beyond the various things which fill up your day is the challenge of making spiritual progress. Each year you get closer to the time when your life in this world will be over, and you will enter the spiritual world, which includes heaven and hell. Your primary goal in this world should be to prepare for that time - to be led by the Lord toward heaven.

So, from time to time, it is useful to reflect on how religion will play a part in your life. How will the Lord Himself help you to make some spiritual progress this year? What is He leading you toward? What does He want you to see about your choices and ways of acting that you should consider changing? What is most important to Him?

"I Am the Lord Your God"

The central principle to keep in mind as you strive to make progress in your spiritual life is dedication to the Lord your God. This is the first commandments the Lord gave from Mt. Sinai. He said:

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I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before My face. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments (Exodus 20:2-6).

The First Commandment calls you to commit yourself to the Lord - to let Him reign in your life. The Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church teaches that "A person's whole character is determined by the nature of whatever dominates his life" (Arcana Coelestia 8858). The Lord asks you to let Him "dominate" your life. He asks that you love Him above all things, that you make Him and His ways the priority in your life, for He is the source and beginning of all life.

Why the Negative Tone?

You may notice that the First Commandment is stated in the negative: "You shall have no other gods before My face," rather than "You shall worship the Lord your God alone." There are several reasons for this tone. One is that the Israelites, to whom the Ten Commandments were first revealed, would not have listened unless a powerful God was speaking. The idea of a jealous God caused them to pay attention!

Another reason for the tone is that it tells how you can make the Lord the central focus in your life. "You shall have no other gods before My face." How? Other gods represent things which stand in the way of letting the Lord reign in you. These things could be selfishness - putting yourself before the Lord - which is the root of all evil. They can also be worldliness, or a lack of concern for anything - such as the Lord and heaven - beyond what you can see and experience.

If you focus only on yourself and your own pleasure, the Lord cannot help you. Without Him, your life will be like that pictured by the Israelites in the land of Egypt - in bondage, controlled by negative influences which come

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to you by means of hell. But the Lord wants you to understand that it doesn't have to be that way. He can free you from these negative influences. If you put Him first, He can deliver you from the influences of hell (see Arcana Coelestia 8866).

The seemingly negative message is turned into a positive one in the internal sense or meaning within the words as revealed in the Heavenly Doctrine. The Lord's "jealousness" represents His ardent desire to save you and to warn you of the dangers of evil. He wants you to love Him and keep His commandments, for then He will be able to bless you with peace and happiness and to inspire you to be a good, worshipful, useful person.

The Lord's Life Within You

The angels in heaven love the Lord so much that they want Him to be a part of every aspect of their lives. When they wake up, when they eat a meal, when they are working or socializing, they want the Lord to be in their thoughts. As a result they constantly "have the Lord's life within them" (Arcana Coelestia 8865).

This is a wonderful goal - to know what kind of God the Lord is and to keep Him in mind always. It is a high ideal, but it is attainable! Why else would the Lord command it? He longs to shower His mercy upon you, but that can only happen to the extent that you turn to Him and allow Him to guide you.

Life continues. One day leads to the next; weeks and months slip by in a never-ending progression of activity. The Lord asks that you strive to include Him in your thoughts and to ask for His leadership during all these events and daily decisions. Take delight in knowing the Lord your God and in dedicating yourself to Him, so that you may receive His blessings, and so you may feel the joy of His life within you!

News

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.*

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Happy times with Rev Frank Rose and Louise last year 2006.1



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We are always appreciative of the occasions when we have with us visiting ministers ordained in the highest use of allservice to the Lord in His church here on earth.

Running a circle with lay leadership relies heavily on the enthusiasm and diligence of the laity. We are very fortunate to be blessed with people who give of their time and energies to maintain platforms of activities that allow for worship, administration, education, and growth.

As young people mature and grow it is wonderful to see them participating in the life of the church and offering their time and service to it.

It is a joy to have young children at our services.

When one person decides not to attend our small worship gatherings it does have a profound ripple effect. The more variety of people attending, the more joy is felt by all.

We look back on times shared with Rev Alfred Acton, Rev Peter Buss, Rev David Ayers, Rev Gary Walsh, Ros Taylor, Rev Frank Rose, Rev Douglas Taylor and now we look forward to the visit of Rev George McCurdy.

Rev George McCurdy's Visit August 2007

<i>Fri 3rd</i>	<i>Tour of King's Park Lunch at Zamier's 1pm</i>	<i>Dwyers Willetton Shared meal 5.30pm Class 7.30pm</i>
<i>Sat 4th</i>	<i>Meet at Val's at 10am for a tour of Perth and a coffee...</i>	<i>Smuts home Class 3pm Discussion and games 4pm Shared Meal 5.30pm</i>
<i>Sun 5th</i>	<i>Picnic Brunch at Mathilda Bay 12 midday</i>	<i>Rev George McCurdy</i> <i>5.30pm Worship Holy Supper</i> <i>Shared meal to follow.</i>

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Email to us from Christian house sitters.

From: ChristianHSit [mailto:ChristianHSit@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, 8 June 2007 2:34 AM
To: SoulFoodPerth@gmail.com
Subject: New Church

Dear New Church,

I am sending this message to a few churches in the Perth area hoping that you and your congregation might be able to assist.

I run Christian House Sitters and we have numerous folk seeking a house sit in your area.

If any of your congregation are interested in having a Christian look after their home and animals while they are on holiday I am sure we can help find the right person. Our service will not cost them anything. It is free to house owners.

Full details can be found on our web site at www.christian-housesitters.com

Please can you make this service known to your congregation. Even just a mention in your newsletter would be wonderful.

Many thanks,

Ray

Christian House Sitters

www.christian-housesitters.com

The Loving Arms Mission

News from Nepal by Ned Rogers

Valerie and I have just returned from Kathmandu after spending most of June visiting the two homes for children founded and funded by the Loving Arms Mission. It was great to visit the eleven children we met at the first house three years ago and to see how much they have matured in Church of the New Jerusalem A



that time. It was also great to see the ten new children now settled in at the second house.

Kent Rogers and his wife, Shovha, are the father and mother in the first home, and Nadine Rogers is the mother and Rajendra Budhatoki is the father in the second home. The children are given love, security, nourishment and natural and spiritual education.

While in Kathmandu we attended three church services given in Kent's home. These are held on Saturdays, since this is the holy day in Nepal. The children go to school six days a week, Sunday through Friday. The attendance at the services varied between 30 and 35 people, with 23 children and 7 to 12 adults including Val and myself. Some of the adults attended one service and some attended all the services. In all, 15 adults attended at least one of the services.

The services start with the singing of five or six songs from the Contemporary Service Songbook. Kent plays the guitar and one of his sons plays the electric guitar while other children keep time on a bongo drum and a rattle type instrument. It was very moving to look around the room and see these beautiful faces praising The Lord. Kent then leads the congregation in saying the Lord's Prayer. Shovha then reads one or two passages from a Nepalese Bible. Kent then gives an extemporaneous talk in Nepalese. While Val and I were there, he paused from time to time to explain in English what he had been saying. At the end of the service we went around the room and each person said an individual prayer or said something about what he or she was thankful for. After the service, everyone stays for a special meal with several people contributing to the feast.



We celebrated the Nineteenth of June on Saturday, June 23rd. Kent's talk was about the distinct beliefs of the New Church. In the afternoon, Kent organized some games which all the children, including some guests, thoroughly enjoyed. Everyone got the first place prize, which was ice cream supplied by Nadine.

Val and I had mixed feelings about leaving Kathmandu. Although we both wanted to be in our own home again, it was very hard to leave Kent and Nadine, and all the children in their homes that we consider our grandchildren. It was inspiring to see these children learning the truths contained in the Three Fold Word and looking toward the future when they in turn will teach their children about our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Loving Arms Mission Donations

Val is collecting donations for the Loving Arms Mission.

We will ask George to transfer the money for us after his visit with us next weekend.

Calendar for August

<u>August</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Class</u>
<i>Fri 3rd</i>		<i>Dwyers Willetton Shared meal 5.30pm Class 7.30pm</i>
<i>Sat 4th</i>		<i>Smuts home Class 3pm</i>
<i>Sun 5th</i>	<i>Rev George McCurdy</i> <i>5.30pm</i> <i>Worship Holy Supper</i> <i>Shared meal to follow</i>	
<i>Fri 10th</i>		<i>Heaven and Hell class at Val's 11am</i>
<i>Sun 12th</i>	<i>Worship 10.30am</i> <i>Shared meal to follow.</i>	
<i>Sun 19th</i>	<i>Worship 10.30am</i> <i>Shared meal to follow.</i>	
<i>Friday 24th</i>		<i>Heaven and Hell class at Val's 11am</i>
<i>Sunday 26th</i>	<i>Singing Practice 9.45am</i> <i>Worship 10.30pm</i> <i>Shared meal to follow</i>	
<i>Sunday 2nd Sept</i>	<i>5pm Worship followed by shared meal</i>	<i>3pm Secret Garden Book Club</i>

Sunday School every Sunday during Worship. It is great if you can let Mary know whether to expect you or not for preparation purposes. 0407 448405

*Worship Services are held weekly at 10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street) at 10.30am except the first Sunday of the month when it is held at 5pm.
You are invited to join in a shared meal afterwards if you wish.*

Classes and systematic study

Enquiries

John Tel 9332 5140 or Mary 0407 448405



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<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.*