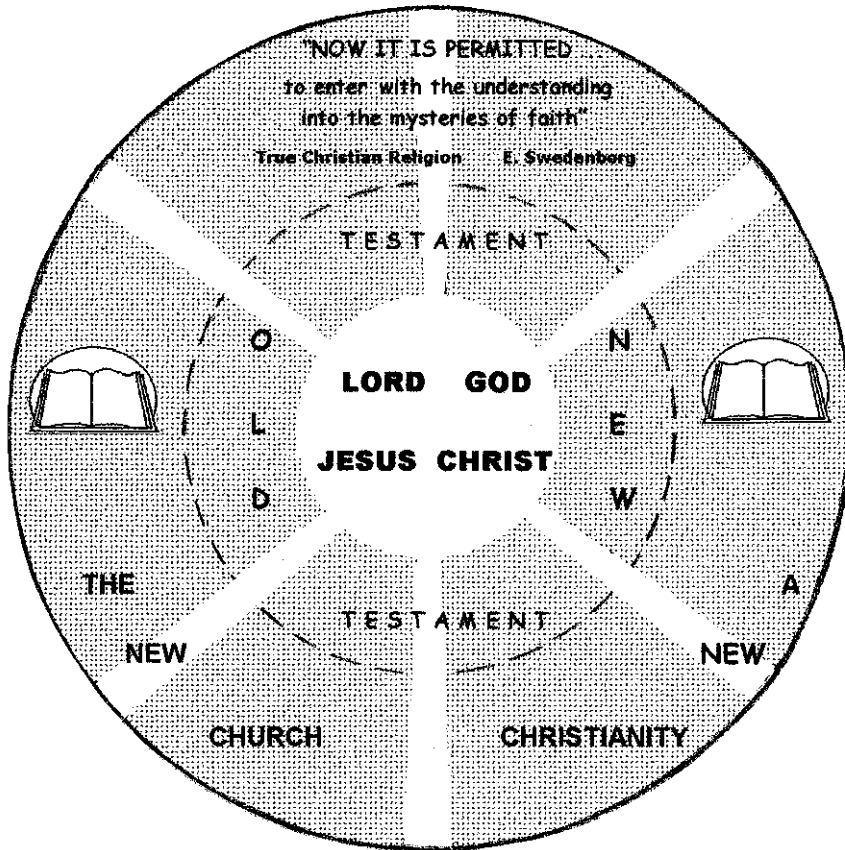


AURORA CIRCLE

of the
General Church of the New Jerusalem
in Perth



PRAYER

A SERMON BY THE REV. ROY FRANSON

"Lord God . . . hearken Thou to the supplication of Thy servant. . . hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place; and when Thou hearest forgive." I Kings 8: 30

This is part of the long, beautiful prayer, which King Solomon offered to the Lord on the day of the dedication of the temple. In this most remarkable prayer Solomon humbly acknowledges the greatness and trustworthiness of the one God of heaven and earth.

*The Lord Himself prayed for, or made intercession for, the human race, and especially for those who had accepted Him as the promised Messiah. "I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine. . . . Holy Father keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me . . . that they may be one as we are one."** John 17: 9.*

But this prayer was offered by the Lord on earth when He was in a state of humiliation, for it was only in that state that He spoke to the Father, or with the Father, as with another. But in His states of glorification He does not intercede.

Reflecting upon this particular teaching of Divine intercession, we may come to realize that intercession is a quality of truth rather than good; it was a form of prayer offered by the Lord on earth before He was fully glorified, or, when He spoke from the Human rather than from the Divine. It was the Divine truth that interceded with the Divine good. And, as we know, it is the revealed Word that intercedes between angels and men-the Word is the nexus through which the two worlds are conjoined. And because we do not know the spiritual state of our fellow men, but only that few progress in the road of regeneration beyond a state in which truth rather than good rules, expressed feelings that prayers for others are orderly should never be discouraged.

Yet, at the same time, it is important that that we possess and understand the knowledges concerning prayers that are of no avail. It is revealed that it is human, when weathering the storms of life, to resort to prayers alone, thus seeking to by-pass and avoid the actual battle against the evil or disorder that caused the storm. Prayers offered in such false hopes are of no avail; wherefore to pray for deliverance without an active life of repentance, is contrary to order.

Strictly speaking, however, there is no specific form of prayer that we may term prayers of intercession. For there is intercession in all love. Divine truth-the Word-has always been with God. He who loves or feels compassion continually intercedes, even as a husband-not vocally perhaps-continually wishes that his wife be well received by others. In other words, the element of intercession is present in all love.

No man's life is completely void of trials and temptations. The Lord alone knows which, or what kind of, trials and temptations most effectively can cause a man to turn away from his inherited and acquired evils. In our imperfect and unregenerate states we may strongly feel that someone we love is given a greater share of hardships and sorrows than he deserves, and therefore pray to the Lord that he might be delivered. And, as indicated above, there is absolutely nothing wrong in going to the Lord in prayer with everything that weighs on our mind. Yet, Solomon, best known for his wisdom, was Divinely inspired to teach us that our prayers, however sincere and humble, often partake of hopes and desires that are contrary to Divine ends. Solomon prayed to the Lord many times; he poured out the desires and wishes of his heart before the Lord, and prayed that He might hear him. But he also humbly acknowledged that his prayers might not be in harmony with the Lord's eternal ends; and for this he asks to be forgiven.

It is this humble acknowledgment that makes prayers meaningful and powerful in our struggles in life. {50} It is in this spirit that we can go to the Lord in prayer, talking with Him about all our needs, all our hopes and all our desires. For it is through a continued life of prayer that we can gradually learn what to pray for and what not to pray for. Prayers will forever be important to our spiritual peace and happiness. Yet, we should humbly realize that we can spiritually benefit from prayers; that is, the Lord can enlighten us through our prayers to the extent that we can pray with Solomon of old, "Lord God, hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place; and when Thou hearest, FORGIVE." Amen.

LESSONS: I Kings 8: 22-40; John 17; AR 376. NEW CHURCH LIFE VOL. C FEBRUARY, 1980

Prayer *considered in itself is speech with God, and at such time some internal intuition of the objects of prayer, to which there corresponds a certain similar influx into the perception or thought of the mind of him who prays, so that there is a certain opening of man's interiors towards God; but this with a difference according to man's state, and according to the essence of the object of the prayer; if the prayer be from love and faith, and be about and for celestial and spiritual things only, then in the prayer there exists something resembling a revelation, which is manifested in the emotion of the person praying, as to hope, consolation, or a certain interior joy. AC 2535.*

Brian Smith, Janine and Kai will be visiting from Thursday 30th July to Monday 3rd August, 2009.

Programme: Thursday: Arrive Perth at 3:45pm for anyone able to meet them on arrival. All welcome for shared meal at Val's at 6pm.

Friday: Heaven and hell class at 10:30 at the Frost's
Doctrinal Class and shared meal at 6pm at Val's

Saturday: coffee at Zamia Café at 10:30

Young people's class and shared meal at 3:30 at Mary's

Sunday: Holy Supper service at 10:30 and shared meal. Discussion and shared meal at 6pm at Val's.

Monday: Depart for Sydney 12:45pm.

Val has relocated to Osborne Park hospital. She is progressing and in good spirits.

Coleman Glenn has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a very treatable form of cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the memory of your ministering to us. Coleman has started a blog – [http:// www.colemanglenn.wordpress.com](http://www.colemanglenn.wordpress.com) – to help anyone who would like to keep abreast of the whole process.

Cynthia's daughter has recently undergone surgery and we wish her a speedy recovering

Birthdays Kayla 6th, Moira 14th, Bernice 15th, Warren 19th, Genevieve 23rd, Lorna 25th .



Warren, Deb and Danielle are now settled into their new home and we would like to extend a warm welcome.

Building Healthy Relationships A New Church Journey Programme

This is an opportunity for you to discover tools that can support you, in your life's relationships.

We are offering **a seven week programme** to assist you in understanding and improving your relationships, with your partner, your children, your family, your fellow workers and other people in your community.

If you are interested in this opportunity for yourself or would also like to bring along a friend to explore this with, please **contact Bernice by Friday 21st of August.**

Commencing 20 September 2009 for 7 weeks

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm

Day: Sunday

Location: Osborne Park

Cost: \$10 for a workshop manual

To find out more, contact

Bernice: 9440 4025

Margaret: 9349 7203

Alex: 0410 092 960

AC 6619. *The fact that the ideas constituting a person's thought contain countless details, and that the details they contain are held in order from interior sources, has also been evident to me when morning and evening I have recited the Lord's Prayer. As often as I recited it the ideas constituting my thought were opened towards heaven and countless concepts flowed in. This happened so that I might discern clearly that the ideas belonging to my thought which I had gained from the contents of that Prayer were filled out with details from heaven. I was also able to tell that concepts poured in such as I cannot express in words, as well as ones that I was unable to understand. I did no more than feel the overall affection resulting from them. And what has been amazing, the things flowing in have varied every day. From all this I have been allowed to know that the contents of that Prayer hold more within them than the whole of heaven is capable of understanding; also that a person finds more in it, the more his thought is opened towards heaven, and conversely he finds less in it, the more his thought is closed. For with people whose thought is closed nothing more is seen in the Prayer than the literal meaning or that nearest the actual words.*

Calendar for August

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| <i>Sunday August 2nd</i> | <i>Holy Supper Service</i> | <i>10:30am</i> | <i>BroomeStreet, South Perth</i> |
| <i>Friday August 7th</i> | <i>Heaven & hell</i> | <i>10:30pm</i> | <i>EdwardStreet, Osborne Park</i> |
| <i>Sunday August 9th</i> | <i>Worship Service</i> | <i>10:30pm</i> | <i>BroomeStreet, South Perth</i> |
| <i>Sunday August 16th</i> | <i>Worship Service</i> | <i>5:30pm</i> | <i>BroomeStreet, South Perth</i> |
| <i>Friday August 21st</i> | <i>Heaven & hell</i> | <i>10:30am</i> | <i>EdwardStreet, Osborne Park</i> |
| <i>Sunday August 23rd</i> | <i>Worship Service</i> | <i>10:30am</i> | <i>BroomeStreet, South Perth</i> |
| <i>Sunday August 30th</i> | <i>Worship Service</i> | <i>5:30pm subject to change</i> | <i>BroomeStreet, South Perth</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

Based on the Holy Bible, The New Church gains further inspiration and understanding through the Revelation of 18th century scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg. 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 phone Alex 0410 092 960 email: alexander.benjko@gmail.com

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

Donations gladly accepted by contacting Val on tel: 9244 5609

Lay Leader In Perth :John Frost tel: (08)9315 9850

c/o 57 Boronia St;Innaloo;6018