



SOUL FOOD

December 2008

AURORA CIRCLE PERTH

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

By Rev.W.Cairns Henderson.

The news of the Lord's birth was proclaimed as "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people,"

Luke 2:10

yet it was announced only to certain shepherds. Others in Bethlehem may have known that a child had been born. But they knew not who He was, and eventually He was rejected by a people, the coming of whose longed-for Messiah would have been good tidings for none but themselves. This paradox was to continue.

It was to restore the knowledge of God that the Lord came, to teach men how to love and worship Him, and to show that only as they did so could there be genuine peace and happiness within and among men. This was indeed the greatest tidings that could be brought to all people. But with few exceptions, men, loving themselves alone, had ceased to look to God as the source of life, had forsaken Him in their supposed self-sufficiency, had lost all knowledge of Him, and put their trust in man. And when men do this, freedom is displaced by tyranny; hatred, strife, war and cruelty follow as the price of ambition or security.

In the world today there are men of good will who are striving sincerely to found a lasting peace among the nations, to establish justice and equity in the state, and to promote true kindness between men and man; and we do not doubt that the Lord will operate through their labour, as far as He may. But the final truth is as yet known only to a few, and perhaps not fully understood and loved by all of them: the truth that only as men learn to love the Lord more than themselves will they so love one another as to live together in true love. But as that truth is extended, all people will find in it the true joy.

That "to declare good tidings" [evangelize] signifies the Lord's coming and His kingdom at that time is manifest from this passage:

The angel said to the shepherds, Fear not; behold, I declare to you good tidings of great joy; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11).

*O Zion, that declarest **good tidings**, get thee up upon the mountain: O Jerusalem, that declarest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; say, Behold your God; behold the Lord Jehovih cometh in strength, and His arm shall rule for Him (Isa. 40:9-10). How delightful upon the mountains are the feet of him that declareth **good tidings**, that maketh us to hear peace, that declareth **good tidings** of good, that maketh us to hear salvation, that saith to Zion, thy God shall reign (Isa. 52:7, 8; Nahum 1:15). Sing unto Jehovah, bless His name, declare the **good tidings** of His salvation from day to day; for Jehovah cometh (Ps. 96:2, 13). The spirit of the Lord Jehovih is upon me, therefore Jehovah hath anointed me to declare **good tidings** to the poor, to preach liberty to the captives, to proclaim the year of the good pleasure of Jehovah (Isa. 61:1-2). The angel said to Zechariah, Behold, thy wife shall bring forth a son, who shall go forth before the Lord God in the spirit and power of Elias, and to prepare the people for the Lord. I am Gabriel, and I was sent to declare to thee this **good tidings** (Luke 1:13, 17, 19). The angel said to the shepherds, Fear not; behold, I declare to you **good tidings** of great joy; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who*

*is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11). The Lord declared the **glad tidings** of the kingdom of God (Matt. 4:23; 9:35; Mark 1:15; Luke 7:22; 8:1; 9:1-2). John the Baptist also (Luke 3:18). Jesus also said to the disciples, Go into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). This also is "the everlasting gospel" which the angel had that was flying in the midst of heaven, "to declare to them that dwell upon the earth" (Revelation 14:6). AR 478:5*

Website: <http://www.kemptonproject.org>

Because JEHOVAH assumed the human nature for the purpose of saving mankind, which purpose He testified and confirmed by initiating His Humanity into the truths of innocence and the doctrine of truth from the Word.

Website:

<http://www.biblemeanings.info/Bible/revelation.html>

The Lord in His infinite through divine love and wisdom allowed for all to be able to hear his calling...as a consequence we have innumerable societies, an interface of the GrandMan paradigm.

So we have innumerable ways to perceive this calling, in freedom, in our own lives. The NewChurch being the crown of all churches not only acknowledges but moreover

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encourages us through rational analysis to investigate these options.



Last Sunday we were all able to share and celebrate the engagement of Daniel and Anni.

It can be seen that by betrothal the minds of the two are prepared for conjugal love, though in different ways according to their affections. Conjugal Love 302.

Moira is now in South Africa. John leaves on the 6th December and we wish them both a happy reunion with much loved family and friends.

Ray is now at home and able to enjoy the close proximity of family and friends. We continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Peter and Lisa Buss sent out a lovely commemoration to members of the NewChurch which is worthy of mention yet again:

“An angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias, standing on the right side of the altar of incense” Luke 1:11.

“The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.” Luke 1:26, 27

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid ... and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men” Luke 2: 8, 13,14.

“Right hand” in reference to angels and people means the wisdom and the intelligence that they have from the Lord; so there appeared to Zacharias the angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense”.

AE 298.

“Angel” means the Lord as to the Word, because the Word is Divine Truth itself. AE593.

The fear which the shepherds felt when the angel appeared “means in the Word various disturbances of mind arising from the influx of such things as cause amazement, connected also with joy” AE 677.

“The angel only showed what the Lord made manifest” AR 945.

“The Word which is uttered by a spirit or an angel proceeds from the Lord’s Divine Human” AC 7004 .

When an angel appears in the Word, it represents some insight we receive from our knowledge of the Word. Often it’s an insight into the future – a sense of hope that the happiness the Lord promises in His Word is attainable.

The angel appearing to Zacharias represents our insight from the Word that the life of repentance is possible. Like Zacharias, we sometimes doubt that we can overcome our faults and our evils. We fear that we have grown old in selfishness. But the Lord stirs us to see that we can fight selfishness, and know the contentment of doing what is right. That contentment is represented by John the Baptist.

The angel Gabriel told Mary of a far greater miracle. This represents our growing belief that charity or love to the neighbour can be ours. It came in the sixth month of

Elisabeth's pregnancy, because we get this sense after we have started to repent and turn to the Lord. He fills us with a hope that we may indeed become angels of heaven. And this new love or charity is the Son of God in us. We can't create it, but He descends into us and does so.

When love for the neighbour begins to be born, we have another insight from the Word, represented by the angel and the heavenly host that spoke to the shepherds. We sense the presence of this love, small and tender, in the inmost of our minds, in our Bethlehem. We know that it will bring peace to our lives, but only if we give Glory to God in the highest in all that we do.

May the angel of hope come to your hearts and minds as you celebrate the Lord's birth on earth. May your doubts be set at rest, so that you are uplifted by the conviction that contentment (the good of repentance) and charity (the love of heaven) can indeed be yours. And may the Lord be born within you as He guides your steps into the way of peace.

<i>Sunday 7th Dec</i>	<i>Evening service</i>	<i>5pm</i>
<i>Friday 10th Dec</i>	<i>Heaven & Hell</i>	<i>10:30 am</i>
<i>Sunday 14th Dec</i>	<i>Carol service</i>	<i>10:30 am</i>
<i>Sunday 21st Dec</i>	<i>Evening Tableaux service</i>	<i>5pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 24th Dec</i>	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>5pm</i>

<i>January</i>	<i>Home worship</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Sunday 1st Feb</i>	<i>Evening service</i>	<i>5pm</i>

No further formal services until Sunday 1st February 2009. Informal services during January 2009 to be arranged as required.

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

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