

SOUL FOOD

December 2009

January 2010



*Behold you shall conceive a son and you shall
call His name Jesus*

CHRISTMAS JOY AND HAPPINESS Rev. Norman H. Reuter (an excerpt)

The Angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her that she had been chosen to be the mother of a Son who would inherit the throne of His father, David. He told her that she was to be the mother of the Lord Himself, because He was going to be born as a little child. But Mary wondered how this could possibly happen. Then the angel told her that "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

Mary did not doubt the angel. She believed, and, believing, she was filled with great joy and happiness. Then, like the angels, she wanted to tell the glad tidings to others. She could not keep the good news to herself. She felt that she must seek out her cousin, Elizabeth, and share her newfound happiness with her. And we can imagine the intense rapture, the great joy, with which she uttered that song beginning with the words, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior." Elizabeth, too, was filled with happiness, and said to Mary, "Blessed are you among women" (Luke 1: 42,46,47).

Not only did the angels appear to Mary, but in the Word we are told how they also appeared to Joseph, to Elizabeth, to Zacharias, to the shepherds in the field, and even to the wise men far away (for the star which the wise men saw was a society of heavenly angels telling them where to go). And so the joy of the angels overflowed into the world and reached those people who would be happy because the Lord was coming.

*It is the same with us today, **whenever we celebrate the Lord's birth. When we read the stories about Him in the Word, when we sing Christmas songs, when we prepare for and celebrate Christmas, the angels are again filled with joy and happiness. And, if we love and believe in these things, they can draw near us and fill us with joy, as they did with Mary and Elizabeth and the shepherds. We may not actually see the angels, as Mary and the shepherds did, but we can feel them near us, for the joy and happiness we feel is from their presence, from their nearness to us. The angels' joy comes right from the Lord, and they pass it on to us, and thus the Lord fills us all with peace and happiness.***

When we know about the wonder of the Lord's coming on earth to save all people, and the great joy of the angels because of His coming, we too are moved to sing with the heavenly host that appeared to the shepherds. We too can praise God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"

Meditation

(From "Celebrate Life" by Paul Zacharias)

*Blessed Lord Jesus ,
Give us receptive and thankful hearts
This Christmas,
For our choicest gift,
Our dearest Guest,
The birth of Your spirit in our hearts.
Let not our souls be like busy, noisy Inns that have no room for You,
But rather quiet homes of prayer and Praise,
where You may find fit company.
Where the needful cares of life are
Wisely ordered and put away,
And wide spaces kept open for You;
Where holy thoughts pass up and down,
And fervent longings watch and wait
For that gentle knock
In the darkness of night.
And so, dear Saviour,
When You come bearing the gift of
Eternal life, may You find all things
Ready, and we, Your friends, waiting
For no new Master,
But for One long known and loved,
Even so come, Lord Jesus.*



Baptism *The baptism of Michael Tony Phan was a joyful event with many friends and family enjoying this special occasion led by Rev Trevor Moffat. The church was full to overflowing with loving people, flowers, music and food. Thanks to all concerned for your help, support, care and love.*

A Labelled Society " written by Amy Dwyer

*LOOK LIKE THIS. THINK LIKE THAT. WALK THIS WAY. TALK LIKE HER. LAUGH
LIKE HIM. BE LIKE THEM.*

*Loud, bright, bold, fake, fantastical images like bullets fired shoved down the
throats of the young generations.*

Magazines and radio, television and fashion shows.

Bombarding us with unneeded and intrusive adverts.

Showing us what we should be... what we should see...

Races divided BLACK. WHITE. YELLOW. BROWN.

Traits already allotted with no proof and ignorant generalization in mind.

Terrorism for Muslims and Arabs.

Crime for African – Americans.

People around the globe put in boxes discriminated by

colour.

religion.

language.

race.

age.

gender.

School children, playgrounds, recess, lunch.

"sarah did u hear? tht slutty head of the cheerleaders is d8in the footy captain!"

*"I noe, hes soo gawjus! n dun u think emily is sooo unkwl, shez like such a nerd
readin books all the time."*

Life's golden thread, like a rollercoaster takes some up, some down.

Butchers, bakers, candlestick makers, boffs, wannabe's, movers and shakers.

And in the end the thread pulls tight-

And we're all equal and left in plain sight.

December/January CALENDAR

	MORNING	EVENING	VENUE
<i>Sun</i> <i>6th</i>	Worship 10:30am <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Fri</i>	<i>Heaven & hell</i> Study group 10:30am		<i>TBC phone Bernice</i>
<i>Sun</i> <i>13th</i>		Carol Service 5.30pm <i>shared meal to follow</i>	<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun</i> <i>20th</i>	Worship 10:30am <i>Christmas Tableaux</i> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Thurs</i> <i>24th</i>		Christmas Eve Worship 5pm <i>shared meal to follow</i>	<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun</i> <i>27th</i>	Worship 10.30am TBC <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>TBC</i>
<i>Sun</i> 3 ^d <i>Jan</i>	Worship 10:30am <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>TBC</i>
<i>Sun</i> 3 ^d <i>Jan</i>	Worship 10:30am <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>TBC</i>
<i>Sun</i> 3 ^d <i>Jan</i>	Worship 10:30am <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>TBC</i>
<i>Sun</i> 3 ^d <i>Jan</i>	Worship 10:30am <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>TBC</i>
<i>Sun</i> 3 ^d <i>Jan</i>	Worship 10:30am <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>TBC</i>

General Church of the New Jerusalem in Perth

*Worship Services are held weekly at
10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)
the first and third Sunday's services at 5.30pm
the second and fourth at 10.30am
5th Sunday TBA*

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 **EmanuelSwedenborg**. 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
tel Alex 0410 092 960
alexander.benjko@gmail.com

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

*Lay Leader In Perth :
John Frost tel: (08)9315 9850
C/o 57 Boronia St. Innaloo, 6018
Editor: Mary*