



*The General Church of the  
**New Jerusalem***

*PERTH CIRCLE*

*February 2005*

**February Calendar 2005**



A little one shall become a thousand, and  
a small one a strong nation: I the Lord  
will hasten it in his time. Is 60 v 22.

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## Spiritual Task

### SPIRITUAL TASK 1. MAKING A HABIT OF READING THE WORD

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley  
Consider the story about the great feast to which many were invited but made excuses not to come (see Luke 14:16-24). Instead, the man giving the feast invited the maimed, lame, blind, and poor and all others he could find.

Many times we are in a good position to respond to the Lord and do His will, and yet we find excuses not to. But no matter what condition we find ourselves in spiritually, the Lord still calls to us and wishes that we would respond. His table is always set and the meal is ready whenever we choose to come in. but we do have to choose to come in.

This week, tell yourself you are going to read the Word every night at 10 p.m. for example. What feelings arise as you attempt to carry out your goal? When that time comes, see if you start to have excuses. What excuses, if any, pop up? Are they truly legitimate? Can you step over them to complete your task? Give it a try. "



*“Happy New Year! 2005”*

*Some Reflections on Time by Mike Gladish*

### Why We Measure Time

The words, *Anno Domini*, Latin for “in the Year of our Lord,” normally abbreviated to “AD,” as in the year, 2005 **AD** refers to the number of years from the time of the Lord’s birth.

Now we offer some reflections on time itself, and why we keep track of time.

It’s about connections, isn’t it? It’s about seeing things in relation to each other, in some kind of orderly (or disorderly) sequence. With this in mind observe the following from the book, Divine Providence Church of the New Jerusalem February 2005

#202: "Every change and variation of state of the human mind makes some change and variation in the series of things present and consequently of things that follow; what, then, must it not do in the progression to eternity? It is like an arrow shot from a bow which, if it made the slightest deviation from the target at the moment of being aimed would deviate immensely at a distance of a thousand feet or more. So it would be if the Lord did not lead the states of human minds every fraction of a moment. This the Lord does in accordance with the laws of His Divine Providence; *and it is in accordance with these laws that it should appear to a person that he leads himself*; but the Lord foresees how he leads himself and continually makes suitable adaptation." Time itself is just a physical record of the progression of states – which is why there is no time (and yet there is an appearance of time) in the spiritual world. This also explains how the Lord (the Divine) is "in all time apart from time" (DLW #73-76). And it supports T. S. Eliot's reference to history as "a pattern of timeless moments." Note, it is the *pattern* that is important, but the sequence is part of the pattern. And so we keep track. Yet in marking time we are really marking the progression of human states. Learning from History In DP #177-179 we learn how important it is that we not perceive or feel the operation of providence directly (lest we rebel and interfere with its workings on our behalf). We are also taught how important it is that we not know the future with any certainty (because that takes away human freedom and the delight of reason). But of course we are permitted to draw conclusions from the past, and we should do so. And *when* we do so we can see providence in retrospect. One of the things we may observe as we mark time from the beginning of the Lord's life on earth is whether or how much things have changed as a result of His work. Have we learned anything? Are we using that knowledge to good effect? As a rule we have no real sense of how dramatically His life and teaching has affected our civilization. But when we think about it from an informed understanding we can realize what is at stake. Again, in the book, Divine Providence, we read that "evils are permitted for the sake of the end, which is salvation" (#175). But how can they contribute to our salvation

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unless we learn from them? And we learn, in part, by seeing their consequences. It has been said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" (George Santayana). AA also defines insanity as continuing to do the same things and expecting different results. Yet if we can learn from our experiences (or those of others) our doctrines teach that we will not be condemned to remember them forever. They are the means to an end. They are the landmarks by which we measure our progress. And so in a most interesting, almost ironic way time is also a means to the end of eternal life. Just think: if you had all the time in the world to get something done, when would you start? But as you have only a limited time to get *anything* done you must prioritize, and THAT is precisely what determines your fate. For THIS New Year may I fondly wish you all every possible benefit from the knowledge and understanding of your own history as well as that of others, and withal the blessings of the most insightful spiritual priorities, in keeping with the doctrines of the New Church!

#### The Lord's Birth on Earth

"There are many reasons ... why the Lord was pleased to be born and take on human nature in our world and not in another. The chief cause was for the sake of the **Word**, which could thus be **written** in our world; and having been written, could be circulated throughout the world; and once circulated, could be preserved for all posterity, thus enabling it to be made plain that God became man, even to all in the next life." *Earths in the Universe 113*

## **News**

### Welcome

A very warm welcome to Debby Dwyer and her children Amy, Errin, and Keagan who have come to live in Perth. John Dwyer will be joining them at the end of February. Debby will be undertaking studies at Notre Dame University and her children attending school in Willeton. We rejoice with Moira and John to have family join them here.

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**Visit of Peter and Lisa Buss** The short visit of Peter and Lisa Buss was much enjoyed by many of us. Peter led a Holy Supper service on Friday evening sharing the uplifting topic "Dreams that will not die".

At the beginning of the service, the new copy of the Word gifted to us by Bryn Athyn, was dedicated to the worship of the Lord God Jesus Christ.

During the shared meal which followed, Richard presented a cake for them to cut on which was the message ..... "please come back again". We then all tucked in and enjoyed sharing the delicious cake. We all had opportunities during Peter's visit to meet socially with Peter and Lisa and enjoy the company of these wonderful people who have become so dear to us all.

**Our Web site is wonderful.....thanks to Murray Heldon**

We have had attendees joining us for worship after following the calendar on the web. Alex Benjko joined us in worship after reading about Swedenborgian teachings on the web for a year! New website [www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org) is linked to all the NC societies around the world. There is a rich source of material for searchers.

**Visit of Louisa Allais and Jane Edmunds**

It was wonderful to have the company of Mary's sisters for a week before the wedding. Everyone enjoyed meeting them and thanks to Val for organising a lunch for them to meet extended family and friends of the circle.

Jane is the head teacher at Kainon School in the Westville Society in Durban South Africa and Louisa is the secretary of the Buccleuch Society in Johannesburg, and the member of many committees both local and international.

**New Snuffer for Chancel Candles gifted by Louisa and Jane**

We were delighted to receive a gift of a bronze snuffer made from recycled brass, and bought from Oxfam (which supports the work and industry of underdeveloped countries).

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**Wedding of Verity to Tony**

Verity Smuts and Tony Phan were married on the 5<sup>th</sup> December at Bridgleigh, the Right Rev Peter Buss officiating. The beautiful setting in the flowered garden under a blue sky added to the happy occasion. Much joy and happiness were celebrated during the day.

Verity and Tony's obvious delight and happiness was shared by all who were there. Congratulations and all good wishes to you both.

**Wedding Anniversary**

Ray and Mary Smuts celebrated their 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 12<sup>th</sup> December among dear friends at the shared meal after church on Sunday.

**Welcome to Alex Benjko**

We welcome Alex to our circle ! Alex discovered the writings of Swedenborg through the web and our worship times and venue as well. He has joined in whole- heartedly and even played the role of Joseph in our Nativity Tableaux on 24<sup>th</sup> December. We welcome you Alex and express the hope that you find your spiritual home with our circle. You have already added much to it.

**Carols at the Len Shearer Reserve**

A small contingent of Smuts family members and Alex joined the lovely carol singing on 12<sup>th</sup> December. It is always a very special family evening with a wonderful Christmas spirit and family atmosphere.

**Carol Singing Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**

A small group of friends joined to sing favourite carols at the home of Ray and Mary Smuts. Unfortunately Val Hart was very ill and could not play for us. We sang along to music from a CD, enjoyed Christmas cookies, a cuppa, and good cheer.

### **Tableaux**

A cast of 9 took part in a tableaux of the nativity after a short worship service on Christmas Eve.

New players this year were Jessica and Alex as Mary and Joseph, Tayla as a shepherd and Jason as a wise man. Thank you for your great input ! Thanks also to the regulars, Richard and Raymond as kings, Cynthia as shepherd, and it was great to have a male to take the part of Gabriel (Tony) and a second angel to help light candles after the birth (Verity). Special thanks to Richard who had three tasks.....he led the worship, took part as a prophet, and also as a King.....and also to Val for her playing and Genevieve for the chancel duties and organisation of worship.

With the cooperation of all these dear folk and the congregation participation of singing the descriptive carols, we all enjoyed an enriching experience on the Eve of celebrating the Lord's birth.

This was followed by a shared meal of delicious foods and companionship including bon bons and a lucky dip off the lovely Christmas Tree for everyone.

Many good wishes were exchange for a peaceful Christmas and a happy New year.

### **Quote for the New Year**

**Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.**

May our small circle continue to prosper and grow under the care of the Lord. We know it will..... provided we are always led by Him in whatever we do.

**Have you seen this website?? You can actually read the books online!**

<http://www.swedenborgdigitallibrary.org/>

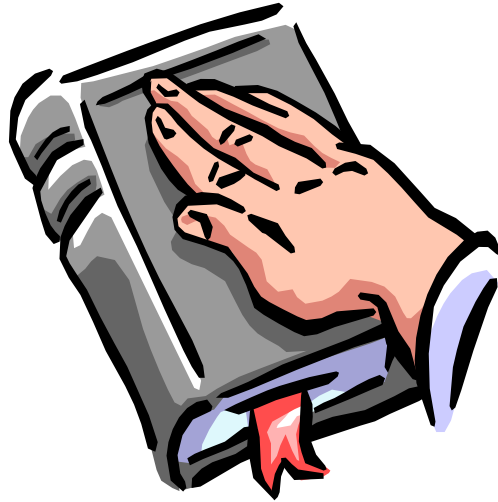
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## Calendar for February

Sunday 6th	<b>Worship 5pm</b> <b>Followed by a</b> <b>shared meal</b>	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Thursday 10th	<b>Doctrinal Class</b> <b>TCR</b>	Smuts home
Sunday 13th	<b>Worship 10.30am</b> <b>Followed by a</b> <b>shared meal</b>	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Sunday 20th	<b>Worship 10.30am</b> <b>Followed by a</b> <b>shared meal</b>	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Thursday 24th	<b>Doctrinal Class</b> <b>TCR</b>	TBA
Sunday 27th	<b>Worship 10.30am</b> <b>Followed by a</b> <b>shared meal</b>	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Sunday March 6th	<b>Worship 5pm</b> <b>Followed by a</b> <b>shared meal</b>	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Sunday March 13th	<b>Worship 10.30am</b> <b>Followed by a</b> <b>shared meal</b>	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)

***10 Broome Street, South Perth***

*(off Douglas Street)*



***Worship at 10.30am every Sunday  
except the first Sunday ( at 5pm.)***

*Experience a new meaning and level of understanding  
of the Bible and Creation.*

*Reach new satisfying states of peaceful tranquillity  
and calm through inner faith and deep conviction in  
God's Divine plan for us.*

*Enjoy happiness and joy by living principles of  
charity and use in your everyday life as taught us by  
the Lord God Jesus Christ.*

*Reach out to others with love and understanding.*

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