



# ***SOUL FOOD***

*February 2006*

***I will love Thee, Oh Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.***

***Ps 18: 1, 2***

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***“The activity of love and faith.....  
is what makes heaven. ”***

*Heaven and Hell 51 Emanuel Swedenborg*

***“Talking with the Lord” Rev Patrick Rose***

*Prayer involves far more than we might at first think. When we pray, the appearance is that we are communicating something to the Lord. We talk to Him, and ask Him for things. This, at least, is the way it appears. Obviously, though, this cannot be all that there is to prayer, for it would then be a meaningless exercise. Why tell the Lord what we want, when He already knows our thoughts? Why try to communicate with Him when He already knows what we have to say? And this is what the Lord points out in the New Testament: "Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him." (Matt. 6:8).*

*When we ask the Lord for something in prayer, we are not telling Him something He didn't already know. He already knows what we need. Indeed, if our request be a worthy one, He is the one who inspired us to ask for it in the first place. Prayer is thus, essentially, not so much a way for us to communicate our thoughts to the Lord, as it is a way in which the Lord can communicate with us. He instructs us to pray, and inspires our prayers, in order that our minds might be opened to receive His influx. This is why the Lord wants us to pray to Him. He wants us to communicate with Him and to ask Him for spiritual life, not as a way of telling Him what we need, but as a way of opening our minds to what He already offers us. Without such an effort on our own parts, we would not receive and appropriate what the Lord gives us (AR 376). And so a person must, as of himself, make the effort to pray to the Lord. What he*

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*himself contributes as he prays, though, is far less than what the Lord Himself does during this prayer.*

*This is why our prayers need not be particularly long. "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words" (Matt. 6:7). The idea that prayer depends primarily on what we contribute to the process leads naturally to the idea that the longer the prayer, and the more effort we put into it, the more effective it will be. What we do by praying, though, is open ourselves up to influx from the Lord. It is this influx which is important, not the length of the prayer. This also is why hypocritical prayer ?? the prayers of those who make no effort at all to live a good life ?? are useless. The words of such a prayer are empty and devoid of spiritual life. There is no influx from above. The prayer may be long, but it is exceedingly shallow.*

*If, though, a person is sincerely endeavoring to live a life of good, if he is making the effort to put away what is evil and wicked, then the words of his prayers are by no means empty, but become vessels into which the Lord Himself can flow. And because such prayer is only an invitation ?? inviting the Lord's influx ?? such a prayer need not be long. It has depth instead of length.*

*This is the case with all the prayers of a good person. His prayers tend not to be long and involved, but simple, direct and sincere. His prayers have depth, for they proceed from the heart, a heart that is open to the presence of the Lord Himself.*

*When prayer is spoken of in the Word, it is said to signify "revelation," and this for the reason that in sincere prayer there is an opening of the interiors of the mind, with an influx into the thought or the perception. In ways we may not be aware of, the Lord has changed the way we think about and look at things. Our perspective has changed. We have received revelation. It is not the same as what we learn from reading written revelation. We are not*

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*given new truths. We are, though, given a new perspective on those truths we already have. It is said that "if the man prays from love and faith, and for only heavenly and spiritual things, there then comes forth in the prayer something like a revelation (which is manifested in the affection of him that prays) as to hope, consolation, or a certain inward joy" (AC 2535).*

*Sometimes we sense this hope, consolation or joy. At other times we may not. But still, through our prayers, the Lord can draw close to us, and fill us with His presence. Through prayer, and in prayer, the Lord speaks to the human heart.*

*Rev. Patrick Rose is the pastor of Morningstar Chapel in Atlanta, USA.*

*Christmas Tableaux and Christmas Eve service.*

*This recent year Debbie and John assisted by Mary, orchestrated a simple yet devout tableaux. Lisa took the part of Mary, with Alex once again Joseph.*

*Amy, Errin and Keagan were shepherds. We thank once again the men, Raymond, Richard and stand in Mary for taking the parts of the Wise Men in their magnificent costumes.*

*We thank Val for her playing at the tableaux.*

*Christmas Eve*

*This service of worship was once again well attended and a shared meal with lucky dip gifts and Christmas Cheer was enjoyed by all who attended including Gillian (friend of Mary's) who has arrived back in Perth after teaching for a year in Geraldton. We welcome you Gillian to our worship services!*

*Worship in January*

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*Very good attendance in January was enjoyed by those who delight in worship and communal shared meals to socialise and enjoy the company of other kindred spirits once a week. These were held in people's homes since January has usually been a time off for us all.*

*Thanks to Raymond and Mary who offered their home and to Alex for leading the services there. And thanks to the Dwyer family for sharing your home with us three times and to John for the leading.*

### **Rise Above It**

*This course was finished by most of the young people and we look forward next newsletter to a report back by one of them.*

*Thanks to Alex and Mary for their united effort in executing it and to the Lord's guidance in fostering the right time and place for the course to run successfully and benefit those who were in need.*

*It is anticipated that it will run again this year soon for anyone who feels that they have missed out and would like to join in. Such a practical, yet far reaching set of tasks that touch on all areas of life and make one aware in one's daily life how to bring the Lord into all actions in day to day living.*

### **Worship in the years 2000 to 2005**

*Special thanks to Richard for shouldering the responsibilities of setting up, and clearing away in the Broome Street rooms over the past 6 years! We are very fortunate to have a dedicated, reliable and conscientious person to be there for us!*

### **Roster!**

*We are trying to organise helpers to support the leader each week in setting up and clearing away. Anyone who has the time and inclination to be a helper once in a while (how often depends on you) please let Richard or Mary know so we can institute some sort of roster.*

*Also hands up for helping with Sunday school at any time! The only qualification you need is a love of the Lord that is clearly visible to the students. The rest will follow!*

### **News**

*Val has suffered from ill health and needs to measure herself carefully in using her energy. Several hospital stays and careful monitoring of medications and supplements has helped her a little. Val we all wish you well for the year! When you are not amongst us we miss your loving and gentle presence, and your quiet considerate leadership in areas that no one else has thought of!*

*Raymond and Mary are in the process of selling up in Bullcreek and building in Aubin Grove.*

*Alex It is wonderful to have you as a leader among us! What an example to us all of dedication to Bible knowledge, prayer and following the Lord. We feel both grateful and humbled by your presence, and thankful to the Lord for leading you to your heart's desire.*

*We all wish you well in your studies this year at University. Next newsletter we look forward to a picture of you!*

### **Young people**

*Lisa has attended the New Church Camp in January, tramped and camped in the wonderful wild forests of Tasmania, supported Aboriginal Rights in Canberra and then attended a leadership conference on Sustainability outside Sydney. Welcome back Lisa!*

*Annaleen and Jason are now living in Harvest Lakes. Have a good time setting up house and garden!*

*The year 2006 We all look forward to the year before us with optimism and gratitude that we have such a loving and united group*

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*of dedicated people, all looking to the Lord's leadership in the unfolding of our lives.*

*We now have the possibility of 5 men to lead the worship services !*

*Remember how at one stage we had only one and then two! It is thanks to the Lord's Divine Providence that this exciting situation now exists.*

### ***Calendar and Roster February 2006***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Helpers (Music, flowers)</b>	<b>Chancel</b>	<b>Sunday school</b>	<b>Class</b>
Sunday 5th Feb	5pm	Alex		Amy		
Thurs 9th Feb						7.30pm Heaven and Hell Smuts home
Sun 12th Feb	10.30am	Richard		Lisa	Margaret	
Thurs 16th Feb						7.30pmTCR Smuts home
Sun 19th Feb	10.30am	Alex		Amy	Mary	
Thurs 23 <sup>RD</sup> Feb						7.30pm Heaven and Hell Smuts home
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am	John Dwyer		Errin	Mary	
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> March						7.30pmTCR Smuts home
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	5pm	Alex		Annaleen		

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*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*

*Mary 9310 9402*



*10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)*

*[www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org)*

*<http://www.newchurch.org/locations/asiaPacific/australia>*

*Based on the Holy Bible, The New Church gains further inspiration and understanding through the teachings 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 see [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au)*

*Or phone Richard 9387 3378*

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