

# ***SOUL FOOD***



*You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you. –Isaiah 26:3*

## **July 2010**

*You were created to become an angel. – Last Judgement 20*

*The heaven of angels is the reason why everything in the universe has been created. For the heavens of angels is the purpose for which the human race was created, and the human race is the purpose for which the visible heavens and the planets it contains were created. – Last Judgement 13*

*The Lord regards nothing else in a person but the end he has in view. Whatever his thoughts and deeds may be, varying in countless ways, they are all good provided the end in view is good...the end in view controls every single thing a person thinks or does. – Arcana Coelestia 1317*

### **Finding Purpose**

God is love, and He created human beings as living recipients of that love. When you open yourself to the love of God, through turning away from evil and what is opposed to God, and learning to love and do what is good, you will be filled with God's love, and with all the blessings and happiness that come with it. You are here to learn to love and grow wise in love, and to act from that love by living a useful and productive life according to your own capabilities. When you do this you not only receive the love of God, and all His blessings, but you return that love to God. By doing this, the Lord opens heaven within you and prepares you for an eternal life of ever growing love and happiness in heaven. – *extract from Connections Magazine issue 2*

### **Quest for Meaning**

It has been said that God did not promise an easy journey, but a safe arrival. We can feel the truth of this less-than-easy journey in life as we strive to find meaning and purpose as individuals, families, and communities.

The prophet Jeremiah asked "Why was I ever born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?" (*Jeremiah 20:18*).

“What did God put me on this earth for?” We need to know that the purpose of our life is far greater than our own happiness – though that is part of it. It is far greater than our own peace of mind – and yet that is part of it.

God made you for a very specific purpose and it is not about you! Does that sound disappointing? Many people set out to make themselves happy and actually come back unhappy. The parable in the New Testament about the Prodigal Son provides a great example. In the story the youngest of two sons asks his father for his inheritance so he can “go and do my thing.” After a series of bad choices and disappointments he comes to his senses and goes back to his father, asking to be a servant in his household. He was greeted by his father with the best robe, a feast, sandals for his feet and a ring for his finger – all signs of his father’s love and acceptance of him. You see, what his father had in store was much better than what he could provide for himself. This story is of course about us, when we fall away from the Lord’s plan, and about how He loves us and accepts us whenever we are ready to turn to Him. The Lord’s plan for us is full of so much goodness and happiness. And until we understand this, life isn’t going to make sense.

So why are we here? The Lord’s purpose in creating us is that there may be an angelic heaven from the human race. We are all created to go there and contribute to the good of that kingdom. As this world is the preparation zone for heaven, we’re practicing doing what angels in heaven do – we are practicing loving God, contributing to the common good of the community, learning truths and living by those truths, serving and being useful, freely sharing all that we have with others. It is these things that reflect what the Lord’s purposes are for us.

We have lots of choices about what to do with our life. But our purpose is not really up for discussion. Whether we fulfil it or not is up to us. And whether we are happy or not is also up to us. Living as the Lord intends and according to His will is the source of our happiness.

If you want to understand the meaning of life and your purpose in life, you do it by getting to know the Lord. The more you get to know the Lord, the more you're going to understand the ways and the wisdom of the Lord and the more you're going to understand the meaning and purpose of life. And this will take time so you need to commit time to this. You need to make a choice to do this. We are taught that, "Every smallest moment of your life involves a series of consequences extending to eternity, each moment being as a new beginning to those which follow." (*Arcana Coelestia* 3854) As you read this, know that this could be a significant moment for you. If you make a choice to live as the Lord intends and to fulfil His purpose for your life, it will have a great impact on your spiritual life.

You were created for a very special purpose. The Lord made you because He loves you and wants you to be happy. He made you because there is something you can do that no one can do in the same way. – *adaptation of Rev. David Roth article "Created for a Purpose"*

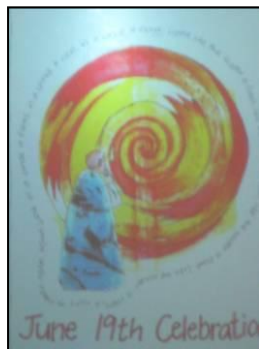
**Prayer:** "Dear Lord, in this moment, please fill us with the peace and serenity of knowing that You are taking complete care of every part of our lives. Please help us to stay present to Your love and unceasing guidance. Thank you for Your protection and love. Help us to know the plan You have for us and trust in the unfolding of it in time. Amen."

**Thank you** to everyone for continued support offered to the Phans. Please keep them in your prayers!

**Church Library** feel free to borrow books from the library, which has a diverse array of books on various topics. Please contact Mary or Lisa for more information on what books are available – 9414 6986.

**Sunday School** Please see within the calendar below for teaching roster and change with others if you cannot make that date.

**News** We had a lovely New Church Day celebration on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June with a morning service and lunch banquet following. Thank-you to Amy and Debby for inspiring and heart-felt talks; Debby and Moira for making beautiful presents for the kiddies; the Dwyers and Frosts for delightful presentation, setup of the banquet space and order of services; John, Amy and Warren for great musical accompaniment; and to everyone for contributing food and helping with the organising and clearing/cleaning afterwards. It was a lovely festive celebration enjoyed by all 😊



## JULY CALENDAR

	MORNING	EVENING	VENUE
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>		12pm <b>Social BBQ</b> (bring meats and drinks)	Frosts Home
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Worship</b> 5pm Followed by a shared meal	10 Broome St
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>		Systematic Theology study (7-8pm)	Mary's Home
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Worship</b> 10:30am Followed by shared meal	Sunday School: Val	10 Broome St
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>		3:30pm <b>Doctrinal discussion</b> on Divine Providence	Frosts Home
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Worship</b> 10:30am Followed by shared meal	Sunday School: Bernice	10 Broome St
Sun 25 <sup>d</sup>	<b>Worship</b> 10:30am Followed by shared meal	Sunday School: Anni	10 Broome St

Worship Services are held weekly at  
 10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)  
 the first Sunday's services at 5pm  
 the rest at 10.30am

## **General Church of the New Jerusalem in Perth**

*10 Broome St. South Perth (off Douglas St)*

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

*Based on the Holy Bible, The New Church gains further inspiration and understanding from the Lord's New Revelation given through the 18th century scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg. The 35 volumes of theology, set out 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 call Mary/Lisa: (08) 9414 6986*

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

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*Editor: Lisa*