

SOUL FOOD



"You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in You." (Isaiah 26:3)

March 2010

The Purpose of Life by Frank Rose

We start with a belief that creation comes from God and that God is love. We also begin with the premise that it is the nature of love to give to others, to want to be connected with them, and to bring them happiness. This suggests that the whole purpose of life is that humans created by God should be happy, not just in this life but after this life forever.

Does this imply that we humans can do whatever we want so long as we are happy? No, not really. God is infinite and eternal and is concerned about our long term happiness. Churches are fallible human institutions, but ideally their purpose is to help people to come to know God and find true happiness. Jesus specifically stated that He spoke to the people in order that they might have His joy in themselves (John 17:13).

"You were created to become an angel." (Last Judgment 20)



"Every person is in freedom either to look upward to God or downward to hell." (True Christianity 69:3)

(Exerted from 1 Samuel 14:2, 6-7, 11-15) And Saul was sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred armed men.... Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few." So his armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I

am with you, according to your heart...." So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden." Then the men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armor bearer, and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you something.

"Jonathan said to his armor bearer, "Come up after me, for the Lord has delivered them into the hand of Israel." And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and knees with his armor bearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armor bearer killed them. That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armor bearer made was about twenty men within about half an acre of land. And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked....

Going Deeper Insight

Consider Saul's position in this story: he saw himself as a victim, driven by forces beyond his control. The Philistines had overwhelmed the land of Israel, scattering the people and leaving Saul with a tiny group of soldiers and only two swords. Saul appears to have resigned himself to the hopelessness of the situation. We can picture him brooding over the events that had led to this unfortunate position. Perhaps he was waiting for the Lord to do something, or perhaps he had forgotten the Lord altogether in his discouragement. In either case, he wasn't doing anything.

In contrast, Saul's son Jonathan did not wait for circumstances to change. He decided to go with his armor bearer and take on a Philistine garrison with a single sword. His trust was not in his own power or luck, but in the Lord. By choosing to take the initiative, Jonathan began a complete rout of the Philistines and won a great victory for Israel. While Saul saw himself as a helpless victim, Jonathan felt capable of doing what needed to be done. His confidence in the Lord brought him great success.

Part of your mind is like Saul and part is like Jonathan. Part would have you give up on your job, marriage, friendship and keep your bad habits. But another part of your mind would have you do what needs to be done so you can enjoy the Lord's blessings.

Human beings are free. We don't have to give up with the apparent helplessness of King Saul. If we turn to the Lord and His Word, we will recognize the alternatives to difficult situations. We are free to choose which part of our minds we will listen to. We can pursue the possibilities like the one Jonathan sensed. With this freedom comes a sense of hope and confidence that no person or event can take away.



By Rev. Eric Carswell, Bishop's representative for Education and Vice Chancellor of the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania.

Special Prayer *Dear Lord, we have Tony, Verity, Kayla and Michael in our hearts constantly; we give thanks for the new life with them. We ask that You bless their union with a yet deeper love for one another through caring and sharing of the pain they are experiencing. Fill them with Your love, strength and courage for the road they travel; and help us all to be there for them in whatever way we can to support their needs. When they see just one line of footprints in the sand make them to know it is You Lord who is carrying them.*

Thank you

Thank you to one and all who have offered and given help to the Phans☺ The road is not easy and we appreciate the kind assistance with the children, the food made for them, and the services rendered to them. Keep praying for them as we need all the help we can get.

Mary

News *Boris is off to the army, Lisa is back from Ireland and her travels in Asia, the Frosts are safely back with us, Matthew has been awarded an assisted study in Sydney where he is flown for a week at a time, Anni is being signed up as a lawyer early next month, Kayla has started ballet, Mary has started Square Dancing, and we are all planning to advertise Sunday school and get organized for the years ahead.*

Social Network

*Frosts have invited us all to a study group at their home on the third Saturday of the month at 4pm
And to a social BBQ on the first Saturday of the month at their home at midday.*

March CALENDAR

	<i>MORNING</i>	<i>EVENING</i>	<i>VENUE</i>
<i>Sat 6th</i>	<i>Midday Social at Frosts BYO meat /drinks</i>		
<i>Sun 7th</i>		<i>5pm worship followed by shared meal</i>	<i>10 Broome st</i>
<i>Sun 14th</i>	<i>9.30am</i> <i>Sunday school planning meeting</i> <i>Worship</i> <i>10:30am</i> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>10 Broome St</i>
<i>Sat 20th</i>		<i>4pm Doctrinal discussion at Frosts</i>	
<i>Sun 21st</i>	<i>Worship 10:30am</i> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>10 Broome St</i>
<i>Sun 28th</i>	<i>Worship 10:30am</i> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun 25th</i>	<i>Worship 10:30am</i> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>10 Broome St</i>

*Worship Services are held weekly at
10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)
the first Sunday's services at 5.30pm
the rest at 10.30am*

General Church of the New Jerusalem in Perth

10 Broome St. South Perth (off Douglas St)

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

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