



*The General Church of the  
New Jerusalem*

*PERTH CIRCLE*

*May 2004*



**Verily I say unto you except ye be converted,  
and become as little children, ye shall not  
enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

**Honesty** (Bishop George De Charms)

*"How can you believe*

*who receive honour from one another*

*and do not seek the honour that comes from the only God?"*

(John 5:44)

Of all the virtues, honesty is the greatest, because it includes or involves all the others. By virtues we mean those good things by which people have power on earth. Virtue comes from a word meaning power, strength. All power and strength come from the Lord, and people have power or strength only so far as the Lord is with them. And since the Lord is with people only when they do what is good, therefore the doing of good is the source of power and strength with people. And all those good things by which people are able to receive power or strength from the Lord are called in one word, virtue.

There are many virtues - for instance, honesty, justice, prudence, obedience, temperance, purity, courage, loyalty, mercy. One who possesses these virtues has the Lord present with him, because all these things are qualities of the Lord Himself, and when people receive them and practice them, they take on the image of God.

We are going to learn something about these different virtues, and what they mean - especially what they mean to the New church. ... You will find many different opinions among people, and you will find it difficult sometimes to decide just what is right and what is wrong, what is really a virtue, and what is not. People will try to persuade you that something that looks like a virtue is just as good as the real thing, and very much easier to attain, and the great fight of your life will be to protect real genuine virtues against very human counterfeit. And this is the same thing as protecting the Lord and the Church from being injured or torn away from you.

The first of all the virtues is honesty; and it is the greatest. And yet honesty, as such is mentioned only once in the whole of the Lord's Word. It is used by the Lord in explaining the parable of the sower, concerning which the Lord said: 'the seed which fell on the good ground are they who in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience' (John 8:15).

The reason why this word is used so little in the Scriptures is that it is what we call an abstract term, and nearly all the words used in the Scriptures are concrete. But the word that is used instead, or to express a similar idea, is honour. Honour and honesty are very closely related, the one being the effect and the other the cause. A person receives honour from others because he or she is honest, or because they believe he is honest. No one does honour to a person who is dishonest, or whose conduct is dishonourable. And for this reason the term honour is used in the Word in some places with almost the same meaning as honesty. This is the case in the forty fourth verse of the fifth chapter of John, where the Lord says to the Jews, 'How can you believe, who receive honour one from another, and seek not the honour that comes from God only.'

But this He meant that the Jews were unable to understand the things He was trying to teach them because they believed in being honest only for the sake of their reputation amongst people - only for the sake of the honour that people were able to give them, and thought nothing of real honesty which has no regard to the opinions of people but looks to the Lord alone. You will find a great deal of this same kind of honesty in the world. People will tell you that honesty has to do entirely with your relation to your fellows - treating them fairly, sincerely, doing unto them as you would that they should do unto you in all the transactions of business or private relations with them. They will tell you that honesty is the best policy. That if people think of you as honest and upright, they will give you their business, they will praise you to others, and you will prosper among them. But if they think you are dishonest, people will not trust you, and your business will fail.

All this is true. But it is not the whole truth. If you are to see the whole truth about honesty, you must see that it is not only a relationship with other people, it is also a relationship with yourself, and with the Lord. You can be honest with others, and yet not honest with yourself. You can be honest toward other people, and yet not honest toward the Lord. And in that case it is not real honesty, but is a counterfeit, which in the other world will be of no value. If you are honest towards others and not towards the Lord, then you are honest only when there is danger of your dishonesty being found out. You will be willing to be dishonest in secret, so long as you appear to be honest openly.

To be honest is to be sincere, frank and single minded. That is, to try to be inside of yourself just what you appear to be outside. It is to be before the Lord, who sees in secret, just what you are before people, who seen only what you say and do openly. Thus it is not to be double minded, one thing before others, and another before the Lord. It is to be single minded in the sense in which the Lord said, "If your eye be single, your whole body shall be full of light"

The world around us is full of counterfeit honesty. It is like coin which evil people have carefully fashioned to look like real gold, and which they pass for money, but which when examined is found to be lead, with only a thin place of gold on the outside. Beware lest you accept this money in payment for the deeds of your life. Be careful not to be led astray by people who would lead you to think that anything that appears like honesty, and listens like it before the world, is the real virtue.

But how are you to know the real gold from the dross? Real honesty must come from the Lord, and must lead to Him. Anything that leaves out the Lord and religion is not genuine. Seek that honesty which makes you fear to do anything which is against the Lord; which makes you afraid to do that which you in your own heart know to be wrong, whether there is danger of your being called dishonest by the world or not. Seek that kind of honesty that is not satisfied with keeping the laws of the country that you may

not be disgraced before others, but which rests only when it keeps the laws of heaven, and thus win the love the Lord and the angels. This is the pure gold that will pass for gold coin in the other world, in the possession of which you will be right there, and will receive from the Lord full measure, pressed down and running over, of those real things that bring everlasting

### The Cracked Pot (emailed by Christian Friend)

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of each long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot always arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.

Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate

the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Moral :

"Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them".

## **Organisational Changes**

### **Venue:**

The upstairs section of the Speld Society at 10 Broome street is serving us very well and we invite friends in the area to come and have a **cup of tea with us on the lawn outside the church at 11.30am on every Sunday morning of the month except the last** when we will have an evening service followed by a shared meal.

### **First Sunday of the Month**

Bring a bite for lunch as we will have a picnic lunch outside in the garden.

### **Last Sunday of the month**

Remember there will be an evening service at 5pm followed by a shared meal.

## **NEWS**

### **Easter Sunday Worship**

Thirteen of us met at an informal worship service held at 35 Ewing Avenue. It was delightful to have two children assisting Lisa to light all the candles on the altar. The service was conducted using a laptop and speakers to create music for singing. We enjoyed a morning tea together afterwards. Thank you everyone who contributed to the readings.....Tony ,Margaret, Jessica, and Genevieve .

**Holidays** Many of us have had a well-earned rest from labour during the Easter Break.

**Burneys visit** We were delighted to see Lois and Norm at the Good Friday worship when they visited Perth on the occasion of their daughter Elizabeth's birthday and resulting family reunion. We wish Elizabeth all the best for her Birthday.

We were sorry to miss the visit of Mark and Kylie together with their children Joshua and \_\_\_\_\_ who were held back in Geraldton by an unfortunate burglary. We look forward to meeting them in the future.

**Val Hart** has travelled South to see her family Ros Thwaites and enjoy her grandson Jack. **Ray and Mary Smuts** have travelled to Denmark and visited with the Burneys at their lovely home. **John and Moira Frost** have travelled South to visit friends and as far as Esperance as well. **Lisa Smuts** has travelled to Sydney to refresh her friendships with the Hurstville and the Sydney Society young people. **Cynthia** paid a flying visit to Sydney to attend a reunion of Park Hill School, founded by her grandfather. She was the only living family representative and enjoyed immensely meeting her old students and co workers. There were 250 past students and teachers at the Saturday night dinner and the Sunday picnic.

**Tayla Phillips** collects stamps. So tear off the stamp each time you get a letter and put it aside for Tayla.

**Clean up at Broome street** Much work was done by Richard and Genevieve in cleaning up the old venue and reorganising the church possessions. We are happy to be housed in more spacious and uplifting surroundings in the upstairs section at 10 Broome Street

## **RECORDS BOOK**

We have a very smart book that Richard has bought and John has scripted, for members to sign. If you have not yet signed please remember to do so next time you are at Broome Street. A record of baptisms, confirmations, betrothals, weddings is to be kept in it.

## **Library Books**

The library books are housed at **35 Ewing Ave** at present and may be borrowed by request.

**Some books are missing....the numbers are written according to a code in the front and stamped with the church stamp. See below**

### **The DOLE NOTES**

Recent addition to the library is a complete set of the **Dole Notes** which describes the correspondences of the Old and New testaments at different depths of understanding to suit differing age groups. This serves as the basis for Sunday School teaching together with the Vineyard web site (see back page)

### **List of the books housed at 35 Ewing Ave**

Evangelisation File

**File on Moral Issues (Acton) 2 tapes missing!!**

Heaven and Hell (WH&H 1)

**Heaven and Hell (WH&H 8) yellow book MISSING**

Heaven and Hell (WH&H 6)

A Spirituality that makes sense

The Four Doctrines

**Divine Love and Wisdom (WDL&W 3) MISSING**

**Divine Providence (WDP 4) MISSING**

**Divine Providence (WDP 5) MISSING**

The Presence of other Worlds

Apocalypse Revealed

The Joy of Spiritual Growth

Dove at the Window

Rise Above it (C6)

Rise Above it Leader's Guide (F5)

**Rise Above It (C5) MISSING**

**An Introduction to the Doctrines of the New Church 1copy is MISSING Number E6**

Conjugal Love

Freely Give (7)

Freely Give (C6)

**Freely Give MISSING (C8)**

The Leaves that will heal the nations

Dole Notes Volumes 1,2,3,4,5,6 (Complete Set)

New Church Evangelisation Religion 160

### **MISSING BOOKS**

This makes up a fraction of 8/35 books missing = **23% of the library** = just under a quarter.....Oh dear!!

Anyone who has books around their house that they have forgotten about (senior moments!!).....we will be VERY happy to have them returned. Perhaps people borrowed copies of **DL&W and DP** for the **classes** and forgot to return them. There is no record of who borrowed these books.

Prior to the books being catalogued and listed in January 2002, there was an error in transit and some donated books have been misplaced.

It would be wonderful if everyone, not trusting their memory, will please look around their homes and return any books that come to light.

## **OUTREACH**

### **BOOKS PLACED IN SECOND HAND SHOPS**

We were very fortunate to be given books from the **Basil Lazer Fund** in August 2002, to donate to bookshops as an **Outreach Exercise**.

6 x Temptations, 6 X Heaven and Hell, 2 X AC Vol 1, 6 X Helen Keller 's Light in My Darkness, 9 x Now it Can be Told, 12 X Practising Ideals, 5 X Spiritual Recovery.

Thanks to Val and everyone else concerned who have placed books around Perth. More books will be placed in the shops in the South by Moira. We look forward to reading a report of what and how many books have been placed in which locations, and which books seem to be more popular choices. All the books were stamped with the "Swedenborg Reading Group" and contact details .

This is very exciting and has been a lot of work well done! Thank you Val , Moira and all concerned!

## **Outreach services**

Twice a month there will be outreach services to which we invite you to bring a friend.(see calendar)

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

## **June 19<sup>th</sup> Banquet and Picnic**

This will be held at 10 Broome street upstairs following an evening service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm.

Book this date in your diary.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June** there will be a picnic at Chidley Beach with canoes and all starting at 11.00am.

# May Calendar 2004

Sun 2nd	<b><u>Worship 10.30am</u></b> followed by a picnic lunch	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Class 7.30pm</b> TCR	Cynthia Macpherson Glen Arbour , Willetton.
Sun 9th <b><u>OUTREACH</u></b>	<b><u>Worship 10.30am</u></b> followed by a cuppa	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Mon 10th	<b><u>Beginners Class</u></b> 7.30pm	35Ewing Ave Bullcreek
Sun 16th	<b><u>Worship 10.30am</u></b> followed by a cuppa	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Thurs 20th	<b>Class 7.30pm</b> TCR	Harts 28 Kincardine Cres
Sun 23nd	<b><u>Worship 10.30am</u></b> followed by a cuppa	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> (off Douglas St.) South Perth
Mon 24th	<b>Beginners Class</b>	35 Ewing Ave Bullcreek
Sunday 30-th	<b><u>Evening Worship</u></b> <b><u>and shared meal</u></b> <b><u>5pm</u></b>	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> South Perth

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

*(off Douglas Street)*

### **Worship at 10.30am every Sunday**

*Experience a new meaning and level of understanding 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.*

### **Contacts on the net**

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

[www.newchurch.org/perth-gcnj](http://www.newchurch.org/perth-gcnj)

[info@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:info@swedenborg.com.au)

[newchurch@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newchurch@optusnet.com.au).

**New Church Radio Listen on line at**

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

**Walk to Emmaus** (an online discussion group)

[walktoemmaus@topica.com](mailto:walktoemmaus@topica.com)

[SRLibrary@newchurch.edu](mailto:SRLibrary@newchurch.edu) for sound recordings and music