



SOUL FOOD

May 2007

*I have yet many things to say unto you,
but you cannot bear them now. John 16; 12*

Life Evermore (from www.newchurch.org)

"A person's life after death consists in the life of his love and the life of his faith. Therefore what his love has been like and what his faith has been like while he lived in the world determines what kind of life will be his for evermore.

"The life of hell is the lot of those who have loved themselves and the world above all things, and the life of heaven that of those who have loved God above all things and their neighbor as themselves." Arcana Coelestia 10596

Our lives continue immediately after the death of our bodies. We live because the components that truly define our humanity, that is our loves, affections, and ability to think are essentially spiritual in nature. Our lives continue in a spiritual dimension that is just as real as earth. We can then take on a purpose to life that is deeply blessed and more fulfilling than before.

The Church exists to help people to discover that spiritual life. You can start now by helping others and living in a way that reflects the fundamental principles of God that he expresses in His Word. May you be blessed in your journey.

Outreach and growth..... Bishop Kline

In the December 2006 Bishop's Newsletter, Bishop Kline expressed his vision for the General Church website as "our primary goal as we take the next steps with developing our online presence is to focus our mission on serving people not yet connected to the New church.. We believe that in doing this we will also better serve people already connected to the New Church."

"It is our goal that www.newchurch.org is where people will go to gain information about the New Church and to connect with people from around the world whop are interested in and committed to these ideals, as well as find a place where real -life needs can be addressed and served. We want users of this site to learn the transforming message of the New Church and build connections with other people doing the same."

"We want to plan purposefully and strategically for supporting the spiritual development of the individual"

With these goals in mind there is a professional and methodical approach to the General Church Website Enhancement project.

If you are interested in a new integrated website for your congregation email us at outreach@newchurch.org

Thoughts on Circulation *Heulwen M. Ridgway Colchester, England*

On a natural level, it's the circulation of blood in the body that sustains human life. The blood circulation reaches every cell in the body; if it does not reach any cell, that cell will die. The reason for this is obvious on both the natural and the spiritual levels.

On the natural level, the heart is the pump of the circulatory system. When the blood is pumped through the lungs, it's enriched with oxygen, that is, it's oxygenated. The blood then transports oxygen and nutrients to the cells, both of which are necessary for maintaining cellular life, and of course for maintaining bodily life generally.

On the spiritual level, the heart and the blood correspond to the things associated with good or love, and the lungs to the things to do with truth and understanding.

The word 'oxygen' doesn't occur in the New Revelation. However, are told that "breathing corresponds to the understanding, thus to perception and thought, and also to faith..." (AR 708). So the correspondence of the heart and of blood to love, good and the will, is balanced by the correspondence of the lungs, the air, and presumably oxygen, to the things to do with wisdom, understanding and faith.

Now the Lord doesn't look at each of us and see just a collection of isolated cells or body organs. He sees one person on both a natural and a spiritual level. On the natural level He sees one body that is made up of many parts and of millions of cells. On the spiritual level He sees each of us as one ruling love which is made up of many subdivisions of love, and He sees that ruling love with its subdivisions, infilling all our goods and truths.

Just as the circulatory system permeates the entire body and joins all the disparate parts into one entity, so our ruling love, like a spiritual circulatory system, permeates all our subsidiary loves and directs and organises them into one whole. And that whole, which is a collection of all the goods and truths that comprise our mind, is who we are. We are one person, sustained by the blood; and we are also one mind, organised under one ruling love.

We have to bear in mind that just as our natural blood may be unhealthy, so our spiritual blood also may be unhealthy. Our ruling love may be controlled by heaven or by hell, and we can be circulating goods and truths or evils and falsities to every cell of our mind, that is to every subdivision of our ruling love.

It seems that all the churches on earth take their place somewhere in one body, with the goods and truths of the New Church circulating out to sustain life in the other churches whose faiths are either closer to, or more remote from, the faith of the New Church. This makes a very clear image for me of how the Lord views the whole Church as one man. It also gives a lovely image of the New Church as the

heart and lungs, disseminating goods and truths like oxygenated blood to every cell of that one man. So the New Church is the powerpoint of the circulatory system that sustains the one body of the Church.

We are taught plainly that the Lord sees the whole of heaven as one Grand or Greatest Man. We also know that in heaven, the ideas or thoughts of the angels, presumably their goods and truths, are shared with every other angel. As far as I am aware, we aren't told that these goods and truths are received in the same way by each angel. In our human body, the nutrients and oxygen in the blood are received by the different cells of the various organs and parts according to need. In other words, each cell takes what it needs from the general pool. Presumably the goods and truths that are circulating would be received by each angel according to the need of the particular state that each angel is in. And this individual state is what determines the position of each angel in the Grand Man. As far as I can see, it is this sharing out of goods and truths that forms the circulatory system in heaven. This is because goods and truths in heaven are the life blood of the angels.

Primarily, it is by means of the circulation of the Lord's oxygenated blood, that is, of His Divine Good by means of His Divine Truth, that all of us receive life and that this life is maintained. The Lord can circulate life to us in this way because He is God under the human form.

So where are we of the New Church situated in this body and how are we placed to circulate its goods and truths?

We are told (1) that the Church is at first to be with a few and will then increase successively among many, because the falsities of the former Church have first to be removed before these truths can be received. However we are also told (2) that there will be few within the Church.

Again, we are told (3) that the New Heaven must be formed before the New Church on earth can be formed. This New Heaven isn't simply the heaven in which the angels are. We are taught that this New Heaven makes the Internal of the Church with man. As this New Heaven, this Internal of the Church, grows, in the same proportion, the New Jerusalem which is the New Church, descends from that Heaven.

So each one of us can make a vital contribution to the growth and spread of the New Church by ensuring that the Internal of the Church grows within us. Obviously we are in the New Church only if we have the Internal of the Church within us, that is, only if we are regenerating. This is made quite clear to us in several passages (4) which tell us that no one comes into the New Church except the person who acknowledges the Lord and also removes and shuns evils as sins against the Lord by combat.

Since we are told that the Church will only grow as the falsities of the former Church are removed, I assume that the falsities that we are fighting against in our regeneration, are those of the former Church. Also, the New Church would not have any falsities, although the man-made organisations have plenty and obviously we, as individuals, also have plenty.

As I see it, as we regenerate, the New Jerusalem descends more and more into us and we become progressively more and more the heart and lungs of the collective body of the Church, and hence progressively we are able to circulate more truths; hopefully truths from good. In this way the New Church will grow, and whether or not our numbers increase markedly, the circulating truths will still enrich the minds of people in general, even in the darkest corners of the globe.

To sum up, if we want the New Church to grow, not just in numbers of people on pews, but in numbers who are committed from the heart, we have a clear instruction: we must regenerate if we are to have the Internal of the Church within us and if we are to be in the New Church and in the New Heaven. Only then will we be in the heart and lungs, and be able to circulate the life blood of the New Church truths to a world in need. 1. AR 547:2 2. AC 3898:3 3. TCR 784 4. J. [post] 352:9, AR 72, AC 3898:3)

Heulwen Ridgway is a self taught lifelong student of the writings. She lives in England with her Mother Lavender Ridgway. Her forefathers carried the New Church to Durban in about 1850. Readers are invited to reply to this letter on "Circulation."

Visit of Bishop Kline later in the year. Bishop Kline will be visiting Perth later in the year

Book café** We meet every **first Sunday** of the month at 3pm for a discussional topic led by John. Bring your friends along for a sociable time before we go to church at 5pm. This month we will meet at the **Secret Garden café which is in Angelo Street opposite a car park.

***Singing Practice.** We will practice singing before church at 9.45am on the last Sunday of every month. Bring along your old favourite that you would like revived or a new one to try out.*

***Doctrinal Studies by Rev Mike Gladish** The study of Heaven and Hell designed by Mike Gladish is used at Val's home for a class on the first and third Friday mornings of the month.*

<i>Calendar for May</i>	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Class</i>
<i>Friday 4rd</i>		<i>Heaven and Hell</i> class <i>11am at Val's</i>
<i>Sunday 6th May</i>	<i>FIRST SUNDAY 5pm</i> <i>Worship 5pm</i> <i>Shared meal to follow</i>	<i>3.00pm</i> <i>Discussional</i> <i>topic at the <u>Secret</u></i> <i>Garden</i> <i>Angelo Street, South Perth</i>
<i>Sunday 13th</i>	<i>Worship 10.30am</i> <i>Shared meal to follow.</i>	.
<i>Friday 18th</i>		<i>Heaven and Hell</i> class <i>11am at Val's</i>
<i>Sunday 20th</i>	<i>Worship 10.30am</i> <i>Shared meal to follow.</i>	
<i>Sunday 27th</i>	<i>Singing Practice</i> <i>9.30amWorship</i> <i>10.30am</i> <i>Shared meal to follow</i>	
<i>Fridat 1st June</i>		<i>Heaven and Hell</i> class <i>11am at Val's</i>

Sunday School every Sunday during Worship. It is great if you can let Mary know whether to expect you or not for preparation purposes. 0407 448405

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 or Mary 0407 448405



10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)

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 Revelation of 18th century scientist and theologian [Emanuel Swedenborg](http://www.swedenborg.com.au). 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

Or phone Alex 0428517813

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