

# ***SOUL FOOD***



***September 2009***  
**After Life ( from [www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org) )**



*You will never die.*

*Your body will die, but you are more than your body. You are spirit and you are life from God, created to live forever. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2) We are all created for a unique place in heaven. "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).*

*When someone we love dies, even those who live a full life in this world and pass away in old age, we grieve for the loss of them. We cherish our memories and honour what impact for good they had in the world. For some who find it difficult to believe in the afterlife, it can be a very sad time, presuming that the departed have dissipated out of existence, never to be seen again. But this doesn't have to be the case. Since we were created by an eternal God, we actually can sense deep within ourselves that we will never die. Many people instinctively know that there is life after death, not because they desire it to be so, but because deep within, at the core of their being, they sense it. This perception is built right into us. Can you get in touch with it? I know that I have little doubt about the reality of the afterlife. I feel it. I sense it. I have experienced so many glimpses of it, or have been so miraculously touched by it that I cannot doubt. I can have some question as to where I might end up, but I do not question that the other world is real. Perhaps you*

*have that sense too. Swedenborg put it this way, "I have seen, I have heard, I have felt." (Arcana Caelestia 68)*

*A lot of people have seen, heard, felt. Studies have been done on countless individuals all over the world who have had a near-death experience. It has been estimated that millions upon millions have had some sort of contact with an afterlife when close to death themselves. Skeptics may call this experience wishful thinking. But people of all faiths, even no faith, have reported the same things again and again and again, both young and old, of every culture and background. They wake up happy, healthy, and whole. They see relatives and friends. They experience a beautiful light. Those who have been clinically dead for a longer time see cities of light, beautiful countryside, angels. What is very interesting is that most of what is reported by those who have had the near-death experience was also reported by Emanuel Swedenborg of his experiences some two hundred years before scientists discovered such a thing. This too is reflected again and again in the Bible as Jesus assures us that we live on.*

*But concerning the resurrection of the dead – have you not read what was spoken to you by God, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead but of the living.' **Matthew***

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**News**

**Amy** received 4 merit awards, 3 for top marks in the school for 3 subjects and one for getting A's in all her subjects. Boris also got top school marks for one of his subjects.

**Keagan** played violin at the WA School's Music festival at Perth Modern as part of the Burrendah Primary's string ensemble.

**John and Moira** enjoyed the visit of grandson Luke for a few weeks in August. It was good to meet with him.

**Val** is safely back home and being well cared for by her friends and relatives as she recovers the full use of her leg. This indomitable friend of ours played church music for patients while in hospital and is straight back at the organ since her return home! And open heartedly lent her house to Rev Brian Smith and family while she was in hospital.

**Warren , Deb, and Danielle** will be welcoming their son Matthew to Perth this week and received their container of goods safely except for some crockery breakages. Hope all is well in your home now😊

**Annaleen** will be receiving her degree in Law this month as she continues her articles.

**Shawn** will be traveling and then visiting Ireland, Castlerea, in County Roscommon. We wish him the best and look forward to your return next year.

**Lisa** will be visiting Ireland over the next few months too.

**Richard** is taking a break from lay leadership after a stirring run of 9 years!! Well done Richard, you are a tower of strength getting done so much behind the scenes in terms of bookings, finances, library, setting up, buying milk etc.

**Amy** we all wish you all the best as the count down for TEE begins in earnest. It is a taxing time so take care and know that we are all thinking of you.

**Verity** held her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party at her home (an afternoon tea) that was much enjoyed by all of us from new born baby of a friend to us oldies. The whole age range was catered for!

**Warren** we thank you for your delightful guitar accompaniment for our worship. We know that you are real busy right now unpacking and settling in so that makes us doubly grateful for your efforts 😊

### **Special Prayer**

*Dear Lord, we have Tony, Verity and Kayla in our hearts constantly; we give thanks for the new life soon to be 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.*

### **Heaven and Hell Class**

*For those who are unable to attend and wish to work in synchronicity with the class the readings for this month are*

**Heaven and Hell number 421 onwards**

## **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

	<i>MORNING</i>	<i>EVENING</i>	
<i>Fri</i> <i>4th</i>	<i>Heaven &amp; hell</i> <b><i>Study group 10:30am</i></b>		<i>TBC phone</i> <i>Bernice</i>
<i>Sun</i> <i>6th</i>	<b><i>Worship 10:30am</i></b> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun</i> <i>13<sup>th</sup></i>		<b><i>Worship</i></b> <i>5.30pm</i> <i>Followed by</i> <i>shared meal</i>	<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Fri</i> <i>18<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Heaven &amp; hell</i> <b><i>Study group 10:30am</i></b>		<i>TBC phone</i> <i>Bernice</i>
<i>Sun</i> <i>20<sup>th</sup></i>	<b><i>Worship 10:30am</i></b> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun</i> <i>27th</i>		<b><i>Worship</i></b> <i>5.30pm</i> <i>Followed by</i> <i>shared meal</i>	<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun</i> <i>4<sup>th</sup></i> <i>Oct</i>	<b><i>Worship 10:30am</i></b> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>

*Worship Services are held weekly at  
10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)  
the first and third Sunday's services at 10.30am  
the second and fourth at 5.30pm  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday TBA*

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

*10 Broome St. South Perth*

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

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*We sponsor **"The Loving Arms Mission"** in Nepal, a  
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*Lay Leader In Perth :*

*John Frost tel: (08)9315 9850*

*C/o 57 Boronia St. Innaloo, 6018*

*Editor: Mary*