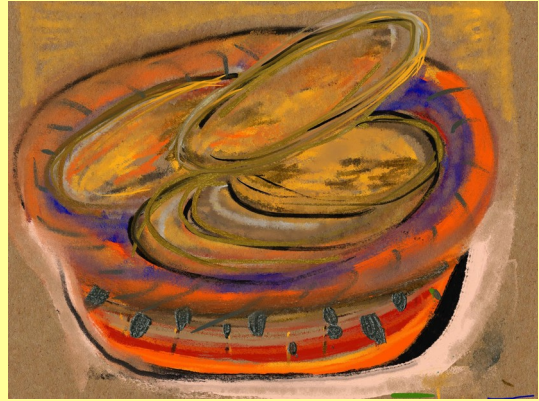


Breaking Bread

Newsletter – The New Jerusalem Church,
Brisbane and south-east Queensland

FEBRUARY 2015



Art Work By Lenore Sandow

From Darren

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Change, the only constant

In life, we find ourselves working hard to build in routines and regular structure. This, of course, is a very important part of life especially in the development of the 'Heavenly Character'. And, it goes without saying, that flexibility is an important quality as well. We can certainly resist being 'flexible'. We are creatures of habit. However, life has a way of 'forcing' flexibility on us whether we want it or not. One of my 'pet' thoughts is that I will not have to deal with things like 'death' in Heaven. I am aware though, that even in the Heavens life is fluid and changes still occur.

How much in life should I fight for consistency and how much should I go with flexibility? It is certainly a balancing act requiring wisdom and guidance from the Lord.

One of the best examples of 'life changes' is the ocean. From a distance, such as from a plane, it is a large blue entity with the same characteristics the whole world over. However, when you get up close and personal, the ocean is a pulsing ever-changing force. Wave after wave, it comes, each wave a little different. Just like life, we can sit on the edge and watch the tide come in and go back out. Or we can go for a swim and be refreshed all the while exercising caution unless some unforeseen event comes crashing down on us and we are overcome.

Others take a different attitude towards life changes. They seek to master the world around them. They take the right tools like a surfboard and they work with the ongoing changes. They wait for the right opportunity and they learn to work with the rhythms surrounding them. If they are knocked down they get back up again and patiently wait. Success will come if they don't give up.

Looking around at life, things can seem so chaotic and random at times. Our faith tells us that The Lord is in control and seated on the Throne. Our senses try to tell us a different story. In times of difficulty or great changes, if we could just 'See' the Lord or 'Hear' his audible voice, we could be certain and assured – rock solid. On the other hand, there would be no need of 'Faith' or 'Freewill'. We would irrefutably 'Know'. So what can we do in times of difficulty and change?

Moses wanted to see the Lord. The Lord's response is very telling and we can learn from it. The Lord denied Moses the right to 'See' Him as it would harm Moses. Instead He placed Moses in the cleft of the rock and covered the opening with His Hand. Moses was then allowed to see God's hind parts.

We too can do the same. The Lord can hide us in the cleft of the rock, which represents knowledge and faith in the Divine Human. There is also a picture here of the Lord's burial after the crucifixion. We can be covered by the power (His hand) of His revealed Word. And we can look backwards in our life and see where the Lord has been at work for us and from that place of gratitude, we will rest in peace and faith that He will be involved in our future too.

Wherever you find yourself in life allow the Word to give you the tools to tackle life's changes. Allow the Word to give you guidance, instruction and mastery over life's purposes. Don't give up. Don't be discouraged. Trust in the Lord that there is an overall grand plan for your success. Life is rigged in your favour and this becomes easier to see when you are carefully listening to the Author of life:-

AC 8455

...for peace has in it confidence in the Lord, that He directs all things, and provides all things, and that He leads to a good end. When a man is in this faith, he is in peace, for he then fears nothing, and no solicitude about things to come disquiets him. A man comes into this state in proportion as he comes into love to the Lord.

Amen.

Update From The Brunnes!

We're all settling into beautiful Brisbane. All of the children have begun this year's home-schooling and are eagerly awaiting Internet instillation on the 3rd of February so they can recommence their online studies. The mammoth task of moving is almost over, with just one box a day now being unpacked.

Xavier is 'plumping' up and for him, home is where he has someone to marvel in his loveliness and the miracle that brings him to us to love and raise. It really is one of life's nicest gifts to have one of heaven's little treasures given into your arms.

For Darren and I, it has been 16 years since we've lived here. We rented in Arana Hills as soon as we were married after returning from our honeymoon 17 years ago. Once things settle down, we look forward to having long after-dinner walks along the lovely Brighton - Shorncliffe shared bikeway.

One of the things I like the most about moving is the perspective change that comes along with it. The environment is different, the grasses, birds, sounds and sights. I have once again

been reminded of the passing of moments and the continual choice before us of how we invest in each fleeting one.

We look forward to our time journeying with you.

Renee



Starting again

Quite some years ago now “New Church Life”, one of the USA journals for the New Church, ran a regular feature about “Favourite Passages” or “Favourite Teachings”. I remember at the time asking myself “*Do I have a ‘favourite passage’ or a ‘favourite teaching’ that I have come to treasure from my association with the New Church?*” And for some reason, out walking in mid-December, that question crossed my mind again.

I hope it is so that you yourself have such a favourite teaching, maybe even more than one! I actually find it hard at times to be selective. My need at a given time – I’ve noticed – influences what I choose.

In mid-December, however, it is not only Christmas that is on our minds but most of us are at least vaguely aware of the New Year so closely following, as I was. And so it is not surprising that what came into my mind, as I walked, is New Church teaching on ***starting again***.

I love this teaching that whatever the mess we have made and beat ourselves up about, the Lord is only interested in NOW and in working with us to start again. Whilst repentance is a vitally necessary raking over the past – though not too many times! – The Lord has no interest in holding the past up to us, or against us, or whacking us around the ears with it. His

forgiveness is unhesitatingly instant. We've only to open ourselves up to it.

The prophet Isaiah captures this in a question he was inspired to record, "*Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send?*" (Chapter 43, verse 19)

This, please note, is with reference to The Lord – The Lord being to all intents and purposes blind and deaf when it comes to when we have erred and sinned. And here is what we have given us in The Heavenly Doctrines, or Writings, about this: "*The reason that He is called blind and deaf is because the Lord is as if He did not see and perceive the sins of people, for He leads people gently, bending and not breaking them, thus withdrawing them from*

evils, and leading them to good, wherefore neither does He chastise or punish, as if He saw and perceived." (Apocalypse Explained 409:2)

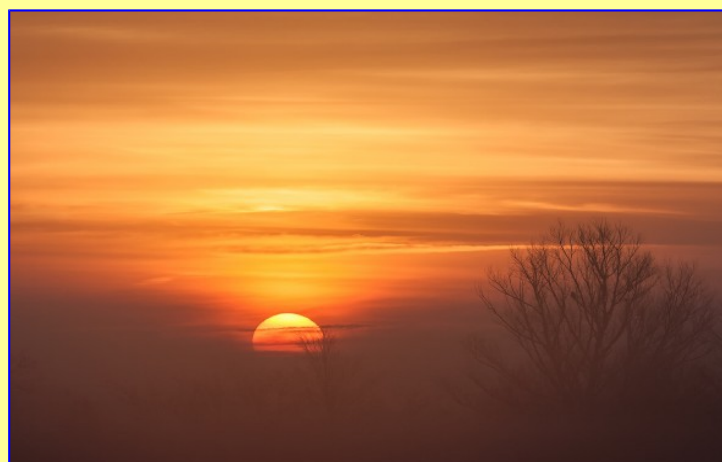
Forget the old picture of judgment and punishment after death, sternly administered. Evil and sin certainly have consequences for us, undeniably leaving an imprint on us and if never acknowledged and repented of these reinforce the *unheavenly* type of person we have allowed ourselves, and chosen, to become.

But in the spiritual world and like the Lord, the angels are only interested in who we are and have become, *at that time*, and in working with whatever potential they can find in us to have us walk in new ways – to start over again. It's the story of the prodigal son, repeated unendingly.

"I will praise the LORD with my whole heart...He is gracious and full of compassion."
Psalm 111:1 & 4

Warm greetings for 2015

Jan



The Month Ahead Unpacked

An explanation of the upcoming events throughout February

1st SUNDAY OF THE MONTH – FAMILY SERVICE

We will be starting the seven services of 'What Would Love Do?'. You can download a copy of the program for \$9.99 from this site:-

<http://www.newchurch.org/materials/programs/what-would-love-do>

You can also order a physical copy of the workbook for \$19.99 although it will take a little while to come in the mail. If you can't get a copy, don't worry as I will send through emails each month with pertinent questions and spiritual tasks to work on and attendance to the Family Service will give you the gist of the program.

2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH – WORSHIP CIRCLE

We will use this opportunity to explore topics in a group setting. I would like to create and work through a series *KNOW YOUR BIBLE* – Books of the Bible and their deeper sense.

THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

On Sunday the 22nd of February I have called a time of prayer for the Brisbane New Church Community. There are changes ahead for the community and we want the Lord to lead us and build His Kingdom in our midst:-

Psalms 127

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of Solomon.

***1 Unless the LORD builds a house,
the work of the builders is wasted.
Unless the LORD protects a city,
guarding it with sentries will do no good.***

Any life choice we make will not truly be successful without prayer and reflection on His Word followed by obedience to The Lord's guidance:-

2 Chronicles 7:12-16

12 Then one night the Lord appeared to Solomon and said,

“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices. 13 At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. ***14*** Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven

*and will forgive their sins and restore their land. **15**My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. **16**For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.*

We know that the Lord does not literally 'Send' plagues upon us but the plagues come as a result of man choosing evil. However, the Lord instructed Solomon to tell His people that if they would be of a humble heart, turning to the Lord in prayer while shunning evil, then we can be assured of the Lord's Divine intervention into our lives and choices.

The call is to all of us, if you can come and join us in prayer for our Church's future.

The format for the 30 min prayer time will be:-

I am happy to lead the prayers and supplication. If people could write down a prayer request involving any aspect of the community's future prospects, future hopes and desires, I am happy to lift the prayer to the Lord. I am also happy for others (who desire so) to lift a communal prayer to the Lord. There is power and blessing in our coming together in unity (Ps 133:1-3) and humbly lifting our spiritual longings to the Lord.

Prayer Testimony

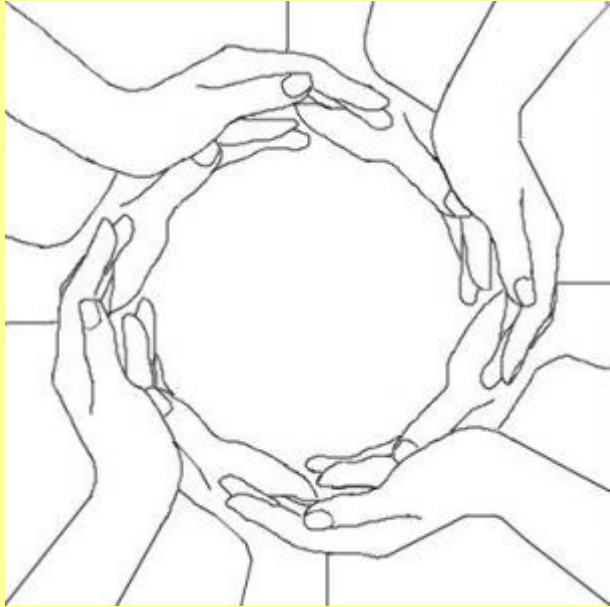
Back in 2003 on my second ministry trip to the little town of Moree we had the opportunity to hold a 30 minute communal prayer time.

One of the locals asked if we could pray for a young man down in

Melbourne who was at the time in hospital and his body was riddled with cancer. We asked in group prayer for his health to be restored. I heard back two weeks later that the cancer had totally disappeared from this young man's body. We are grateful to the Lord for His wonderful ways. Let us look for opportunities to come together and lift our supplications to the Lord.

Amen

Darren



**Philip Island Camp
Monday, 29th December 2014 to Sunday, 4th January 2015**

Approximately 80 people attended the Camp late last year and they had an excellent time. We have a few photos here of Queenslanders enjoying themselves.



Jacob Glenn climbing the flying fox tower



Saxon and Lina Heldon geared up



Harry Glenn and Jayden Heldon preparing for the flying fox



Folks Cooling off!

Birthdays

To all our friends celebrating birthdays through out this months we wish you birthday greetings and blessings.



February

5th Eddie Duff, 6th Ken Barns, 8th Bev Sheppard, 22nd Livvy Fitzgerald, 23rd Paul Evans

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

The Church is at 21 Agars Street, Rosalie, just up from Baroona Road. Always check the Calendar for services on page 12.

Pastor: Rev. Darren Brunne, contactable on 0421 319 252

Secretary: Mrs Gaye Heldon, contactable on 07-5577 8772
Address: P. O. Box 359, Sanctuary Cove, Qld. 4212

For activities on the Gold Coast and Mt Tamborine meetings contact Mrs Gaye Heldon on 07-5577 8772

Sunday School Co-ordinators:

Julie & Ken Barns, contactable on 07-5463 4282

julie.barns@gmail.com

ken.barns@gmail.com

CALENDARS

FEBRUARY

Sun 1st **1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including the
HOLY SUPPER led by Darren at 10.30 a.m.
'WHAT WOULD LOVE DO?'- Love nourishes
and feeds the hungry. Group work. Lunch together
afterwards, bring something yummy to share.

Fri 6th Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at the Sandow's
house at 2 pm.

Sun 8th **Worship Circle**, 10.30 a.m. *Know your Bible*

Sun 15th **Sermon Service** led by Darren.

Sun 22nd **Call To Prayer** (30 Min) for the Future of the
Church starting at 10am followed by fellowship

MARCH

Sun 1st **1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** led by Darren
Due to time constraints, I will release another
Breaking Bread with a bi-monthly schedule