

Breaking Bread

Newsletter – The Brisbane Society of
The New Church,
Brisbane and south-east Queensland
May, June, July 2015



Art Work By Lenore Sandow

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. To keep our faces toward change and behave like free spirits in the presence of fate is strength undefeated - Helen Keller

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What Is Love?

We have all heard the message that Love is the most important thing. Most, if not all near death experiences that I have read emphasise the importance of Love. People who have come back from death's door are literally shouting at us 'Wake up! Don't waste your earthly life and opportunities. Get busy loving each other. This is what really counts.'

Such people tell us that our life is not an accident and that we are all here with a very specific purpose, which involves loving each other and becoming people filled with love and hope towards everyone. Forgiveness is also strongly emphasised, as a state of 'unforgiveness' blocks our power to walk in love towards others while clogging up our life with a variety of negative energies.

Now, as you reflect on this and how it affects your life, your ideas around 'what love is' will colour your reflections. Let us take a moment to explore what Love really is.

It is best for us to go right to the source – God is Love. (1 John 4:8 and John 3:16) No spiritual person would argue or object to this statement, but what if I said that The Lord alone is the only one who Loves or has Love and that we are not capable of unconditional loving? I can understand anyone's objections to this statement. The thing is, it is true that God alone is Love and alone has Love. When we experience love towards each other, it is The Lord working through us in some measure. The more we love (selfless love) the more of heaven and The Lord are working through our lives.

“Ok, Paster Darren, I'm with you so far, now what's your point?”

Well, any level of genuine Love at work in our hearts is the presence of The Lord with us. So stay with me as we now search the Writings to see what it says about The Lord's Love as opposed to worldly ideas around 'love': -

All my experience in heaven bears witness to the fact that the divine nature that comes from the Lord, affects angels, and constitutes heaven, is love. In fact, all the people there are forms of love and thoughtfulness. They look indescribably beautiful. Love radiates from their faces, from their speech, from every detail of their behaviour.

*Further, there are surrounding auras of spiritual life that emanate from every angel and from every spirit and envelop them. By means of these auras one can recognise even from a distance the quality of the affections of their loves, since these auras flow out from the life of their affection and consequent thought—that is, from the life of their love and consequent faith. The auras that emanate from angels are so full of love that they touch the deepest reaches of life of the people they meet.
(Heaven and Hell 17)*

It is wonderful to read how The Lord's Love working through us will transform us into creatures of beauty that radiate love into the deepest parts of the people we interact with. In Divine Providence we get a good overview of heavenly Love -

*There are many kinds of loves, but two of them are like lords or kings, namely, heavenly love and hellish love. Heavenly love is love toward the Lord and love for the neighbour, while hellish love is love of self and love of the world. These two kinds of loves are as opposed to each other as heaven and hell; for one who is impelled by a love of self and the world does not wish anyone well but himself, whereas one who is impelled by love toward the Lord and love for the neighbour wishes all well.
These two loves constitute people's life's loves, but with much variety. Heavenly love is the life's love of those who are led by the Lord, while hellish love is the life's love of those who are led by the devil.*

So when we love the Lord and the neighbour, it manifests as a desire for the well being of All. This helps explain love to the neighbour but does not bring much more light to what it is to Love the Lord. We could say that if we love the Word that we love the Lord as the Lord is the Word and the Word is the Lord, however this is still somewhat vague and broad. We can say that people who love the Word and practise it are loving The Lord. This is more helpful but there are so many things contained in this. Can we be more specific? I believe so. To

love someone is not just 'liking' and 'loving' them but also loving and liking what they love and like. What does our Lord love? People of course; however, it is His deepest and hidden desire for people and His intent towards us that tells us so much about His Love for us. He loves us and therefore He gives us life. He loves us so much that He gives us freedom so we can choose Him or not, thus heaven and hell. But I believe above these there is something greater that speaks of His desperate Love for us. It is called His Love for the salvation of the Human race -

The reader is therefore referred to the following chapters of this book, which will deal in turn with charity, faith, free will, repentance, reformation and regeneration. It should be known that the Lord continually affects these means of salvation in the case of each individual, for they are steps to heaven, and the Lord desires the salvation of everyone. Thus the salvation of everyone is the end the Lord has in view, and to will the end is to will the means. His coming, redeeming and passion on the cross were all for the sake of man's salvation (Matt. 18:11; Luke 19:10). So because man's salvation was and ever will be His end, it follows that the various activities listed above are the mediate ends, and salvation is the ultimate end.

We read here that everything The Lord did, all of His loving works, has the salvation of humans as its highest goal and end; even hell and the freewill of all people to go wherever they wish, works into the higher purpose of saving souls. The Lord is and always will do everything He can to ensure that we do not go to the hells. Our free will must, of course, stay in tact.

Now lets flip this around and look at this from our perspective. If we are actively loving The Lord and being led by the Lord, I believe we are experiencing an ongoing growing desire for the human race to know The Lord, to experience His Word and its goodness and to be saved.

“You shall love your God with all your heart and with all your soul: this is the greatest and first commandment. The second, which is like it, is that you should love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37–40). The Law and the Prophets are the whole Word, which means all divine truth. (Heaven and Hell 19)

The angels taken collectively are called heaven, for they constitute heaven; and yet that which makes heaven in general and in particular is the Divine that goes forth from the Lord and flows into the angels and is received by them. (Heaven and Hell 7)

May your hearts be filled with the love of The Lord, with a Love for His Word and a strong desire for others to experience that Love,

Amen,
Rev Darren Brunne

Your Community



Left to right – Alexis, Paul and Ruth

Paul, Ruth & Alexis Evans live in Chelmer.

Alexis was baptised in the New Church, Brisbane in February 2001 by the Rev Les Sheppard. She attends St Peter's Lutheran College in Indooroopilly. There, she plays the viola in the school's top strings ensemble, the St Peters' Soloists, and is looking forward to their tour of Japan in December.



The Evans family also have a strange beast that roams their home freely. His name is Sparky

The Months Ahead Unpacked

An explanation of the upcoming events from May to July.

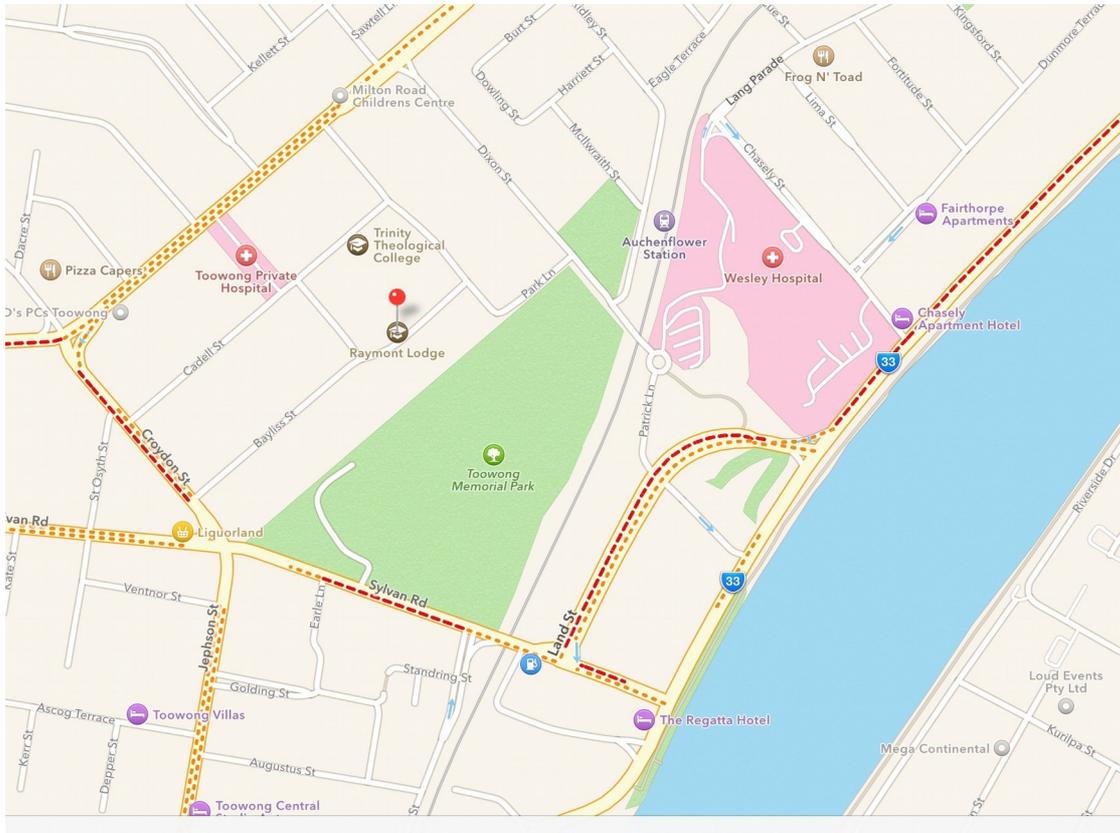
June 19th

As most people would already know, June 19th is New Church Day and we will be celebrating this event on Sunday, June 21st. This day will also be our last service conducted at 21 Agars St. That means it will be doubly a special event so please if you can make it we would love to have as many church friends as possible to celebrate with us.

FUTURE CHURCH SERVICES

The following Family Service on Sunday 5th July will be held at the Chapel of the Trinity Uniting Church Theological College, Auchenflower, QLD. It also goes under the name of the Raymont Lodge Residential College, if you want to search for it. There are two street entrances to the Chapel, one on Bayliss St which has a ramp for wheelchair access and one on 47 Cadell St. Please use the Cadell St entrance as there is plenty of parking. For the first

couple of months we will have someone at the entrance giving directions. Here is a map to help you to find it -



What Would Love Do?

Session Three
LOVE WELCOMES
Welcome the Stranger

The Family Service will involve a short youth focused message about opening our hearts to those different to us. After the message we will then break up into three groups *Gold*, *Silver* and *Bronze*.

Gold – Friendship Evangelism
Silver – (to be advised)
Bronze – (to be advised)

We would like to encourage everyone to feel free to enter different classes.

The Future of the Brisbane Society of The New Church

I think it is fair to say that we all feel some uncertainty and concern about the future. I want to reassure people that my sense of things is strongly that The Lord has a plan and purpose for us (Jer 29:11). This year is certainly turning out to be a year of transformation and transformation involves the end of a period. This can cause us some sadness and like Mary at the tomb of our Lord we can become overwhelmed by the situation and not aware of the wonderful newness about to occur. Angels do not see death but transformation. When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly there is death to the caterpillar's form.



However this kind of change is worth while if we want to be set free to fly above the bondages and limitations that have held us for so long. I believe that the Brisbane Society is currently in such a transformation and we should channel our energy towards hope.

What makes the Church? While having a sacred space gives us somewhere to gather to hear the Word, it is the Word that we carry in our hearts and practise in our daily lives that makes 'The Church' -

*...The church with man is mentioned because **the church is in man**; for a **church is a church from charity and faith**, and these are in man; and if these are not present, there is no church with him. It is believed that the church exists where the Word is, and where the Lord is known; but yet the church consists only of those who **from the heart acknowledge the Divine of the Lord**, and who learn truths from the Lord by the Word, and do them; no others constitute the church... (AE 388)*

So the Writings tell us that the Church is not a building made of bricks and mortar, but a Holy People made of conviction. The Bible also confirms to us that a holy people make a church not a building:- 'You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.'(1 Peter 2:5)

Having said all that, there are many people today who will not dare step one foot inside a church building but might be willing to visit a community type centre. Perhaps this period of transformation has been given to us by the Lord so that we can increase our opportunity to reach people and be relevant to a World that is rapidly rejecting traditional church models. It is my hope and desire that the Brisbane Society will always have a sacred space and a community building to gather in and share the Word of the Lord and even more importantly will be a holy people filled with love that draws the lost to them.

Where to from here?

With the upcoming sale of Agars St being less than two months away and the future opening up for us in new and exciting ways, we all need the opportunity to express our hopes and visions for the Brisbane Society. It is my desire that all who love the Church would feel welcome to contact me via email to share their hopes and visions for our church into what I believe is a new day dawning.

Please write to me at the following email address -

drbrunne@gmail.com

I eagerly look forward to hearing from you,
Rev Darren Brunne

Dealing with Stress

Rev Erik Buss

When many people are demanding too many things from you, where do you wish you were? I picture myself on a beach on a South Pacific island with just my wife and no one else in sight. Just thinking about it now I can feel myself starting to relax. I can feel the release of lying for days on end in a hammock slung between two palm trees.

Maybe I get my dream vacation, but then what? It's back to reality, to demands and deadlines and disappointed people. Now I can't wait until my next vacation when I can finally enjoy life again!

We know that this is not the way life is supposed to work. You are supposed to enjoy the time between vacations and even the time between weekends. But how do you cope with the stress of daily living without quitting your job and becoming a yogi at the top of a mountain?

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

It's what, not if

When we are stressed we think about ways we could get out of it. "If only I was somewhere else; if I won the lottery; if my boss was fired and I got a nice one; if my children would just learn to behave like I had to when I was growing up." As if those things would make life stress free.

All situations carry stress with them, and in many cases stress is good. You have to choose which stress you want in your life. Which is more stressful, being overweight and unfit or exercising regularly? Working long hours or having no job? Struggling to stand up to a demanding person or simmering in anger after caving in to her demands? The guilty conscience of a lie or the short term consequence of the truth coming out? Even lying in that hammock in the South Pacific would be stressful when the food ran out or when boredom set in.

Examine your life to see where you are taking on unproductive stress that you would easily trade for good stress. It still takes work to deal with good stress, but it is work that is worth the effort. And if you can think of the work as trading one stress for another, it's easier to rise to the challenge of doing the right thing.

If you can start to choose your stress rather than evade it, the stress in your life will become much more manageable. But coping with stress takes more than trading stresses.

First things first

Stress often comes when we don't get to things that are important. You might feel agitated when you are caught in traffic and arrive late. But why were you late? Perhaps you got caught up in some unimportant busy work. You would not be nearly as stressed if a genuine crisis put you behind schedule.

A lot of the stress in our life comes because our priorities are out of order. We want time for our relationships, but we get too busy. In hard economic times we spend our time thinking about how to make ends meet. Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:31, 33)

What does that mean in today's environment? Ask yourself whether your life style is beyond what you need to be happy. How much is enough? When can you focus more on enjoying and less on earning? Perhaps a little "downward mobility" would help you become a better, more spiritual, person.

"*First things first*" means you can start out each day putting the most important things in place. If you make fifteen minutes of quiet time to pray and read a chapter of Scripture to start your day, you have put first things first. If you schedule a date with your child this weekend, you've put first things first. If you do one thing today because it is the Lord's will, you put first things first. Doing these things will not make other stresses go away. They will help you deal with stress better because of the peace that comes from having your priorities in order.

Exercise integrity in the moment

We've all been under stress and made poor decisions. These decisions cause even more tension as we frantically try to undo the mess we've made. Next time you face a hard decision, stop and ask yourself, "If the Lord were standing right next to me, what would He say I should decide?" Often you'll know right away what the correct answer is.

Living in the moment

Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble". (Matthew 6:34) "Sufficient for the day

is its own trouble.” Interesting words. They mean that you have enough trouble today without adding worrying about tomorrow. What if you could focus right now only on what you are doing and seek to find the enjoyment in it? A Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Danh, once said, “When you wash a dish, wash it as if you were doing nothing else. Notice the smooth texture of the dish as the soapy water slides over the dish. Notice the squeaky feeling once you have rinsed it.”

Living in the present is living in the presence of God. In Scripture we’re told, “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). You can’t know God when you are rushing around but rather when you are inwardly still. When God is present, you can handle anything.

In the Lord’s Prayer we say, “Give us this day our daily bread.” That means, “Give me the spiritual food I need today; give me the strength and love I need to carry on through this day.” We don’t ask for food for tomorrow or the next day, but for today. What do I need to do right now to do what’s right? Do I have the strength to do what I need to do right now?

Imagine someone running a marathon who is continually counting the steps he or she has to take before finishing. Even a fast marathoner takes over 30,000 steps. If you have taken 5,000 and are still looking at 25,000 to go, you’ll want to quit! But if you focus on running for the next minute at a relaxed pace, you’ll do fine.

Life is stressful. Some of the stress is good for us and helps us to grow. We need to embrace that, even if it means a bit of pain now. Other stress is unproductive, and we need to learn the discipline to make choices. Sometimes it means saying no to things, and that’s hard. At other times it means setting priorities so that we get what is important done. In the end, it means giving our lives over to a loving God and asking for His help in leading us.

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled. Neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

The crossing over of two much loved souls

Edna Irwin

Aug. 25, 1916 – Mar. 31, 2015

Edna Irwin, age 98, of Brisbane, Queensland, passed away on Tuesday (Mar. 31, 2015) at St Paul’s Villa, Bardon. A consummate mother, school teacher and guardian of little ones, she was a good friend to the late Margaret Haine and often attended the services of the Brisbane New Church with Margaret.

Rev. Chris Skinner

May 09, 2043 – April 23, 2015

The Reverend Chris Skinner, age 71, of Melbourne, Victoria, passed away on Thursday (Apr. 23, 2015) at Austin Hospital, Melbourne. He faithfully served the Melbourne Society as its minister for over 14 years. His last service was held on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015. Our heart felt condolences to his wife, Margaret and daughters, Suzanne and Tracey.

While both Edna and Rev Chris will be missed dearly, we also share in their new found joy in the resurrection of life eternal.

Hot Food & Birthday Cake roster for 1st Sunday lunches

April	Ruth
May	Julie
June	Anna
July	Vivian
Aug	Fran
Sept	Renee
Oct	Ruth
Nov	Julie
Dec	We all pitch in for Christmas luncheon

Birthdays

To all our friends celebrating birthdays throughout these months we wish you birthday greetings and blessings.



May

4th Alexis Evans, Oliver Barns, 13th Darren Lawler, 15th Tasha Lee (born 1999) 18th Kevin Attwater, John Sandow, Susan Heldon, Marna Heldon

June

16th Shane Heldon, Glenn Alden, 20th Ainsley Heldon (born 04), 23rd Tori Barns (born 02), 24th Georgie Duff (born 1999), 28th Benedict Barns (born 07)

July

2nd Margaret Chambers, 4th Jayden Heldon (born 09), 19th Angus Glenn, 20th Amy MacFarlane, 25th Saxon Heldon (born 05), 30th Greg Lee

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

The Church is at 21 Agars Street, Rosalie, just up from Baroona Road until the 30th June, 2015. Always check the last page in the Calendar for services.

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

Treasurer: Mr Brian Heldon, contactable on 07-5577 8772

Secretary: Mrs Gaye Heldon, contactable on 07-5577 8772 / 0419 778 717 – bgheldon@gmail.com
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

May

Sun 3rd 1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including the **HOLY SUPPER** led by Darren at 10.30 a.m.
'WHAT WOULD LOVE DO?'- Welcome the stranger – Love and belonging. Group work. Lunch together afterwards, bring something yummy to share.

Fri 8th

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at *Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 2 pm.*

Sun 10th

Worship Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 17th

Adult Service led by Darren.

Sun 24th

Free for Home Church Visitation

Sun 31st

No Service

June

Sun 7th 1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including the **HOLY SUPPER** led by Darren at 10:30am
'WHAT WOULD LOVE DO?'- Love Comforts - Clothe the naked. Group work. Lunch together afterwards, bring something yummy to share.

Sun 14th

Worship Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 21st

*Last Service for Agars St -
New Church Day Service led by Darren.*

Fri 26th

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at *John and Lenore Sandow's at 2 pm.*

Sun 28th

Free for Home Church Visitation

July

Sun 5th 1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including the **HOLY SUPPER** led by Darren at 10:30am
'WHAT WOULD LOVE DO?'- Love Visits – Visit the sick. Group work. Lunch together afterwards, bring something yummy to share.

**OUR FIRST MEETING AT THE
RAYMONT LODGE CHAPEL – 47
CADELL ST AUCKENFLOWER**

Sun 19th

Adult Service led by Darren.

Fri 24th

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at *John and Lenore Sandow's at 2 pm.*

Sun 26th

Free for Home Church Visitation