

Breaking Bread

Newsletter – The Brisbane Society of
The New Church,
Brisbane and South-east Queensland
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Art Work By Lenore Sandow

That every man after the life in the world lives to eternity, is evident from this, that man is then spiritual, and no longer natural, and that the spiritual man, separated from the natural, remains such as he is to eternity, for man's state cannot be changed after death. - Emanuel Swedenborg

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Finding Lasting Peace Through Repentance

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

If you long for freedom from disappointment, discouragement, brokenness, unfulfilled desires such as loneliness, etc.; if you long for peace, strong feelings of love towards others and real contentment; then you are one who longs for Eternal Life. Whether you realise it or not, you are longing for the Lord Himself, for He is Life and Life abundantly.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD FOR OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Jesus wants us to have a heavenly life and He knows that in order for us to do so we must

commit to His word. We can read about this in De Verbo -

17. But the fact of the matter is this: There cannot be any conjunction with heaven unless somewhere on earth a church exists which has the Word and whereby it the Lord is known, because the Lord is God of heaven and earth, and apart from the Lord there is no salvation.

Through the Lord's Word we have access to heaven's light that can shine into our hearts and reveal the evil and sin that lay otherwise unrecognised therein. Through this heavenly light we can 'See' and deal with our sins. And by moving those sins out of the way, we clear the path to life and can walk that path. In Divine Providence, Swedenborg puts it this way -

...we have not only desires of earthly love but desires of spiritual love and desires of heavenly love as well. Our human mind has three levels, as I explained in part 3 of Divine Love and Wisdom – (72). This means that we can rise from earthly knowledge to spiritual intelligence and from there to heavenly wisdom; and because of these latter two, the intelligence and the wisdom, we can turn to the Lord, be united to Him, and therefore live forever.... (75)

Anyone who has truly placed their feet onto the path of life has quickly discovered that to live on earth is to be attacked by evil and sin. As we begin our attempts to rid our inner world of these enemies to life, we can often become overwhelmed by the power, frequency and consistent assaults of evil thoughts and desires. It is easy to understand why many step off the path to life and claim that 'being spiritual' is either too hard or not really worth it. Perhaps it is easier for some to tell themselves that Heaven and hell are not real. Or maybe they are overwhelmed by hell's condemnation after receiving spiritual light.

The answer is to look to the Lord and His Word for strength to overcome and to repent of sin. Repentance is the real power that sets the spiritual seeker free. Anyone who has practised repentance knows this power, which overcomes sin and evil; a power that cannot be attributed to the strength of one's will or 'Will Power'.

This power is none other than the living Word active in our hearts. We feel this activity during times of battles, combats and temptations. We also feel the effects of the Word and its activities through the peace and freedom that comes after the battle is over.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

This may well be one of the most important questions we ever ask ourselves.

Repentance is a regret followed by a change of heart as opposed to simple regret because one's actions have been exposed. With simple regret there is no real change of heart. This kind of regret comes because we have been found out and our sin exposed but there is still an inner love for the sin. Repentance, on the other hand, contains regret but also has a heart transformation which culminates in a strong desire to resist the 'uncovered' sin (avoid it at all cost). With repentance we are given an inner hatred for a particular evil and sin of which we are actively repenting of.

The Greek word for repentance is '*metanoeo*' as opposed to regret – '*metamellomai*' -

Repentance – '*metanoeo*'

To change my mind, change the inner man (particularly with reference to acceptance of the will of God)

Regret – '*metamellomai*'

To experience a change of concern after a change of emotion and usually implying to

regret, i.e. falling into emotional remorse afterwards

The Word alone has the power to change our hearts and cause true repentance. We only need to acknowledge our individual evils and sins followed by a concerted effort (shunning) to be free of these evils while looking to the Lord for help. He then gives us a heart that hates evil and loves good -

Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh... (Ezekiel 11:19)

BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

The Bible uses this language to refer to regeneration that comes from repentance. It is an important experience for us to have regularly. The apostles referred to this in the following passage-

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. (Ephesians 5:18-19)

In Ezekiel 11:19 mentioned above, the Lord has promised to take the '**stony heart**' out from within us and in the gospel of Matthew 13, Jesus mentions a parable where He says that His Word is like seed that is sown into stony ground. Most of us know this parable well. What we may not know is that the stones are truths that we have heard and accumulated over the years of attending church or reading spiritual material. These 'stones' or truths are not 'living' because they are 'somebody else's truths' or truths that have not been practised and now they sit in our hearts (heavily) and block the power of the seed (the living Word) from taking any deep roots in our lives. The only way forward is to dig out these truths and examine them. We then need to discard those that are not useful or put them to use such as a 'stone wall' to keep out the enemy or an 'altar' to worship the Lord (metaphorically speaking).

In order to deal with these 'stones', we need to invite the Lord into our lives in such a way that these stones can be removed or 'burnt up'. Otherwise the words of John the Baptist may come to pass over us, "*I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.*". (Luke 19:40)

For those who ignorantly or perhaps defiantly keep on heaping up these stones, a worse fate may be that of the insane man who was: '*Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always shrieking and screaming and beating and bruising and cutting himself with stones.*' (Mark 5:5)

The Word is given to bless our lives not trouble us. If we let the Lord, His Word will cast out our 'legion' of hypocrisies and 'faith alone truths' so that Eternal Life can take root. So, what does it mean to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire?

I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11)

Speaking of this 'baptism of fire' Swedenborg says -

...John represented the like as Elijah, namely, the Word; "the waters" with which John baptised signified introductory truths, which are knowledges from the Word respecting the Lord; "the Holy Spirit" signifies Divine truth proceeding from the Lord; and "fire"

signifies Divine good proceeding from Him; and "baptism" signifies regeneration by the Lord by means of Divine truths from the Word.... The internal of baptism is, that by means of truths from the Word and a life according to them, falsities and evils may be removed by the Lord, and thus man be regenerated...(AE 475)

To hear the Word and '*practise it*' is to be baptised in Spirit and Fire. Elijah when he called for fire from heaven watched the Lord consume his offering made up of wood and stones covered in water

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. (1 Kings 18:38)

Here we read that "*even the dust and the stones are burnt up by the Fire*".

And so it is with us when we cry out to the Lord from a sincere heart that wants to be free. If we hear and obey, His Word becomes a fire that baptises us into heavenly freedom from the bondage from natural good (wood), un-lived truths (stone), evils and sins (dust) and our first ideas of what it is to be holy (water).

Whatever we come to love doing while on earth we will continue to practice in the next life. In a sense, we will not be able to depart from who we have become there in the spirit world. If we have allowed the Lord to transform our hearts here on earth, then this is a good thing and we will, by His saving power, find a home among the righteous. If we have practised evil and loved that evil, then we will want no other future than to continue in evil amongst those who practise evil for all eternity -

And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." Rev 22:10-11

In hell, people may regret their life of evil on earth when their sins cause them to be punished but they have no desire to change or repent. In Heaven, those who are there have experienced both regret and a life that has turned from their evils. They also know and gladly accept that their turning from evil was alone the work and power (baptism of fire) of the Lord's salvation in their lives while on earth.

Real happiness and peace can only be found through repentance now and while on earth. We must beware of the deception of our hearts that will tell us, '*Let me live in the pleasure of sin and evil now. I will give up these things in the next life.*' No such power to repent exists there. Repentance is the work of a believer now. It is the very life that separates a true believer from one who says with the lips 'I believe' but the heart feels no fear or desire to turn from evil -

Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honour Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men... (Isaiah 29:13)

And finally we must always remember that the Lord's love for us is so strong that He came and took birth amongst us, fought the hells alone and was victorious over sin and death so that we could have abundant life -

"Behold my servant, on whom I recline; mine elect, in whom my soul is well pleased; I have put my spirit upon him; [he shall bring forth judgement to the nations]. Who is blind, but my servant? Or deaf as my angel that I send? Who is blind as he that is perfect,

and blind as the servant of Jehovah?" (Isa 42:1 & 19)

The reason why He is called blind and deaf, is, that the Lord is as if He did not see and perceive the sins of men, for He leads men gently, bending and not breaking them, thus withdrawing them from evils, and leading them to good; therefore neither does He chastise and punish, as if He saw and perceived... (Apocalypse Explained 409:2)

May your hearts be strengthened with the Lord's love and light for the salvation of the Human race.

Amen
Rev. Darren Brunne

Your Community



Doug and Rae have lived at Jimboomba for the past 40 years on a 5 acre hobby farm. There are two cows and one steer, multitudes of chickens with too many varieties to mention. There are also lots of lovely cats including a seal point, a red point and a ragdoll. Natural wildlife surrounds the farm including a local possum that comes down every night and puts out his little hand for a biscuit.

The Months Ahead Unpacked

An explanation of the upcoming events from May to July.

September 23rd and 24th

This year has been the Shemitah year, which means that it is the seventh year as mentioned in Leviticus 25. The Shemitah year began on September 25th 2014 and will end on September 23rd 2015. What makes this Shemitah year so interesting is that it is the last of seven Shemitah years making a total of 49 years. Therefore, beginning September 24th 2015 is the Year of the Lord or what is otherwise known as the 'Jubilee' year (50th year).

Is this your first or second Jubilee that you are celebrating in your lifetime?

The spiritual meaning of these two years are –

The Shemitah – (Lev 25:4-9)

No more sowing or reaping, the heavenly reception of goodness from love gives rest and peace and this comes entirely from the Divine Love, a believer is no longer proceeding from a state of truth to good in either the External or Internal. Neither does the believer appropriate any affection which springs up from selfish love, nor is truth appropriated to one's self intelligence; for one is in a state of perfect freedom from temptations. Good itself produces Truth. (AC 9274, 9277, 9278)

The Jubilee – (Lev 25:10-14)

Celestial love is in its fullness and holiness which generates a state of perfect freedom throughout the heavens. This is a result of the marriage of Goodness and Truth in the innermost heaven. The believer can now perceive his or her own specific truth, goodness and use. In the fullness of this perfect love, each believer enjoys, unto eternity, their particular good and use. In the sharing and communicating of one's use there is reciprocation and no loss or harm to the other. (AC 2252, 8802, 7833, 5886)

FUTURE CHURCH SERVICES

For the immediate future all our services including the Family Service on the 1st Sunday of each month will be held at the Chapel of the Trinity Uniting Church Theological College, Auchenflower, QLD. It also goes under the name of 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.

Different Venue, Same Community and Same Church by Rev. Ian Arnold

Already the weeks are slipping by since our last – and ‘New Church Day’ – Service at Agars St. I sense we were all affected on the day, in different ways and at different levels of intensity. For me I was privileged to be able to slip back into the then mostly emptied Church a week or so later and, alone, take my leave of it.

And so, albeit temporarily, on to the Chapel at Trinity College, a first Sunday of the month Service, a 2nd Sunday ‘Worship Circle’ and a 3rd Sunday ‘Traditional’ Service with sermon.

How would we get on? I had wondered. Knowing the Chapel from a service Margaret and I attended there years ago and liking it and feeling comfortable in it, I was wondering how would we get on? (“we” as a group; “we” as a community).

Maybe we were all wondering that. And there wasn’t going to be an answer until we had tried it out. Fortunately, Sunday, July 5th was a glorious winter’s day and we could eat lunch together outside. That helped. But, inevitably, we were finding our way around; seeing what worked and where; conscious – of course - of it not being “ours” and wondering about boundaries overall. After all, we had become sojourners, and are not residents.

But then our people started to arrive, familiar and reassuring. The community had come together, different venue, yes, but same community. And that felt very good. It brought it home that the Church is not a building. We get much more in touch with the Church via people. Church can be defined in many ways, and this is certainly one of them. It is people who are the Church.

And yet it goes further – and did. The familiar unfolding of the Service, children’s talk, Holy Supper, a collection of Scripture and quotations from the Writings highlighted (“*I was naked and you clothed me*”), hymns and a compelling sermon. Externals had changed, but not internals. Different venue, but without a doubt the same Community and same Church.

I have found this experience of change a catalyst for reflection. And I wonder if it’s been the same for you. For me, it has brought this question to the surface again, ‘*What is it that makes the Church?*’

Venue? Well, only in a very external way.
 People? You can definitely say that!

But let’s go one step further.

To really nail it, the Church is the good and truth, or love and wisdom, with people, becoming more and more united with them. (Check out “Heavenly Secrets” 10310). And this, above everything, is the Lord’s interest and focus. Buildings and organizations don’t count for much in His eyes. The Church that most matters is the Church in our hearts and minds. I hope you find it, as I do, strengthened by all who make up the community, buildings simply serving that purpose and end.

May we be ever more open to the Lord’s Presence and purposes and to the work of His Holy Spirit in our midst.

Amen

Hot Food & Birthday Cake Roster for 1st Sunday Lunches

Roster	
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.



<u>August</u>		<u>September</u>		<u>October</u>	
2nd	Julie Barns	3 rd	Harrison Glenn	5 th	Vivian Lawler
3rd	Elijah Brunne	5 th	Diane Thompson	11 th	Annabel Duff
6th	Jenny Lee	16 th	Kimberly Tatters	17 th	Mrs Evelyn Williams
23rd	Frances Fitzgerald	18 th	Ian Arnold	18 th	Sophia Barns
24th	Sam Field	21 st	Grace Brunne		Mrs Muriel Barrett
28th	Josiah Brunne	23 rd	Isabella Lee	21 st	Alex Lee
				23 rd	Matthew Heldon
				28 th	Ken Thompson
				30 th	Daniel Harry

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

The Church is at 47 Cadell Street, Auchenflower, for the remainder of the year until further notice. **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 –

Email: 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

**Please note – The Annual General Meeting will
be held at 11:30am on Sunday, 18th October
immediately following a short service.
(Not on Sunday, 4th Oct. as previously advised)**

CALENDARS

AUGUST

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including the **HOLY SUPPER** led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m.
Sun 2nd 'WHAT WOULD LOVE DO?'- Love is Present -
'I was in prison and you visited'. Group work. Lunch together afterwards, bring something yummy to share.

Sun 9th

Worship Circle, 10.30 a.m

Fri 14th

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

Sun 16th

Adult Service led by Rev Brunne.
Armour of God – Breastplate of Righteousness

Sun 23rd

Free for Home Church Visitation

Sun 30th

No Service

SEPTEMBER

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including the **HOLY SUPPER** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30am
Sun 6th 'WHAT WOULD LOVE DO?'- Love Rejoices -
Group work. Lunch together afterwards

Sun 13th

Worship Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 20th

Adult Service led by Rev Brunne.
Armour of God – Boots of Peace

Fri 25th

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

Sun 27th

Free for Home Church Visitation

OCTOBER

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including the **HOLY SUPPER** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30am
Sun 4th "THE LORD'S PRAYER"-
A seven part series on the most powerful prayer.
Lunch together afterwards

Sun 11th

Worship Circle, 10:30am

Sun 18th

Short Service – The Shield of Faith – 10:30am
Followed by the AGM

Fri 23rd

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

Sun 25th

Free for Home Church Visitation