

Breaking Bread

Newsletter – The Brisbane Society of
The New Church,
Brisbane and South-East Queensland
Nov, Dec, Jan 2016



Art Work By Lenore Sandow

*Love consists in desiring to give what is our own to another
and feeling his delight as our own. Emanuel Swedenborg*

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The Power of Prayer

How to have an effective powerful prayer life

Part One of Three

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHING OF OUR CHURCH?

There are many wonderful and helpful teachings contained within the writings of Swedenborg and each one serves a purpose in spiritual advancement. It is important that no one truth is held up to the point of neglect of other truths. Having said that, Truths do have various degrees of importance based on the overall effect they have on our understanding and ability to be a spiritual follower of the Lord. So when we talk about which truth above others affects our understanding and functioning as a Christian, Swedenborg's writings state the following -

TCR 379 (1) The only true faith is faith in the Lord God, the Savior Jesus Christ; and this faith is held by those who believe Him to be the Son of God, and the God of heaven and earth, and one with the Father.

Now you may rightly ask, 'What affect does this truth have on prayer and praying with power?' When we spend time meditating on the profound truth that the Lord Jesus Christ is Jehovah in the flesh, uncountable transformations occur on the inside and powerful spiritual alignments are initiated within our soul.

Here are but a few -

a) Every action of our Lord and every prayer recorded in the gospels are pure examples or models of how the Lord wants us to interact with Him. In other words, He was/is teaching us by direct example how man should approach God.

b) Everything our Lord did while on earth He did as a man submitted to God rather than God manifesting directly. He did this so that he could be confronted by the Hells and overcome them but also to show us how to overcome the hells in our lives.

c) The Lord followed Divine order as a man and was thus successively glorified and so can we experience corresponding regeneration when we follow His example while acknowledging His power at work in us giving us victory.

There are many more things that could be said about this. However, remember this simple principle, 'Because our Lord is God we can be sure that His earthly pattern is perfect and that everything He did is, for us, a perfect example so that we can follow Him in paths of righteousness.'

Prayer

The Disciples had a problem. For over three years they travelled with Jesus, learning from Him and watching Him closely. In all that time Jesus did not teach his disciples how to pray. Instead He daily modelled for them what a prayerful life was like. In the end, the disciples in desperation, asked Jesus directly to teach them how to pray.

TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

In response to this request the Lord taught His disciples (and us) how to pray and this prayer we now call 'The Lord's Prayer'. The Lord willing, we will explore The Lord's Prayer in depth in future editions of Breaking Bread.

On top of this teaching, in a number of places elsewhere in the Gospels, the Lord teaches about the dynamics that make prayer work. From these places we can learn the following -

1. We pray in His name which means we pray in His power and nature and we are praying for the advancement of His Kingdom. (John 14:13)
2. We must have faith in God. (Mark 11:9-11)
3. We must be free of doubt. (Mark 11:9-11)
4. We need to learn how to stand in prayer. (Mark 11:9-11)
5. We need to examine our hearts for any unforgiveness towards others. (Mark 11:9-11)
6. We need to Ask, Seek and Knock. (Matt 7:7)
7. The Lord only gives good things not bad. (Matt 7:9-11)

And many other wonderful things...

On the subject of 'having faith in God', the more we look at the Lord Jesus as documented in the Gospels, the easier it is to have faith. Through the Lord Jesus we have a 'visible God' unlike the Old Testament. We find that the Lord is loving, kind and forgiving. He heals all who come to Him freely and He does not '*kill, curse, stone, condemn etc.*' any person found in sin. Instead He rebukes and warns sinners to turn from their sins so that evil cannot destroy them. Through our Lord and the gospels we can see Love in action and it becomes easier to trust that '*God is Love*' and that He only seeks to bless our lives with goodness, light and truth. (Note – This teaching is drawn from the introduction 'Prayer and The Lord's Prayer' presented at the Family Service October 4th 2015.)

...To be continued next issue

Your Community

Mrs Evelyn Williams was married to the Reverend Bruce Williams for 53 years, who was the minister of the Brisbane New Church Society from 1980 until retirement. Bruce and Lynn were also the pastors for 8 years to both the Melbourne and Perth Societies.

Lynn will celebrate her 90th birthday on the 17th October, 2015.



The Months Ahead Unpacked

An explanation of the upcoming events from November to January

October 18th The Annual General Meeting

On the third Sunday of October we will be having an AGM after a short time of worship and a brief message. The Sermon will be on the 'Shield of Faith' and will strengthen your spiritual walk with the Lord.

The AGM is an important event and I am looking forward to seeing you there.

October 22nd - 24th Canberra Outreach Project

If you happen to be in the area, come join us at the ANU Market Day (9:00am-4:00pm) for a chat, prayer and some zombie make-up if you feel so inclined.

For three days the Canberra Society and the 'To Do Good' community will be reaching out to students and lecturers at the Australian National University in Canberra. On Thursday and Friday there will be a book stall advertising Swedenborg and on Saturday there will be four short presentations by Rev. Todd Beiswenger, Rev. David Moffat, Rev. Darren Brunne and Rev. Martin Pennington. The theme is *'Though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil'*. For further information go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/To-Do-Good-453305861438815/timeline/>

November 4th and December 2nd

North-side Swedenborg Reading Group

On the first Wednesday evening of the month from 6pm to 7pm at Bracken Ridge Library, the North-side Swedenborg Reading Group meets together to discuss *'Divine Providence'*.

To all our north-side community (or our south-siders if you don't mind the travel), if you would like an additional spiritual boost to the month come join the stimulating discussion.

January 4th to 10th 2016 Family Camp

This will be a fun filled week for all ages, singles, couples and families set in the beautiful Sydney bushland on 100 acres of land. For further information go to: Vision Valley Camp

<http://newchurch.net.au/vision-valley-family-camp-2016>

Passion – Obsession – "Possession"

by Rev Ian Arnold

What got me thinking about this was a segment in a recent ABC "Gardening Australia" TV programme in which a backyard Adelaide citrus grower was being interviewed, he giving tips along the way and affirming that successfully cultivating orange, lemon and lime trees is his "passion".

Most of us have a passion, be it for gardening, art, music, animals, sport... (playing or watching it), train spotting (more so in the UK), chasing storms (a relative new one here in Australia), keeping fit...well, you name it! Recently I went to a local School's Fete and highlighted as something to see was a magnificent and amazingly elaborate marbles runner spread across at least two trestle tables made entirely out of Lego by a young Dad whose passion it had become. The question that crossed my mind was, 'Had it also become his obsession?'

That's not, in fact, for me to say!

Looking it up "Obsession", as I understand it, carries with it the reality not just of preoccupation with something but compulsive preoccupation, even so far as it taking over a person's waking life, sometimes even unwantedly. "If you have an obsession", as I read on one web site, "you're totally fixated on something and unhealthily devoted to it." www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/obsession.

Whilst it is not my purpose here to venture into the psychology of obsession, not being qualified to do so, it is nevertheless extremely helpful to note at this point the teaching we have in the Writings about the activity and influence of spirits in the spiritual world who don't have our best interests at heart. Swedenborg at one point found himself becoming unhealthily obsessed with a knife because of what he was picking up from a badly intentioned associate spirit. (See Spiritual Diary 4530:2).

The unhelpful (to say the least) influence of evil spirits was widely recognised as being unarguably real in New Testament times and instances of it are highlighted in the Gospels and other New Testament literature. And this brings me to the subject of "possession".

One of the defining features of Possession is that it involves not just the occupation of a person's mind, but even to the point they can't think of anything else (compulsion). Possession is about the taking over – against their will – of both mind and body. One of the most heart rending instances of possession is described in Matthew's Gospel Chapter 17, verses 14 to 18, of a boy who involuntarily thrashed about, falling into fire at one moment and into water at another. "And Jesus rebuked the demon, and he came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour." (verse 18)

Possession, as in the time the Lord was on earth highlights and was symptomatic of how chaotic, out of order and undisciplined the activity of evil spirits ('demons') had become in the spiritual world impacting here in this world. And, such is the Teaching we are given, had it not been for the Lord's Coming and intervention the human race would have been engulfed and finally destroyed by its activity.

It goes back to my very early days in the New Church that I remember the phrase "a level playing field". The Lord incarnated and here, on a level playing field, came to grips with the activity of evil spirits spilling over and threatening an unwitting enslavement of people. As the Apostle has it, "He was tempted in all points as we are, yet was without sin". (Hebrews 4:15) He won back a control over their influence and activity, restoring things to order.

As a consequence involuntary possession – as with the boy mentioned above – is now mercifully a thing of the past. Yet, we can foolishly create circumstances and conditions which open up the way for a rush of such activity and possession like when we lose control due to substance abuse or violent emotions aroused and too readily given into. The hells, yes, are under control. But we have to do our part if in our lives and communities the Lord can continue that control at the same time respecting our freewill.

The Lord bless and keep you, always,

Ian

Hot Food & Birthday Cake Roster for First Sunday Lunches

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| 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.



November

1st Callum Glenn, 5th Justin Keane, 8th Brian Heldon, 9th Mary Alden,
10th Jacob Glenn,
13th Siobhan Cruise, Xavier Brunne, 21st Gabrielle MacFarlane.

December

3rd Mrs Margaret Lawler, 5th Mrs Erlinda Attwater, Max Fitzgerald, 8th Mrs Ruth Blom,
9th Addi Stainton, 13th Allison Chambers, Felicity Lawler, 26th James Heldon, 27th
Mark Fitzgerald
29th Mr Neville Barrett, Darren Brunne, 30th Mr Charlie Dinsdale.

January

5th Jessica Field, 6th Jacqueline Lawler, 7th Melody Brunne, 24th Lenore Sandow,
30th Kaylene Glenn, Lina Heldon, Kaye Heldon.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Our services are currently being held at the chapel in Trinity Uniting Church Theological College, entrance via 47 Cadell Street, Auchenflower. 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 or 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 or julie.barns@gmail.com,
ken.barns@gmail.com

CALENDARS

Nov
Sun 1st

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including
HOLY SUPPER led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m.
Sermon read by Ken Barns

Sun 8th

Worship Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 15th

Adult Service led by Darren.

Sun 22nd

Free for Home Church Visitation

Fri 27th

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

Sun 29th

No Service

Dec
Sun 6th

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including
HOLY SUPPER led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30am
'Our Father Who Art in Heaven'
The First of a seven part series on the Lord's Prayer

Fri 11th

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at
Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 12 noon.

Sun 13th

Worship Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 20th

Last Service for the Year
Christmas Service led by Darren.

Sun 28th

Free for Home Church Visitation

Jan

**There will be no services in the month of
January**

Feb 2016
Sun 7th

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including
HOLY SUPPER led by Darren at 10.30 a.m.
'Hallowed be Thy Name'