

SOUL FOOD

March 2016



"When the Lord is present with someone, he leads him, and provides that all things which happen, whether sad or joyful, befall him for good; this is the Divine providence" (Arcana Coelestia 6303).

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matthew 6 :34)

Worrying About the Future

EXCERPT FROM Christian Bible study online

Whatever happens - being promoted or fired, realizing our dreams or having them dashed - all result in good!

*A difficult idea to accept - in large part because it seems like the Lord thereby is just manipulating us, causing evil to come into our lives. But such is not the case. The Lord would never make anything bad happen. And He would prefer that we never suffer any pain. **His providence is a gentle leading** which causes good things to happen, and tolerates evil things. However **He permits** us to hurt ourselves and He allows others to cause us pain. Not as punishment, but as the result of **free choices** by individuals and groups.*

*One of the greatest stumbling blocks to sensing mercy in His providence is that when we feel pain or worry about serious problems, **we think that is all there is in life. We cannot see beyond the suffering, the hurt.** But while we are occupied with worry, the Lord is already looking ahead - to what can come from the experience, to how He can lead us to grow in spite of the difficulty. **For the Lord's view is eternal.** He sees hope when we see none. He leads to happiness when we feel hurt.*

*The apparently random and purposeless events in life are described in the Heavenly Doctrines with pebbles. The Lord allows a person "to go here and there, so that **the moments of his life appear like***

scattered pebbles. But the Lord then sees whether he fills up that space between them; He sees what is lacking and where; and then, continually, what is next in order, after a hundred or a thousand years" (Spiritual Experiences 4692[m]).

*The Lord's sight and providence encompasses eons of time. He sees all we are, and all we might become. He then gradually provides for it - not immediately, **but over the course of an eternal lifetime.** Whatever happens, whatever decisions we make, or whatever others do to us - **the Lord eventually turns everything to good.** Unfortunately, our view is seldom as long. We cannot see how things will turn out in twenty, much less two thousand years. And when we are suffering our sight is even more limited. So we worry about what will happen. We may try to trust in His guidance, but **we are more likely to feel abandoned by the Lord.** Whatever He might be doing is both invisible and insensible to us.*

Yet, when we are confused or suffering, we have a tremendous yearning to see something of the potential the Lord sees for us and those we love. Unfortunately, if we were able to glimpse it, we would probably work against it - a paradox which can be frustrating and lead us to worry about the future.

*It would be much better if we could **just let go and trust the Lord** to make the best of whatever we do. That is what the angels do. They have no memory of past events from their earthly life to trouble them. Nor do they have any desire to know what is to come. For **they are content in the present.***

Anxiety about the future stems from a lack of confidence that the Lord can lead us to happiness. Since He works invisibly, we can think that we are the only ones who have any direct influence upon what happens. It is a subtle trust in self, and denial that the Lord can be relied upon. Certainly it appears as if we have to do all the work, but it is not the reality, for we could not have created ourselves. We can't even make ourselves happy!

So the Heavenly Doctrines describe the Lord's providence "**as when one walks in thick forests, the exit out of which he does not know; but when he finds it, he attributes the discovery to himself**, whereas providence meantime is as one who stands in a tower, sees the wanderings of such a person, and **leads him without his knowing it to the place of exit**" (Spiritual Experiences 4393).

The Lord is in the tower, inspiring our thoughts, motivating our actions so that we can be led from darkness into light. But His guiding can only be effective **when we cooperate**. We have to search for ways out of the forest. **The Lord gave us the ability to think** so we would use it. **We also need to act**. If we stand around and complain about how lost we are, or how unfair life is, it is very difficult for the Lord to lead us anywhere. **He will not drag us out of our forests against our wills.**

We cannot alter the past, but we can do something in the present, enabling the Lord to create a happy future. (References: [Divine Providence 176](#); [Arcana Coelestia 303](#); [Spiritual Experiences 4692](#); [Spiritual Experiences 4393](#); [Spiritual Experiences 2178](#))

News

*Congratulations to **Amy** on her engagement !*

*Welcome home **Margaret** from visiting family and friends on the East coast and Tasmania, and **Moira** from South Africa. We missed you.*

We wish Val well in her recuperation after her operation.

***Easter Service: Sunday 27th March**, we will join Vic Park church at 10:30 am where Rev Moffat will lead the worship.*

Change of Venue :

*In 2016, worship will take place in Aubin Grove, every Sunday at 10.30am (**mob: 0407 448 405**) unless otherwise indicated.*

Birthdays:

Happy birthday to Keagan D 18th, Cynthia M 23^d, Elaine R 27th.

March Calendar 2016

<i>Sunday 6th</i>	<i>10.30 Worship Shared lunch.</i>	<i>Aubin Grove</i>
<i>Sunday 13th</i>	<i>10.30 Worship Shared lunch.</i>	<i>Aubin Grove</i>
<i>Sunday 20th</i>	<i>10.30 Worship Shared lunch.</i>	<i>Aubin Grove</i>
<i>Sunday 27th</i>	<i>10.30 Worship Shared lunch.</i>	<i>Perth Society Vic Park, crn Rathay St and Albany H'way. Rev Trevor Moffat</i>



***We are all created to become angels of Heaven
which is a kingdom of communities.***

*Based on the Holy Bible, **The New Church** gains further inspiration and understanding through the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by 18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel Swedenborg**. In the 35 volumes of this new Revelation we see the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.*

*Worship Services are held weekly at 10.30am
Aubin Grove.*

Sunday school concurrently

<http://www.newchurch.org/societies/perth/newsletters>

<http://newchurch.net.au/locations/perth-aurora-circle>

www.newchurch.org

Aurora Face book page was created in 2007 by the young people at a Saturday afternoon gathering. Here is the address.

www.facebook.com/aurora.circle

Book orders: www.swedenborg.com.au

We sponsor ***"The Loving Arms Mission"*** in Nepal,
Home for orphaned children.

ONLINE donations

Church: Westpac: BSB 036302: account number 189720

Loving Arms:Westpac: BSB 036019: account number 230169

Name:The General Church of the New Jerusalem-Perth Circle