


# *SOUL FOOD*

*February 2017*



*“But they that  
wait upon the  
Lord . . .*

*shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;  
they shall run, and not be weary; and they  
shall walk, and not faint.”*     *Isaiah 40:31*

*The Family*

*Pastoral Visit on 17-19<sup>th</sup> March*

# ***New Beginnings***

*Excerpts from A Sermon by Rev. Brian W. Keith*

*Ezekiel saw a valley full of dried out bones. As he prophesied, the bones came together, flesh was put upon them, and breath entered them. From dry bones came a great army. And the Lord said to Ezekiel,*

***"These bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!" (37:11-13).***

*All around us there is a renewal of life. **New beginnings are taking place constantly.***

*"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain" (John 12:24).*

*Consider also some events in the life cycle. A child leaves home for school. A person leaves school for a job. Single life is given up for marriage. Children grow up and establish their own homes. Retirement comes. **Each of these changes involves loss and gain a new beginning. Even death itself is growth.** The Heavenly Doctrines show that when a person awakens in the other world, "at this point his life begins" (AC 186), and his entrance into his eternal heavenly home **"marks a new beginning" in his life (AC 1273).***

*Above our consciousness **the Lord is gently guiding our thoughts and feelings.** While we are unaware of it, **He is inspiring new ways of looking at life, stimulating new feelings of warmth and concern** (see AC 6645e). The Lord is working with our spirits so that **we are renewed every moment of every day.** The fact is, there are new beginnings in our lives all the time. The Lord is raising up our apparently dry bones, putting flesh upon them, and breathing life into them.*

We can look at what is happening as the opportunity for one of the many new beginnings in life. **For the Lord does not control what happens to us.** Yes, His Providence is overseeing all that happens, but that does not mean He is causing specific events to occur good or bad. In one sense He is not concerned for what happens; **rather He is concerned with how we respond**, for that determines what good He can then bring about.

New beginnings are possible if we are willing. They do not start outside of ourselves. **They start with our thoughts and intentions** (see AC 1317). We have the freedom to think about life in any way we wish. We can think negatively or positively. We can desire, intend, anything we wish. We can want what is good. We can want what is evil. We are not trapped by previous choices or patterns of behaviour. We are trapped only by our fears and refusals to think and try.

If we attempt to trust in what He has said, if we will be positive, affirmative to Him, then wonders can be worked (see AC 3913:5). **"If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you"** (Matthew 17:20).

If we have faith that **the Lord speaks to us in His Word**, and our lives will be improved if we listen, **then a new beginning can occur.** For regeneration is the new creation of life, spiritual life. It begins when a person affirms the truth and intends to live according to it. This is the start of regeneration. It does not occur at any set time in life, **nor does it happen only once.** Each and every time we positively turn our minds to the Lord's way, a new beginning occurs.

Whatever is gained, our spirits are growing flesh upon dry bones, breath giving life. As the Lord promised:

**"I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight"** (Isaiah 42:16).

*The Lord leads us through all the many byways of life, **through the valleys up to the peaks**. He would have each day be a new beginning for us. It is made up of many small beginnings.*

***The Lord is very patient, always leading us so that the good we have might be protected, develop, and eventually blossom in the fruit of an angelic life.***

*If we are not utterly downcast, if we have not given up, if we will be open and affirmative to what He has said, then new life may grow. Seedlings are planted which, though they may not bear visible fruit until the next life, will give us strength, will renew our spirits. And the prophecy of Isaiah will come true for us:*

*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint" (40:31).*

***New Beginnings in our little group.*** *Through transition to the next world and departing friends to USA and SA our group has dropped in adult numbers but has blossomed in new beginnings with our crop of children. So beginning in February we will have gatherings at McDougall House on the first and third Sunday of the month.*

*Focus will be on the children. A simple worship geared to the children will be held, followed by a Sunday School: while the adults not involved in helping with the children will have the opportunity to listen online to a sermon, or listen to a CD or have a discussion etc.*

***Another new Beginning.***

***Heidi Rae*** *arrived in this world on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Daughter to Lisa and Shaun and sister to big brother Leon. Welcome little one and congratulations and all best wishes to the happy couple and to Leon.*

## ***Pastoral Visit on weekend 17, 18, 19 March***

### ***Calendar***

<i>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>	<i>Morning worship and Sunday school followed by shared meal/picnic</i>	<i>McDougall House</i>
<i>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>	<i>Morning worship and Sunday school followed by shared meal/picnic</i>	<i>McDougall House</i>
<i>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Morning worship and Sunday school followed by shared meal/picnic</i>	<i>McDougall House</i>

### ***Pastoral visit Rev T Beiswenger see below***

<i>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Evening class</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Morning class at 10:30 am</i>	<i>Inglewood Dome TBC</i>
<i>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Meeting maybe at 3pm to 4pm</i>	<i>Mary 's home TBC</i>
<i>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Maybe a BBQ and social at 5:30pm</i>	<i>Mary's home TBC</i>
<i>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<b><i>Morning worship with HOLY SUPPER</i></b> <i>followed by shared meal</i>	<i>McDougall House</i>

***Birthdays: Happy birthday to Lisa, 12<sup>th</sup>.***

***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 at 10.30am  
McDougall House, Clydesdale St, Como.*

***Sunday school***

[www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org)

*email:* [swedenborgnewchurch@angel.com](mailto:swedenborgnewchurch@angel.com)

*Book orders:* [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au)

***ONLINE donations***

***Church: Westpac:*** BSB 036302: account number 189720

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

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

***Loving Arms: Westpac:*** BSB 036019: account number 230169