

# Breaking Bread

## Newsletter –

The Brisbane Society of The New Church,  
Brisbane and South-East Queensland

**May, June, July 2017**



Art Work By Lenore Sandow

*For the hour of His judgment is come, signifies the separation of those who live according to Divine truths from those who do not live according to them.*

– *Apocalypse Explained* n.875 – Emanuel Swedenborg

*The angelic spirit entered with me, to whom I related what I heard from the two angels concerning love and wisdom, as also concerning charity and faith. And he then said, "Did they not speak of a third also?" I said, "What third?" He replied, "It is Use: love and wisdom without use are not anything: they are only ideal entities; nor do they become real before they are in use: for love, wisdom, and use, are three things which cannot be separated. If they are separated, neither is anything.*

– *Apocalypse Revealed* n.875 – Emanuel Swedenborg

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## *Remember Lot's Wife*

### *Lest We Forget*

There is no doubt that we are living in the consummation of the age. Things have become so polarised that there is no more fence or middle ground. People are expected to pick sides in everything and if you lean towards one view then you must belong to that group.

We cannot avoid this polarising effect. It is an unstoppable part of this age coming to an end (DP 221, AC 2883, Matt13:37). The transformation of ages affords us tangible excitement about the new era we are entering and yet at the same time we are confronted with some unique challenges.

‘Which side are you on?’, I hear someone say. Perhaps we need to be more like the angel that confronted Joshua on the battlefield –

*13Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”*

*14“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”*  
(Joshua 5:13-14)

So, like I said earlier, we are at the end of the age and everything is being polarised. The Lord, however, does not choose sides. He is *coming* to establish something new and very different. It is not for us to stand in His way and ask Him to pick sides. Instead, it is for us to discover what the Lord is doing and flow with that energy to serve this now coming Kingdom. Everything that stands in the Kingdom’s way is being removed/vastated. That is why the Bible says that every hill and mountain will be brought low and every valley raised up to make plain or straight the way of the Lord (Isa 40:1-5).

How exactly am I going to know what is ‘*of*’ the Lord and what is ‘*of*’ man? Doctrine, of course, is the answer but we need to exercise much care and caution in this response as there are a number of real traps or pits for us to fall into if we do not seek for higher wisdom. That is the main reason the Lord told us to ‘remember Lot’s wife’. Here is the actual quote –

*“It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32Remember Lot’s wife! 33Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. (Luke 17:30-33)*

What exactly is it that the Lord wants us to remember?

Lot’s wife looked back on her life longingly. She was ‘*trying to keep it*’. She did not have a vision for the future, that is, she was not seeing the goodness of the Lord preserving her and her family. Instead, her love and focus was on the past and the things she was losing not on the things she would gain.

Do you find yourself acting like lot’s wife?

Ask yourself the question -

‘Which one am I? - The glass is half full or the glass is half empty’.

Briefly, I would like to discuss with you three ways we can fall into these pits –

1. We fail to see change as a blessing.
2. We see learning as the end goal not ‘doing’.
3. We focus on a love and affection for doctrine (set teachings) instead of an affection for Goodness.

### ***We fail to see change as a blessing***

Not one of us loves change. In fact, we need consistency in our lives as it helps us with the development of ‘Affect Regulation’ and environmental stability. But change keeps us mentally flexible instead of psychologically rigid. In life, change is the one and only constant. We start as a baby and hopefully die of old age. The main reason we are here is transformation as we discover our divine destiny and calling. The idea that science will one day conquer death and allow people to stay here forever is quite absurd if you think on it for a

little while.

“Are you for us or for our enemies?”

“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”

Lot’s wife turned into a *Pillar* of salt because she failed to embrace change. Those who learn to embrace change and see it as a rich opportunity for transformation become the happiest of people in life. They have realised that everything is working towards their spiritual growth. Change is not our enemy. Instead, change is part and parcel of the coming of the Lord which helps us to let go of the past and those things which are harmful to our souls.

***We see learning as the end goal not doing***

This Easter we talked about Mary the mother of Jesus and her relationship with the Lord. Part of Mary’s transformation was letting go of her view of Jesus as her son and fully embracing Him as God incarnate. Before the death and resurrection, Mary symbolises our affection for truth. This is another way of saying an affection for learning. After the resurrection, Mary symbolises our affection for goodness. In other words, our affections for truth must change (death) into affections for goodness or we will stagnate and abort the transformation process.

Let’s go back to Lot’s wife. When she turned back to look at her city being destroyed she turned into a Pillar of *Salt*. Salt is primarily good but too much of it can be destructive to the land. We call this a salt pit where nothing will grow. Salt is the symbol of truth and the affection of truth (AC 2455). A little bit of seasoning with salt is good while too much ruins the meal. If you get this analogy, you will see that the affection of truth is there to lead us to Goodness. If all we ever have is learning, learning, learning and never doing we are ruined. Truth compels us to act and to act rightly. To do what is right is Goodness.

***We focus on a love and affection for doctrine instead of an affection for Goodness.***

This last point is, in my opinion, the most important for us as we are the ones living through the death of one age and the birth of a new era. As previously mentioned, doctrine is the way for us to find the Lord and work with Him to build His New Kingdom on earth – New Jerusalem. By emphasising doctrine, we also have the danger of falling into a pit – a ‘*Salt Pit*’. We need doctrine to show us truth so that we can move forward. And yet, the goal of truth must always be Goodness (AC 2454). In other words, Doctrine is there to point the way to Goodness. When we make everything about having the ‘right’ doctrine, we are building for ourselves a golden calf or false god. We can do this in so many ways. Take for example a person who says that their form/way/ritual is right while others have it wrong. Doctrine is of no value unless I live a life of love, compassion and certitude according to doctrine. The danger is that we get caught up in ‘*telling*’ others how to live rather than ‘*showing*’ them a life of love and care. When we get caught in trying to dictate to others and the world around us ‘so called’ true doctrine, we have turned into ‘pillars of salt’. Let us follow the Lord’s example of loving and caring for each other so that when we do speak, people sense the love in the spiritual food we offer and whatever amount of ‘salt’ that is contained therein has seasoned our words with the right amount of truth.

*‘Not too little, not too much, just right’ - Swedish*

Darren

## ***The Months Ahead Unpacked***

*An explanation of the upcoming events from May to July and a little beyond*

### ***The Ten Promises***

The family service in May will see us covering the Third promise – *We will keep the Name of the Lord Holy*.

The Fourth Promise – *We will honour the Sabaoth Day*, will be covered during our June family service.

The Fifth Promise – *We will honour our mother and father and live long on the earth*, will be our July family message.

### ***North-side Swedenborg Reading Group***

**May - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**June - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>**

**July – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>**

On the third Thursday evening of the month from 6pm to 7:30pm 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.

### ***South-side Swedenborg Spiritual Support Group***

**May - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**

**June - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>**

**July – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Once a month, on an alternating Thursday evening from 6pm to 7:15pm at Capalaba Library, the South-side Swedenborg Spiritual Support Group meets together to discuss principles for spiritual stability and growth. To all our south-side community (or our north-siders if you don't mind the travel), if you would like spiritual support, come join the stimulating discussion.

### ***NEW CHURCH DAY***

Our New Church Day Celebrations fall on June 18<sup>th</sup> this year. During this service, our Brisbane copy of the Word will be installed and thus along with our new chairs this will be our official opening day. Invite your friends and family to come and celebrate these special events with us. There is also a strong possibility that the national president for the New Church in Australia, David Moffatt, will be present to celebrate the opening of our new spiritual centre. If so, he will be sharing the new church day message with us.

### ***Reminder about the January 2018 Camp***

To all our spiritual community, my hope is that you will be able to set aside some time during the first week of January 2018 for the New Church in Australia Summer Camp. It will be held at –

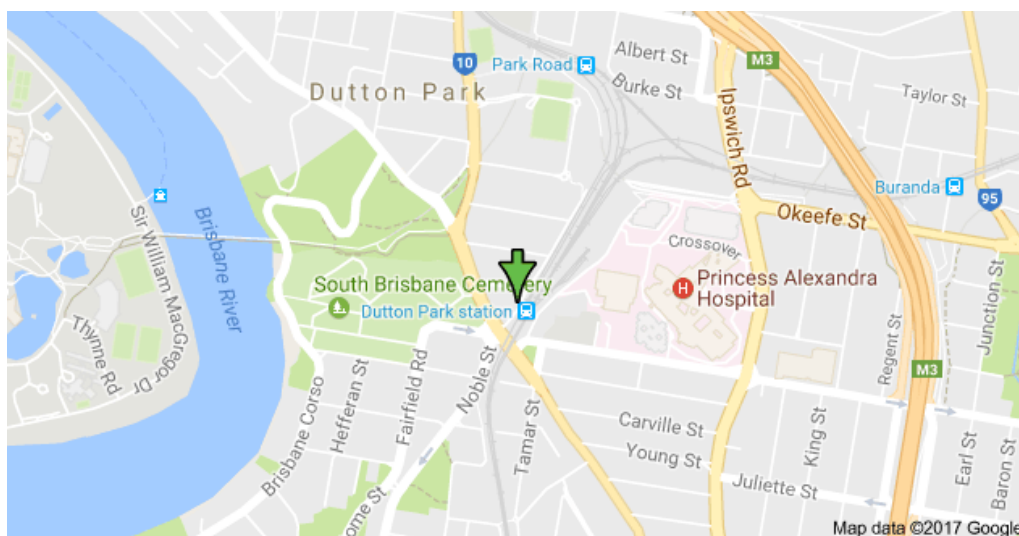
Alexandra Park Conference Centre, QLD  
On the Sunshine Coast \* 1-7 January 2018



More information can also be found at [newchurch.net.au/alexandra-park-family-camp-2018](http://newchurch.net.au/alexandra-park-family-camp-2018)

# *Installation of the Baptismal Font*

On Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017, we took possession of our new spiritual home located at 1/24 Railway Terrace, Dutton Park. Our new community centre is so well situated for our community and the long-term goal of making Brisbane people aware of the revelation from Heaven given to Emanuel Swedenborg. We have a train station across the road, which would often be used by University students as they pass our building on their way to the University of Queensland. The PA hospital is also across the road and directly in sight of the Centre.



One week later, Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup>, our container arrived with all our belongings that had been in storage for two years. After everything had been moved, we placed our attention on installing



the Baptismal font. This proved to be a mammoth undertaking as the marble bowl that sits on top of the pedestal is estimated to weigh between 300 to 350 kg. When we did eventually get the entire font back together, we were so excited and relieved that we took the photograph below and sent it out to friends and members –



This photo found its way to Canberra to the Visser-Marchant family and we received the following reply from Sally –

I appreciate being in the loop, and knowing that the congregation from the Brisbane Society of The New Church are holding George Marchant in high regard - by commemorating the Font at the front of the Church with his name.

It demonstrates the Committee's sense of appreciation, respect and sensitivity of the past founders who helped to establish the Church in Brisbane, to dedicate such an important component to holding Baptisms with his name on the front of the Font.

I feel proud that my Great Uncle is honoured, and recognised for his contribution to the Brisbane New Church, and it is a lovely idea to inscribe the Font and position it in such a prominent location.

I can't wait to see the new 'New Church' in Brisbane, I have a real sense of it moving forward into the 21st century way of Worshiping, and it will be reaching out to many people from all walks of life.

May The Lord bring forward His glorious Angels to surround and fill the rooms of the new New Church in Brisbane, and that they may Shine light so bright to bless and lift all who belong to its Holy Sphere, AMEN.

Thank you for all your efforts and dedication. I am sure George would be smiling from heaven right now and feeling proud.

With blessings of sunshine and warmth,  
Sally Visser-Marchant

I agree with Sally that the Committee have been thoughtful and sensitive in all their decisions especially regarding the Baptismal Font.

I would also like to say a special thank you to the following people who were able to take time out of their busy schedules and help to –

1. Empty the container.
2. Install the Baptismal font.

Our warm love and appreciation goes out to –

Doug and Rae Nash, Brian, Gaye and Matthew Heldon, Ian, Ben and Rachel Arnold, Russell Eyles, Bev Sheppards, Grant Dezilwa and Katerina Harkaris  
for all their hard work in moving our belongings into the new premises.



## Hot Food & Birthday Cake Roster for First Sunday Lunches

Feb	Anna
March	Fran
April	Vivian
May	Renee
June	Ruth
July	Bev
Aug	Gaye
Sept	Anna
Oct	Fran
Nov	Bev
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**

4<sup>th</sup> Alexis Evans, Oliver Barns, 7<sup>th</sup> Helen Arnold, 13<sup>th</sup> Darren Lawler, 15<sup>th</sup> Tasha Lee (born 1999)

18<sup>th</sup> Kevin Attwater, John Sandow, Susan Heldon, Marna Heldon

#### **June**

5<sup>th</sup> Rachael Arnold, 16<sup>th</sup> Shane Heldon, Glenn Alden, 20<sup>th</sup> Ainsley Heldon (born 04), 23<sup>rd</sup> Tori Barns (born 02), 24<sup>th</sup> Georgie Duff (born 1999), 28<sup>th</sup> Benedict Barns (born 07)

#### **July**

2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ben Arnold, 4<sup>th</sup> Jayden Heldon (born 09), 19<sup>th</sup> Angus Glenn, 20<sup>th</sup> Amy MacFarlane, 25<sup>th</sup> Saxon Heldon (born 05), 30<sup>th</sup> Greg Lee

### **CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS**

Our services are being held at 1/24 Railway Terrace, Dutton Park. Always check the last page in the Calendar for services.

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

**Treasurer:** Mr Matt Heldon, contactable on 0403 384 438

**Secretary:** Mrs Frances Fitzgerald, contactable on 07-3356 7119 or [markfitz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:markfitz@optusnet.com.au)  
Address: 49 Vale St, Wilston, Qld 4051

**For activities on the Gold Coast and Mt Tamborine meetings** contact Mrs Gaye Heldon on 07-5577 8772

**Sunday School Co-ordinators:**

Darren & Renee Brunne, contactable on 07-33 1414 85 or [reneebrunne@gmail.com](mailto:reneebrunne@gmail.com)



## CALENDARS

### **May 2017**

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER** & Baptism  
led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m. - *The Ten Promises – The Third Promise*

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at  
*John and Lenore Sandow's at 12 p.m.*

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship Circle**, 10.30 a.m.

**Sun 21<sup>th</sup>**

**Abiding in the Vine** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 a.m.

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Free for Home Church Visitation**

### **June**

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER** led by  
Rev. Brunne at 10:30am *New Church Day Celebration and Opening*

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Worship Circle, 10.30 a.m.*

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at  
*John and Lenore Sandow's at 12 p.m.*

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup>**

**New Church Day** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 a.m.  
New Church Day message by Rev Moffatt

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Free for Home Church Visitation**

### **July**

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER** led by  
Rev. Brunne at 10:30am *The Ten Promises – The Fourth Promise*

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship Circle**, 10.30 a.m.

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Abiding in the Vine** by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 a.m.

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at  
*John and Lenore Sandow's at 12 pm.*

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Free for Home Church Visitation**