

# Breaking Bread

## Newsletter –

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

**Feb, Mar, Apr 2019**



Art Work by Lenore Sandow

### ***No Instant Regeneration***

*So that a person may be led from the state of the old man into that of the new, worldly passions have to be cast aside and heavenly affections assumed. This is effected by countless means known to the Lord alone, many of which the Lord has made known to angels but few if any to man. Even so, every single one of those means is revealed in the internal sense of the Word. When therefore a person is converted from an old man into a new one, that is, when he is regenerated, it does not take place in an instant as some people believe, but over many years. Indeed the process is taking place throughout the person's whole life right to its end.*

Secrets of Heaven 4063:3 – Emanuel Swedenborg

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## The Small Still Voice Part Two

Where exactly does this saying come from? We have to go back to 1 Kings, chapter 18. Jezebel (a Zidonian princess who became the most wicked queen Israel had ever experienced) went about killing God's true prophets. Elijah, the first of two old testament prophets who raised the dead, responded by challenging 450 of Jezebel's false prophets (and Israel indirectly) to call out to the false god Baal asking fire to come down from heaven and light their self-made altar.

The prophets of Baal cut themselves crying out for six hours, getting louder and more desperate as time went on. They carried on for a further six hours until it grew dark. Finally, Elijah intervened asking the Israelite people present to drench his altar not once but three times with water.

Elijah said only one prayer to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and immediately the fire of the Lord fell consuming all of the altar including the stones, the water and even the surrounding

soil. The Israelites then arrested the 450 false prophets and put them to death according to the law of Moses.

This is where the story took an unusual twist. Several hours later when Jezebel discovered what had happened she did not repent but instead sent the word out that she was now going to kill Elijah.

Out of fear Elijah fled into the wilderness for his life. He became depressed and sought for death. An angel appeared to him and gave him sustenance but still, Elijah was fearful and wanted to die. A second time the Angel appeared to Elijah and gave him food instructing him to travel for forty days and nights to Horeb, the mountain of God. Only now could the Lord approach to speak with Elijah. However, the manner in which the Lord spoke to him is fascinating as you will find out shortly.

So, we must ask 'Why'? Why did the Lord deal with Elijah this way? Think of it this way... the Lord could not miraculously take away Elijah's fear and depression. He could only work with Elijah to bring him to the place where he himself was willing to let go of the fear and that place symbolically speaking is *Horeb – the mountain of the Lord*. If we desire to hear God's voice, we too must come to the mountain of God and leave fear and other negative states behind us.

Putting Elijah's personal motives aside, the Word records these events to teach us, through the spiritual sense, something very deep and profound.

#### THE SMALL STILL VOICE

We all can use a 'nudge' in the right direction from time to time. For me it feels like I need it daily. Those small nudges may seem insignificant at times, however, small adjustments can lead to majorly different outcomes as we are about to find out. The small still voice is often the difference between *life and death*.

So, what happened next? The Lord did not straight away talk with Elijah. First, He sent Elijah into a cave. Once again, Elijah is fed by an angel. Next a terrible wind tears through the mountains breaking off rocks in its path. Still, the Lord does not speak. Then an earthquake shakes the land and finally a terrifying fire rages through the mountains. After these three great signs, the Lord speaks to Elijah in a soft quiet voice. What is the message here for us?

The Lord is always gentle, meek and kind. He is often feeding us with angelic messages. However, before we can experience the Lord directly and learn from His gentle ways, evil needs to be removed from our hearts, thoughts and actions. These three great signs occurred on Mount Sinai where many years earlier, the Lord delivered the Ten Commandments. The wind, quaking and fire is the effects of reformation occurring inside the advancing soul as they endeavour to conform to the Lord's leading and to live by the decalogue.

On the inside is your soul experiencing hurricanes, quaking and fires? Then be encouraged for you are on the path and you too will learn to hear the Lord's small still voice.

#### ***Now how to hear from heaven... three steps.***

***1. Develop a right understanding of how Heaven, the spiritual world and natural world really work.***

We can only do this by reading Scripture (seeking the spiritual sense) and exploring inspired writings – for us, those written by Swedenborg, who was called to heaven to document the workings of the Lord. This might seem obvious and it is the reason why we are always encouraging

people in our movement to seek for the spiritual understanding of the Word and not just a literal understanding.

## 2. Develop a habit of asking yourself a few key questions –

Developing a habit of interrupting your automatic thought processes is a powerful way to slow down the mind and create moments where we can be more present –

- 1) Am I acting out of my ‘ego’ or from a deeper place seeking to help, love and support others?
- 2) What would the Lord do in this situation?
- 3) Is there anything you have been trying to show me, Lord?

## 3. Build your self a garden.

If you don’t have a garden, I encourage you to start one, even a small herb garden. My reasoning is two fold –

1. It will require a small part of your attention everyday and offer you a daily quiet quota.
2. Angels are attracted to gardens and you will automatically be spending more time with them by being around your garden and nature –

*“I have been instructed by experience, that good spirits and angels are not only present with man, but that they also dwell in his affections; for each single affection is of great extension, and because the ultimate plane with man is in his affections, therefore this takes place when the Lord vivifies and thus arranges the affections; as, for instance, good spirits are in the affection of gardening, in which they fix, as it were, their dwelling places.” - Spiritual Experiences 4399*

**NOTE** - Think about how powerful this process can be if you engage with it consciously and with the deliberate intention of hearing from heaven.

## PERCEPTION

Finally, the advancing soul understands that living the spiritual life is an organic development. Through the regeneration process, a soul needs to hear the ‘small still voice’ less and less as they learn to live from ‘Perception’. There will always be times where even the advancing soul will need Heaven to interject and redirect one’s thoughts, feelings and focus. However, when we learn to mature in our spiritual walk, we learn to abide in the Lord through inward perception. If the Lord is willing, perhaps we can explore the process of ‘perception’ in the next edition of ‘Breaking Bread’.

Keep your armour on and may you hear from heaven  
as you battle the darkness within,  
Rev Darren Brunne.



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

*An explanation of the upcoming events from February to April and a little beyond*

### ***April Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Family service and Third Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Service***

For the month of April, I suggest we forgo our usual lunch after the family service and instead have a lite refreshment. This will allow us to have a special lunch following our Easter Service on the third Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. One church member asked if weather permitted, could we have lunch at the park on the river next to the cemetery at Dutton Park following our Easter Service. I would love to hear people's feedback about this idea. Feel free to write in on the Google group email list.

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

**February - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**March – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**April – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

On the third Thursday evening of the month from 6 pm to 7 pm at Bracken Ridge Library, the North-side Swedenborg Reading Group meets together to discuss 'Regeneration'. 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***

**February - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**

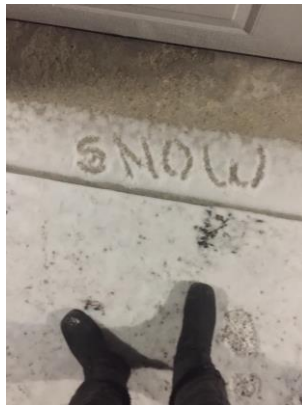
**March - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**April – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**

### ***OUR BRISBANE NEW CHURCH OVERSEAS STUDENT***

Jordan Brunne is now up to her 5th month at Bryn Athyn College. She is currently enjoying lessons about Politics, Maths, Writing and various Arts. The most wonderful thing is seeing her immersed in the New Church teachings and ways. She is absolutely thriving as her brain and heart absorb so much new information. She speaks highly of Rev. Scott Frazier's "*Gnashing's*", being conversations about life's issues, seeking the Lord's heart and instruction.

She can be contacted using an app called Whatsapp or via Facebook messenger. For financial support, her bank account details are - BSB 064-446 Acc 1033 5075.



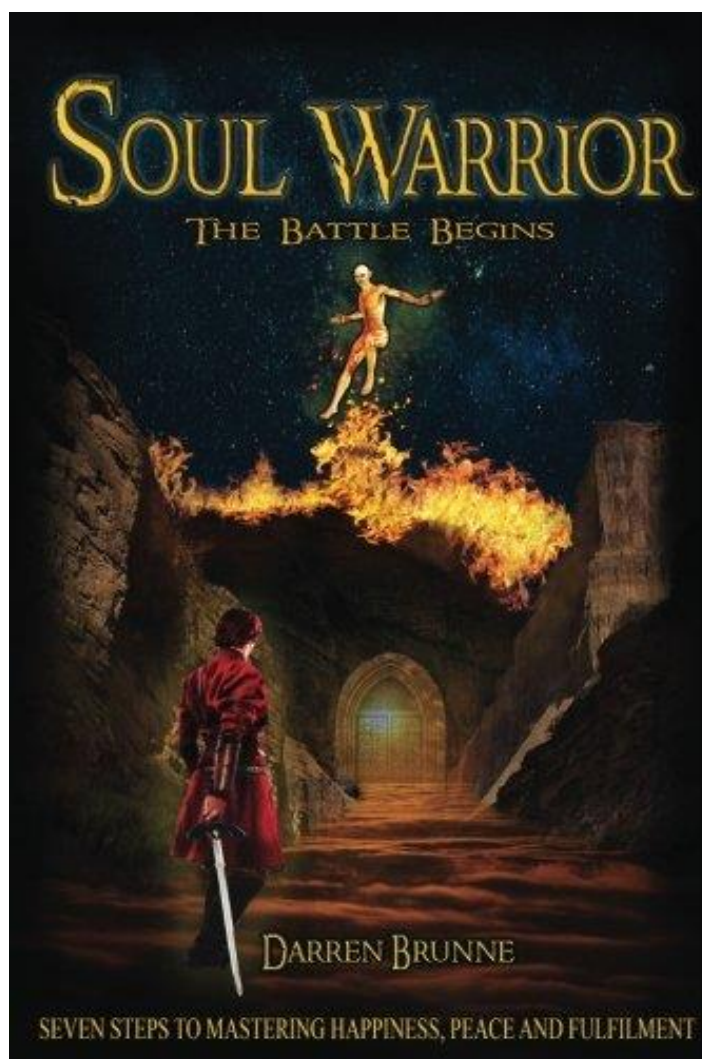
### **SOUL WARRIOR**

I encourage you, if you haven't already, to grab a copy of the novel 'Soul Warrior' in which you, the reader, will take on a journey of discovery into the practice of spiritual warfare. Follow along with apprentice Mathetis through his own awakening as he learns to use the whole armour of God. You will be introduced into all seven stages of the armour through a part story, part parable approach.

You can purchase the book through Amazon for \$15.99 US

[https://www.amazon.com/Soul-Warrior-Mr-Darren-Brunne/dp/1981445838/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1514376979&sr=1-1&keywords=soul+warrior+darren+brunne](https://www.amazon.com/Soul-Warrior-Mr-Darren-Brunne/dp/1981445838/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1514376979&sr=1-1&keywords=soul+warrior+darren+brunne)

or pick up a copy from our Brisbane Centre for \$20.00 when attending one of our services. Alternatively, you can contact me via [darren@eternitynow.net](mailto:darren@eternitynow.net) and I can post you a copy of 'Soul Warrior' for \$20 AUS + postage.



### **THE MELBOURNE SOCIETY**

The Melbourne New Church Society is holding its last service in the Mt Waverley premises on March 3rd and so is embarking on a process/journey similar to ours of 2 or 3 years ago, until they find a suitable, permanent "home". We wish them great success in their journey.



# Hot Food & Birthday Cake Roster for First Sunday Lunches

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

### **February**

5<sup>th</sup> Eddie Duff, 6<sup>th</sup> Ken Barns, 8<sup>th</sup> Bev Sheppard, 22<sup>nd</sup> Livvy Fitzgerald, 23<sup>rd</sup> Paul Evans.

### **March**

5<sup>th</sup> Mark Pitts, 21<sup>st</sup> Sarah MacFarlane, 23<sup>rd</sup> Matthew Arnold, 30<sup>th</sup> Ruth Evans, 31<sup>st</sup> Russell Eyles.

### **April**

8<sup>th</sup> Lachlan Duff, 15<sup>th</sup> Gaye Heldon, 16<sup>th</sup> Alex Duff, 20<sup>th</sup> Peter Larsen, 27<sup>th</sup> Lachlan Glenn, 28<sup>th</sup> Kyan Heldon, Jordan Brunne.

## **CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS**

Our services are held 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays, at 10.30 a.m. at our Centre – #1/24 Railway Terrace, Dutton Park.  
Always check the last page of the Calendar for services.

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

**Treasurer:** Mr Brian Heldon, contactable on 07-5577 8772

**Secretary:** Mr Darren Lawler, contactable on 0402 086331 or [darren@inneractivelearning.com.au](mailto:darren@inneractivelearning.com.au)  
Address: 53 Leslie Parade, Slacks Creek, Qld, 4127

**For activities on the Gold Coast and Mt. Tamborine meetings** contact Mrs Gaye Heldon on 0419 778717

**Sunday School Co-ordinator:**

Bev Sheppard, contactable on 07-3844 7187 or [revshep@tpg.com.au](mailto:revshep@tpg.com.au)

## CALENDAR

### **Feb 2019**

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER** led by  
**Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am** '*Adventures in the Apocalypse*'

**Fri 08<sup>th</sup>**

Mt. Tamborine Discussion Group at  
*Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 11 a.m.*

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.*

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Free for Home Church Visitation**

### **March**

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER** led by  
**Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am** '*Adventures in the Apocalypse*'

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup>**

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**Sun 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Free for Home Church Visitation**

### **April**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER** led by  
**Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am** '*Adventures in the Apocalypse*'

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

*Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.*

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Easter Service** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 a.m.

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup>**

Mt. Tamborine Discussion Group at  
*Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 11 a.m.*

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

**Free for Home Church Visitation**