



ADELAIDE CHRISTIAN NEW CHURCH Newsletter

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April and May 2020

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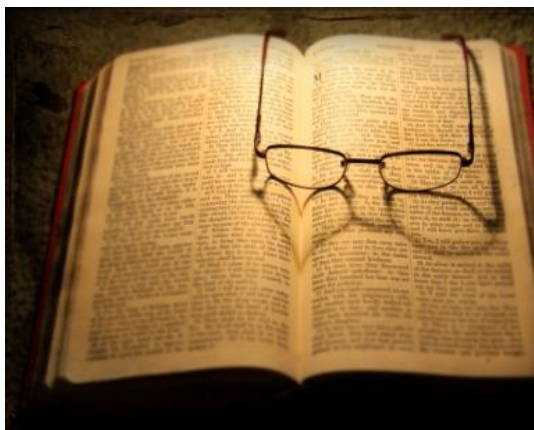
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A LITTLE PRAYER FOR

**Faith, Love, Hope, strength
and stability.**

Increase our faith, O Lord our God, in You, and in Your Christ; increase our love, O our Redeemer, to You and to your righteous peoples and all people on this earth; increase a sure hope in us of our salvation; increase strength in us to overcome the current challenges in our world, and to stand strong in our faith and hope, as we look after each other and ourselves. Take heed of all the Government and Medical advice as we go about our daily lives. Instil strong hope in us and strengthen our faith, that all is well. **AMEN**



Inspirational Thoughts

“Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12: 3

Joy means delight: water corresponds to truth: Wells signify depths of truth; and salvation is security from evil and its consequences.

To draw water out of the wells of salvation is to draw truth out of the Lord’s Word. Every little passage of the Word is a well of truth much deeper than appears from the surface. And every little drop of truth, when applied to life, saves. But the wells are deep, and only joy can draw it out. Joy comes from love; so love the Bible and its teachings, and you will soon be drawing water out of the wells of salvation.

Prayer: O Lord, unless Thou law had been my delight, I should have perished in mine affliction. I am Thine, save me. **Amen**

Adelaide Church Motto

“The Law of the Lord is Perfect”

This motto was created at the time the New Church began here in Adelaide in 1844. As relevant today as it was then.

Looking on the brighter side of life!

Very Interesting Shopping trip!

Something really different today; to help to uplift our spirits in these concerning times, thought perhaps it would be nice to share it. All I did was visit our local Chemist for prescription refills.

With the App which the local Chemist put on my phone last year, I can put in the orders on the phone; then they send me a text when it is done and ready to pick up. just go and pick it up. So nice and quick and saves time waiting around. Easy for them, and easy for me!

Order for today put in, took an unusually long time until the text came through. At last the text - park the car, walk to the door – can't go in, it won't open. Notice says to enter through Mall entrance. Following instructions, the shop appears half-closed, with only one doorway open. Then quite unusual, a queue waiting – spaced out 1.5mts apart. A chemist assistant standing and greeting each customer, and asks what they are going in for. If it is a genuine item, the assistant asks customer to wait, looks around the shop – counting the current ones inside – then it is either just wait a little longer please or go on in (when an inside customer leaves). Should add in here, that one person was declined entrance and needed to vacate the queue. If said to “go ahead and wait on their own newly appeared cross on the floor”, first their hands are sanitized by the assistant, then they can go ahead (even my new clear vinyl disposable gloves were sanitized). Eventually it was my turn to approach the ‘cordoned off’ counter, collected the scripts and vacate the store via the only door available.

If you're thinking this was a bit of an arduous task – please think again. It was so calm and pleasant. All the ‘safe’ assistants – cordoned off safely behind the counter - were so nice and happily greeted everyone. The ones in the queue often turned to smile and say ‘hello’ to the next one. It may have taken much more time than “normal”, but what does that matter at this unusual time we are all in this together.

In wonder it was for me, just observing the patience and kindness in humanity all around me. Taking care of each other and ensuring everyone is as safe as possible is the major aim.

Pray with thanks to our Lord, and count our blessings that one is not in a hospital bed; and hopefully, blessings that one of us does not know of any family, friends, or acquaintances who are not just safely staying ‘tucked up’ in home stay. Stay safe and well everyone please.



As there is no Church at the moment, I've looked for some Spiritual food for you to take in and reflect upon. Enjoy!

The Wisdom of Angels

Divine wisdom flows from God into all of the angels of heaven, with those in the highest heaven getting the most direct flow. But if wisdom, like love, flows into all living things, perhaps we can get a taste of it, too.

“We may gather how great angels’ wisdom is from the fact that in heaven there is a communication that involves everyone. The intelligence and wisdom of one individual is shared with another: heaven is where everyone shares everything of value. This is because the very nature of heavenly love is to want what is one’s own to belong to another; so no one in heaven regards his or her good as authentically good unless it is someone else’s as well. This is also the basis of heaven’s happiness. Angels are led into it by the Lord, whose divine love has this same quality.”
- *Heaven and Hell* 268

Key Concept

Most of us are taught to share from a young age, and there are many people who do it beautifully, especially when it comes to wisdom. In heaven, Swedenborg tells us, that sharing happens all the time, and it’s a source of tremendous joy: “Heaven is where everyone shares everything of value”.

Questions for discussion or reflection

How do you react to the statement that no one in heaven regards their good as authentic unless it’s also someone else’s? Do you think that here on earth there are types of goodness that can’t be shared? What types can be shared?

Think of something good about yourself. Do you share it with others? If so, how? If not, why not?

“There is still another reason, beyond the ones already given, why angels can accept so much wisdom, a reason that in heaven is actually the primary one. It is that they are free of any selfishness; for to the extent that people are free of selfishness they can be wise in divine matters. Selfishness is what closes off our deeper natures from the Lord and heaven opens our outer natures and turns them towards ourselves.” –
Heaven and Hell 272

Key Concept

It’s no surprise that Swedenborg describes angels as selfless. But here he’s also saying that not only is selfishness a bad thing, it’s a huge roadblock to attaining spiritual wisdom – perhaps the biggest obstacle of all. (Just try to imagine that camel passing through the eye of a needle).

Reflection

Do you agree that selfishness is a barrier to true wisdom? Why or why not? Regardless of your answer, why do you think Swedenborg says so in this passage?

Has anyone ever told you that it’s all right to be a little selfish? There are people who run themselves into the ground taking care of everyone else without thinking about themselves; surely it’s not a bad thing for them to also take care of themselves. Would you agree with that statement? If so, where would you draw the line between self-centredness and self-care?

All these passages are taken from the book ‘How to think like an Angel’ – lessons from Emanuel Swedenborg; pages 61 to 65. This new book is available to buy from the Swedenborg Association in Sydney. Contact 02 9416 2812 for email joe@swedenborg.com.au

Back to Basics Bible Study

This is a new project from Rev. David Moffat. Being conducted via the internet, via Zoom meeting, it is considered to be quite important that we really take a look at our Bible again, to glean what is written therein. Messages from the Lord our God are often hidden between the literal senses; and by group collaboration and discussion, there should be some new insights coming through. It is also a “question and answer” methodology, with any particular topic that one would like to talk about, ask about, or discuss – quite simply you are invited to put your topic in. email:- David Moffat <d_a_moffat@yahoo.com.au>

It sounds very good in this day and age, as all religions are based on the Bible; and in such a busy world that today has become, it is well worth going “back to basics”, as sometimes the literal text is inclined to be a bit confusing at times. This is due to the fact that most of it was written so many, many, years ago by different people – and in a language that has been complex. First parts of it were written in ancient Hebrew, then some parts in Aramaic Hebrew, then some parts in Greek Hebrew. After that it was all put together, translated into English, French, German, and so many other languages – too numerous to mention here. But, nevertheless, this one Holy Bible is still is and always will be the Word of God. Let us all, and every nation in the world, enjoy it and hear the Word. The Ten Commandments are, and always will be, the same as when God gave them to Moses all those thousands and thousands of years ago. It is the basic standard of guidelines for living a happy and fulfilling life, learning to love and care for, being kind to each other always. It is the standard that the world relies on for Love, Hope, Peace, and life everlasting.

Service Dates for April and May 2020

At the moment, due to Covid-19, naturally all Services are suspended.

Meanwhile, our wonderful Ministers are creating online Services, talks, and uplifting spiritual items.

If you are not already on N.C.I.A. googlegroups, please contact Rev. David Moffat via email to join. It is free and open to all.

Members Birthdays

While during Church suspended, we still have 3 birthdays, but cannot get together. Still send Very Happy Birthday to Heather – 28th April, Special 70th; Ruth on 28th May, Special 80th; Joy Chettle 30th April; June 29th May. Fred Welling has recently celebrated his birthday too.

Activities for April and May 2020 - suspended

At the moment, due to Covid-19, naturally all Activities are suspended. Meanwhile, we can be in email and phone contact with each other, even text messaging. When possible, we will be back to normality. Just watch out for each other and ensure everyone is keeping safe.

Back to Basics Bible Study: - This is being planned by Rev. David Moffat via internet as a group meeting. If you have not already picked up the message from The New Church Google Groups, please contact June for more information.

Further Information for any of the above, please phone 0417632207

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Contributions for Newsletters

Any Articles, Poems, News, photos or Submissions for our Newsletters, would be greatly appreciated.

Please submit via email to admin, or post to P.O.Box.