



October/November 2020

“HOW I WOULD HELP THE WORLD”

A new book about Helen Keller, “How I Would Help the World” available from the Swedenborg Book Centre in Sydney – 02 9416 2812, is such an inspiring and delightful book.

I have just written up a little excerpt from the book .

Helen was brought to Australia, funded by the Deaf Society during one of her global world visits. Here in Adelaide, Helen gave an evening talk at Adelaide Town Hall. Very highly supported and the Town Hall was full.

Helen had many admirers, but one of her greatest was the American author and humanist Mark Twain.

Calling her “the wonder of the ages” Twain wrote: Helen Keller has been dumb, stone deaf, and stone blind, ever since she was a little baby a year-and-a half old; and now ... this miraculous creature, this wonder of the ages, passes the Harvard University examination in Latin, German, French History, belles-lettres, and such things, and does it brilliantly, too, not in a common place fashion. She doesn't know merely things, she is splendidly familiar with the meanings of them. When she writes an essay on a Shakespearian character, her English is fine and strong, her grasp of the subject is the grasp of one who knows, and her page is electric with light.

Twain has another intriguing comment about Helen.

This time he compares her accomplishments to the accomplishments of Napoleon Bonaparte: “The two most interesting characters of the nineteenth century are Napoleon and Helen Keller. Napoleon tried to conquer the world by force and failed.

Helen tried to conquer the world by power of mind – and succeeded”.



While Twain's comment is delightful, it should be pointed out that Helen was not interested in conquering the world; she was interested in helping the world. In fact, this was the driving purpose of her entire life. She saw herself as a social reformer devoted to relieving human suffering.

Comparing to an equally famous French leader, she writes:

I feel like Joan of Arc at times.

My whole being becomes uplifted. I, too, hear voices that say “Come,” and I will follow no matter what the cost, no matter what trials I am placed under.

Jail, poverty, Calumny – they matter not.

Truly he has said, “Woe unto you that permit the least of mine to suffer.”

Helen did indeed carry the banner of social reform to all, and she fought valiantly to raise consciousness about the plight of the handicapped.

But Helen's social reform did not stop a combating preventable blindness.

She took up many other causes as well; she campaigned for women's right to vote at a time when it was politically incorrect to do so; she became a powerful voice against social injustice; she spoke out boldly against racial prejudice; she decried corrupt politics, denounced business greed, and openly deplored the horrors of war.

And yet, she always returned to the needs of the blind and the deaf.

On their behalf, she travelled the globe six times and visited dignitaries in every land. She spoke often and passionately not only about the plight of the handicapped, but also of their potential.

In her footsteps, hospitals and schools sprang up as people began to realize that much could be done and that every human life is precious.

Wherever she went, Helen Keller became an inspiration for others.

Whether she spoke about being blind, deaf, or deprived in any way, she had a profound effect on those who heard her. In a speech to a group of deaf children in Australia, she said, "I know every step of the road you are taking.

And I rejoice at your cheer and determination, because the obstacles you meet are many.

And when you go out to meet life's struggles and adventures, you will raise a banner for the deaf who follow you."

Keller suffered a series of strokes in 1961 and spent the last years of her life at her home.

On September 14, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the United States' two highest civilian honors. In 1965 she was elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame at the New York World's Fair.

Keller devoted much of her later life to raising funds for the American Foundation for the Blind.

She died in her sleep on June 1, 1968, at her home, Arcan Ridge, located in Easton, Connecticut, a few weeks short of her eighty-eighth birthday. A service was held in her honor at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., her body was cremated and her ashes were placed there next to her constant companions, Anne Sullivan and Polly Thomson. She was buried at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

A film made several years ago, "The Miracle Worker" was a wonderful film, well worth watching.

Helen Keller, since she was sixteen years old, was a strong believer in the doctrines given to the world by Emanuel Swedenborg, and a follower of the New Church.

"Never bend your head. Hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye."

Helen Keller



A LITTLE TASTE OF SPRING



Here is a little taste of Spring; the Barossa Valley here in SA. As we, so far are only permitted to travel within our own State, just remember all the beautiful scenery we have within a fairly short drive from the CBD. The trees are beginning to blossom, flowers in the garden blossoming again, which gives us all reassurance that our world will slowly improve again. Meanwhile, let us enjoy what we have around us and be thankful for our family and friends.

SERVICE DATES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2020

October 11th – Musical Traditional

October 18th - Traditional; Annual General Meeting 12.15pm (including shared luncheon)

November 1st - Traditional

November 16th - Traditional

November 29th - Traditional - (shared luncheon)

ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2020

Thursday Mornings:- 10.30 – 12.00pm Coffee and Chat

Computers Available – for general use and research

Back to Basics Bible Study:- on Zoom, group meeting, alternate Monday evenings 7.30pm Adelaide time.

Sessions are 1 hour. Very interesting discussions, gaining new insights. Contact Rev. David Moffat or June.

Planning to have either Zoom or at Church, information topics on a choice of subjects. Contact June



INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

“All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

How direct and clear the Lord's teaching is. What could be better than this? Simply treat others as you would like them to treat you. It is the conduct of heaven brought to the earth. It is the law and the prophets, because it is the truth, leading to the goodness of life.

Within your soul where heaven is, you know it is true and good. You know that if you let this teaching down into your earth life, and make it your law of neighbourly love, then you will be living as the angels do.

Prayer: O Lord, Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me.

Note: Nothing could be more true than this at this chaotic world we are all experiencing at the moment. Please watch out for your friends, neighbours and all you may come in contact with. Share kindness wherever you can – so much needed at this time.

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 18th October 2020

Due to a change of Auditors, who have been so thorough in their work for us, our AGM has now been put forward to Sunday 18th October. It will be held in the Church Hall at 12.15pm, after the Service, at 287 Oaklands Road, Marion SA 5043. With the Australia Post services being slower than usual at this time, AGM notification will be included to Adelaide Members, along with Proxy Forms.

Some members will be contacted by phone as well to ensure mail has been received in time. Proxy Forms can be signed, scanned and emailed back to admin@adelaidenewchurch.org.au. This will help with procedures at this current time.

May God Bless you All and keep you safe and well during this crazy unusual time, that we are all encountering at the moment. Please feel free to phone up and chat – 0417632207.



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEWSLETTER

If you have any news, articles, poems or submissions we would love to hear from you. Simply post us a letter, or send us an email.

Our postal address is: ADELAIDE CHRISTIAN NEW CHURCH P.O BOX 469 PARK HOLME S.A 5043

Or simply address your email to:

admin@adelaidenewchurch.org.au or: sanewchurch@gmail.com

More informative articles can also be found at: swedenborg.com.au It would be nice to receive your feed-back.