



ADELAIDE CHRISTIAN NEW CHURCH

# Newsletter

287 Oaklands Rd. Marion S.A 5043 Phone (08) 8277 1891 [adelaidenewchurch.org.au](http://adelaidenewchurch.org.au)

December 2020/January 2021

## WISHING YOU ALL A VERY PEACEFUL, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY CHRISTMAS

This year has been a challenging year for everyone all over the world.  
May next year be good and the whole world again a happier, healthy and safe place for us all.

### A GREAT CONJUNCTION

Something different in the sky this Christmas.  
A most spectacular and rare event!  
This was picked up from a news article on the internet news.  
Quite interesting for this particular Christmas.  
Hoping you may be able to watch it and remember  
when the shepherds in the fields and the 3 Wise Men saw a star.



#### What is a 'great conjunction'?

In astronomy terms, a conjunction is when two objects appear close together in the sky, but when those objects are Jupiter in Saturn — an event that only takes place every 20 years or so — it's referred to as a "great conjunction". But the scale of December 2020's great conjunction, which will see Jupiter and Saturn come within 0.1 degrees of each other, hasn't occurred since 1623. Stargazers are referring to the event as a 'Christmas star' due to its timely resemblance to a bright star.

#### Why is it being called a 'Christmas star'?

Besides the fact that this year's rare conjunction of planets arrives within days of Christmas, it's interesting to note that some astronomers believe that the famous Star of Bethlehem, mentioned in the Bible nativity story, may have been a real-life astronomical conjunction of planets.

In the Southern Hemisphere, the great conjunction will occur at 4.20am AEST on December 22 — around 6.20pm UTC on December 21 for our Northern Hemisphere friends.

The two planets have been edging closer together since September 2020.

"If you're in the Southern Hemisphere, look toward the west. Jupiter is the brighter of the pair," writes Dr Jones. In addition, a few days before they align a crescent moon will brush past the two planets, reaching its closest point on December 17 in the Eastern Hemisphere, providing another mini spectacle for star gazers.

But to get the best view on December 22, Dr Jones suggests looking out to the western horizon if you're based in the Southern Hemisphere.

"They will set within a couple of hours or so, so it is important to have a clear view toward the horizon."

Watch out for this beautiful occurrence, and may it bring peace and happiness for 2021

# DIVINE PROVIDENCE

## A Newcomers Introduction to the Writings

MICHAEL J DELBRIDGE  
Member of the Adelaide Society

Upon entering O'Connell's Second-hand Bookshop in Adelaide, I decided to repeat a prayer my best friend had suggested to me: "Lord, if there is a book here which you think I should read, guide me to it." Moments later I found myself in a maze of book aisles, I normally searched in the Christian or Theological sections for books which might give me a greater spiritual understanding of myself and how I might lead my life to be a better Christian.

Ever since I can remember I knew there was a God and that His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ was our Saviour. Although Churches taught much about our Lord it was very difficult for me to see through the dogma and blind faith. To find a God in complete darkness, to have faith in truth alone – as I knew from my own development – was merely an empty shell, through the truth, wisdom and understanding was only half. But what was the other that joined them together so that one might have a sense of wholeness?

The very first book I picked up was in the Christian section. This was Divine Providence. Its price was \$10.00. As I was unemployed, this was quite a lot of money to spend on a book, but there was a need much greater to fill. This book was like a magnet. I just couldn't put it down. It flowed through me and touched my heart and soul. There were things being said that I had always thought and now I found something that confirmed me in a positive direction to head.

I eventually returned to the bookshop only to find there were no more books by Swedenborg. This deeply saddened me: "Where do I go from here?" Christmas was also upon us and the first present I received was a number of books from a friend also seeking spiritual understanding. Two of the books were Swedenborg's Heaven and Hell and Divine Love and Wisdom. This was the best Christmas present I have ever received and it did not take long to finish these. I then returned to O'Connell's, only to find The Four Doctrines and Heavenly Secrets.

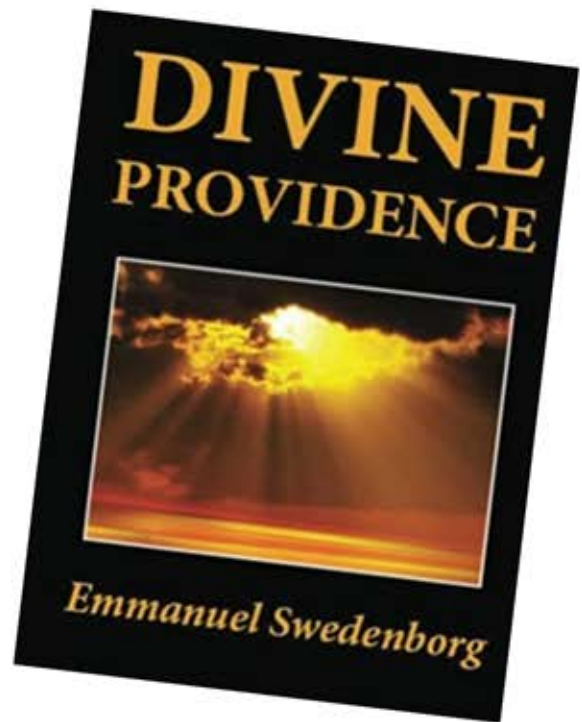
There was something very different being taught here that I had only ever discovered in the Bible; but the Bible to me always seemed difficult to understand. I also had many doubts and there was a lot of confusion, but now for the first time there was a clearer understanding not only in the intellect but also in the heart. I felt its beginning and it hasn't stopped.

Since, it grows daily in the understanding and in the affection. This was the answer: Faith and Charity – the marriage of both of these begins a beautiful love affair. It's all to do with what you put in. I now understand what man had lost when he left the Garden of Eden. Like me, many seek an answer to this one important question: when we find it we see how regeneration works throughout lives to restore the marriage of charity and truth. It was thus that I became aware of the presence of the Lord in my daily life, guiding me through Love and Wisdom, showing me the simplicity of it all. Swedenborg states I am merely in the vegetable kingdom in a scale to where we can aspire to.

I look forward to the journey and thank the Lord for answering my prayer. This eventually led me to the New Church which is another story in itself. On July 4th 1993, I had the pleasure of entertaining Doug and Christine Taylor of the Hurstville Society of the General Church. We had a nice lunch and then retired to the lounge room for coffee and during our discussion I mentioned that it was the book Divine Providence, which originally led me to the New Church. The name of the original owner was on the inside cover. I asked Christine if she knew who it might be – Evelyn H White. Christine told me it was the name of the sister of Will White – a lifelong member of the Adelaide New Church – and one of her close friends!

This really was Divine Providence.

Jehovah speaks, let Israel hear,  
Let all the earth rejoice and fear,  
While God's eternal Son proclaims  
His sovereign honours and his names.  
I am the Last, and I the First,  
The Saviour-God, and God the just.  
There's none besides pretends to shew  
Such justice and salvation too.  
In me alone, shall men confess,  
Lies all their strength and righteousness,  
But such as dare despise my name  
I'll clothe them with eternal shame.



## SERVICE DATES FOR DECEMBER / JANUARY

### **December 2020**

13th December - Advent Church Service

20th December - Carol Service; Church Christmas BBQ; Break up for 2020

### **January 2021**

16th January Saturday from 12.00pm – Fete and Op Shop held at Church

31st January – Traditional Church Service

## ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY 2021

21st Thursday 10.30am; Coffee & Chat starts again.

This includes Computer uses for any general personal use; and computer Lessons are also on hand as requested.

### **Book Study Groups**

Small group studies, are being planned, either in one's home or via Zoom with day and time arranged between participants. The book studied, to be decided upon by the participants in each group. The topics can be chosen from our Church Library or a new one chosen by one of the participants. Ask in advance if the book is available, or it can be obtained from the Swedenborg Association from the Koorong Book Shop in the city. The Church is signed up with Koorong Books and should you like to buy a book/s from there, please contact June on 0417632207 for planning and questions.

### **Back to Basics Bible Study**

This is on a Monday evening via Zoom, covering 1 Chapter at a time, preferably pre-read by individuals and then an interesting and enjoyable open discussion time for all. Question raised bring new understanding.

This study group is run by our N.C.I.A. President, Rev. David Moffat, Minister of the Melbourne Church now.

Please contact Rev. David Moffat for further information and times and dates for Zoom.

Then David will email you the information and details.



## INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not” John 1:10

In the speaking of Jesus: Immanuel, God with us. Present with us in the world He made, but unrecognised and unknown. Similarly, He is in the world of your life today. In the busy world of your mind, with its teeming feelings and thinkings! The little world of your own, made especially for you: where the sun of love rises and sets, and where the winds of your spirit blow.

But although He is present in your world, do you know Him? He is present to bring you love and understanding: to heal your sickness and disease: to save you from yourself.

Prayer: Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.

## 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

The 172nd Annual General Meeting was held at the Church on 18th October 2020

The main results of the AGM are as follows: -

Voting takes place and New Committee takes over proceedings:

Chairman:- Randall Rabone, 1st RN, 2nd MD, all in favour

Treasurer:- Raymond Nicholls, 1st RR, 2nd DR, all in favour

Secretary:- June Johnson, 1st PM, 2nd RR, all in favour

Assistant Secretary:- Michael Delbridge, 1st JJ 2nd PM, all in favour

Deacons:- Michael Delbridge, Randall Rabone, agreed by all

Committee:- Pauline Merritt, 1st JJ, 2nd HW, all in favour

Heather Wade, 1st JJ, 2nd PM, all in favour

Michael Delbridge, 1st JJ, 2nd PM, all in favour

Dianne Roberts, 1st RN, 2nd JJ, all in favour

New Age Correspondent:- Randall Rabone, 1st JJ, 2nd MD

## 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.