



ADELAIDE CHRISTIAN NEW CHURCH

# Newsletter

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August/September 2022

## THE WONDERS OF GOD OUR LORD, NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME



This most beautiful, amazing Universe that we are a tiny part of what we live in.

In the photo above, our Earth is not even a part of this. This just so beautiful; it is a snapshot taken from outer space. This is from beyond our Universe. This is the most recent research from NASA, taken with their latest Webb telescope – light years away in space.

First and foremost, the largest Star/or could be a planet, speaks to me about the Bethlehem star that guided the 3 Wise men and the Shepherds in the fields to where baby Jesus lay. It seems to give so much hope for the future of mankind and the Heaven above. Even in this troubled time in some parts of our world today. God has gradually over the centuries, passed enquiring intelligent minds to scientists, that allow them to build on knowledge upon knowledge. What little we seem to really know and understand about our

world. Yet at the same time, we know, by diligently reading the Word of God and learning to understand it and have faith in His words; that there is so much more beauty yet for us to see. Our faith in the Lord our God, is paramount to us. He loves us always, each and everyone one of us. How blessed we are to be part of God's creation; give thanks to our Lord.

The Bible maintains that the universe is not a cosmic accident, but is part of a plan.

John 1:3 says about Jesus, 'Through him all things were made'. The world has intrinsic worth because God created it. Hebrews 1:3 says that he is 'sustaining all things by his powerful word.' In other words, God hasn't set the world off on a course of its own, and then left it all to fend for itself. He is not only the Creator, but the Sustainer. Furthermore, 'Creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay'(Romans 8:21)

As for us, God loves us and wants us to enjoy the future with Him. His condition is that we receive His forgiveness, since Christ died for our sins. The Apostle John was given this vision of the future: 'Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them... He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away"' (Revelation 21:1-4).

'The intention of the Holy Ghost is to teach us how one goes to heaven, not how heaven goes.'

Galileo

# OVERCOMING DIVISIVENESS. LESSONS FROM EMANUEL SWEDENBORG

Loving our neighbour is intending and doing good not only to our neighbours, friends, and good people but also to strangers, enemies, and evil people. But we exercise goodwill in our dealings with the latter in different ways than we do in our dealings with the former. We exercise goodwill in our dealings with our neighbours and friends by benefitting them directly. We exercise goodwill in our dealings with our enemies and evil people by benefitting them indirectly through our warnings, corrective action, punishments, and therefore efforts to improve them.

True Christianity 407

## Key Concept

Being loving toward people you like is easy, you treat them well and show them that you care, you do little things to help them or make them feel better, and so on. Actions like that are equally appropriate (if not more so) for people who you don't get along with on a personal level. But what about people who are actively hateful towards others, or even those who are engaging in criminal acts?

Sometimes the loving thing to do is to try to stop them from going down a bad road. This could involve not helping someone whose goal is to harm or to be destructive; not encouraging vindictive or hateful thoughts or actions; and perhaps having to report on someone who's involved in a crime – even if that person is someone you care about. Sometimes going along with someone in order to avoid a fight with them isn't the best solution for either of you.

We have as our goal whatever we love more than anything else. This is what we focus on overall and in every detail. It is within our will like the hidden current of a river that draws and carries us along even when we are doing something else, because it is what animates us.

What is loved above all is also something we look for and see in others, and something we use to influence them or to cooperate with them.

The way we are is entirely determined by what controls our life. This is what distinguishes us from each other. This is what determines our heaven if we are good and our hell if we are evil. It is our essential will, our self, and our nature. In fact, it is the underlying reality of our life. It cannot be changed after

death because it is what we really are.

What we love is the core of our identity; it determines everything about who we are. If you're wondering what this has to do with divisiveness, take another look at the previous paragraph: "What is loved above all is also something we look for and see in others."

In other words, the way we relate to other people is determined, first and foremost, by what we ourselves most value.

What do you love more than anything else?

The answer might be a specific person or thing, or it might even be an idea or principle. Now, take a step back to think about what that love represents.

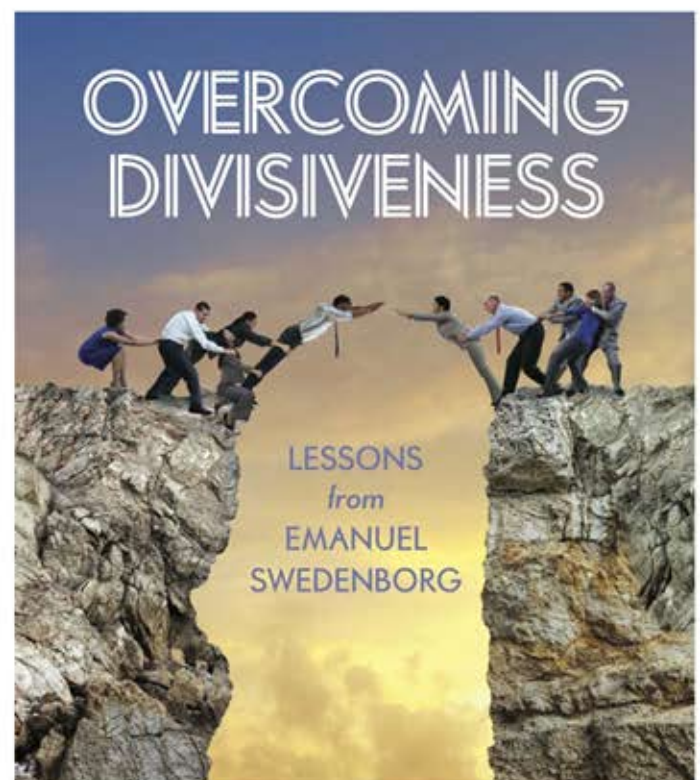
For example, maybe what you love above all else is family. What does family mean to you?

What are the qualities that you love most about family?

Think about the kinds of things you look for in others.

When you meet someone new, what do you ask them about?

What types of things make you think better or worse of a person? Based on your answers to these questions, would you say that what you look for in others relates to what you value most?



Passages selected and reflections written by  
MORGAN BEARD

# SUMMER WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Dear ladies, Does it feel like we just got home from our last women's weekend?

Yet here I am to invite you to our next women's weekend, already!

It will not be happening for a while yet, but it's official, it's booked: our next women's weekend will be happening Dec 9-11, 2022, again at The Tops (Stanwell Tops, NSW) - and again, fully catered!

For those unable to be at Stanwell Tops, the whole women's weekend will also be available via Zoom. We even had a Pilates session via Zoom as well last time. Please contact Jenn Beiswenger at Hurstville Church, or Carolyn Heldon for Stanwell Tops bookings for those living nearer.

Contact June for their details if you don't have them.

## GARAGE SALE & OP SHOP

**Saturday 3rd September** – 8 am to 12 noon. Put this date in your diaries.

This is being held in conjunction with the Garage Sale for the Estate. Other Garage Sales will be around the Estate as well. Items at our Church will be in the Church Hall and larger items and more general things in the Garage in the garden. Entry will be from the main entrance and take the entrance to the side for both Hall and Garage.

Car parking is available in our Church car parking area, via the side gate and driveway.

## ACTIVITIES

**Thursdays** 10.30am – 12.00pm, Coffee and Chat time. Welcome all. Computers for free access at the same time. Refreshments will be available.

## BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS ( AND STILL MORE BOOKS ! )



Michael Delbridge using his talent for display again.

Michael had bought up a very good variety of children's books, as he had become involved in the Ukrainian Association friends here in Adelaide. They were gathering books and any toys, to have a big sale for funds to send over to Ukraine.

On the day it had been organised and the Ukrainian Association hired a hall in their area to hold it. They had leaflets and signs printed; then sadly, on the actual day – they wondered why there were not any people attending. It was then realised that the leaflets and signs had the wrong date on them !

Thus, Michael was left with a huge collection of items he had acquired. With just a small unit that he resides in, these boxes of things crowded it so.

Michael asked if it was possible if he could perhaps have our Hall for a day; of course, we settled on which Saturday. Then Michael and one of the Ukrainian guys helped him that day. Then it all went ahead. I was fortunate enough to see all the displays before the actual day and was able to buy ahead a few books. Some really good and interesting books were there, offering a wide range of really interesting topics.

Lots of children's age range, plus some very good historical factual books too.

I'm sure there are still plenty of items that were not sold that day; perhaps we will have our doors open again soon – yes that means Michael's display talent will come in again.

Our Church is part of the Oaklands Residents Association, which includes many volunteers that take care of the Oaklands parkland and the wetlands reserve. With Marion Mayor and Councillors on the Board of the Association too, it is a really good one.

They are holding a residents 'open house' Garage/Op sale in September; of which we will be joining.



## INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

"I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Exodus 20.2

In this verse, Egypt stands for our natural life, and its delight in science and knowledge. And the house of bondage represents our captivity. How easily we become absorbed in natural things, giving to them our health, and the best of our days.

But the position should be reversed; spiritual life should control natural life, for the end of all our endeavour must be the Kingdom of God. How can we shake ourselves from the dust and be free? Only by remembering the Lord our God. He alone can break our chains and lead us home.

### **Prayer**

Quicken me, O Lord, for Thy name's sake: for Thy righteousness' sake, bring my soul out of trouble.

## 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

This is planned for 25th September 2022. The AGM will be at 12.15pm in the Church Hall, following the shared lunch after the Service. Notices for the Annual General Meeting will be forwarded in August to all Members and Proxy Forms will be sent to Members in advance for anyone unable to attend in person. Anyone is welcome to attend, even if it's just arriving at 12.15pm for the Meeting. Refreshments will be provided.

## OAKLANDS ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Our Church is a member of the Association; and it is many of the local residents in our area who look after and maintain the Oaklands Park Reserve, picnic areas and Wetlands. Stobie Pole Art is one of their artistic endeavours, creating picturesque panels to attach to the Poles. Each panel has a QR code and when a mobile device is placed against the code it brings up the OERA website.

## SERVICE DATES FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

**14th August** – Musical Traditional Service

**28th August** – Traditional, Holy Supper, and shared luncheon

**11th September** – Musical Traditional Service

**25th September** – Traditional Service, shared luncheon. Annual General Meeting 12.15pm

## BACK TO BASICS BIBLE STUDY

Back to Basics Bible Study: via Zoom with Rev. David Moffat; fortnightly on Monday evenings 7.30-8.30pm SA time. 8.00 -9.00pm Victoria (AECT) and Eastern States. We are in Genesis Chapter.

Please contact Rev. David Moffat for details and email details will be sent to you to join in.

Presentations are being planned to be held in Church Hall, can be accessed via Zoom if easier for you. Different Topics will be discussed. These really are quite enjoyable discussion sessions. The good thoughts and interpretations of the current Chapter are quite enlightening. Soon Genesis will be concluded; the next Chapter is in the process of thoughts and suggestions from participants. Contact Adelaide Church for details please.