



Candela

Newsletter of the
Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd.

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Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With a new year almost upon us, it is time for all members to reflect on what we want from our Association. Your local group convenors are now planning their program of events for 1996. Please think about what you would like to do in support of your Association and let your convenors know so that your wishes can be accommodated. Your support can range from the type of events you would like to attend through to the type of activities or resources where you can be of assistance.

Attendance at the Sydney Mind Body Spirit Festival over the past few days gives one plenty of food for thought. It is patently obvious that a great majority of people wandering around the 213 stands and exhibits at Darling Harbour are searching for something to satisfy their spiritual needs but do not know what it is that they seek.

Most of us tend to be lazy in our spiritual endeavours and so are attracted by the 'quick fix'. You only have to observe the popularity of the 'intuitive sciences' (or readers) stalls at this or any other 'New Age' festival to confirm people's wish for a 'quick fix' from others rather than accept some form of self responsibility.

The Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg provide a lot of answers needed by many of these people. But this requires time and effort in finding, then reading and understanding the Writings. Such time and effort is not a high priority for many in this fast, materialistic society of ours. Is this, and attendance at SAA meetings, a high priority for you?

(continued on page 8)

Gift Membership Certificate

Are you looking for that perfect present for a relative or friend who is interested in metaphysical/spiritual issues?

Your problem can perhaps be solved for \$35 (\$25 Subscription plus \$10 Joining Fee if the person is not already a member) by giving that person one year's membership of the **Swedenborg Association of Australia**. All you have to do is to write to the Hon. Secretary of SAA, enclosing payment, and details of the recipient. The certificate can either be forwarded to you or sent direct to the recipient with your compliments.



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Celebration of Spring 1995 Opening Address by Dr. Molly Peglar

I am delighted to be here tonight to participate with you in this Celebration of Spring. I was honoured to be asked to say a few words, particularly as it is a Celebration of Spring and the associated symbolism and correspondences.

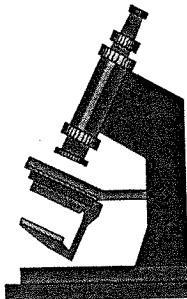
The programme promises us a joyful evening in which I am sure we will find new knowledge and inspiration. It will be full of interest for each of us and I would like to share with you tonight two particular interests that I have.

The first is my love of the garden. Spring is a very special time. It's a time of regeneration and new growth; a time to be at peace with nature. In the last few weeks when we've been enjoying the fantastic spring weather my family went walking in the Budi National Park, just up the coast. As we wandered along the path, through the gum trees with ferns and flannel flowers in the bush I was reminded of a Robert Frost poem "**The Road not Taken**" in which a traveller in a wood came to where two roads divided. The traveller had a choice - which one to follow? - and the choice was made to take - (and I quote) "*The one less travelled by and that made all the difference.*"

We are also told of a choice of paths in the Old Testament, when in Proverbs we find the instruction. "*In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.*"

We know from Swedenborg's Teaching that paths correspond to truths, "*and truths and goods cannot be acknowledged unless with those whose interior mind is opened*".

So a journey along a path in Spring opens up new meanings for us, and my journey brings me to my second interest tonight which is my work in the field of Bacteriology.



We use microscopes every day at work and I am reminded that one of the first microscopes was made by a Dutchman, Anton van Leeuwenhoek in the late 17th Century. Swedenborg visited Leeuwenhoek and then he also made a microscope with which he was able to study these "*animcules*" (as they were called) and observe this new microscopic world.

When using the microscope we don't always appreciate the correspondences we should ponder on, but an observation I would like

to share with you concerns my study of the staphylocoecal bacteria.

Bacteria can, by transformation, take in new DNA to add to their genetic composition. As DNA corresponds to a truth we can relate to this situation when we also take in new truths. The bacteria can store their new DNA as a separate particle in their cytoplasm - but in this form it can easily be lost during cell replication and growth - however the bacteria, can by means of a special genetic element - a transposon - insert this new DNA into their chromosome where it is less easily lost. We too want to be careful not to lose the new truths we acquire.

The bacteria now have a choice to either express this new knowledge or not - they can use this new knowledge to survive in an adverse environment, just as we can.

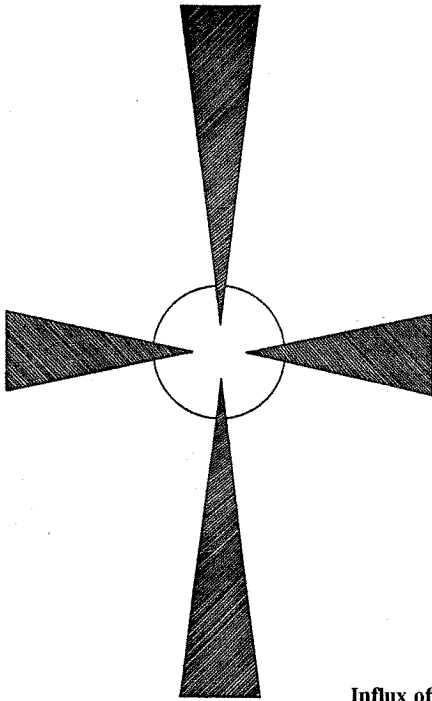
However once the bacteria have acquired the new information they still need special conditions to grow. Many require an influx of heat, which corresponds to love and charity, and a supply of oxygen or truth and knowledge.

As scientists today we can, with new molecular technology, visualise this DNA - the truth - we can identify different strains of the same species by the pattern of DNA they contain. To do this, we crack open the cell and extract the DNA and cut it into pieces with enzymes. This extract is then placed in a agar gel (in wells or holes) through which an alternating electric current is passed. In this field of energy the DNA pieces separate out into recognisable patterns, which can be seen under UV light - so the different strains of bacteria are identified. I often ponder then on how clearly our inner states must also be identifiable.

During the course of my work I've also been excited to recognise wonderful mandalas in the structure of many viruses, particularly the herpes and retroviruses - they are fascinating. The energy field used in the DNA separation work operates in a hexagonal pattern and I have used this mandala pattern to gain new insights which have enriched my life.

So as we join in this Spring Celebration tonight may we enjoy the experience, and may we gain new truths and insights that will enable us to grow as we make our journey along the path. Thank you. It is with pleasure I declare this celebration open.

Molly Peglar is Senior Lecturer, Infectious Diseases, Sydney University Medical School.



Influx of the Divine
by Michael Wright

1995 Celebration of Spring

As we sat down in readiness for the opening of the 1995 Celebration of Spring I can recall wondering "is it really twelve months since the last Celebration of Spring?". Actually, it was 53 weeks! About 90 (all seated on chairs this year) were warmly welcomed to the occasion by SAA President **Kevin Attwater**, after which he handed over the evening to the charming and vivacious hostess, **Deborah Kennedy**. Displayed around the rooms of the Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, were 30 works of art each disclosing much creative talent in expressing aspects of **Christian and Sufi Sacred Symbolic Processes**, this year's theme. These set the tone for the rest of the evening during which we were treated to a veritable feast of creative talent in the forms of monologue, music, movement and mirth.

In officially declaring the celebration open, **Dr. Molly Peglar** (Senior Lecturer, Infectious Diseases, Sydney University Medical School) brought her love of gardens and specialised knowledge in bacteriology to make some connections between natural and spiritual truths. Her talk is printed elsewhere in this newsletter and it is well worth reading in its entirety. Other informative short talks to explain something of the underlying symbolism within their worship patterns and rituals were presented by **Archbishop Aghan Baliozian** (Armenian),

Revd. Julian Duckworth (Christian - Swedenborgian) and **Ross Nassif** (Coptic). All three were well appreciated; perhaps a special word of thanks to Archbishop Baliozian who so generously gave of his time despite departing for an extended overseas trip the next day. His concluding story was very poignant, highlighting the need to love one another.

Music was provided in the form of classical Persian by a group of three talented instrumentalists playing traditional Persian instruments; and towards the end of the evening by **Pentala**, a choir of five singers, whose dulcet tones held the audience spellbound with a 12th Century chant, an Australian setting of Psalm 121, and their own composition *Harmonic Spirit*. Traditional Middle Eastern belly dances performed by **Kerry Taylor** brought a real flow of movement to the evening, and a contrast to the elegant and soothing movement of classical Persian dances by **Julie Miller**.

Monologue, music and movement came together in a segment devoted to the 13th century Persian poet **Maulana Jahal-up-din Rumi**. An introduction by Lynne Heir was followed with a reading of Rumi's poem *Song of the Reed* by **Marion Van den Driesschen**, accompanied by haunting sounds of a flute and the grace of a Persian dance. Mirth was provided during short breaks by two itinerant Middle Eastern gents, Mulla and Farook (alias **Lachlan Hinds** and **Joe Vandermeer**), who brought their own brand of distilled knowledge of Mohammedan theology and law to everyday situations - well, perhaps not everyday.

The 1995 Swedenborg Prize for Religious Art was awarded to **Kay Keller** for her depthful painting *Spring in Australia 1995*, incorporating meaningful symbolism. This work is now on permanent display at the Swedenborg Centre. The inaugural Swedenborg Prize for Original Research Literary went to **Lachlan Hind** for his dissertation *Essay on Swedenborg and Homoeopathy*. Congratulations were extended to these two winners but also to all who submitted work this year, the judges recognising the high standard of all pieces.

All in all the evening was a mystical experience for participants and audience alike. Thanks to all who helped in large and small ways towards the event's success, especially those who provided the supper and **Michael Wright** who for the fourth year did a marvellous job of co-ordinating all aspects of the celebration. A video of the evening is available for borrowing; just contact the Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde.

Neville Jarvis

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Tradition has it that on one occasion the Duke of Wellington was accosted by a stranger with the words, "Mr. Robinson, I believe!" The Duke's response



was brief and to the point. "Sir, if you believe that, you will believe anything!" Clearly, the "Iron Duke" did not agree with Paul's injunction to "suffer fools gladly".

I introduce this Christmas meditation with this anecdote because the Duke's reply seems to be indicative of the attitude of so many people towards the essential message of the true Christian religion: in particular as it is restated in the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg. The very essence of Christmas celebrations is that in the birth of "*the Babe of Bethlehem*" there was nothing less than the Incarnation of Almighty God: the fulfilment in time of all the prophecies given from the earliest days of mankind. And there are many people who say, in effect, "if you believe this, you'll believe anything".

Our familiarity with so many Christmas carols which are broadcast in shops and market-places from early November onwards conditions our minds into imagining that there was something very unusual about that night in which Jesus was born: a spirit of electrifying expectation! Yet this is surely a misconception: in overwhelming degree men went about their affairs as usual unconcerned about anything else but the census decreed by Caesar Augustus and the disruption this caused to their everyday lives.

And had we been among them what would have been our reaction to the story of that band of simple shepherds. They claimed, you will recall, that while they were tending their flocks that night they had both seen and heard a group of angels: these heavenly messengers had told them of the birth of a baby boy who was the long awaited Messiah: more than this, these angels had directed them to his very birth-place, a manger behind an Inn. It is recorded that "everyone who heard their story was astonished at what the shepherds had to say." What is involved in that word "astonished"? I think it is undeniable that many of those accosted by these shepherds would have said in effect, "if people believe this, they will believe anything".

Emanuel Swedenborg, writing of the decadence of the first Christian Church and of the promise or prophecy of the Lord's

Second Advent, makes a claim that is at the very least astonishing and in some ways parallel to that of these shepherds. He writes:

"Since the Lord cannot manifest Himself in person and yet He predicted that he would come and found a new church, which is the New Jerusalem, it follows that He will do this by means of a man, who cannot only receive intellectually the doctrines of this church, but also publish them in print. I bear witness that the Lord has shown Himself in the presence of me, His servant, and sent me to perform this function. After this He opened the sight of my spirit, thus admitting me to the spiritual world, and allowing me to see the heavens and the hells, and also to talk with angels and spirits; and this I have now been doing for many years without a break....In order that the Lord could be constantly present with me, He has revealed to me the spiritual sense of His Word, in which Divine truth is illuminated by its own light, and in this He is continually present...."

True Christian Religion 780,781

There have been - and there are - those who on hearing of this claim have "*gone to Bethlehem*": have been led to a new examination of the Sacred Scriptures to see what they really teach concerning the Lord and the nature and purpose of Divine Love. And, like those shepherds of the Christmas story, have praised and glorified God for all that they have seen and heard in these Writings. And, yet again, there are others who are quite astonished that anyone can be so simple-minded to accept this testimony of Swedenborg. They say, in effect, "if people can believe this, they will believe anything".

An unusual Christmas meditation, perhaps! Yet in many respects the essence of Christmas has become merely a question of showing goodwill to all people: of putting aside personal animosities and resentments for a brief period. And, in one sense, there is again no room in the Inn for consideration of a deeper understanding of revealed truth. I suggest that a true celebration of Christmas is not merely a matter of natural and emotional goodwill, but something that of necessity must involve the effort to enter more fully and more deeply into an intelligent and intellectual understanding of the things of faith. Today, no less than in the days when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, such understanding of Divine Truth is often passed by as of little account. It is considered as an adjunct to life, as the stable was an adjunct to the Inn. Yet it is in the quiet effort to understand Divine Truth more fully, and this because it is seen as the very expression of Divine Love, that the faith that saves is born and life becomes increasingly more meaningful.

Rev. Bernard S. Willmott



GROUPS NEWS

The North Ryde Swedenborg Association Group has continued with its two monthly meetings, being the Meditation Circle on the second Friday evening and the Guest Speaker on the fourth Friday evening. These have been most interesting and successful although it would be nice to see more support from the Sydney Members.

The North Ryde Group Committee is currently putting together a program for 1996 and it is hoped that this will soon be distributed for the first few months of the year.

The Melbourne Group has continued with monthly meetings. Topics during the past few months have included **Swedenborg Perspective** (Rev. Les Sheppard, Brisbane) providing a brief background to Swedenborg's life which prepared him for his scientific works and spiritual writings; **Is Man basically Good or evil?** (Rev. Trevor Moffat, Perth) dealing with the effects of ego on our life; and **A Selection of Spiritual Gems** (Rev. Julian Duckworth, Sydney) taking twelve short passages from Swedenborg spiritual teachings to show the rich diversity that it contains. This latter gathering departed from the normal arrangement of the last Friday in the month. It was held late on a Saturday afternoon and was followed by a shared tea and an evening of entertainment provided by some members of the Group. This occasion was very well supported and was enjoyed by all.

In Perth, the Group has started using the series of four videos of talks **Heavenly Secrets** (the Garden of Eden, the Ark, the Tower of Babel, Jacobs Ladder) given by Dr. Michael Stanley during his 1993 Australian visit. We hear that these videos have created a great deal of interest from the Group members, and prompted more reading of Swedenborg's **Arcana Caelestia**. That's great!

Kevin Attwater

1996 Swedenborg Birthday Meeting

Friday 26th January at 7.45pm

Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde

Special Guest Speakers:

**Drs. Stephen and Robin Larsen
New York**

1995 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1995 AGM, held on 12th August, 1995, was preceded by two short talks on the subject *How Swedenborg's Teachings have Affected My Life*. The speakers were **Waldis Jirgens** (Sydney) and **Mark Marchant** (Canberra). A third speaker, Michelle Salter, was unable to attend at the last minute. The 22 members and friends appreciated these presentations which came from two contrasting perspectives. A lively period of questions and discussion followed the talks.

The business meeting itself went smoothly with the Association Officers being re-elected for another term and **Michael Chester** (Sydney) and **Christopher Skinner** (Melbourne) being appointed to replace Revds **Terry Schnarr** and **Bernard Willmott** who did not stand. The meeting expressed sincere thanks to them both for their valuable input since the incorporation of SAA. It also recognised Rev. Bernard Willmott's original vision (Circa 1965) of an organisation such as the SAA coming into being. **It was decided that subscription rates remain unchanged for 1996.** The Treasurer reported a balance of funds of \$12,912 at 30th June, 1995.

The subsequent Board meeting in October covered a wide range of administrative detail in connection with the organisation, meetings and functions. Copies of Minutes of meetings are readily available; just contact the Hon. Secretary. We welcome new member Peter Politano (Beacon Hill, NSW),

Alexis Jarvis

1996

Summer

School

A family summer school is being held at Stanwell Tops (near Wollongong) between 15th and 21st January 1996 by the New Church with participants coming from most states. The programme includes talks, discussions, and workshops on spiritually related topics during mornings and some evenings. Afternoons are free for relaxation and recreation and social gatherings will also take place some evenings. Charges for the 6 day period - a time for learning, friendship and fun - are most reasonable. Further information/bookings - ring Ruth & Julian Duckworth on (02) 416 7026.

Discrete Degrees and Our Spiritual Growth

- A Swedenborgian Perspective

Kevin Attwater's talk in September at North Ryde was aimed at giving a rational understanding of our spiritual communication with the Divine and the processes of spiritual growth and re-birth.

The topic is a very important one. *"The knowledge of degrees is like a key for opening the causes of things. Without this knowledge, scarcely anything of cause can be known,.....Interior things can in no way be discovered unless degrees are known"* (Divine Love and Wisdom 184).

The presentation was accompanied by over 20 coloured slides of different levels within a person, presenting in a visual form the Doctrine of Discrete Degrees.

There were many key ideas presented in the well-structured lecture. **One of them was that to ascend from one level of life to the discrete plane above requires a new burst of life - equivalent to a new creation signified by the Scriptural 'new birth'.**

One of the wonderful aspects of the lecture was seeing how Kevin organised the topic. It was clear that he enjoyed researching the topic and presenting it in a very orderly way. Aspects covered in laying the foundation for the topic were the Chakra system, stages of a person's growth from infancy to adulthood, the doctrine of Influx (which is inseparable from the Doctrine of Discrete Degrees), and the spiritual significance of colours (to help the audience have a better appreciation of the slides).

The main part of the topic followed. It covered the different levels within the spirit and soul of a person, the Will and Understanding, the development of the soul and mind over time starting with man at birth and continuing through to infancy, childhood, youth and adulthood.

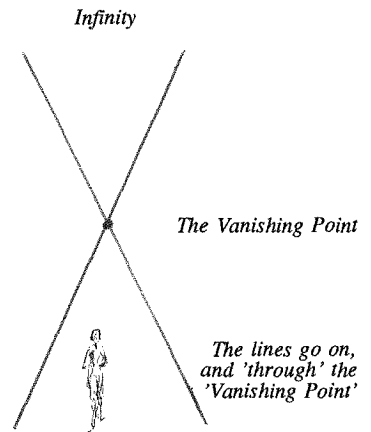
Three noteworthy points from the lecture were the following. The celestial degree is opened by those who immediately apply Divine truths to life, and who have no need to reason about the things of faith. The characteristic love of the spiritual man is the love of truth. And simple faith and obedience are the dominant characteristics of those in the natural degree.

A copy of this lecture, including all the coloured diagrams, is available at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, for anyone wishing to read it.

Michael Chester



The Vanishing Point



You know how when looking along a long straight road, or looking up straight railway tracks, they seem to converge into a point. Many years ago I was thinking about life after death, and the long road converging into a distant point - It occurred to me then, that through the vanishing point they open out again into infinity.

I have just noticed in Kenneth Ring's book **Heading Towards Omega** the case of a lady who had been an adopted child. She endeavoured to find her origin. One night she had a vision, and saw some written characters. After a NDE (near death experience), she discovered that the characters were Hebrew and translated they meant 'Beyond the Vanishing Point'. The incident is described on page 111. I immediately looked up my old psychic diary to meditate on the above sketch of mine.

· Valda Parkinson

Swedenborg writes in the work *Arcana Caelestia*, paragraph 5225:

"In heaven, angels attention is fixed not on persons but on Spiritual realities. For persons narrow an idea down and focus it on some finite thing, whereas spiritual realities do not involve any such narrowing down or focusing but spread to what is Infinite and so to the Lord."

Creation

*We know that in the beginning there was God;
The Word was God. God was the Word.*

*Love from God became the Creation.
In Genesis came the birth of self will.*

With self will was given the license to mankind.

*Blossoms burst on the burgeoning branches
Of knowledgeable, great, life-bearing trees.
Mountains heaved, seas became, seasons began.*

*Small creatures, insects blind
Came along, as did humankind.*

*Fish were finned and sleekly refined.
Feathered creatures learnt to fly.*

*Rays of Love soaked the Earth.
Waters fell from darkened clouds.*

*From the Angel that fell, causing many woes,
Serpents, evil, ranged through the
mountains high.*

*Growth progressed, some people flourished,
Showing ideals, mostly mean.*

*Minerals, glittering, eyes greedy,
Enslaving the needy, the poor, whipping
their hearts.*

*Glimmering light, the way to lead
To wisdom, from our God, for all.
He guides us with energies, mostly fairly,
Some nations left with hearts that care.*

*Starbursts, brilliant in night skies,
planets spinning in voids,
Beings, vibrant in the universe, bright.
Atmospheres glowing, blues, red and greens.*

*Spectres like fireworks easily displayed.
Comets shooting in violent arcs.*

Rainbows sliding over horizons deep.

*Evolution leaping forward to disaster.
Lost the need for God these days.*

*Time progressed and many came.
To save those that had began to stray.
Grouped together by a Man called, My Son.
He came to teach us once again, To Love.*

*Persecuted, but leaving a belief to be revived.
The message borne from so much pain.
Earthly creation IS our means to redemption.*

*Another birth, are we living?
In this world that Christ re-gave us.
He opened the hearts of so many.*

*Try to Love and nurture others.
Some are weak, some are stronger.
Look to the sins of our forefathers
And in this, may some of the answers be.*

As we started with the Love of our God.....

Diane Yates 1995

(accompanying one of three paintings entered
in the 1995 Celebration of Spring exhibition)

Swedenborg and Judaism



Last October 27th, I greatly enjoyed this talk given by **Jack Benson**. Far from the world of dollar and cents in which we know him to be the capable Treasurer of the S.A.A., Jack in his address demonstrated his great skill as a thorough and methodical researcher and as an enthusiastic and captivating speaker.

The talk was divided into two parts, the first being a history of the Jewish people, and the development of Judaism. The second part looking at Swedenborg, the influences he was under, and how this relates to his statements and perspectives on the Jews.

Assisted by maps and overview handouts, we were first led through approximately four millennia of Judaic history as seen from their point of view rather than from a Christian perspective. Jack began with the westward displacement of the Hapiru ("Hebrew") tribe out of Mesopotamia (Iraq) circa 2000BCE, which occurred due to pressure from the expanding Amorites. The historical Abraham, chieftain of the Hapiru, led his people toward the Mediterranean into Canaan. We then followed the chronological predicament of these people with the history of Jacob, Moses, Kings David and Solomon, and some significant prophets. Outside influences examined included the attack on Canaan from Assyria, exile under the Babylonians, subsequent freedom, and later conquests by the Greeks and Romans.

Jack paid the same careful attention to reviewing almost two millennia of history in our Common Era, with reference to the main Jewish events and characters. He commenced with the strands of belief that existed around the turn of the era and the way in which Yeshua (later called "Jesus") diverted from these. Jack then mentioned the destruction of the temple and of Jerusalem city by the Romans. This led to the dispersion of Jews, and their subsequent plight in Eastern Europe, England, Holland, Spain, etc, where they contended with the spread of Christianity and Islam, the effect of the French Revolution and of the Reformation, and even the recent holocaust. Meanwhile, revolutions in thinking were moulded by exceptional Jewish scholars, such as Maimonides and Spinoza. The structure and history of Jewish religious

literature were also introduced during which I was particularly interested to hear that the Kaballah ("Hidden Wisdom," the mystical Judaic literature) has as its central theme one that equates with Swedenborg's Grand Man.

The second part of the talk dealt with Swedenborg's time in Sweden, England, and Holland, and looked at the Jewish situation and at sentiments about the Jews in those countries. These were related to Swedenborg's comments on the Jewish people and their history, statements which appear no more or less critical than his observations of any other cultural group. Whilst some authors see Swedenborg's remarks as being anti-Semitic, Jack indicated that these could hardly be regarded as such. Emanuel was himself well versed in Hebrew, and even though he was most probably surrounded all his life by extensive anti-Jewish prejudice from Lutheran and Catholic Europe, he nevertheless showed a strong desire to seek out Jewish communities in the spiritual world (as reported in **The Spiritual Diary**).

Naturally, Jack would have liked more time to reveal lots of other interesting insights gleaned from his research. Maybe there will one day be a second instalment (or book perhaps?), although I am content that what was said invigorated my own enquiries. The evening was recorded on audio-tape for those who are interested. In all, I found it a fascinating talk that was enthusiastically presented. Many thanks to Jack for his fine efforts!



Joe Vandermeer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Contd. from Page 1)

The intensifying energies of the New Aquarian Age will change this but in the meantime we all need to look at our spiritual growth and at how we can help our neighbours to a better understanding of their growth and regeneration. With the combined intellectual capabilities of our Members it is an ideal hope that we can develop programs to facilitate the processes of spiritual growth and regeneration. Please let us have your thoughts on the promotion and achievement of these ideals.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I wish you all a most joyful Christmas and a spiritually uplifting New Year.

With Love and Light,

Kevin B. Attwater

Correspondence

"Although not a "Swedenborgian" in the proper sense of the term, I have nevertheless read much of his works and - with allowance made for the style in which he necessarily recorded his knowledge as the written word - accept and believe in the basic truths in what he tells us.

Of course, he wrote from the absolute conviction that only comes from personal experience ...something very different from "faith" that generally relies only on belief. It is understandable that neither is likely to "cut much ice" when conveyed to someone not yet ready to seek the real truth! However, I suggest that is something about which those with firm beliefs should not unduly worry.

I say that because we are all rather likened to individual islands separated from one another by a mist of materialism that only permits each to see the physical characteristics of the others and to form opinions as to what may exist within. It is quite certain that all will ultimately reach the point where a more spiritual approach begins to take shape and if that sounds a somewhat mundane way of seeing things it is because everything around us is transitory, and in a way only a kind of illusion.

As someone nearing the end of life here, but with that lifetime spent searching, I guess I have been fortunate to enjoy from a very early age, conviction brought by experience, and consequently been able to concentrate upon other aspects of "Life" rather than whether or not what we have here is all there is!!

If I may impose upon your patience a little more:- We make our entrance into this world by courtesy of our parents (and theirs before them ad infinitum) to become clothed in a kind of camouflage outfit put together by them, but made of a uniform material and cut to a standard pattern for all mankind that not only covers up but leaves little of our true nature apparent!

Because of the very nature of that material vessel which covers each of us, it also forms a kind of barrier between what we are and what we actually see and identify as ourselves. This barrier is not absolutely impenetrable but does require a great deal of application to get through.

Again because of it's nature, this barrier impedes and distorts our perception of all things that are generated by the mind before they can become transmitted to the brain

which is the activating medium in the materialistic sense.

The mind is the expressive voice of who and what we each really are, the brain only the physical organ by which physical thoughts are generated and transformed into action. That there have been - and are - those among us that manage to reach through the mind in a more direct manner and thereby get close to the truth that has always been known to us, is evidence it can be done.....and offers hope to us all that we can also do it if we persevere.

Of course, those who succeed must perform interpret, and express, what they then learn from the mind in such terms, and in accordance with such experience, as they understand.... hence the variations and even sometimes apparent contradictions that can cause their rejection.

That Swedenborg was among those who have opened the door to the mind and the knowledge that is to be found on the other side is undoubted but he is not alone!

In conclusion: One of the most wonderful powers bestowed upon man through his mind is that of creation.....and it has managed to filter through into our lives here on earth through our ability to think. All creation begins with the thought! Everything mankind has ever done or achieved started as a thought, and we can look around this planet and beyond today and see our creations all around us! But we should realise all this is material creation and not to be confused with anything elsewhat we create here is only transitory and not infinite."

Peter Bartlett, Wauchope NSW

Poem

To this view we stand looking
cartographic souls perplexed
at journeys meandering unmappable
searching out the meaning of it all
on the sea of existence
coursing the vaguely charted waters
of life and mind.

Risen on the wave swell of feeling
catching glimpses of a far bright shore
we are borne by deep currents of knowledge
towards the rock of enlightenment
thank God, safe haven from the
surging tides of our own humanity.

Kent Miklenda

(written while travelling throughout Europe)

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

"In the land of Israel there are two seas: One has fish in it and has vegetation around its banks. The water filling this sea is the water of the Jordan which flows on south. In the second sea there are no fish, and no vegetation grows on its banks. The water is unfit for human consumption. The river Jordan flows into both seas, yet the first is useable and the second is not. In fact, the second is called 'the Dead Sea'.

The difference is not in the source of the waters, but what happens later. The Jordan flows into the first, the Sea of Galilee, and the Sea sends the water onward it receives a drop, and it gives a drop. It constantly receives and gives, and so it is constantly fresh. The second sea, however, receives but does not give. All the water it receives it keeps. It releases nothing freely. The water is stagnant and because of this it sustains no life. It is truly a 'Dead Sea'.

For our Association to grow, we must all contribute to its work. Teamwork is very important and 'TEAM' is an acronym for Timing, Enthusiasm, Action and Momentum. The timing could not be better; enthusiasm is present and we must channel it to good use; the product of enthusiasm is action; and momentum is a must for growth."

These first few paragraphs are 'lifted' unashamedly from the annual report of a professional group which I came across at work. I kept a copy as I feel they are so relevant to the SAA. Every organisation needs input from its members whether it be at an executive level, by attending activities or simply by communicating with the committee as to whether or not the activities are relevant.

It is a very exciting time for anyone involved in what is broadly known as the Swedenborg movement and the possibilities for spiritual growth, both one's own and that of others, are endless. The greater the number of 'doers' the less each has to do and there is more time and opportunity for receiving.

The new year is an excellent time to show your enthusiasm for the Association, your support for the direction the Board has so far taken and your input on whatever level is amenable to you. I hope to see you at our January meeting.

Alexis Jarvis



Healing the Psyche

Those who came along on 24th November to hear Brian O'Neill talk on **The Spiritual Dimension in Healing the Psyche** experienced more of a workshop than a lecture. In fact the evening was a practical demonstration of the central point that Brian brought before us - the healing of the psyche process does not lie in knowledge but lies within the person, that is getting into touch with the inner love and wisdom processes. For too long those working in the mental health field have generally treated patients as objects - the "I and it" approach - rather than as "me and you" which is a process of connecting and relating to patients, enabling them to feel love. Brian's own discipline "Gestalt (literally meaning whole) psychology" is centred around the latter approach which, unlike mainstream psychology and psychiatry, has a spiritual component to it.

Brian explained how his introduction to the teachings of Swedenborg, via the books of Wilson van Dusen (also a Gestalt Psychologist), had set him off in a new direction in his work by recognising the influence of the spiritual world with those experiencing a state of altered reality bringing voices and delusions. Treatment must take this into account. He then invited us to experience something of our inner world and processes by leading a Guided Imagery. The sharing of experiences turned out to be quite fascinating and Brian used these, plus an extended question/discussion period to further show how getting in touch with inner thoughts and feelings can be of value to everyone as well as a necessary process for those working in the mental health field. Brian's relaxed style, infectious wit and the inclusion of movie scenes (he is a self-proclaimed movie buff) when added to his obvious love of his work, made the evening enjoyable and very helpful.

Neville Jarvis

QUOTATION TO CONTEMPLATE

Em: Swedenborg

With the Christmas season approaching, our thoughts turn to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ nearly 2000 years ago and what that event means for us, collectively and individually, today.

Swedenborg has much to say on the processes necessitating the incarnation and what the Lord achieved in those 33 years here on earth for our eternal welfare. In other places he also refers to the inhabitants of the other earths in this and other solar systems. However we understand what Swedenborg is conveying in these references, it does raise the question whether the Lord incarnated on those earths also, and if not, why not? Well, Swedenborg has got something to say about this in a short section of the book **Earths in the Universe**, paragraphs 113 to 122. Here are a few extracts from that section to think about:



"There are several reasons, about which I have received information from heaven, why it pleased the Lord to be born, and to assume the Human, on our Earth, and not on any other. The Principal Reason was for the sake of the Word, that it might be written on our Earth; and when written might afterwards be published throughout the whole Earth; and that, once published, it might be preserved for all posterity; and that thus it might be made manifest, even to all other life, that God did become Man.

In every other earth, Divine Truth is manifested by word of mouth through spirits and angels, as was stated in the foregoing pages, in treating of the inhabitants of the earths in this solar system. But this takes place within families; for in most earths the human race dwell distinct according to families; wherefore, Divine Truth thus revealed through spirits and angels is not conveyed far beyond the families, and unless a new revelation constantly succeeds, it is either perverted, or perishes. It is otherwise on our Earth, where the Divine Truth, which is the Word, remains in its integrity for ever.

It should be known that the Lord acknowledges and receives all, from whatever earth they may be, who acknowledge and worship God under the Human Form, since God under the Human Form is the Lord: and as the Lord appears to the inhabitants in the earths in an angelic form, which is the Human Form, therefore, when the spirits and angels from these earths hear from the spirits and angels of our Earth that God is actually Man, they receive that Word, acknowledge it, and rejoice that it is so."

PUBLICATIONS REVIEW

One of the benefits of SAA membership is a 20% discount on the regular price of nearly all books (excepting large sets), cassettes and tapes purchased through the various Swedenborg Book Centres around Australia. All you have to do when ordering in person, by phone or mail is to refer to your SAA membership. If you have not got a book catalogue and price list, you can get one from The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde. Below are titles which should be of interest.

Some Suggestions for Christmas Giving

For Daily Use

Daily Readings from the Word

by Reg Lang; 363 pages, paperback
Normal price \$14.00.
SAA Members price \$11.00

A nicely put together devotional book of selected quotations from the Bible for each day of the year, followed by brief commentaries drawn from Swedenborg, and ending with a short prayer. A very helpful book to keep on the bedside table to use at the beginning or end of the day.

For Inspiration

Celebrate Life

by Paul Zacharias; 84 pages, paper.
Normal Price \$4.50
SAA Members Price \$3.50

This is a book of meditations on the Bible and the works of poets and philosophers including Kahil Gibran, Dag Hammarskold, Martin Buber, Swedenborg and many others. Inspiring and stimulating insights are provided on a variety of topics, e.g. God, Marriage, Friendships, Vocations, Life After Death. A great book to carry around with you in a jacket pocket, briefcase or handbag.

For Spiritual Awareness

Angels in Action

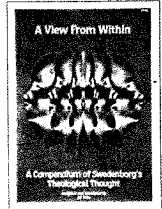
by Robert Kirven; 128 pages, paper.
Normal Price \$15.00
SAA Members Price \$12.00

"A very readable publication in which Swedenborg's visions and the meaning they can have in our lives are directly explained. Kirven presents Swedenborg's ideas and defends and promotes them in modern terms" **American Booklist**. "Remarkable details are revealed....most importantly how Swedenborg's visions honour a meaningful, loving, spiritual awareness" **Napra Trade Journal, U.S.A.**

For a Concise Appreciation of Swedenborg's Teachings

A View from Within

by Dr. George Dole;
140 pages, paper.
Normal Price \$12.50
SAA Members price \$10.00



In this book, George Dole presents the corpus of the teachings in Swedenborg's spiritual writings in a succinct way. Arranged in 10 chapter subjects, with each subject having various subheadings, the reader is presented with direct quotations from Swedenborg's works. Each quotation has been translated by George Dole into a modern and easy-to-read style. It is a fascinating, smallish compendium of Swedenborg's thoughts, from which all readers of Swedenborg can benefit.

For Reading just Swedenborg

Charity

- The Practice of Neighbourliness

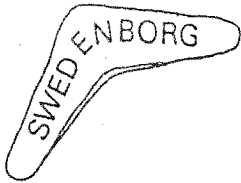
90 pages, paperback
Normal price \$11.00
SAA Members price \$9.00

This is a 1995 production of one of Swedenborg's smaller works, written around 1766 and left in manuscripts form. This edition is edited by Dr William (Bill) Woofenden and is attractively presented. It deals first with the inner religious life of the individual and progresses to the individual's responsibility to communities and nations. Today the customary usage of the term 'charity' means relief of material want. Swedenborg uses it to mean a spirit of caring or disinterested service, a heartfelt delight in doing good without thought of return - hence the subtitle '*The Practice of Neighbourliness*'. The book is a practical and inspiring handbook for compassionate living, providing the tools of responsible service.



To obtain these publications, simply write to the Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, NORTH RYDE, 2113 with your request referring to your SAA membership. Do not send any money; an invoice will accompany the book(s) including surface mail postage. Or phone your order on 02 888 1066.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



For Group activities, contact your nearest Group facilitator - Sydney region (Kevin Attwater on 634 7808); Melbourne which meets monthly on the fourth Friday evening (Chris Skinner on 435 8599); and Perth which meets in the evening on the third Sunday of every month (Allan Uren on 271 0226). It would be good to see additional viable Groups established in new areas. If you can help, contact Kevin Attwater.

As we go to press, all the local group activities for 1995 have concluded, except for the meditation evening at the Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, on Friday 8th December, and planning is underway for the 1996 year.

Reports on the various activities held around the country in the past few months are included elsewhere in this issue of **Candela**. A very interesting programme for 1996 has been put together by the North Ryde Group with topics ranging from correspondences (in various forms) and reincarnation to healing to sacred dance. A field day, two workshops and celebrations for Easter and Spring are incorporated into the programme, an outline of which will shortly be sent to all members (the North Ryde group recognises that some country and interstate members may want to coincide a visit to Sydney with an SAA function!)

The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre reports sales of about 200 books and 170 sets of Angel Quality cards at the recent Sydney Festival for Mind, Body and Spirit. As usual large crowds came through the doors and those on the Swedenborg stand were heartened to hear quite a number of visitors who were to some degree aware of Swedenborg's various contributions to natural and spiritual awareness. 2150 leaflets introducing the concept of Angels were handed out and many other leaflets were taken.

Masks of the Spirit - Swedenborg Birthday Meeting - 26th January 1996 with Dr. Stephen and Robin Larsen, Centre for Symbolic Studies, N.Y. [See Page 5.](#)

OBJECTS OF THE SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

a non-profit autonomous company:

- Promoting Emanuel Swedenborg as a scientist, philosopher and religious visionary through meetings, lectures, and other functions
- Making available information on topical subjects drawing on Swedenborg's own contribution to stimulate interest and discussion
- Establishing, operating and supporting branches around Australia
- Providing material for the purpose of maintaining local libraries

Everyone wishing to subscribe to these objects can take up membership. There is a once off joining fee of \$10.00 and an annual subscription of \$25.00 (concession rate of \$15.00).

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP include:

- + Ready access to pursuing areas of interest in Swedenborg through the availability of books, tapes, videos and films.
- + A free newsletter.
- + Participating in lectures, seminars, workshops and specific events.
- + A 20% discount at Australian Swedenborg book distribution centres.
- + Joining together as a group with other members living in close proximity.
- + A Swedenborgian based book, tape or video is sent to each financial member each year.

If you are interested in joining the Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd., contact the Secretary at the Registered Office: The Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113 (or telephone 02 - 871 1904) to obtain a membership leaflet.