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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The members of the orchestra tune up their instruments before the performance. Trumpets blow, saxophones, clarinets and french horns peal out mournful drones, and strings are plucked and bowed. It is painful to the ears and when the sounds die down a sense of enormous relief sweeps over one. The instruments though, are all in tune. They are in tune with the ineffable, the universal principle of harmony, the basis of all musical expression in Western civilization.

The conductor then enters stage left and brings all these diverse instruments into accord and each instrument is in accord with the others. It is often difficult to discern one instrument from another; all are one.

A Christian life is like the orchestra. There is firstly the attunement with the Divine where our instrument, our being, is brought into a harmonious state of love for the Lord. "The second is like unto it" when this state of love is shared with others just as the orchestra player blends his musical instrument with the whole. Each player is important and plays his or her part. Sometimes a player is only on "stage" for one brief cymbal crash but the player is no less important for having a brief appearance.

Swedenborg has said (*Divine Love and Wisdom* paragraph 358) that often scholars talk and write so much that they cease to use common sense. He uses the terms *intention* and *discernment* or *will* and *understanding* to identify the idea of attunement. It is useful to use different words and ideas. Let us see what it looks like using different words to define these ideas:-

LOVE	WISDOM	USE
Will	Understanding	Action
Heart	Lungs	Hands
Attunement	Comprehending	Application
Orchestra tune up	The score	Harmony
Love the Lord thy God	with all thy heart, soul and mind	Love thy neighbour as thyself

There is great disharmony in the world today as evidenced in the September terrorist attacks and when there is **disharmony** like this on a grand scale one must go back to *common sense* and avoid scholarly rhetoric of rights and wrongs. There is no common sense in the events we have been witnessing. It doesn't *feel* right or good, no matter which argument is put forward.

If ever there was a time for good will to all men it is now.

**Have a happy, safe and holy Christmas,**

Agape,

*John Brogan*

# *Revelation and the Missing Link*

by **John Brogan, President of the Swedenborg Association of Australia**

**REVELATION** is a very exotic Book, steeped in correspondences unlike any other. It is unique in having many references to numbers especially 7 and 12 and alerts us immediately to an underlying or second level of meaning. The numbers have meaning as correspondence but also it begs us to draw up this fantastic city as geometry. This will be the focus of this paper - the *Sacred Geometry of Revelation*.

In chapter 21 the City is measured and is 12,000 furlongs wide, 12,000 furlongs long and the length, breadth and height are equal. Then it says the height is 144 cubits (12 x 12) which is not 12,000 furlongs, so what does this mean? It is clearly pointing to *states* not dimensions. There are 12 gates and in chapter 22 the tree of lives bares 12 types of fruits, each yielded monthly, that is 12 times in the year.

Apart from twelve, the number most characteristic of the New Jerusalem is seven. There are 7 churches, 7 candlesticks, 7 stars, 7 angels, 7 vials, 7 seals, 7 thunders, 7 plagues and 7 spirits of God; the lamb has 7 horns and 7 eyes, the dragon 7 heads which are the seven hills of Babylon. Seven is the number of things sacred and mysterious. Seven is the beginning and end, the Alpha and Omega. Seven is complete.

Earthly time is divided into 7 days to the week, 4 weeks to the lunar month, 12 months to the year. So we can expect 12 and 7 to feature in the geometry.

Other elements are *Jerusalem, City, Church, Bride, Lamb*, and various precious *stones*. Anyone reading Revelation who does not have a feeling for correspondences would be very confused. Geometry, like art, has a sacred origin. As such it will be bound by the pattern of the creative force and above all we must seek this pattern so as to witness the true love which lies behind Revelation.

## **CORRESPONDENCES**

From the outset we are told the old Church was no longer relevant. The old church, 'Old Jerusalem', was founded on the Law of Moses but mankind had lost sight of the need to put these teachings into practice - hence the New Jerusalem.

With all that follows here, we should be aware of an archetypal pattern underlying all things. If one were able to reduce Revelation to the level of sacred geometry there should be a correspondence between Earth and the heavens. There is a "new heaven coming down to earth". In geometry this transformation from 'heaven' to 'earth' is shown as a transition of a circle corresponding to 'heaven' and a square corresponding to 'earth'. The transition is rendered by creating a square equal to the circumference of a circle, and known as 'squaring of the circle'.

**It is a curious fact of nature** that the moon and the earth are in a special relationship regarding their respective sizes and this same source provides the sacred numbers of Revelation. In the diagram below, the circles of earth and moon in their correct proportions are placed tangent to each other and each is framed within a square. The earth's diameter is 7920 miles and the moon's is 2160 miles so the perimeters of the two squares are: terrestrial 31,680 miles, lunar 8640 miles. If a circle is drawn with its centre at the centre of the earth and radius passing through the centre of the moon the circle so drawn has a circumference of 31,680 miles which is also the perimeter of the square containing the earth. By using the actual diameters of the earth and moon we have squared the circle exactly. The dimensions of the triangle are 2160, 2880 and 3600 miles and if divided by their highest common denominator 720 become 3, 4 and 5 - the Pythagorean triangle.

## **NEW JERUSALEM**

With this background we begin to trace the New Jerusalem from the description given in Revelation.

The Celestial city is 12,000 furlongs along each side. 12,000 furlongs = 7,920,000 ft; four sides = 31,680,000 feet. We are struck by the fact that the circle passing through the centre of the moon has a circumference of 7920 x 1000 ft or exactly 31,680 miles.

So Revelation is guiding us to the correspondence of the 'city' being the 'earth' on another dimension. We adopt the foot and furlong and draw the above earth / moon in feet instead of miles. Thus a circle of 7920 feet represents the earth and around the circumference are placed 12 'moons' of diameter 2160 feet., three to the north, three to the south, three to east and three to the west.

The twelve circles are contained within a twelve-sided figure which is very close to a regular dodecagon with each side 3264 feet long or 1200 MY (megalithic yards).

The perimeter of the whole figure is 14,400 MY (12 x 1200) and the area of the whole figure is 120 million sq. feet.

The twelve pearls at the gates of the New Jerusalem are the twelve lunar circles, the diameter of each being 2160 feet; but they are also the 12 fruits of the tree of life (as Swedenborg says, complete fruits of knowledge), 'one for each month' - that is, one terrestrial year.

By coincidence, 2160 years is the length of the Platonic month, the time taken by the sun to move through one complete sign of the zodiac due to the earth's wobble and the twelfth part of the Great Year which is 25,920 years. We are entering the constellation of Aquarius now.

## THE NUMBER SEVEN

*7 was esteemed holy and sacred and signifies a full state.*

We said that 7 should figure in our geometry. This is accomplished by drawing a 7 pointed star within the zodiacal circle and it will be seen that the points of the star accord with the points of the diagram, including the centres of three circles and two junctions of the square and the circle (see Fig. 3). This in spite of the fact that no one can draw a **mathematically** perfect heptagon, a secret which, as Madam Blavatsky said, has not yet been given to man.

The figures are difficult to grasp in a sitting. Let us see if we can reduce the detail to correspondences and have less reliance on the figures.

The 'Old Church' or doctrine which Moses brought to the people had become a dogma of disputed interpretation. In a sense it had become Truth without Love. The New Jerusalem came to earth from heaven, that is, it was of God. It had 'length' denoting *Good* and 'width' denoting *Truth*. It had a 'height' which denotes *the good and the truth of the church* (doctrine). Twelve denotes *all truth from good or all things of faith*. The numbers 12, 1200, 12000 etc mean the same and are different levels or are used for emphasis.

The entrance to the Holy City was by way of *Pearls of truth*, by which man is introduced into the 'church'.

Seven is a way of saying something is holy, whole or complete.

A seven pointed star is impossible to construct mathematically as mentioned above. A star, in the supreme sense, signifies *knowledge concerning the Lord*. This is a knowledge which can only be felt.

## CONCLUSION

It is a fitting note on which to conclude. A star with seven points, 'knowledge concerning the Lord', though indescribable and indefinable in human terms, nonetheless exists.

We began by saying there was a pattern or order to all things which is often doubted by our rational mind. The geometry of the New Jerusalem, if carried out by students themselves, will return to them a feeling of the Logos, the pattern of all creation.

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**The above article is the *Precis* of a talk given at the Swedenborg Association of Australia meeting in Melbourne during October 2001**

The Author acknowledges the work of John Michell in much of the above geometry.

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the talk including useful diagrams, please contact the Secretary of the Swedenborg Association at the Registered Office.

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

### New Members

We welcome

Valda Clarke (Killarney Vale, NSW); Ralph Cooray (Cheltenham, VIC); Henry Gill (Lismore, NSW); Carol Harrison (Worongary, QLD); Dianne Hollingworth (Sandringham, VIC); Geoff Howard (Tallangatta, VIC); Francis Mallett (Pambula, NSW); Jean Ross (Lawson, NSW); Karen Van Der Veen (Avalon, NSW)

to the Swedenborg Association of Australia.

The Board meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2001 had a long agenda with on-going Board issues, matters from the 2001 AGM and items coming forward for the first time. The President welcomed two of the new Board members - Michele Knight (Hon. Secretary) and Kirk Holst - to their first meeting. Due to distance, Kevin Attwater, who lives on Mount Tamborine in Queensland, was unable to be present but we are looking to overcome this deficiency in the future through use of video-conferencing techniques. Likewise, there is the potential for regular monthly meetings to be broadcast via the Internet.

The decision to produce the talk by Dr. Michael Stanley *Emanuel Swedenborg: Scientist, Philosopher and Theologian* in CD format primarily for distribution to members had clearly gained approval from the feedback received - a real encouragement for the Board. The Directors also agreed upon a completely revised Membership Form for wide distribution.

Time was spent on what assistance can be provided to Groups, especially new ones, this discussion being sparked by the expected launch of a Gold Coast Group early in 2002. The North Ryde Programme for 2002 was given shape.

Michael Chester has assumed responsibility for maintaining the web page so if you have access, remember to take a look at it from time to time ~ <http://www.swedenborg.com.au/saa>.

Three of our members have undergone or about to undergo major heart surgery. Thankfully, Jack Benson and Ron Yates, both living in the south-eastern corner of Queensland, have made rapid recoveries. Geoff Howard of northern Victoria, following exploratory techniques, awaits full surgery so our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family for a very successful outcome. Early in the year it was Brian O'Neill's (Wollongong) turn for heart by-pass surgery; he too came through with flying colours. Altogether a high percentage of such operations in one year among the members of a small organisation!

The next Board Meeting is on Tuesday evening 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2002. Any member is welcome to attend and contribute, so if you live in the Sydney area and are interested, ring me on (02) 98881066 during the day to confirm details.

*Every man as to his spirit is in some society - in a heavenly society if he is in the affection of good, but in an infernal society if he is in the lust of evil. Man does not know this while he is living in the world, but nevertheless as to his spirit he is in some society; otherwise he cannot live... If he is in an infernal society he can only be led out of it by the Lord according to the laws of His Divine Providence, one of which is that he must see that he is there, must desire to go out and must himself endeavour to do this of himself. This he can do while he is in the world, but not after death, for then he remains to eternity in the society in which he has placed himself while in the world. This is the reason why man is to examine himself, see and acknowledge his sins and repent, and afterwards persevere right on to the end of his life.*

**Divine Providence 278:6**

**Michele Knight**, Secretary.



## **GROUP'S NEWS**

### **North Ryde, Sydney:**

Around 10-15 people gather together each month to study Swedenborg's *Divine Love and Wisdom*. Julian Duckworth facilitated most of these meetings which concluded on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

In July we focused on particular selections from Paragraphs 173-247 which deal with the structure of Creation and Discrete Degrees. One way this was illustrated was the two levels of being, Divine and Human.

In August there was an *Introduction to Swedenborg* with Rev David Ayers giving an uplifting presentation on 5 key areas of Swedenborg's teachings. These were The Lord, The Word, Life, The Afterlife and the History of Churches on Earth.

In September an evening focussing on renewal to coincide with the beginning of Spring was presented. The main event was a play recounting how evil came into the world. The evening started with a multimedia presentation on Creation by Neville Jarvis which set the scene for the play. Other activities on the evening were a guided meditation by Ruth Duckworth, and discussions between the people who came to the evening. It was all concluded with a delicious supper.

In October we returned to *Divine Love and Wisdom* and focused on Chapter 4 which covered the process of Creation. The flow of Divine Love touches everything that comes into being:

*'For man cannot do good from himself, but from the Lord, and good is what is called use. The essence of spiritual love is doing good to others, not for the sake of self but for the sake of others; infinitely more is this the essence of Divine Love.'*  
paragraph 335

In November we covered Chapter 5 which focused on the goal of Creation and how our will and understanding were created to be receptacles for Divine energies to become manifested at this level of Life.

In December we reviewed the whole of *Divine Love and Wisdom* to bring the year's work to a completion.

A core group of people turn up to these meetings, together with others who come for a particular theme. The people expressed appreciation for the efforts made in preparing these meetings, for the lively presentations that are given and for the opportunity to be involved in discussions.

**Michael Chester**

### **Melbourne:**

The speaker at the July meeting was Gordon Dobbs on the subject of '*Meditation*'. Gordon gave a background on the very forms of meditation and the benefits that are felt from using meditation. A practical meditation was included for all there to make use of. It was a well attended meeting with 20 present.

We were pleased to have Rev Kiyoshi Kawazawa, speak to us in August on the subject of *Nature & Spirituality*. Although not connected with the Swedenborg Movement he gave a very interesting talk on environmental farming using organic methods and showed how nature reflects our own spirituality. The attendance on this occasion was 18 and the evening was enjoyed by everyone.

Our speaker in September was Rev John Teed who spoke on the topic of *A Vengeful and Loving God* looking at the appearance of an angry God of the Old Testament compared to the actuality of a loving God. The talk was very much enjoyed by the 12 there.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October our speaker was John Brogan, President of the Swedenborg Association from Sydney. The topic of John's talk was *Revelation - The Missing Link*. Using his knowledge of Sacred Architecture, Mathematics and Astronomy, together with his skills as a professional Architect, John wove together links between the correspondences of numbers and measurements in the Book of Revelation, which show how our spirituality is expressed in the text of Revelation and also reflects ancient wisdom. John was quite happy to answer questions as the talk progressed. As a result of the wide ranging nature of the subject matter, questions covered many aspects of the topic. The talk was very well received and we had a very good attendance of 22 in spite of some of our regular members being away. Included in this number were 9 new people, one of whom had recently become a member of the Association.

The last meeting of the year was held on a Saturday evening 24<sup>th</sup> November and included a shared meal to give those present ample opportunity to have fellowship together. The programme comprised a showing of the video *Splendors of the Spirit*. At the halfway point of the film Chris Skinner gave a talk which drew together the strands featured in the film on Swedenborg's teachings. He highlighted the harmony of creation and spiritually contained in the major works quoting from *Arcana Caelestia to Heaven and Hell to Divine Love and Wisdom* and demonstrated how these can be linked to the biblical text. The attendance was 16 which included some Swedenborg congregation members and two new visitors. The sharing experience was enjoyed by everyone.

**Chris Skinner**

Wanted

## Contributors to Candela

*As Candela Co-ordinator, I would be absolutely delighted to receive from any member or reader of Swedenborg's spiritual teachings an item to share with other readers. It can be*

- ◆ *an article on some spiritual/practical/topical issue on which you would like to have your say;*
- ◆ *a personal 'testimony' on how you found Swedenborg and his spiritual writings, and the impact that has made on your life;*
- ◆ *a book review - either directly Swedenborg-related or pertinent to aspects which expand understanding of a dimension to life;*
- ◆ *a favorite quote from Swedenborg;*
- ◆ *a letter commenting on something you have read in the current issue;*
- ◆ *report on an SAA activity you have attended.*

*There is an upper limit of 1,000 words for articles ~ within that you can make your contribution as long or as short as you wish. Even a brief couple of sentences would be really welcome.*

*So put that pen to paper or turn on the computer and start writing please. Then send or email it to me at the Registered Office (see front page). I eagerly await a good flow of material.*

*Thanks.*

*Neville* (Neville Jarvis)

### **Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd. Directors**

The Annual Meeting in August appointed the following people to the Board for the 2001/2002 Year:

John Brogan, President

Michele Knight, Secretary

Louise Brogan, Treasurer

Kevin Attwater

Neville Jarvis

Julian Duckworth

Wayne Kasmar

Kirk Holst

Bronwen Kretz

To give members some idea of the "faces" behind these names, over the next few issues we will feature Directors with brief autobiographical sketches. We begin with our brand new Secretary and one of the latest appointees.

### ***The Sound of Water in the Ears of the Thirsty***

*The real work belongs to someone who desires God*

*and has severed himself from every other work.*

*The rest are like children who play together until it gets dark for these few short days.*

*Or like someone who awakes and springs up, still drowsy, and then is lulled back to sleep by the suggestion of an evil nurse:*

*'Go to sleep, my darling, I won't let anyone disturb you.'*

*If you are wise, you, yourself, will tear up your slumber by the roots, like the thirsty man who heard the noise of the water.*

*God says to you, "I am the sound of water in the ears of the thirsty;*

*I am rain falling from heaven.*

*Spring up, lover, show some excitement!*

*How can you hear the sound of water and then fall back asleep!"*

**Rumi: Mathnawi VI, 586-592**

(Translated by Kabir & Camille Helminski)

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A Poem read by Michael Chester at the North Ryde  
Celebration of Spring 2001 evening.

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## *Michele Knight*

At the Annual General Meeting of the Swedenborg Association of Australia, held at the Swedenborg Library on 3<sup>rd</sup> August of this year, my nomination for the role of Secretary was received, and to my great delight, accepted by the members. Since that time, and with the support and guidance of the retiring Secretary Michael Chester, I am proud to say that I have achieved a number of personal milestones. To begin with, I have successfully mastered the complicated maze of the Association's membership database, a daunting task indeed when initially confronted with the Excel program in Windows! I have become a whizz at completing various legal documents and of course, am fully conversant with taxation requirements, legal standards and business principles associated with the running and maintenance of a registered company.

Suffice to say, that while my new role brings with it certain duties and responsibilities necessary to fulfil the official role of Secretary, it also brings with it something else. It brings with it a wonderful opportunity to contribute my time, effort and enthusiasm to a body of people of like-mind and spirit, all of whom hold within their heart a great love and appreciation for the spiritual philosophy of Emanuel Swedenborg. Swedenborg's contribution to humanity is a priceless gift that can never be underestimated. In a sense, his writings act as the key that unlocks the door to the internal significance of the Bible. Through a study of the language of correspondences, the individual begins to see that the parables are in fact encoded messages, soaked with spiritual truth, meaning and instruction and that when deciphered, understood and applied, enable the adept to successfully chart and navigate a course that will steer them through the great drama of life toward their goal's end.

It is a privilege to become one of a collective, in short, to become part of a very special community of people who are united by both their love for Swedenborg and in their efforts in promoting and encouraging an appreciation of Swedenborg's philosophy within the wider community.



## *Kevin Attwater*

Discovering the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg at the first Sydney Body Mind and Spirit Festival brought a wonderful new dimension to my spiritual awareness. Hence with great fascination I have used the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg to develop a deeper understanding of our spiritual reality and various "New Age" modalities in their application to a more harmonious balance of our Body, Mind and Spirit.

Over the past 4 years I have increased my spiritual awareness and understandings of the Swedenborgian philosophy by studying with the Australian New Church (Swedenborgian) College. This enabled me to develop a better understanding of the Word, the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg and of my own regeneration and spiritual growth processes.

After standing down from the SAA Board at the August 1998 AGM in accordance with the Constitution, I relocated my family to Mount Tamborine, Queensland. This required a concentrated effort to settle my family into a new environment, into a new home with an extensive garden, new schools and new employment for me with Gold Coast City Council.

While living in Sydney I experienced being in the centre of activity of the SAA in North Ryde as the inaugural President and more recently I have experienced the contrast of being remote from any SAA activities.

So after three years of being remote from the SAA and other group activities and consolidating myself in Queensland I feel it is time to emerge from my "Egypt" of knowledge gathering and to start sharing the wonderful Swedenborgian philosophy again with other spiritual searchers. Thus Jack Benson, the inaugural SAA Treasurer and myself are starting up a new branch of the SAA on the Gold Coast in February 2002.

With this thought in mind, I was delighted to be invited to rejoin the Board again at the 2001 AGM. This will provide an authority and strong support from the Board in our efforts to start up the new Gold Coast Group. By rejoining the SAA Board as a remote Member I sincerely hope I can bring to it an empathy with all SAA members that will help me to work with the Board to promote and achieve the objects of the Swedenborg Association.

So when visiting the Gold Coast please feel free to make contact with me for a chat over coffee or even to join in with one of our meetings (ph: 07 5545 2401 or email: attwaterk@bigpond.com.au).

# THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH (CHRISTMAS)

(with quotations from The Word and Swedenborg's spiritual writings)

## THE PROPHECIES

### Why?

*Arise, shine, for your light has come . . .*

*See, darkness covers the earth, and deep  
darkness the peoples. But the Lord  
rises upon you and His glory appears over you.*

Isaiah 60:2

*'Darkness' is when falsity exists in  
place of truth and 'deep darkness'  
when evil exists in place of good i.e.  
hatred exists in place of  
neighbourliness*

Arcana Caelestia 1860

### How?

*The Lord Himself will give you a sign.*

*Behold, a virgin shall conceive  
and bear a son, and shall call*

*His name Immanuel, God with us.*

Isaiah 7:14

*Jehovah God came down and took  
upon Himself the human form in  
order to redeem and save mankind.*

True Christian Religion 82

### Where?

*But you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though  
you are little among the thousands  
of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth  
to me the one to be ruler over Israel.*

Micah 5:2

*The Lord was born a spiritual-celestial  
man to the end that He might make  
His human divine according to order  
from the lowest to the highest .  
'Ephrathah' meant the spiritual of the  
celestial* Arcana Caelestia 4594

## THE ARRIVAL

### The Announcement

*At the end of a Church (spiritual  
dispensation) the coming of the  
Lord Himself, as to judgment and  
salvation, will be proclaimed.*

Apocalypse Explained 612

*The angel said to the shepherds "Do not be  
afraid for I bring you good tidings of great  
joy . . . For there is born to you this day in the  
city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2: 10, 11

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### The Searchers

*Among some in the East there  
remained ancient wisdom . . . They  
knew the Lord would come into the  
world when a star appeared to them.*

Arcana Caelestia 9293

*Behold, the star which they had seen in the  
East went before them til it came and  
stood over where the young child was.*

Matthew 2: 9

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### The Word

*The Lord Himself teaches that  
Jehovah's glory is the Lord in  
respect of Divine Truth emanating  
from His Divine Good, which is  
Jehovah or the Father.*

Arcana Caelestia 9293

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among  
us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as  
of the only begotten of the Father, full  
of grace and truth.*

Matthew 2: 9