



## Issue Theme ~ *Becoming Angelic*

### **CHRISTMAS MESSENGER**

Dear Reader,

- co-seeker and adopter of what is good and true

Popular culture sometimes skews what is real and true. One example that comes readily to mind is what people think of angels. Those who do believe in their existence may consider them a separate creation to ourselves, or might believe them to have halos or wings. What would a Leonardo da Vinci or Botticelli religious painting be without wings on their exquisite angels and cherubs?!

Looking through history for early evidence of ideas may assist in clarifying the confusion. One example is Saint John Chrysostom (also known as John of Antioch), a Greek scholar born in 347AD who was an early church father and Archbishop of Constantinople. He explained the significance of angels' wings as follows:

"They manifest a nature's sublimity. That is why Gabriel is represented with wings. Not that angels have wings, but that you may know that they leave the heights and the most elevated dwelling to approach human nature. Accordingly, the wings attributed to these powers have no other meaning than to indicate the sublimity of their nature."

Studying word origins sometimes provides similar clues, eg, the Greek word for angel is *ἄγγελος* (angelos) meaning *messenger*.

We could also look into mythology for some indications or comparisons of ideas. For example, the Roman god Mercury (most of whose characteristics were borrowed from the Greek God Hermes) was considered the messenger god and god of commerce and a guide to the dead, who makes swift flights from place to place, nimble as quicksilver. He was equipped with wings on his heels and hat to indicate his swift flight. He carried a caduceus, Apollo's gift to Hermes or Mercury.

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*Two copies of this Newsletter are being sent to members as usual, the second for giving away.*

The caduceus was a winged staff with two entwined serpents forming a double helix, which since early last century has become confused with the rod of Asclepius, a symbol for medicine having no wings and only one snake. This is another example of confusion creeping into popular understanding.

The Latin name for Mercury is *Mercurius*, which is related to *merx* meaning 'merchandise'. We can compare this to similar words like *commerce* or *merchant*.

The planet associated with the Roman god Mercury shares the same name and because that planet is so close to the sun (representing the Divine) means its 'year' is very brief. From our earthly perspective Mercury seems to dart back and forth rapidly near the sun.

The element in the periodic table which has a quick motion and is therefore hard to catch, is called Mercury, named after that god for its similar properties. Hence the other name for that element: *quicksilver*.

\*\*\* continued on page 2 \*\*\*





## FROM THE PRESIDENT (contd)

Anyhow, it's easy enough to fantasise and speculate on things that are not easily confirmed. So what of the truth on angels?

Not until I encountered Emanuel Swedenborg's description of the heavens did I feel satisfied I had found a true account on angels. He says he met them personally. Yes, I acknowledge that the belief – or not – of what one reads in Swedenborg or any other account is indeed a very personal decision based on your own reason, so naturally I can only speak for myself in expressing this feeling of satisfaction. I have always remained grateful to Swedenborg for documenting his experiences and encounters so carefully, faithfully and impartially, because I feel it saved me an enormous amount of time and effort getting side-tracked with misconceptions and misunderstandings when investigating such phenomena, instead allowing me to hone in on the 'meat in the sandwich'.

Swedenborg indicates how easy it is for learned individuals to close off contact with the real heaven due to the adoption of - or fixation on - so many false notions, fantasies and distractions. There was even a time when a learned council calculated how many angels could fit on the head of a pin. We should examine all of what we believe, even with the risk that we might end up swimming against the stream of popular culture.

Swedenborg clearly indicates that angels (we might also call them *Saints* or *sacred individuals*) are the same as you or me, starting out life as individuals in this same natural realm as us, but who have worked tirelessly on perfecting themselves to render some form of joyful service and use to the rest of creation, doing whatever occupation they enjoy best.

*... so far as a person does good and believes truth as if of himself, he is an angel of heaven. ~ True Christian Religion para. 621<sup>10</sup>*

The announcement of the theme for this *Candela* in the last issue summed it up very aptly:

*People are born to become angels.*

*~ Swedenborg: Heaven & Hell para. 416*

We participate in this process all our lives. We can come to understand it, experience it directly and indirectly, and begin to show it through our thoughtfulness and actions. But listening to the good, positive counsel which comes from higher and inner sources is an invaluable part.

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Please Note: The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributor and do not necessarily reflect any particular position of the Swedenborg Association of Australia or its Committee.

Membership of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. is open to anyone who wishes to pursue an interest in Swedenborg, the man, his science and his spiritual teachings.

For details on how to join, please refer to page 12.

Swedenborg also indicates the sun is a correspondence for the Divine. Our sun's light is the source of all that grows, provides illumination by which we can see things, and its heat provides us comfort. That light and heat in turn correspond to the truth and good that flows from the Divine.

I therefore feel that the winter themes we often encounter through Christmas decoration in Australia seem a bit inappropriate. A better Australian choice might be the sun and sunlight, particularly the rising morning sun, that depiction of the dawning of our recognition of the Divine.

I hope you enjoy this lovingly penned issue as well as your summer Christmas holidays. May you find a little time to ponder the deeper meaning of those rich correspondences of the events we celebrate this time of year.

*Joe Vandermeer*



## Angels in Training

by David Moffat

When I began writing about angels in 2005, my intention was to address the common desire to meet them. It was probably about ten years earlier that I became aware of that interest, and since then many authors have tackled the question with Emanuel Swedenborg's work as a starting point. After all, his writings contain particular insight into the being and nature of angels, due to his daily contact with inhabitants of the spiritual world.

Swedenborg's understanding is not a particularly glamorous one. Unlike the advertisements placed in our newspapers by New Age gurus and psychics, he does not promise that his reader will see an angel, nor provide any magic formula or series of steps guaranteeing a spectacular spiritual encounter. However, the basic principles are readily understandable, and available to all. So, while you may not shake hands with an angel after reading Swedenborg, you can certainly bring yourself closer under the influence of angels by practising what he recommends to us.



What Swedenborg offers this whole arena of thought are two quite startling insights. Firstly, *angels are human beings: people who have lived on earth, died, and now live in heaven*. This presents us with the intriguing possibility of becoming angels ourselves. Secondly, *the processes by which we strengthen the influence and protection of angels are the very same ones by which we become angelic*: the nurture and development of angelic qualities within ourselves which Swedenborg describes as regeneration.

While the real need to grow spiritually as a human being may be understood by some New Age practitioners, it is certainly not an understanding I derive from the advertisements. Asking "how can I meet an angel?" is to pose the wrong question, because it deals with the symptom not the cause. But it's the right one in the sense that we often deal with symptoms - perhaps my desire to meet an angel might lead me to begin a spiritual journey, in the same way pain urges me to visit a doctor or actually do something about my physical health.

In order to proceed, then, let's assume that we've all come to realise our need of becoming more angelic. So, just what are the character traits we are to develop?

It's easy enough to ask what angels are like. One short brainstorming session during a 2005 workshop yielded over 50 descriptive terms and phrases. We all have our own ideas of what an angel would be like, and we can begin our journey to angelhood by turning the question on its head as Jesus was wont to do. When asked, "And who is my neighbour [. . . who I am commanded to love]?", he responded, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:25-37). In other words, *be* a neighbour to him whose spiritual life depends upon it.

Before examining Swedenborg's descriptions, it is appropriate to sound a warning. The states recounted here are ideal ones. While I find some of them easy enough to implement, others seem well nigh impossible. Still others might be easy to carry out *in theory*, yet they ask something of me I find difficult in myself - perhaps letting go of an attachment or habit, or on the other hand performing some use I regard as abhorrent or frightening. But impossibility is no reason to quit any endeavour, and I find myself encouraged to realise that angels only tend towards perfection, they never actually achieve it. The only failure, then, is the failure to try.

We begin our brief survey with some of the familiar ones, especially the biblical injunction to love the neighbour. There is plenty of evidence in Swedenborg's work to show that angels carry this commandment out to the letter. They are embodiments of this decree. Another familiar idea, at least to regular readers of Swedenborg, is that of performing uses. These are popular, well accepted ideas we readily associate with angels. While they don't need to be defended to anyone, the day-to-day practice of these ideals becomes somewhat more problematic, something Swedenborg recognises in his detailed discussions of these topics. They are also remarkably mundane: who would have thought that we could find training for heaven (or angelic presence and protection, for that matter) in the interactions we experience and endure at work or in the supermarket?!



Angelic innocence is an intriguing topic, and sometimes difficult to grasp. Angels are said to be innocent, but it is not the innocence of children. Angelic innocence stems not from ignorance but from the full knowledge of evil and the choice for good. Heavenly innocence has nothing in common with the familiar definition (of 'not guilty' - having never committed a crime); rather it is a state of being 'harmless' in which crime will not be committed, ever. An angel might, once upon a time, have committed serious offences of all kinds, but had that historical guilt pushed aside through repentance and the power of the Lord. What is essential to this state is recognising the potential for evil which lies dormant within each person, and our dependence upon the Lord, who is heaven, to hold those tendencies at bay.

There is much in the way of practical advice to be gleaned from Swedenborg's work on the subject. His statement that

"angels . . . decline any thanks offered them for the good they do"

*Heaven and Hell*, paragraph 9<sup>3</sup>

is one thing we can all practise at a natural level, even though it may take some years for the truth of it to sink in.

When we find ourselves in situations of conflict with others, we can remember that

"angels never attack ... only ward off and defend"

*Arcana Caelestia/Secrets of Heaven*, para. 1683 and modify our reactions accordingly.

Similarly,

"those who have charity hardly notice the evil in another person, but instead notice all the goods and truths that are his; and on his evils and falsities they place a good interpretation. Of such a nature are all angels, it being something they have from the Lord, who bends everything evil into good."

*Arcana Caelestia*, para. 1079 [end]

These are principles I can apply now, and often there seems to be no end of conflicts providing the context in which to do so. But one of the passages which serves to remind me just how far I have to go, is this one from *Arcana Caelestia*, para 2077<sup>2</sup>:

"To save a soul from hell the angels think nothing of giving their own lives; indeed if it were possible they would suffer hell themselves in place of that soul."

One day I may be called upon to live up to that one, but in the meantime it serves to remind me that my purpose here and now is to practise the kind of love which knows no boundaries, and to serve without holding anything back, even the little prejudices and wounds I cherish. It speaks to the experience of temptation, described in one passage as a fight to the death between the two sides of my nature (*Arcana Caelestia*, para 8403<sup>2</sup>) and reminds me of Jesus words, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." (Matthew 16:25)

Few religious topics engender as much excitement as angels in our present world. Through the pages of Swedenborg's spiritual work we glimpse our eternal goal, the angelic life latent within each of us. I can only recommend a detailed exploration of the whole subject to anyone wishing to enlist in the heavenly boot camp.

**David Moffat**, a member of the Swedenborg Association of Australia, lives in Canberra with his wife and three children. He works as a music teacher and is also the honorary Minister to a Swedenborgian congregation in ACT



## **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Angels**

**Jay Stephenson, Ph.D.**

Alpha Books, 1999

(ISBN 0 02 862941 8)

A plethora of books about Angels have been issued over the past three decades, some referring to what Swedenborg experienced and wrote. In this book of over 400 pages, aimed at the New Age market, there are several pages devoted to Swedenborg and his descriptions of angels, offering a very simplistic but informative introduction, including the following:

*According to Swedenborg, although God is the source of love and wisdom, he did not create the angels. Instead, they evolve from the souls of deceased human beings who attempt to return to God. After death, they wind up in one of the heavens and any of various angel societies where they lead busy, active afterlives discussing intellectual and theological issues and guiding living human beings.*

If unavailable through your local bookshop, a copy can be obtained on the web via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)





## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### Membership

It is with great pleasure we welcome **Guy Patching** (NSW) and **Monika Ulrich** (Vic), trusting you will gain much from your membership.

### Administration

Next year, *Candela* - surely one of the most substantial, well-produced and most fascinating journals being issued by a non-profit group in Australia - will move into new editorial hands. For the large majority of issues over the past seventeen years since its inception, the humbly named "co-ordinator" of the newsletter, **Neville Jarvis** will be passing on the baton to **Ruth Duckworth**. We wish Ruth all the best in her new role. And we also thank Neville for his marvellous work over the years, creating something which all of us enjoy so much. It has in a very real sense been his discerning eye and unfailing commitment that has made *Candela* the special publication that we are so very proud of now. Remember, too, that it is reliant on your input, and we always welcome the contributions of members. If something sparks your interest, put pen to paper and send it off to us!

You will know that as a group we are committed to keeping abreast with the constant changes in technology, and getting the message out in the myriad new ways that become available year by year. Next year the International Swedenborg Publishers Conference will be held in London and we are planning on putting together a video presentation detailing the work of the Swedenborg Centre and the Association, with a special emphasis on ways we are engaging with new media. This presentation will then be made available on our website, along with the substantial collection of audio material that has been uploaded over the past few months.

Finally, another reminder that Committee meetings are open for any member to attend should they wish. Participation in discussion is most welcome although voting on any matters is limited to Committee members. The next one is at the Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm; make a note of the date now if you would like to be present. Closer to the time, please contact me via the Swedenborg Centre or by email (walterhue@yahoo.com.au) so that I can provide you with the meeting papers.

With Blessings,

*Walter Mason*



### Margaret Haine Bequest

Our Secretary reported on this bequest in the last issue of the Newsletter. Some funds have already been received and based on advice from the Estate administrators, the total amount of our bequest will approximate \$23,000 after some shares are sold. It is truly a wonderful sum to be left.

On hearing the news, Joe Vandermeer, as President, emailed members of the Committee:

*A fantastic gift and a phenomenal sum. I simply find her gesture very heart-warming and I rightly or wrongly read into Margaret's motivation (may she attain a highest Angelic state of being) a recognition of the beneficent qualities and wise and loving workings of Our Common Creator who constantly feeds us in so many ways, so that (as elucidated in fine detail thanks to Swedenborg's writings) we can assist in the realisation of that heavenly state of useful angelic being-hood and service which the Divine wishes for us. Margaret's gesture also, most likely, carries some expression of gratefulness and encouragement for what uses the organisation is providing (as an indication we are on a useful path) while her giving also carries, I think, a hope that we will find more freedom in continuing what is good in what we do to widen the uses and expressions of what Swedenborg's works teach us. It is my wish that as we continue to carry out our duties to realise those expectations, we grow together as a committee and organisation to increasingly recognise the abundant Good, Truth and Use flowing always from The Absolute and to learn to integrate it into our every action (which is our challenge and our growth).*

By way of background, Margaret (nee Saunders) was born in 1915 in Albion, Queensland and grew up to become a school teacher specialising in teaching the deaf. In 1949 she married Hector Haine, an education writer and a school teacher too. Margaret had Scottish ancestors and Hector, Swedish. Hector's father spent many years searching for a satisfying religious faith which he found when his wife brought home a Swedenborg book which she had picked up in a Brisbane bookshop. The Haine family immediately became involved with the Swedenborgian congregation in Brisbane. After her marriage to Hector, Margaret became involved in the women's groups and also went on to regularly play the organ on Sundays. She was a Foundation member of the Association. We have another reason to celebrate the presence of a Swedenborg book in a bookshop!



## GROUP'S NEWS

### Melbourne:

In September, **Joe Vandermeer**, President of the Swedenborg Association of Australia, spoke on the topic *Spiritual Psychology from a Swedenborgian and Esoteric Christianity Perspective*. Joe provided a very stimulating talk, with many insights, which was enjoyed by everyone there.

The meeting in October took the form of a **Panel of Speakers** from different faith paths talking on the same topic - *The main foundation principles that lead people to a good life*. We were due to have three speakers from the Hindu, Islam and Baha'i traditions but unfortunately the Baha'i speaker was not able to come at the last minute. Still, very interesting contributions were made by the other two speakers and the Convenor provided a short summary from a Christian/Swedenborgian perspective.

Chris Skinner



### North Ryde, Sydney:

In August we had a panel discussion on the theme *Staying spiritual in a sterile world*. The four panelists were **Laura Riddell**, **Joe Vandermeer**, **Caroline Neave** and **Walter Mason**. Julian Duckworth wonderfully facilitated the introductions and discussion. We were privileged to hear these four presenters share their spiritual practices. I will mention just one point from each person to give a taste of the evening.

Laura presented many practical ways of living spiritually. One of them was a daily ritual of reading a passage each day for a week and reflecting on its message. She also writes her understanding of the passage. She encouraged us to let our minds be open and allow the ideas to evolve. Joe mentioned the importance of being able to stand back from one's activities and not be identified with them. Caroline emphasised the importance of being in relationship with others and with God and at the end of the day relating the events to God. Walter provided many novel ways. One of the ways is dwelling in the houses of God. The houses are loving kindness, the house of compassion, the house of sympathetic joy and the house of equanimity. He strives to dwell in these abodes. Sympathetic joy relates to being genuinely happy for other people's

achievements. The short presentations of around seven minutes each were very much appreciated and deep gratitude was expressed to the panelists for sharing their ways of connecting with Spirit.

In September we were honoured to have **Rev. Pravrajika Ajayaprana Mataji** talk on *Hindu spiritual practices*. Walter Mason introduced the evening and reminded us of the first World Parliament of Religion in 1893 initiated by the Swedenborgian, Charles Bonney, and the impact Swami Vivekananda made at this momentous gathering. Both Vivekananda and Mataji are followers of the saintly Ramakrishna Paramahansa (1836–1886). There were many wonderful gems and stories given by Mataji. She refers to Br Laurence and his practice of the presence of God. She mentions Advaita Vedanta, whose central tenet is non-duality. She talks about the four spiritual paths of Bhakti (way of devotion), Jnana (way of knowledge), Karma (way of action) and Raja (way of self-control) Yoga. A few examples of her teachings are:

- ▶ Two qualities that need to be cultivated before beginning the spiritual path are faith and forbearance. Faith relates to looking upon the sacred texts as leading one to the Great Truth and final liberation.
- ▶ The heart of man is the seat of God. The Kingdom of God is within you. The one who prays and the One who answers your prayers are both inside you. The human in me prays. The Divine in me answers the prayers. Both are in me. Both really are One. "I and my Father are One".
- ▶ We need to listen to experienced teachers with respect and attention.
- ▶ We need to reason and make the insights of spiritual teaching our experience. Test it by working upon it.

She has a lovely presence and a very beautiful way of sharing her insights from many years of personal practice and teaching.

A Film Night, *In My Father's Country*, was held in October. **Tom Murray**, the director, introduced the film and afterwards answered questions to make this a very special showing. The film shows the concerns of the leaders in the remote aboriginal communities of Dhuruputjpi and Gangan passing on their sacred traditions to the next generation, whilst living close to western ways in nearby towns, and accommodating new government policies. We see adults open to new ways such as using computers while keeping to their principles of what is



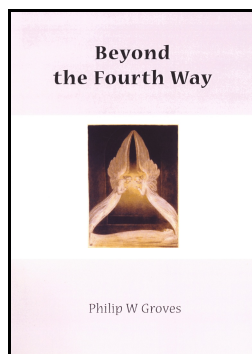
important, especially their initiation ceremony. This is an important film documenting what is currently happening in remote communities, encouraging them to maintain their culture and lifestyle and not move to nearby towns and cities where their culture may be lost. We were fortunate to have Tom - a film-maker who has earned the trust of the people he films - share his experiences and appreciation of Aboriginal culture. For further details of the film, visit [www.inmyfatherscountry.com/index.html](http://www.inmyfatherscountry.com/index.html).

The DVD of Tom Murray's film is available for borrowing from the Swedenborg Centre (see page 2). DVDs for the earlier two meetings can likewise be borrowed or purchased for \$12 each plus postage.

**Michael Chester**



## NEW PUBLICATION



## Beyond the Fourth Way

Philip W Groves

161 pages, paperback  
Triam Press, Sydney, Australia  
ISBN 978 1 921271 00 7  
\$35.00

**Reviewed by David Millar**, Director of Training, Australian New Church (Swedenborgian) College and minister to the Swedenborg congregation in Adelaide.

I never had the privilege of meeting Dr Groves in person but did have access to a number of recordings of talks he gave and so found his voice echoing in my mind as I traveled through the pages of *Beyond the Fourth Way*. The style of the prose reflects the speaking voice of the man. This had the effect of adding something really special to the experience of reading and hearing what Dr Groves had to say on a number of important themes related to the practice of living from one's understanding of truths.

On receiving the book from Triam Press I was immediately captivated by the title. I have been and still am a student of both the Fourth Way and

Swedenborg and wondered on reading the title where this book would take me. On entering into the journey this book offers, one is immediately struck by the simplicity with which Dr Groves is able to convey quite complex ideas from both sets of teachings. Of particular note are chapters 4 to 6 on 'Uses', 'The Concept of Correspondences' and 'Correspondences and Sacred Texts' as far as Swedenborgian doctrine is concerned. I must say the chapter on 'The Concept of Correspondences' is perhaps one of the most succinct explanations I have come across to date.

As far as doctrines of the Fourth Way are concerned Dr Groves introduces the reader to the somewhat difficult concept (or practice) of 'Self Remembering' from the very beginning of the book and returns to it often, expanding and clarifying his sense of what's involved in this. It is clear that what is related concerning the practice of Self Remembering is framed in Dr Groves' personal experience for along with a conceptual frame we have intimations of exercises that those who would seek to verify the veracity of what is presented can use to confirm as a matter of their own experience what has been said.

Other key concepts from the Fourth Way are touched on, such as those of "hydrogen's" which relates to the transformation of energies from a lower to the higher form making it possible to engage in the Work. The symbol of the enneagram is briefly touched on in its own chapter as is the law of three. While Dr Groves' handling of these concepts is relatively brief he manages to get them across with a clarity of understanding of one who has explored them for himself as principles to live from and I don't doubt that his desire in producing such material was for his hearers and readers to attempt to do the same.

Dr Groves draws on his knowledge of history and the biological sciences to provide illustrations throughout the book of the various esoteric and spiritual principles he discusses. In doing so shows how when the realm of natural phenomena is used to inform spiritual realities and whole new appreciation of the interconnectedness of all things arises in oneself. The Supplement being the final chapter of the book is a real gem. Here we see how spiritual teachings in particular those of Self Remembering and the Science of Correspondences are able to inform and provide profound meaning to current practices that trace their origins into the ancient past amongst Aboriginal peoples.

*\*\* continued overleaf \*\**





So what of the title, *Beyond the Fourth Way*, where does this sit with me now? The book is clearly a synthesis between Swedenborgian and the Fourth Way teachings that has taken place through one man's willingness to live from his understanding of truths. Because of this it carries the unique stamp of Dr Groves' own spiritual efforts, and in this sense is *Beyond the Fourth Way*.

Anyone who has an interest in esoteric teachings will find this book engaging and if they are unfamiliar with either Swedenborg or Fourth Way teachings then this book certainly is able to introduce them to a number of key concepts. For those who are familiar with either there is plenty here to stimulate new ways of seeing and for those who knew Dr Groves this book will no doubt awaken fond memories and bring a fresh energy to their search.

## *People are Born to Become Angels*

by **Hew Dalrymple**

**B**orn of energy is form. From pure vibration we come and to pure vibration we go. That of us which is the all and seer of the form is slow to let go the early innocence. We are little angels after birth and for a blessed time until we learn to think as our culture commands us. Each of us holds a microcosm and an angelic essence which is not form, not mind, not of the soul but pertaining to spirit. Why would we not, for the spirit lives on, is not destructible and is of another world.

Soon cultural norms demand certain compliance and we become oblivious to every emotion which connects us to our angelic past. Developing our own sub-personalities and disowned selves, or shadows, it is not long before all traces of past connection are deeply submerged. We become like skin-encapsulated egos, fighting to maintain our individual identity, with all the fear and suffering this may bring.

Emotions become an integral part of the decision-making process. Research has confirmed that emotion is part of cognition, directly related to body profile and varying moment to moment with body changes. Body states are not predictable by the brain, which actually waits to report what transpires in the body.<sup>1</sup>

Biologist Humberto Maturama<sup>2</sup> declared that emotions ruled the day - "*It's the emotions which determine the domain in which we operate as rational beings*".

Other findings<sup>3</sup> have confirmed the legendary role of the heart as the centre of emotions. Coupled with the fact that this organ generates the strongest electromagnetic field in the body, is the ability to synchronise positive emotion between two people, called 'physiological coherence'.

Emanuel Swedenborg wrote that a soul of a man and a soul of a woman who are (happily) united by marriage enter heaven and become an angel. This could be a married couple on earth or a couple that met after their earthly deaths.<sup>4</sup>

"*We are all members of the United Cellular Republic*".<sup>5</sup> Going even deeper we find we are all only processes, dynamic patterns of energy continually exchanging and changing into one another. Just as the heart of each atom of our physical existence is shown to be a void of energy so too is the heart of our psyche, like the atom, our voided self is a constantly changing vortex of energy surrounded by a pulsating swirl of emotional memory, all in different domains. On the quantum level our whole body/mind is a continuous dance of energy exchange with the environment, from biosphere through the various levels of atmosphere and on into the cosmos. We are that Universe and exchange its essence with every breath - the essence of angels.

<sup>1</sup> Antonio Demasio *Decartes Error*

<sup>2</sup> Humberto Maturama *The Biological Tree of Knowledge*

<sup>3</sup> Paul Pearsall *The Heart Code*

<sup>4</sup> Emanuel Swedenborg *Conjugal Love*

<sup>5</sup> Douglas Harding. *From a Sydney Lecture*

**Hew Dalrymple's** career has been varied, beginning in communications, through country radio, agency advertising and briefly in finance before turning to Alternate and Complementary Medicine, finally establishing his own practice. Now retired, and despite ill health, he continues to investigate many spiritual lines of enquiry, enjoying the opportunity to discuss them with friends and former patients.





Two selections from ***Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life***  
by **Frederic & Mary Ann Brussat**. Touchstone, NY. 1998. ISBN 978 0 684 81533 6

### ***Hospitality*** (page 196)

Christian monasteries have a long-standing tradition of taking in strangers as if they were Christ. These places have an open-door policy toward those in need. They are heeding the advice in Hebrews 13:2 “do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”. This spiritual practice goes against the grain of the post-modern world where there is still great fear, distrust, and hatred of strangers.

In biblical accounts, Jesus is the most hospitable of people mingling with rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, and individuals of low repute. He continually crosses boundaries in the name of love. And when it is time for him to be entertained, the two sisters Martha and Mary take distinctly different approaches. Like them, we are hospitable in various ways in a variety of settings.

“Hospitality,” writes Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister, “is the way we come out of ourselves. It is the first step toward dismantling the barriers of the world. Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around one heart at a time.” Start with your own situation and those who are close at hand. Share who you are and what you have. Then extend the practice to your neighbors and the world.

### ***Relationships*** (page 443)

Once upon a time there was a woman who longed to find out what heaven is like. She prayed constantly, “O God, grant me in this life a vision of paradise.” She prayed in this way for years until one night she had a dream. In her dream an angel came and led her to heaven. They walked down a street in paradise until they came to an ordinary looking house. The angel, pointing toward the house said, “Go and look inside.” So the woman walked in the house and found a person preparing supper, another reading the newspaper and children playing with their toys. Naturally, she was disappointed and returned to the angel on the street. “Is this all there is to heaven?”

The angel replied, “Those people you saw in that house are not in paradise, paradise is in them!”

- Edward Hays in *Feathers on the Wind*

These very pertinent selections were submitted by **Stella Green** (NSW)

## ***Caring for God - A Christmas Message.***

by **Christopher Hasler**, a Swedenborgian Minister living in retirement in UK

(originally published in the Swedenborg Movement, UK, Newsletter)

*The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. For there is born to you this day a saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”*

Christmas, as a religious festival, is certainly strange, we are invited to focus our attention on a new-born baby! When a baby is expected, especially by parents who love each other and really want to have a child, they are filled with a sense of wonder, almost of unbelief. That together they produce a new being seems to be beyond the bounds of what is possible. This is for them far more than just a simple biological fact.

If we think about this, and see the wonder of it, we will surely find the birth of any child an event so amazing that we can then go that one step further and take that birth in Bethlehem much more in our stride. By which I do not deny that there was something unique in that birth, since it was the coming of God Himself. But if we consider the wonder of all births,

then this other birth is simply one more wonder added to all the others. But in the end, our sense of wonder reaches saturation point. We learn to accept these stupendous events because we dare not argue against the reality which stares us in the face.



As far as the manger scene is concerned, we do ask a few more questions: why should the Creator humble Himself to such an extent that He was born among His own creatures in a helpless form and in such pitiful circumstances? Such a child today might be found in a refugee camp not far from Bethlehem. Would you choose to be born in such a place? But this is precisely why He was born: to teach us, nay, demonstrate to us, that the love of God is concerned in all human suffering and disorders. This



presence of God is involved in the name given to that child: Immanuel, which means, "God-with-us". Sometimes this presence is called a "light". We read, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (John 1:4-5)

When we see our streets and shops bright with Christmas lights, and look at the Christmas trees in our homes, we see and feel the need of every human heart to prevent the darkness overcoming that inner light within each one of us. We seek reassurance that this light will never be extinguished, because it burns so brightly with a Divine flame which fills us with strange longings and hopes. We may not always understand them, but we feel them often very powerfully. And at no time are they as strong as when we feel love for another person, and especially for a child.

But imagine if that darkness, which always seems to lurk around the corner, were to grow more powerful. Suppose you could see it threatening your child's freedom, or even life itself . . . trying to extinguish that inner light that shines from the lovely innocent eyes. What price would you pay for its freedom; what pain would you endure; what sacrifices would you willingly accept? You would pay any price, endure every pain and undertake every sacrifice!

Perhaps you see now that by focussing our attention on a baby - be it the baby in the manger, or any other baby - we can begin to understand the great theme of the incarnation itself. Yes, God's children were threatened by evil and by darkness, and when we look around the world, we still see the arrogant power of evil, of dark materialism which robs people of their freedom, their self respect, and the realisation of their spiritual destiny. Hear this prophecy:

*Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you."*

(Isaiah 60:1-2)

So God came to help us in our fight against evil and to roll back the dark powers. He experienced the human condition and suffering, and in every situation His love triumphed against evil. He never allowed that evil to dominate him for its own corrupting ends. You may like to read about these inner battles that went on in the mind of Jesus by looking up the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13. That was part of the price he had to pay. So was the crucifixion, because his willingness to give all of himself had to be tested and fully demonstrated. No doubt remains in our minds that he will give his all for our welfare and safety. But his love is so great and selfless that he will not demand or force us. His love sets us free. We can respond, or we can choose not to.

However, in coming as a child, he revealed also his humility and even his need to be loved by us. Just as the new born infant in your arms depends on you for its survival, so also the presence of God needs to be nurtured, cared for and loved in our own homes and hearts. His words need to be read and listened to, otherwise his voice becomes silent. His actions need to be our personal inspiration, otherwise a terrible paralysis will overtake them. His commandments need to be obeyed or else they crumble into the dust of lifeless history. We have, in one sense, the power of life and death over the child, for he does place himself in our hands. But he can become the light which will lead us to build a better world for all the children that are born everywhere. It is worth considering - the more horrifying the scenes we see on our television screens, the greater the need to begin to love that child in Bethlehem so that the disarming power of love can begin to change the evil in the world.

Will you try to love him to the best of your ability? Will you give him whatever he needs from you? Will you discover the world's greatest mystery in a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger? If you do, you will certainly have a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### **Next Issue - March 2010**

**Theme: *Everything has meaning***

"The whole natural world is responsive to the spiritual world - the natural world not just in general, but in detail. So whatever arises in the natural world out of the spiritual one is called "something that corresponds". It needs to be realised that the natural world arises from and is sustained in being by the spiritual world, exactly the way an effect relates to its efficient cause."

**Swedenborg: *Heaven & Hell* 89**

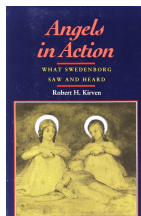
This topic should provide many avenues to pursue at all levels of life. So why not begin today putting pen to paper - or keyboard to wordprocessor. Submissions, either your own or something you have seen that strikes a chord, can be forwarded to Ruth Duckworth via the Registered Office (address on page 2) or directly by email to [rduckworth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rduckworth@optusnet.com.au). **The deadline is 26<sup>th</sup> February.**



## Discounted Items for the Quarter

As a reader of *Candela*, if you order the following titles in the January to March 2010 Quarter - this time including December 2009 also - you will receive approx. 25% off the retail price (while stocks last). See the discounted price and postage on the form below.

Complete the Order Form (you can copy it) and return it to the Swedenborg Centre or phone on 02 9888 1066 and mention this notice.

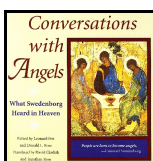


### **Angels in Action** by Robert Kirven

**RRP \$15.00**

(112 pages, paperback)

The author uses his deep understanding of the spiritual writings of Emanuel Swedenborg in compiling a very helpful guide to angels - *what they do, how they live, love & marriage among them, guardian angels and what we can do to help angels* - based on his own life-long experiences. Overall, Robert Kirven clearly shows how angels work for us from birth through death and how we can be angels while here on earth.

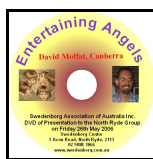


### **Conversations with Angels** Edited by Leonard Fox & Don Rose

**RRP \$20.00**

(158 pages, paperback)

Sub-titled *What Swedenborg Heard in Heaven*, this book brings together a fresh translation of the most remarkable selections from Swedenborg's works about the wisdom imparted to him by angels. They reveal their natures, their spiritual loves, their heavenly education, and the true source of wisdom and beauty. These spirits share their knowledge for the good of those on earth, who are themselves created to become angels.



### **Entertaining Angels**

**RRP \$12.00**

DVD of a talk by **David Moffat** to the North Ryde Group in 2006

This was a very practical session in which David Moffat led the audience to reflect on the nature of angels and how we can encourage them to influence us more strongly. We can do this by reflecting on their qualities such as love, caring, humility etc. and then building these into our life.

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<b>Beyond the Fourth Way</b> - see page 7	(actual <sup>2</sup> ) \$35.00	\$4.00	\$
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

For Group activities, contact your nearest Group Convenor

- Brisbane (Ian Arnold on (07) 33690054)
- Gold Coast (Kevin Attwater on (07) 55452401 and Jack Benson on (07) 55454115);
- Melbourne (Chris Skinner on (03) 94320322; email: cskinner9@optusnet.com.au);
- Sydney region (Michael Chester on (02) 99440497; email: mchester@accsoft.com.au);

It would be good to establish Groups in other areas. If you can help, please contact Michael Chester.



**Brisbane:** New Church Hall, 21 Agars Street, Rosalie.

**Melbourne:** New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mount Waverley. Last Fridays commencing 8pm.

27<sup>th</sup> November ~ Subject and Speaker to be advised

**Sydney:** Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde commencing 7.45pm.

27<sup>th</sup> November ~ *Exploring the Nature of Life* Speaker: **Michael Chester**

Programs for 2010 are currently being compiled and details will be advised by leaflet as soon as they are known. Our website is updated when new information comes available (see page 2)

..... *and Farewell* .....

*Grateful thanks to everyone who provided items for this issue and for all previous issues too. As you will have read, I am handing over my role with Candela to Ruth Duckworth and I encourage all readers to make contributions from time to time. In that way, it can become a real voice of the Swedenborg Association in Australia, one which will have wider appeal and be of greater interest to everyone. Ruth will be awaiting your items with open arms (see page 10).*

- **Neville Jarvis**, Newsletter Co-ordinator.

## WHY A SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION?

To promote Emanuel Swedenborg, the man and his message, throughout Australia by personal contact, meetings, etc.

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