

Candela



Newsletter of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc.

Organisational Details are provided on the next page

September 2019

ISSUE 97

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring issue of Candela.

Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is. The trees are budding, spring bulbs are flowering, Spring is in the air. Regeneration, life reborn anew.

It is with a mixture of happiness for her new life and sadness at her family and friends' loss that we advise of the passing into the spiritual world of Dr Rosemarie Lorenz. She was a gracious and humble follower of Swedenborg's and other spiritual works and we could not hope to know a better exemplar of the kind love and gentle wisdom she expounded. We will miss her dearly but I'm sure she is having the time of her life with Dr Groves and lots of other like-minded and kind-hearted people.

We also miss our dear friend Roy Simmonds, the most wonderful proclaimer of pithy wisdoms, who also passed into the spiritual world recently. He was aptly farewelled with an emotional rendition of his favourite organ piece, Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor. A surprising reprise was played at Joe Vandermeer's recent SAA



presentation on gothic cathedrals. When Joe tried to stop it, it just started up all over again from the beginning. Turn off his favourite piece that soon? Not likely.

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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 S.A.A. or its committee.

Next Issue –December 2019

Our next issue of Candela is in December. The deadline is **1st November 2019**. Please send me any articles or questions you would like answered.

Email to ruth@duckworth.me or post to the registered office.

Ruth



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However, attending in person is always much more fun with good fellowship and yummy snacks an added bonus. For those of you around the rest of Australia though, this new service will give you access to see and hear our terrific range of presenters ... and Roy's naughty sense of humour. Wishing you a wonderful spring in your step.

Kindest regards

Jan

**Welcome to the new members of
the Swedenborg Association of
Australia.**



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, call (02) 9416 2812 or browse <http://www.swedenborg.com.au/membership>

* * continued from page 1 * *

The SAA talks can now be watched on the Swedenborg Association of Australia Facebook page. With some great new black box gadgetry we're able to show each talk directly via Facebook, complete with the accompanying video or powerpoint presentation. Next up is a fascinating talk on *Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Swedenborg and the Meaning of Things*. It will be presented by Walter Mason who is back by popular demand to give another of his insightful talks.

It's best to watch these talks using a desktop computer rather than a laptop or iPhone. As these are high definition broadcasts there can otherwise be problems with the download speed on your device. The video will usually be available the following day i.e. the fourth Saturday of each month.

A number of new members have joined this year and would like to welcome them to the SAA. We hope that you will enjoy many benefits of belonging to our group and be able to further your interest in spiritual matters.

Cliff Adamou	NSW
Ellie Frances	NSW
Pauline Hale	WA
Murray Keller	NSW
Sophia Mihellis	NSW
Peter Politano	NSW
Debra Thompson	NSW
Howard Thompson	NSW



Studying the Bible on the New Christian Bible Study Website

Website address: newchristianbiblestudy.org

By Michael Chester

There are many people who feel blessed to have the inner meaning of the Bible illuminated via Swedenborg's Writings. Here is one example I came across recently.

Finally, after so many years of not truly "getting" the Bible, I feel completely taken over by it through Swedenborg's writings. I took the long way around--studying many different religious dogmas for years, including Christianity, only to keep singing that U2 song, "...but I still haven't found what I'm looking for"... I don't know why it took me so long to discover Swedenborg. It took Curtis and YouTube—the Lord really does work in mysterious ways! Hallelujah!

This is the second in a series of articles in 2019 on *The New Christian Bible Study Website*. This website is hoping to spread the experience of "getting" the Bible and this write-up builds on the previous article which focused on Swedenborg's Writings which appeared in the May 2019 Candela and is accessible at

<http://www.swedenborg.com.au/Websites/saa/images/newsletter/candela201906.pdf>

So how does the website facilitate the study and appreciation of the Bible? On the home page 'The Bible' menu has 7 drop down sub-menus.



These are – Read the Bible, Popular Bible stories, Reading Plans, Bible word meanings, Spirit and Life Bible Study Videos, Bible commentary and About the Bible.

To explore these features I've decided to focus on the Noah's Ark story. First of all, I choose 'Read the Bible' so as to read Genesis chapter 6. The default English translation is the King James Version with seven others to choose from. There are many non-English translations as well. You can easily compare translations using the 'Compare to translation' drop-down menu.

After choosing chapter 6, I notice that when the cursor hovers over a highlighted word or phrase, I can read an explanation. For example, in verse 3, I click on 'the LORD' and I'm provided with an excellent explanation of various names for the Divine such as Jehovah and Lord, and the inner meaning that stands behind these names.

Next, I click on the 'Study the Inner Meaning' button to see what is provided.

The sliding pane has five tabs, the first with related links from Swedenborg's works, the second with 'Other New Christian Commentary', the third with 'Hop to Similar Bible Verses', the fourth with 'Word/Phrase Explanations' and the fifth one 'Resources for parents and teachers'.

→ Study the Inner Meaning



From Swedenborg's Works

Main explanations:

Arcana Coelestia [554](#), [555](#), [556](#), [557](#), [558](#), [559](#), [564](#), ...

Sacred Scripture [103](#)

The Inner Meaning of the Prophets and Psalms [407](#)

True Christian Religion [279](#)



The first tab enables us to read Swedenborg's commentary alongside the Biblical text, with the main commentary coming from the Arcana Coelestia (Heavenly Secrets). By clicking on AC 554 we have the Biblical text and Swedenborg's Commentary side by side.

The screenshot displays two side-by-side panels. The left panel, titled 'The Bible', shows 'Genesis 6 : Noah and the Flood' in the 'English: King James Version'. It includes a search bar, navigation buttons ('Previous', 'Next'), and a 'Study the Inner Meaning' button. The text of Genesis 6 is visible, with numbered verses 1 through 4. The right panel, titled 'From Swedenborg's Works', shows 'Arcana Coelestia #554' from the 'Elliott (1983-1999)' translation. It also has a search bar, navigation buttons, and a 'Go to section' dropdown set to 554 / 10837. The content includes the title '554. CONTENTS', a subject description 'The subject is the state of the people before the Flood.', and a reference to 'Genesis 6, 6:1-8'.

Having the Bible and the Writings side by side, with so many helpful links, assists us in a big way on our spiritual journey. This is what Dr Groves wrote on one occasion.

Those who have the Word, and the Writings which unfold some of the inner dynamics of the Word, have a flying start on the way to spiritual cleansing and perfecting. They have access to the knowledge and practical know-how of the activation and regeneration of the total contents of their lives.

Dr Philip W Groves, *Swedenborg's Mighty Contributions: Spiritual aspects of Swedenborg's psychology.*

The second tab list 'Other New Christian Commentary'. There is a richness of resources provided. In this particular case it showed these 3 categories: 'Stories and their meanings'; 'Bible Study Videos' and 'PDF Resources'.

Clicking on 'Noah and the Flood' brought up the Swedenborg and Life video 'The Meaning of Noah and the Flood'. Here's what one person said about the video. *"Dude, I'm 56 with a degree in theology, and this stuff keeps blowing me away. You make it so enjoyable, so easy to listen to".*

I'm familiar with the Anita Dole Bible Study Notes and I'm happy to see that Chapter 6 of Volume 1 - Noah builds an Ark - is the first of the listed PDF Resources. It's also included under the 'Resources for parents and teachers' tab.

Another way people might enquire on the Noah's Ark story is to go to Popular Bible stories (second on the Bible drop down menu or the 'Understand Bible Stories' option on the Home page.) and do a search on Noah. Currently it comes up with 5 records,



→ Study the Inner Meaning



Other New Christian Commentary

Stories and their meanings:

Noah and the Flood
Noah Builds an Ark

Bible Study Videos:

Steering and Fishing
Being Strengthened
To Fill the Earth
No Air at All
Habits, Bad and Good
Thinking
...

PDF Resources

Noah Builds an Ark
Allegories of Genesis

the first being 'Noah and the Flood'. Clicking on this brings you to the same content as found on the Commentary tab of the Bible Slider mentioned above.

What's good is that people can follow their own inclinations in exploring a topic. It wouldn't surprise me that most people would choose Bible stories as their way of exploring

the 'Noah and the Flood' story, instead of going directly to the relevant chapters in Genesis. And the supporting videos and texts provides a user-friendly experience to give the seeker a full experience—enjoyable, enlightening, and relevant.

Another interesting feature is that you can focus on a verse by clicking on the verse number. For example, by clicking on verse 3

of Genesis 6, a window displays this verse. You can go forward verse by verse, as well as in the reverse direction. Each verse has its accompanying 'Study the Inner Meaning' button leading to relevant commentary.

To conclude, it's good to ask ourselves to what extent are we connecting to the transforming power of the Word, and the Writings which unfold some of the inner dynamics of the Word, as we travel the narrow pathway of spiritual cleansing and perfecting. Are the Biblical stories meaningful to us? Does the Noah story help us to be faithful to the Lord's Word, accepting our separation from worldly standards and holding the belief that the Lord does save us and has a purpose for doing so. The personal meaning of the Bible is the goal to keep in mind and this wonderful website is a means to assist us in the process. Hopefully what has been described has been helpful and provides further encouragement for you to explore and utilise this website. I would be delighted to hear your comments which you can send to saa@swedenborg.com.au with 'Comments on the NCBS website' as the subject. Next time I will share what I've found helpful in the **Spiritual Topics** section of the website.

WISDOM

Swedenborg always attaches wisdom to loving so that you have Divine Love and Wisdom and our need to act wisely whenever we intend, feel, do and show our love for others. This wish I have got, is it something wise...?

Wisdom sometimes gets confused with information. Someone who is well informed may be clever or erudite and know a lot. Very useful in some ways if you want help with laying concrete or working out why some wines cost \$7.50 a bottle and some \$37.50 yet they taste just the same. It can also be extremely boring.

Wisdom goes much further than stacking up expertise. It comes with our experience of life. Wisdom weighs things up: is it helpful to say what I am thinking, or isn't it? Wisdom thinks of the effects on others of doing or saying rather than blurting out anything that comes because it sounds like a good idea or something that will make everybody laugh.

Wisdom is close to today's buzz word 'mindfulness' in which the aim is to be very aware of the present moment. Wise angels would nod vigorously to that. Wisdom observes and notices what is taking place say in a room full of people or where one person stands apart and wonders if they are feeling left out or simply enjoying some solitude. A wise person may well choose to leave them alone.

The prayer "Give me the courage to change what I can change; the serenity to accept what I can't change; and the wisdom to know the difference" is perennially wise.



ON READING THE WORD

By Howard Thompson

Over the years I have read several accounts of people who have challenged themselves to live life intentionally, keeping to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some have done it for 30 days, some for several months and some for a year. All reported that, while the life was difficult to maintain at times, the overall benefits to their state of mind and feelings of peace and joy were undeniable. In truth living intentionally - a conscious attempt to live according to a particular set of values and beliefs - will nearly always return to those who do noticeable progress in their spiritual journey. As the Greek philosopher Socrates is reported to have said 'the unexamined life is not worth living.' Not that any life is not worth living, but in comparison to the fullness of life available to those who do live intentionally the unexamined life appears not to be worth living.

But living the words of Jesus for many of us seems a bit daunting. In addition, actually living the words of Jesus requires a deep knowledge of the words of Jesus. For most of us who are not ready or inclined to fully commit to living this intentionally is there something else we can do? Yes there is. If you are not already doing it consider making a daily practice of reading the Word. A daily practice of reading the Word, first thing in the morning before you do anything else, can set your mind on a solid footing for the day.

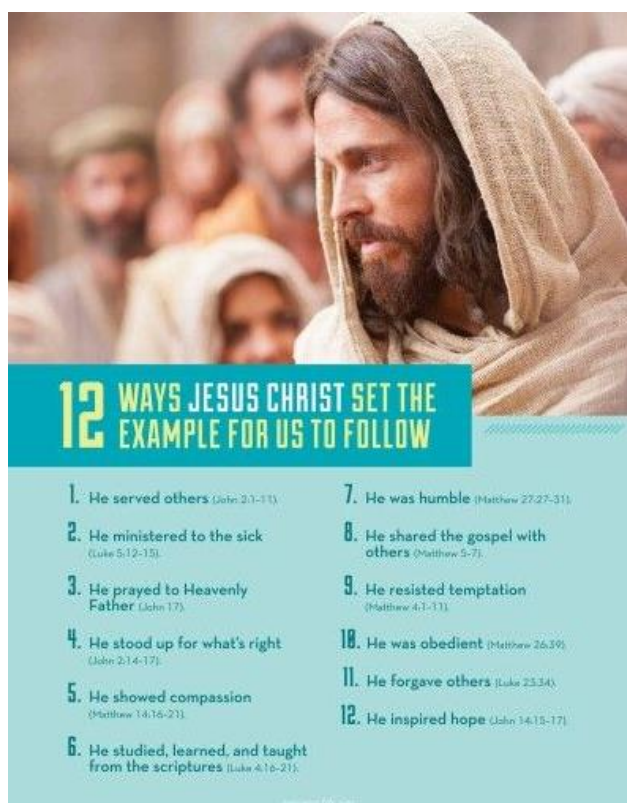
The Writings of Swedenborg point out that several things happen for a person when they read the Word.

- When a person reads the Word and draws truths from it, the Lord attaches good. For the person does not see the states of good affecting him, because he uses his intellect to read the Word, and the intellect takes in from the Word only what is proper to it, namely, truths. - CL 128

This is the 'unintentional' consequence of reading the Word daily. By the seemingly simple act of reading the Word we are allowing the Lord to change us interiorly, we are allowing the Lord to re-order our thoughts and affections.

- When a person reads the Word or speaks from it, communication with heaven is effected. [As this communication ascends it is presented to angels in its spiritual meaning and not its literal meaning.] The angels [who receive the communication] do not know that their perceptions are coming from some person. It seems to them as if they are thinking spontaneously, of themselves, about such things as are contained within the Word. - De Verbo 18

It is a truth that no thought that enters our mind ever originated within us. Every





single thought that we experience has come to us from some place outside of ourselves. This is the same case with angels.

- When a person reads the Word heaven has the enjoyment of the wisdom it derives from the Word, and that at the same time the person is joined to heaven. This is the end for which such a Word has been given to mankind. From this it follows that if this means of joining together did not exist in the world the connection with heaven would perish, and with it all the good present in a person's will and all the truth in his understanding, and with these that essential human quality which enables one person to live in a community with another. - AC 10452

There are times in our lives when, for various reasons, we are not able to be outwardly useful to other people. Whether we are struggling with the limitation of old age, are facing serious illness or are simply trying to get through the day while meeting our basic obligations, these words tell us that we can still be of service to others simply by reading the Word. Without the joining together of heaven and mankind by means of individuals reading the Word

conscious life would cease to exist.



I challenge you, if reading the Word is not currently a part of your daily routine, to begin. Try to read the Word for 30 minutes first thing in the morning and do this for 30 days. At the end of the 30 days, take stock. How do you feel? Do you notice a change in your thought patterns? If you stop at the end of the 30 days do you notice the desire to continue?

The best way to know who you are is to know who the Lord is and the only way to know who the Lord is, is to read of Him in His Word.

SWALLOWING

It really is fascinating how we use bits of our bodies or things that they do to describe more personal or spiritual things. So, we say we can't stomach something or someone, that we haven't got the heart to tell them, and that I see exactly what you mean. These are correspondences.

An interesting one is about swallowing. We can say that someone is so naïve that they would swallow anything or that something was so embarrassing that I wished the ground would swallow me up. The idea is that we move something from here to there, which is exactly what we do when we swallow a mouthful of food. There it is one moment rolling around in our mouth, being chewed up, giving out its wonderful taste, and the next moment 'gulp' and it has gone down and we no longer have any sensation of it or control over it. We have swallowed it.

Now, see this as an analogy of what goes on in our life. We get a wonderful thought or hear a beautiful statement. We meet a delightful person, hear gorgeous music or see a sunset. These things come one after another – like mouthfuls of food – and we enjoy them and move on to more things. They go out of our conscious thought but they have affected us and in some way shaped our view of life. We swallowed them, took them in and made them part of us. It's the gift of God who manages everything that comes our way.

There's also a warning here. If we have some experience and fixate about it and keep reliving it then that's a kind of reflux and regurgitation. Up it comes with a fairly nasty taste notice because it was beginning to be digested and it should have been left to go the way it was meant to.



Letter to the Editor

Funny how pieces of a jigsaw puzzle can be found in random locations, only to fit perfectly together once they are positioned beside their neighbouring pieces.

I think life seems a bit like that. Here is one such example.

Puzzle piece number ONE



Not having had too many holidays in recent years, I had decided to book a holiday with several friends to Cuba for this October. And because I like to get involved and do things when on holiday I have decided on a singing tour, in which we get to sing with professional choirs while we travel.

Then a friend asked if I would come to visit her in Britain when she turns 80 next year. Well, I thought, since she's 79 in October this year and I'm already on holidays I may as well go to Cuba via the UK.

One thing leads to another, and as Director of the Swedenborg Centre I was keen to see a few of the people and places I know via the digital world and visit them in person.

I had heard much about Purley Chase Conference Centre for many years. So, I felt that a visit there with my birthday friend might be appropriate. Well, I will certainly be welcome, said the organiser of the Centre, but there will be a group there that weekend from the New Church in Derby. Okay, that's fine. I like to meet new people, so that's who I'll be with when I go later this year.

Puzzle piece number TWO



Since I also have much contact with our fellow Swedenborgians in Bryn Athyn in the USA, I felt it would be equally appropriate to include a short stay there so that I can put faces to names I have only used frequently in emails and other online communication.

So, the trip got longer by another week. Now it's UK, US and then Cuba.

One of the places I want to see is the Bryn Athyn cathedral. And at the cathedral (or perhaps it is nearby) is the Glencairn Museum, which always posts interesting things online.

Some things to look forward to.

Puzzle piece number THREE



Someone had recently purchased the last remaining set of a wonderful set of cards which were designed to help explain and understand the Apocalypse (book of Revelation).

And someone heard about that purchase and asked if we had any more copies of the cards.

No, unfortunately that was the last of our supplies (we hadn't had any enquiries after them or sold any for over ten years, and then suddenly there's a rush - that's often how it works).

But I did a bit of digging around on the internet to find out if there were any for sale elsewhere and to track down a new small supply. And here is what I discovered.

The Glencairn Museum was the first clue. I discovered that they had held an exhibition in July 2011 of G. Roland Smith's images of the Apocalypse.

This gave me a link to Roland's website, namely <http://www.apocalypse-of-john.org.uk/> (check it out, it has a lot of info about the images and card set.) Which in turn gave me some background (see below) for the creation of these images.

In the autumn of 2000, ministers of the General Conference of the New Church in England were running an Apocalypse Study Group which met twice a year for workshops devoted to studying the Book of Revelation, and in the interim periods formed smaller groups to develop resources for others interested in the



subject. The group decided early on that a visual presentation of some of the images in the biblical account of the Apocalypse would be an important tool for accessing the spiritual meaning of the text. So the New Church artist G. Roland Smith was encouraged by the group to use his own artistic vision and style to develop a few images. He worked closely with Rev. Christopher Hasler, a member of the group, to develop the paintings. According to Smith, "First, Christopher would send me the reference for a particular passage, together with a page of notes, whereupon I would go all broody for several days at a stretch, just sitting scribbling and worrying. Gradually, some sort of rough pencil composition would begin to come together." Smith found the subject matter challenging as an artist because the images from the Book of Revelation relate to "literary symbolism—not visual symbolism—designed as 'poetry' rather than 'painting.' For example, a figure like the Son of Man with snow white hair, blazing red eyes, and a sword coming out of his mouth, is not difficult to decipher—white hair for outward purity, piercing eyes for visionary perception, and a sword for power. But if you paint someone, just like that—literally—you will find that you have created a monster. You have to select and adapt. It's rather like characters in dreams who seem perfectly plausible until, in the light of day, they are shown to be quite impossible."

The work would take him a ten-year period from 2000 to 2010 to create the images. At a presentation to launch at the Hayes Conference Centre in July 2010, Smith explained the process in more detail as follows:

"It might have made my job easier if, like John, I had been granted some direct and dazzling vision, but no such luck! All I had to go on was the Biblical account, the deliberations of the Apocalypse Study

Group, and an occasional nudge from Emanuel Swedenborg. Those of you who know Christopher Hasler will not be surprised to hear that the whole thing was probably one of his mad ideas. Ten years ago he telephoned one evening asking if I would care to do one or two illustrations of the Apocalypse. I remember saying that this was not really my line – that I didn't do 'realistic' figurative work. "Oh, that doesn't matter," he said, "use your own style." So I did. If he had told me then that what they really wanted was a complete series of 25 pictures, I think I should never have embarked on it. Let me explain that Christopher has been wonderfully supportive throughout. He has been my constant go-between – my link with the Group and their studies. We did not always agree, of course. If Christopher doesn't like something, he says so. And if I am determined not to change something, I don't. But usually there has been a useful interchange of ideas, and, thanks to Christopher's patience and hard work, I have been able, I think, to sense what the Group was trying to do. He never tried to dictate, but was always ready to suggest how problems might be resolved. I wish he were here because he occupies a central, pivotal position in the

whole enterprise. So how did we work? First, Christopher would send me the reference for a particular passage, together with a page of notes. Whereupon I would go all broody for several days at a stretch, just sitting scribbling and worrying. Gradually, some sort of rough pencil composition would begin to come together. I would then send a copy back to Christopher and would not have long to wait for a reaction, usually favourable but with reservations. Provided that any amendments were not too drastic, I would then transfer the design to a decent piece of water-colour paper and draw everything in heavy black outline, like the leading in a





stained glass window. Copy back to Christopher – anxious pause! Any corrections at this stage would NOT be welcome. The colouring stage is the most enjoyable – and the most hazardous – first with water colours and then with coloured pencils. It all takes a very long time."

Puzzle piece number FOUR



So, I chose to follow the trail of Christopher Hasler some of the way, only to arrive back at.... (drum roll please) ... the New Church of Derby. Here is a brief extract from the history of Derby New Church, which relates the following details about their former minister: -

Rev Christopher Hasler came to Derby in 1966. Derby itself still held evening services. The Derby church choir occupied the choir stalls and processed into the church following the minister. I cannot remember if the Sunday School met in the afternoon or during the morning service. The pressures on the new minister were considerable. Christopher's wife Joy Hasler supported her husband very greatly and with their 6 children the Sunday School was very active. During the Rev Christopher's pastorate, his wife started a pre-school playgroup in the lower hall on weekday mornings. This was not encumbered by the copious regulations that we have facing the Pre-school today. Through the playgroup, Joy was able to introduce children into the Sunday School. Later, Barbara Bentley started a weekly Mums and Toddlers' group on the school platform. Rev Christopher introduced the use of 'you' and 'yours' when addressing our Lord in prayer. This was accepted by the majority of the congregation. Another change was the gradual phasing out of the old Liturgy and its successor the red 'Book of Worship'. This allowed the use of the whole service to support a particular theme. The hymns, readings, prayers, children's talk and sermon were used to support the one theme. This practice is maintained to the present day and requires a great deal of work by the minister and

worship leaders. Christopher wrote his first series of notes based upon 'The True Christian Religion' as he felt that the church was losing sight of its doctrines. He has written further notes on 'Heaven and Hell' and even now in his 81st year he is writing notes on 'Divine Providence'.

Puzzle piece number FIVE



Well, of course some of us will have found this final piece of the puzzle already. Because the editor of the Candela magazine (Ruth Duckworth) was the daughter of Christopher Hasler.

Hooray! Another connection made via the windy road that is our life.

Here ends my happy tale.

Joe xx

Photo of Christopher Hasler and Joy at the time that he was working with Roland Smith on the art works.



Dear Joe,

Thank you for this great bit of detective work. Of

course, I found it very interesting. I remember being with Dad when some of the first drafts came to him to be looked at. He was very excited about the whole project. My Dad was a man full of new ideas and was always very encouraging of any artists that he knew, including my sister Gwen who did the pencil drawing of Swedenborg's head that you have in the Swedenborg Centre.

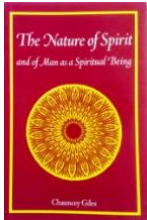
When I was 21 I was working as a physiotherapist at the Children's Hospital in Birmingham U.K. Whilst percussing a child with cystic fibrosis I looked up at a poster on the wall and at once recognised it as the work of G. Roland Smith. I had only seen his church leaflet illustrations before, but his style was instantly recognisable to me. It is a pity that he does not seem to have a website dedicated to all of his art work, he is definitely a pre-technology artist.

Ruth xx



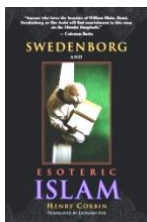
Discounted Book Offers for the Quarter

As a reader of **Candela**, if you order the following titles during the next quarter, you will receive the discounts listed below (while stocks last). Complete the Order Form (you can copy it) and return it to the Swedenborg Centre or phone on 02 9416 2812 and mention this notice.



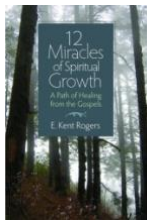
The Nature of Spirit by Chancey Giles

212 pages, paperback 1997 reissue, RRP \$10, now **only \$5** (plus postage) for this quarter. This classic sold over 100,000 copies within a few years of the lectures being delivered by Chauncey Giles in New York. He covers the nature of our spirit, the spirit world, death as an orderly step in life, our preparation for our eventual home, etc. It wasn't long before Giles was "widely known as an able advocate of the new spiritual truth revealed to the world through the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg." It stood the test of time, this 1997 pocket edition is an affordable way to ponder these important subjects.



Swedenborg and Esoteric Islam by Henry Corbin, translated by Leonard Fox

168 pages, paperback 1995, RRP \$20, now **only \$15** (plus postage) for this quarter. This offer celebrated a November 22nd 2019 presentation on Corbin and Swedenborg by psychologist Roshanak Vahdani at Roseville. Henry Corbin was a mystic and scholar who understood the esoteric and mystical aspects of Islam, known as Sufism. A lifelong student of Swedenborg, in this book he examines some concepts appearing in both Swedenborg's and Islamic spirituality.



12 Miracles of Spiritual Growth by E. Kent Rogers

210 pages, paperback, RRP \$20, now **only \$15** (plus postage) for this quarter. An honest and open look at our spiritual growth as a process of healing based on the miracles from the New Testament. Rogers provides the insight that miracles are performed daily by a loving God who is keen to see us heal and grow into usefulness, love and happiness. The author is no armchair philosopher, having gained practical insights from setting up and running the Loving Arms Mission in Nepal to provide tangible support in people's lives.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

If you are not yet a member of the Swedenborg Association of Australia you might like to consider it. Feel free to contact the Centre for further **info on how you can become an SAA member** as a way to support this valuable work. Check the website at www.swedenborg.com.au (click “Members” in the top menu) which contains more details on benefits, membership rates and an application form.

Details of **group events** at various locations around Australia are advertised on the website at www.swedenborg.com.au home page (click "Events" in the top menu). Fliers for events (as a PDF document) can be found by clicking on the relevant event title. The Events and meetings web page also lists location and contact details of your nearest group convenor.

It would be good to establish Groups in other areas. If you can help, please phone Joe Vandermeer on (02) 9416 2812 or email him at joe@swedenborg.com.au;

Our website is continually being updated with special offers, new free study material and latest news and information.

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Two Poems by one of our members, James Baillie

Seek

What I look for is what I find;
what I think about is what I get;
so I keep a watch over things on my mind,
over what I want and what I expect.

Paul Kelly sang a similar song:
 'You just might get what you pray for',
 and St John had got it right all along:
 ask and receive, with appropriate labour.

This is the magic we all can do.
If only we knew, we'd all do it too.

This is the grand adventure in life,
to live like gods if we know the way
to focus on love and do what's right
within our divinely allotted day.

I do what I can with what I have got,
and help arrives to keep me going.
It pays, I know, to not want a lot,
and be grateful for this overflowing.

This is the magic we all can do.
If only we knew, we'd all do it too.

James Baillie 9 Dec 2017



Never alone

There's always transcendent Presence,
more present than I have been,
tickling the edge of my senses,
unheard, unknown, unseen,

drawing on inner questions
by unexpected chance
or some sublime suggestion
like 'Come and join the dance.'

Never alone or forsaken,
I wait in dregs of dreams
for the inner man to awaken
and prove life more than it seems.

Throw me a line, my Highness,
that links to the golden path
with the wholeness of loving-kindness,
and I'll be the aftermath.

Out of our language of wars
no peace comes dropping slow.
Speak the love that's yours.
My heart is hoping to know.

'Be still,' I hear in my mind,
'and want for love no more.
Be still on this wave of time
and ride it to the shore.'

James Baillie 23 Jan 2019