



**SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION  
of Australia Inc**

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Julian Duckworth (President)

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Michael Chester (Treasurer)

Ruth Duckworth (Newsletter)

Howard Thompson

Debra Thompson

Joe Vandermeer (Public Officer)

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 <https://swedenborg.com.au/contact/>

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The first – and perhaps the easiest one to do this approach with – is on Correspondences, now all ready, on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/yGu9KpLBS-s>) for watching and hearing in the time it takes to down a cup of tea. The others are following in the next few months. The next one will be around the topic of Life after Death. The series has been given the helpful title, "Notes from Swedenborg".

The last of the three is a celebration, that of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year we're in, of the publication of Swedenborg's last theological book, True Christian Religion, in July 1771, which completed the whole output of Swedenborg's spiritual writings. True Christian Religion covers the essential Christian church's teachings but from the angle of their spiritual meaning and personal meaning for us. A range of interesting connections with this important book is given in this current Candela.

When you look at the enormous (and that's an understatement!) amount of material that has been produced based on a Swedenborg angle on things – books, booklets, charts, leaflets, novels, movies, articles, paintings, CDs and DVDs and now much up there on YouTube and other great online outlets, you might well wonder why we need to keep up producing MORE?

The reason, I guess, is not so much about new subjects and new findings in Swedenborg, although these kind of things can happen at times; the real reason is the culture of each successive period. The timeless eternal truths that Swedenborg presents are just that, but the times in which people live and do things is always changing. The way we talk and interact is incredibly different from my childhood, far more informal, much less intellectual. So, to reach people in such a culture means we need to use the language and outlooks of today without dumbing down the essence of Swedenborg and the rich spirituality of his books. And that's a real challenge.

It's interesting to ponder about the amount of spiritual interest there is in any period. Way back, nearly everyone went to church but were they actually religious? Now, it looks like being the other way round, only handfuls of people go to church but a whole stack of people are looking at meaning, truth, symbol, personal states, relationships, dignity, humanity, justice and the future. The world has changed; its purposes haven't ... and Swedenborg is very relevant to it all.

*All the best from Julian*

**Welcome to our new members**

Laura Favale (Sydney)

Sruthi Degaonkar (Melbourne)

We hope that you enjoy being a member, receiving emails and can join in some of our on-line activities.