

---

# Candela



**Newsletter of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc**  
Organisational Details are provided on the next page

---

**MARCH 2013**

**ISSUE 71**

---

## **EXPRESSIONS OF THE DIVINE**

---

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friend and Reader,

Welcome to this latest edition of the Candela.

With the celebration of the wonder of Christmas, and the New Year, well and truly behind us many of us are very busy with the rush of modern life. Easter is soon to be with us, a time for great reflection. These two great events in the Christian calendar are close together and mark a change of seasons.

In the northern hemisphere winter is giving way to spring and, even though it might not necessarily feel it, here south of the equator we mark autumn as starting on the first of March with the autumnal equinox on the 20th March.

The seasons are important cycle in the physical world. They are also culturally and

spiritually significant for us, more so as we move from the tropics towards the poles.

Poets have crafted words to describe the seasons and great composers, such as Vivaldi and Glazunov, have written music which moves us to feel the seasons. We may even talk about the seasons of people's lives.

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

### **MAIN CONTENTS**

<b>President's Message</b>	Robert Bryce	1
<b>The Divine in Nature</b>	Michael Chester	2
<b>Breath of Life..</b>	Michael Wright	4
<b>Expressions of the Divine</b>	Andrew Heslop Jan Primrose Christopher Hasler Wayne Kasmar	5 10
<b>My Experiences of the Divine</b>	Tracey Glendenning	7

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

**Next Issue – June 2013**

**Theme – The Kingdom of God is within you.**

Jesus taught a lot about The Kingdom of Heaven. What does the word Kingdom mean to you in your life and how do you feel the Kingdom within you?

The deadline is **20<sup>th</sup> May**

Thank you to everyone who wrote for this edition.

Ruth

Email to [rduckworth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rduckworth@optusnet.com.au) or post to the registered office.





## SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION of Australia Inc

ARBN 109 811 985

### Registered Office:

Swedenborg Centre

1 Avon Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113

Tel: 02 9888 1066 Fax: 02 9888 1166

Email: [saa@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:saa@swedenborg.com.au)

Website: [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au)

### National Committee Members:

Robert Bryce (President)

Ruth Duckworth (Secretary)

Michael Chester (Treasurer)

Wayne Kasmar

Caroline Neave

Jan Primrose

Carl Sarelius

Joe Vandermeer

Newsletter: Ruth Duckworth

Public Officer: Michael Chester

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) 9888 1066 or browse [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au), go to 'Organisation' in the menu and click on 'Membership.'

**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.

\* \* continued from page 1 \* \*

Whether we consider seasons from a purely practical physical viewpoint or in a metaphorical sense, both are pointing to representatives of important spiritual processes. Swedenborg talks about the seasons as significations relating to the states of the church, in the same way that the phases of the day do.

So as we prepare for whatever type of winter may come our way in the southern hemisphere this year let us give thought to the changes of our own moods and states. We may be in winter periods of desolation and loss or states of spring filled with joy and abundance.

Whichever types of seasons you may be experiencing at this time I hope that you find this latest edition of the Candela interesting, nourishing and useful.

With best wishes

*Robert*

## Expressions of the Divine in Nature

There are many examples of wonderful relationships between plants and insects. Here are two examples.

Some species of the orchid *Ophrys* produce flowers which bear lips that are shaped and coloured like the female of a species of bee, *Dielis capitata*. Male bees are attracted to these flowers



and endeavour to copulate with them. In doing so the bee unwittingly gathers pollen sacs (pollinia), and when it visits another orchid of the same species transfers the pollen sacs when it repeats its performance. Female bees never visit these flowers.

The Australian *Cryptostylis* orchid is pollinated by male wasps of the genus *Lissopimpla*. The lip of the orchid is coloured and shaped to resemble a female wasp, and when the male wasp attempts union, it collects pollen sacs and transfers them to another orchid flower of the same species.

*Dr P Groves, Swedenborg's Mighty Contribution - The spiritual foundations of biology.*

Many people do not see these as expression of the Divine. What Dr Groves says make sense to me:

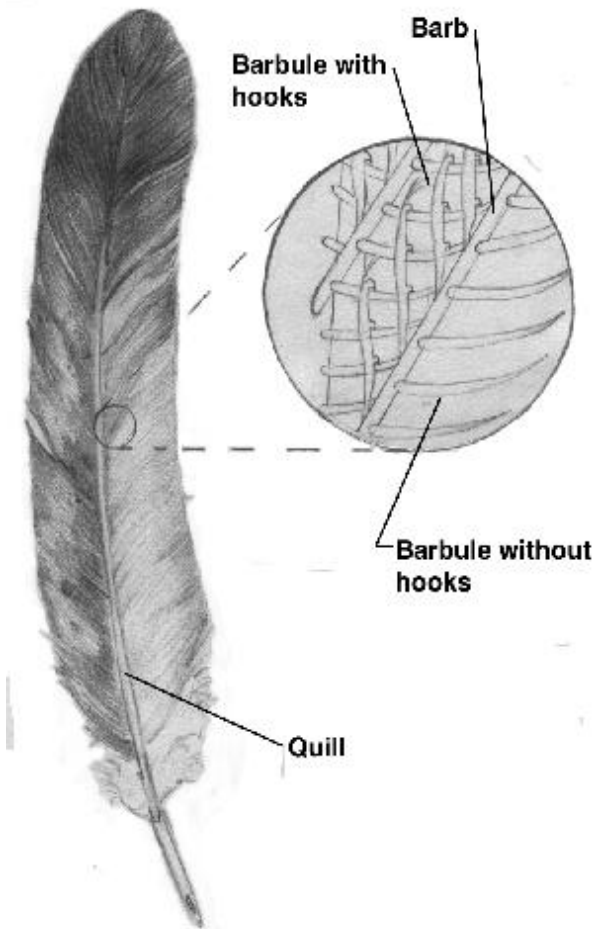
*Flowers do not have the ability to observe wasps and bees, and then decide to shape themselves so as to resemble female members of those insect species. A deeper and more perceptive process, which stands behind these two life-forms, discerns the functional usefulness of bringing them together so as to guarantee the pollination and seed-formation of these orchids.*

I think there are many examples of wonderfully designed things in nature. For example the feather. Here is David Attenborough's wonderful appreciation.

The feather is an extraordinary device. Few substances can equal it as an insulator and none, weight for weight, whether man-made or animal grown, can excel it as an aerofoil.



Its substance is keratin. The same horny material forms a reptile's scales and our own nails, but the exceptional qualities of a feather come from its intricate construction. A central shaft carries on either side a hundred filaments; each filament is similarly fringed with about a hundred smaller filaments or barbules. In downy feathers, this structure produces a soft, air-trapping fluffiness and, therefore, superb insulation. Flight feathers have an additional feature.



Their barbules overlap those of neighbouring filaments and hook them onto one another so that they are united into a continuous vane. There are several hundred such hooks on a single barbule, a million or so in a single feather, and a bird the size of a swan has about twenty-five thousand feathers. Almost all the characteristics that distinguish birds from other animals can be traced one way or another to the benefits brought by feathers. Indeed, the very possession of a feather is enough to define a creature as a bird.

David Attenborough, *Life on Earth, Lords of the air*, p173

**Michael Chester**

## **Breath of Life...**

*Michael J Wright*

As we journey or what Swedenborg refers to as 'sojourn' constant change of state, we see through our eyes and senses the outer world around us, buffers at work slow all we view as constant changing gentle states. But in reality the influx of life is subtle and dynamic if only we could see the reality of our situation on Planet Earth, but we are not privileged as Swedenborg was. He travelled between two worlds: the natural and spiritual at will for over 23 years in his later life. Lucky him! We have to be in general content with a few touching moments, hints of Greater Life, the gentle touch of the zephyr wind, quite whispers in moments of influx.

In 80 or so short years of life we should have a good inner picture of who we are, where we are going, and what is expected of us from Greater Life, which is rebirth, transformation, the building of a higher spiritual body, the awakening and formation of the Soul to be of use to the Divine to Eternity and Beyond.

Late last year I was travelling by taxi in Kolkata, India, in one of the old yellow rattlers, just enjoying the passing parade of motor scooters, pushbikes, horses and old clapped out government over-crowded buses. As it was in early October, the air was clear, a taste of autumn all around. As we roared down this four lane main road I



happened to glance out at a similar grungy yellow taxi two lanes over cruising at similar speed to us.

Sitting in the back seat gazing out the window as I was, was a young Indian girl of about 16. She looked at me I smiled and from somewhere gave her the peace sign.....



two fingers in the air, it was all very spontaneous. Within a second her two girlfriends and her were all at the taxis window big smiles, all giving me the peace signs this lasted for only about one minute but felt like hours, we were connected to and infilled with Divine Grace ...it's the little things in life that we should treasure. This was a golden moment in my life.

In December I was visiting some old friends. Over cakes and coffee we talked of and about the '4th Way and Beyond' a sharing of ideas, work processes and states of healing both spiritual and physical. At an opportune moment my friend out of the blue turned to me and said would I be by his side as and when he passed into the spiritual world ....Wow! This was really left field stuff even for me. I was a little more than stunned. But out of my mouth the words came and I said I would be privileged and honoured to be there. The gentle Zephyr stirred again. A little later thinking about what had just unfolded the following poem flowed into me.

### The Whisper

The air clear as Day.  
Trumpets, gently- gently draw nearer.  
Droplets of Light shimmering from the East.

Quietness fills the Air.  
A Whisper is deeply felt.  
The hand of God reaches Out.

Quietness fills the air.  
The shadow of the Lord draws near.  
The silence of the Void rings louder.

With every Heart beat the path homeward broadens.  
A prayer is whispered  
" Lord Jesus Christ Son of God  
have Mercy "

All is quiet, preparations are being made,  
the Lord is near - the bell rings louder.  
The heart is content.

The Silent Whisper - stirs the Void.  
the Eastern Gate gently Opens.  
The " One " whispers, the Light, the Light,  
the Light.

MJW 27th-12-12.

Just recently visiting a friend in the Macquarie hospital, early evening, as we walked up to reception through the leafy garden grounds of the University hospital, to my surprise there grazing on the lawn, were a pair of wild brown rabbits. They took no notice of us as we hurried past them, but out of the blue great emotions welled up from my childhood. I kept and greatly loved rabbits as pets, they all had names, all were greatly loved, all this flooded back to me for an instant, as in the Divine nothing is forgotten of our experiences in our past.



Another gentle zephyr wind touches me.

*Everything in nature that springs forth and subsists in accordance with Divine order is a correspondence. Divine order is caused by the Divine good that flows forth from the Lord. It begins in Him, goes forth from Him through the heavens in succession into the world, and is terminated there in outmosts; and everything there that is in accordance with order is a correspondence.*

**Heaven and Hell 107**



Joe Vandermeer

Crossword answers  
Across 5. THECORONIS 6. TEACH  
7. BEARD 8. POLHEM  
Down 1. LINCOLN 2. OBEDIENCE  
3. BROWNING 4. CEREBELLUM  
6. THREE



## Expressions of the Divine

By Andrew Heslop

These words roll off the lips easily, and I am quite able to say "Well Yes, The whole world is an Expression of the Divine" But then if honest I have to say that I do not really see, acknowledge and understand how the World is an Expression of the Divine. I can say it but that is not the same as knowing it.

Perhaps there are glimpses of understanding but it is not an ongoing daily state. This is then a personal struggle for me. How do I come to understand Expressions of the Divine? What are they? How are they active in my day to day life, my constant actions, thoughts and feelings? What are the practices and methods that I can use to uncover these Expressions so that they become real, enduring and personal? I daresay that it is the same dilemma for almost all of us.

Emanuel Swedenborg wrote of his direct experiences of the Spiritual Worlds, and gave sound practical advice and methods of coming to experience the outpourings of the Lord God. He wrote extensively of Representations and Correspondences as the way of understanding how the Lord God expressed into the world.

He was also clear that the world is an effect arising from a cause that is the Lord God where the ends are catered for in all eventualities. That which flows forth from the Lord God are endless affections as patterns and forms that are in filled with physical matter to become visible and externally seen and felt. These affections are the motive force and are the inner of the Representations and Correspondences.

Again the same problem arises. I find that no matter how much I might read about Correspondences, and can talk to myself about them in terms of this stands for this and that stands for that, the understanding experience of Correspondences is elusive.

**Divine Providence 3-1** " The universe, with all things in general and in particular therein, was created from the Divine Love, by the means of the Divine Wisdom"



Swedenborg gives a method that he used to investigate and come to understanding in a direct experiential way of the above stated truth.

Take any object and examine it with intelligence. i.e. not on a superficial sensory level. Here we could use the scale of reasoning approach.

Consider a tree, its seed, fruit, flower, leaf

- examine it macroscopically and microscopically
- examine the steps from a seed through the life cycle of seed to tree to seed. See the 'prolific principle' that is present, i.e. urge to multiply, conatus = a striving
- reflect upon this as a spiritual principle, i.e. present in the world in other things and processes.
- Ask yourself, is this accidental, or is it creative impulse or conatus
- Become aware that it is present continuously, i.e. at creation and then continuously, for maintenance is perpetual creation

With this in mind he explains that it something like

1. Speech ceases if thought stops,
  2. Motion stops if effort is withdrawn,
  3. The effect perishes if the cause is removed.
- In other words if the flow of life from the Lord God stopped everything would cease to exist.

He goes on to say

Consider a Bee, a worm, any animal examine it naturally – in macro, micro, in nature, uses

examine it rationally – relationship and general principles that apply to other life forms

examine it spiritually – over all principles that apply to organic life, psychological life

raise your thoughts to a high level and allow new perceptions to enter permit Divine Wisdom to speak to you i.e. be open to God.



It is apparent that the key as he wrote is to start with the intellect, for that is how we interact with the world, and is our usual way of taking in information. To remain doing that and nothing more is a trap that we can all fall into so easily.

Swedenborg suggests a shift from the intellect, which has examined the macro world and micro world, to one's feeling states.

It is in this condition that a Representation and/or Correspondence becomes known - in a feeling state. Even then in my experience it is a state that I have not felt or known before and it takes repeated times to be able to recognize the "taste" of the state. Yes the state can be described, but that is in intellectual terms and is but a shell and cannot transmit the understanding of it. To understand a Representation or Correspondence is to enter into it yourself through your intellect and then your feelings. Then it is your understanding of it.

In the **Bhagavad Gita** this method is alluded to when Arjuna wants to see (understand).

Again the Spiritual Vision is in feeling/inner visual states.

**Chapter 11: 8-12:** "But thou never canst see me with these thy mortal eyes. I will give thee divine sight. Behold my wonder and glory."

Krishna appeared then to Arjuna in his supreme divine form. And Arjuna saw in that form countless visions of wonder: eyes from innumerable faces, numerous celestial ornaments, numberless heavenly weapons; celestial garlands and vestures, forms anointed with heavenly perfumes. The Infinite Divinity was facing all sides, all marvels contained in him.

And Arjuna saw in that radiance the whole universe in its variety, standing in a vast unity in the body of the God of gods.



In both of these narratives it the transition from thought to feeling that is the method. In this way one can come to directly experience the Expressions of the Divine.

## Secretary's Report

By Ruth Duckworth

Since December we have been happy to welcome into membership the following:

**Julie Stamiris** (NSW)

**Tracey Glendenning** (Baulkham Hills NSW)

It is with sadness that we let you know that one of our members John Maitland has passed into the spiritual world. Here are a few tributes to him:

*Such a kind, gentle and knowledgeable man, we are all the richer for having known him. And the SAA benefited greatly from his wisdom given both through his talks and also his comments at meetings. He will be sadly missed by so many through his involvement in many organisations, his former work colleagues and especially those he helped through his homoeopathy clinic. A truly multifaceted person.*

Neville Jarvis

*I remember John as a very kind, gentle, generous and informed man who cared about the things he studied. I expect he will be well looked after in the next world and find new delights in being of service there.*

Joe Vandermeer

There are two seminars being organised this year that will be of interest to those who enjoy delving deeply into the Writings and meeting like-minded people. They are from Friday to Sunday on these dates:

Sydney: 14-16<sup>th</sup> June.

Perth: 18-20<sup>th</sup> October.

David Millar, the Director of Spiritual Training at the Australian New Church College, co-ordinates the seminar presentations.

The Seminars have a wide variety of topics including looking into the deeper meaning of Genesis which is covered in the Arcana Celestia. For those interested in finding out more about the Seminars please leave a message at the Centre

([info@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:info@swedenborg.com.au) with Seminar in the Subject or call (02) 9888 1066) and we will get back to you.



---

## My Experiences of the Divine

By Tracey Glendenning

---

I am taking this opportunity to share with you some of my life experiences of the Divine. Some of these experiences I perceived directly, and others were more indirect, through synchronicities. I endeavour to express these experiences as objectively as possible, as they occurred, and let you draw your own conclusions.

From a very young age I was fascinated by all things religious. I was brought up in a Catholic family and went to Catholic schools, so it was within that context that my understanding of God grew. During my primary school years, I felt closest to God when I was singing hymns. I sang hymns often- at school practice and at church, which I went to twice a week. Singing hymns made me feel reverent towards God, uplifted and joyful.

When I was fifteen years old, I was lying in bed and praying to God, when all of a sudden I felt His presence above me, it felt like He was about one and a half metres above my body. I had the most complete and intense feeling of being loved. That is the only way I can describe it. I had never felt anything like this before, I was completely in awe and speechless. I did not think or pray, I could not see or hear anything unusual, all I did was feel, and this feeling of being loved seemed to completely consume every part of me, of my mind, of my soul.

The next morning, I told my parents about what I had experienced and unfortunately they started laughing and looking at each other in a significant way. I was confused and couldn't work out why they were laughing. It turned out that they thought I had been having an auto-erotic sexual experience. By that age I knew what they were talking about, but I was too embarrassed to admit to them exactly how I knew that this experience was not what they thought it was. So I stopped trying to convince them that I had felt God's love, and I kept my experiences of God to myself from then on.

I decided that when I was older I wanted to be a writer. I also wanted to know everything there was to know about what it meant to be

human. I was very isolated as a child and adolescent, not having many experiences of life or people outside of my nuclear family and my school life. I yearned to experience more, and prayed to God to put me through as many experiences as possible in my life at a young age, so that I would have something to write about when I was older. I wanted to write as a way of helping people.

After leaving school I studied veterinary science for a few months, before deciding that I wanted to become a nun. I wanted to dedicate my whole life to God, and at that time I thought that becoming a nun was the best way to do this. My parents told me that I should go out to work first, rather than becoming a nun straight away. So I went out to work and studied psychology at university for a year and a half. I read everything I could get my hands on in regards to psychology and philosophy and got top marks in all of my exams.

By this stage I was living in the inner city and living a very different kind of life to that of my peers- I will go into these experiences another time. I discovered the writing of Emanuel Swedenborg when I was twenty-two. My boyfriend at the time was a historian and I found some of Swedenborg's books within his library. As I read *Heaven and Hell*, one of Swedenborg's most famous books, I felt like I had finally found Home, spiritually speaking. In Swedenborg's writings, I found answers to questions that I had been unable to find elsewhere. I was so impressed by his writings that I decided to leave my university course to study the writings full-time. Looking back, I wish I had started attending the New Church at this stage, to be around like-minded people who were equally impressed by Swedenborg's writings. But my life was to move in a different direction.

Six years later I was married, had very low self-esteem, and was being abused in many ways on a regular basis. I had no friends, and was hardly ever in contact with my parents or siblings. I fell pregnant, and soon discovered that the baby had health problems: his kidney was too large, it kept growing in



size, and there was a hole in the heart, but the doctors said there was a good chance of survival, with an operation shortly after the birth. We were told that the baby was a girl, so we decided to call her Emma, after my husband's mother. During the pregnancy, we referred to the baby as "Baby Em."

At eight months gestation, we discovered that baby Em had died. I gave birth to baby Em on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1998. Interestingly, during the birth, a large group of nursing students came into the birthing room where we were playing Enya during the delivery. One of the nursing students said "Wow, it is so light in here," which I thought was strange, as the lights were turned down quite dimly.

After birth, we discovered baby Em was actually a boy. He had many deformities which had not been picked up by the doctors: hare lip, cleft palate, talipes of the legs, spina bifida, imperforate anus, his right arm ended with two stumps instead of a hand, and instead of a penis there was just a thread; that must have been why the doctors assumed he was a girl during the ultrasound. After being born he was placed on one of the hospital's baby blankets, a white one with faint pink, blue and yellow lines running across it (this has a significance to it, as you will see below). As I held him in my arms all I felt was love. No sorrow, just love. Since we had been calling him baby Em throughout the pregnancy, we decided to name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." My husband's surname was Engel, which means angel, so Emmanuel's whole name translated to "God is with us angel."



About one week before Emmanuel's funeral, I was feeling extremely depressed. I prayed to God and asked for a message to be sent to me through my use of the I Ching. I had bought the I Ching kit some months beforehand. I had no doubts and absolute faith that I would be sent an appropriate message. While maintaining this faith I threw the three coins and then worked out which hexagram contained my answer; it was Thung Zan, unanimous purpose. I looked up Thung Zan in the kit's workbook, and this was the comforting

message that was written there:

### **THUNG ZAN: UNANIMOUS PURPOSE**

*With intelligence and grace, the fire turns to the force of heaven.*

*Just as water, the descending principle, always finds the lowest point, fire, the detaching principle, will turn upward. The seed germinating in the earth seeks the light, and its blooms turn to heaven.*

*Inspiration is imprisoned in matter and must wrestle itself free if it is to flourish. The inner fire of man, too, seeks union with heaven.*

*Fire consists of many flames. A single flame goes out quickly. Egoism, therefore, is out of place. If there is unanimous aspiration for a heavenly purpose, the land flourishes with peace and prosperity. Because of this display of splendour and beauty, heaven will permanently orient itself toward the earth.*

*The wise man knows the purpose of all things below heaven.*

I believed that if you had faith the size of a mustard seed, and the situation was a serious one, that you could throw the I Ching coins and receive an appropriate message. Reading about St. Francis' life had inspired me to have this kind of faith when I was desperate for some kind of an answer about something. During Saint Francis' travels with his brothers one day, they arrived at crossroads and did not know which way God willed them to go next. So St. Francis told Brother Masseo to spin around and around in circles until he told him to stop. Finally St. Francis told him to stop and then asked which direction he was facing, and that was the way they ended up travelling.

At the cemetery where Emmanuel was cremated, we had a ceremony where we played "On My Way Home" by Enya and released two white doves during the song. My sister Sarah took a photo at this time, and when we had the photo developed we noticed an apparition that appeared at the level of our knees in the photo. The apparition looks exactly like the baby blanket that Emmanuel was placed on after his birth at Westmead Hospital. The standard baby blankets at the hospital are white and have faded pink, blue and yellow lines running down it. In the colour





photo, you can see these faint colours also streaming through the white "blanket" apparition, as indicated below:



*ON MY WAY HOME*

by Enya

*I have been given  
One moment from heaven  
As I am walking  
Surrounded by night,  
Stars high above me  
Make a wish under moonlight.*

*On my way home  
I remember  
Only good days.  
On my way home  
I remember all the best days.  
I'm on my way home  
I can remember  
Every new day.*

*I move in silence  
With each step taken,  
Snow falling round me  
Light angels in flight,  
Far in the distance  
Is my wish under moonlight.*

Let me close by sharing with you some of my experiences in Vipassana meditation. Back in 2001, my boyfriend at the time was having some difficult problems and I encouraged him to attend the Vipassana meditation retreat at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains, as I had heard some good things about it from others. He finished the ten days, and I picked him up from the centre in my car.

After about five minutes of driving, I started to feel a tingling sensation on the tip of my nose. I told my boyfriend, and he said that was

interesting because when they started practising the meditation, that was one of the first sensations he experienced. After another couple of minutes, this tingling sensation started travelling from my nose down through my whole body, making it feel very light. At the same time, my eyes started to narrow into slits so that I could hardly see and my lips pursed tightly so that I could barely talk. I had to pull the car over as I could not control what was happening to my body, as hard as I tried. It was very difficult for me to walk around the car to the passenger's side of the car. My boyfriend drove the rest of the way to the hotel. It was extremely embarrassing walking through the hotel lobby in this state. These manifestations in my body continued for about two hours, until I drank some alcohol.

Years later, in 2007, I finally decided to do the ten day course myself. We were not allowed to talk for the whole ten days, except if we had to talk to one of the teachers, and we had to keep our eyes closed during meditation, which we did for about ten hours each day. On the third day, during meditation, my body started to shake uncontrollably. This went on for many minutes. I tried very hard to get my body to stop shaking, and did manage to do so, however as soon as my body stopped shaking, my mind started to feel like it was becoming scrambled, as if I was going crazy. I thought that I would rather let my body shake than have my mind go crazy, so I stopped trying to control the shaking and my mind went back to its normal state.

After a few more minutes, I felt like someone was pulling some of the hairs up from the crown of my head. This feeling continued, when suddenly the shaking of my body stopped and all I could see was a white, very bright light. I felt as if it was surrounding all of me, and it seemed to travel on forever into the distance. At the same time, I felt like I was tingling all over, and I felt immensely peaceful, even blissful. After a while, I thought to myself, "Is this heaven?" And then, "If this is heaven, where have all of the people gone?" and then finally, "I have to DO SOMETHING!!!" I stood up, walked outside, and took my shoes off. I felt the grass under my feet as I walked along and looked across the mountains, deliberately sending out love to all of creation. This filled me with an intense feeling of joy which remained with me for the rest of the camp, but especially when I was doing something useful, like washing the dishes at the end of our last meal.



The beauty and wonders of the natural world provide a myriad of Expressions of the Divine Presence, from the majesty of mountains to the smallest creature at work .....

The little leaf-curl spider had been up all night, spinning her gossamer web between two branches. The next afternoon, she was curled up asleep in her leaf at the top of the web, waiting for dinner that night.

Late that afternoon, world weary and heavy of heart, I walked into the garden to be greeted by a shaft of sunlight illuminating her web. The spider's leaf became the red hair of the "Gossamer Lady" and as a gentle breeze wafted the web, the Lady's gown shimmered in a multitude of colours, billowing behind her, giving the appearance of her slowly strolling through the garden. The Lady's arms were outstretched and shafts of light came from her fingertips.



I stood entranced for many a long minute then, with a lighter heart and a smile on my face, gave thanks for the reassuring reminders of the ever-present Divine. And hoped that a certain little spider had a wonderful big dinner that night.

**Jan Primrose**

### **The world is full of stories.**

It is one of the unique characteristics of mankind: that they tell stories! Originally, around a camp fire or in hallowed places. The strangest of them is probably the Christmas story: The Incarnation of God, of Jesus Christ, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father: born as a baby – like any other baby, needing a mother's care and later to be taught to speak as we all do.

Is it really possible for all this to be true? But there is a thread running through the Gospels which distinguishes it from all other literature: Jesus seems too good to be true!

However, that goodness begins to touch our heart and opens a longing for the story to be true, because it seems to answer every desire we have in our better moments: a desire for love. We have children and we love them and when they get into trouble we long to get things right for them. Are you perhaps experiencing what the Lord God felt towards all humanity?

The world is, generally speaking very corrupt, and peace is frequently disturbed in our lives in personal as well as public matters. And then a voice speaks to us:

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn you."* Jeremiah 31.3

The point is that we can relate to this and understand it when a member of our family, or a friend suffers an accident or falls ill. Why do we feel like that? Because God is our Father and Creator and we respond as He does to the dangers of our daily life. And the Gospels? They are really the most believable story ever told! Our inner spirit urges us to trust them.

**Christopher V A Hasler**

It's possible that a time is coming when we will see everything quite differently than we do now. Swedenborg indicates things which portray everything as an expression of God. He explains that the Word of God is the blueprint for true spiritual development in our lives. The first verse of John's gospel makes it clear that the Word is God; the Word (Divine Truth within which is Divine Love) is the full expression of everything that God is. His entire life is involved in the spiritual regeneration of human beings.

Swedenborg also explains how this can be so. He tells us that God creates everything immediately. Nothing can exist without God creating it continuously moment to moment. He is eternally in the act of bringing into existence the thing that He loves – the regeneration of people and their sharing the happiness in life that God himself has. This means, as John's gospel tells us that nothing exists that is outside what the Word is all about. Everything that exists and happens is according to the awesome plan that God has for each of us. It only remains for us to co-operate with that plan.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without them nothing was made that has been made.* John 1:1-3

**Wayne Kasmar**



## Discounted Items for the Quarter

As a reader of **Candela**, if you order the following titles in the March 2013 to May 2013 Quarter, you will receive approx. 25% off the retail price (*while stocks last*).  
(see the discounted price and postage on the form below)



THE HEAVENLY CITY  
A Spiritual Guidebook

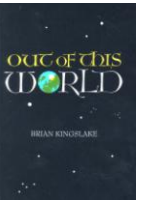
**The Heavenly City: A Spiritual Guidebook** by **Emanuel Swedenborg**  
1993, 112 pages, paperback **RRP \$20.00**

Are you interested in exploring the stages of spiritual growth and the deeper structure of the human mind? Are you seeking deeper meaning to many Christian beliefs and practices? The thoughtful reader will travel into a rich and rewarding world of new spiritual insights. **The Heavenly City** outlines Swedenborg's core teachings on how to live a truly spiritual life – the very essence of the New Jerusalem - and the deeper meanings within Christian concepts.



**The Design of Existence** by **Wilson van Dusen**  
2001, 188 pages, paperback **RRP \$20.00**

In this book, Wilson Van Dusen offers spiritual explorers a guidebook for mystical experience, describing the inner landscape in detail. He uses Swedenborg's ideas as the basis for a true universal mysticism, showing how our interior realm reflects the external cosmos, which makes a mystical sense of oneness possible.



**Out of this World** by **Brian Kingslake**  
1978, 1996, 176 pages, paperback **RRP \$20.00**

A stimulating collection of 25 talks to strengthen the reader's spiritual life on the heavenly pathway. With such headings as "Hope and Despair", "A Free Offer", "Making Choices", and "Meeting God", this book offers the reader a spiritual tonic.

**To order phone** on (02) 9888 1066 and mention the Candela, or send an **email** to [orders@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:orders@swedenborg.com.au) with 'Candela Order' as the subject or complete the Order Form (you can copy it) and return it to the Swedenborg Centre.

### ORDER FORM ~ Send to: SWEDENBORG CENTRE, 1 Avon Road, NORTH RYDE, NSW 2113

I wish to buy the following items (please insert Number of copies and Total but see "Freight" below):-

Title	* Freight	Discount Price	No.	Total
<b>The Heavenly City: A Spiritual Guidebook</b> by Emanuel Swedenborg	\$3.00	\$15.00		\$
<b>The Design of Existence</b> by Wilson van Dusen	\$3.00	\$15.00		\$
<b>Out of this World</b> by Brian Kingslake	\$3.00	\$15.00		\$
<b>Total Payable</b> by Cheque/Money Order/Credit Card #				\$

# Cheques/Money Orders payable to "Swedenborg Centre"

\* For multiple orders, actual freight cost will be charged if less (maximum cost will be \$12)

Your Details (Capitals please)

**Name** : Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

**Address**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card Payment:** Visa/Mastercard No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

For Group activities, contact your nearest Group Convenor

- Brisbane: Ian Arnold on (07) 3841 2552;
- 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) 98881066; email: michael@swedenborg.com.au;

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

Our website is updated regularly. Go to meetings on [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au) for more details. Please let us know if you would like to be informed via email.

**Brisbane:** New Church Hall, 21 Agars Street, Rosalie.  
**Melbourne:** New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mount Waverley.  
 Last Fridays commencing 8pm.

**Sydney:** Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde commencing 7.45pm.  
 26<sup>th</sup> April **Spirituality and Visual Arts** by Michelle Heldon  
 Go to <http://www.swedenborg.com.au/events/nr2013.htm> for more details.

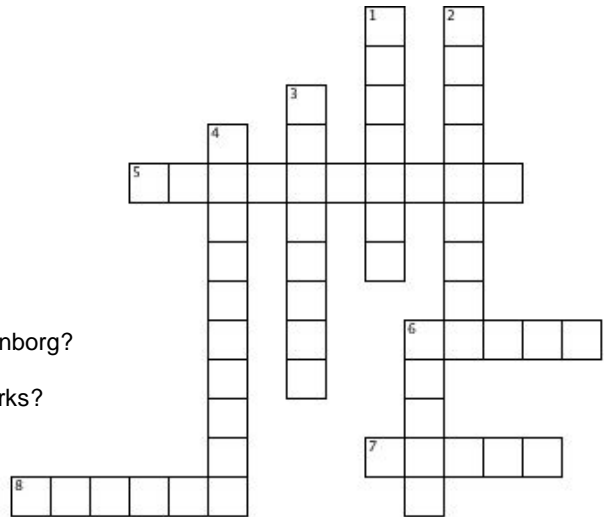
## Crossword puzzle – Robert Bryce

Across

5. Which incomplete manuscript was published posthumously and identified as an "Appendix to The True Christian Religion" ?
6. What does to weave signify?
7. What male physical feature signifies the most external part or principle?
8. Which Swedish inventor did Swedenborg work with from January 1716?

Down

1. Which famous American President is reported to have read Swedenborg?
2. Earrings were representatives of ...?
3. Which female Victorian era poet was a reader of Swedenborg's works?
4. In which part of the brain does Swedenborg say the will dwells?
6. Swedenborg describes what number as signifying that which is full from beginning to end?



Answers on page 4

As the pencil maker put the new pencil into the box he told him these five important lessons.

1. Everything you do will always leave a mark.
2. You can always correct the mistakes you make.
3. What is important is what is inside of you.
4. In life you will undergo painful sharpening, which will only make you better.
5. To be the best pencil you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

We all need to be constantly sharpened. This parable may encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfil the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed and, like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are, is what's inside of you.

