

Candela



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

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ISSUE 40

Do You Believe in Angels?

I met a neighbour on the bush track on the weekend who said:

Do you believe in angels? I do.

This lady, in her late sixties, had told me ten years ago of a mystical experience she had had so the question did not phase me. I remember Zina, I shall call her, had just returned from a safari in Kenya and she related the following incident.

It was approaching dusk and the herds of animals were settling down for the night, clearly not wanting to engage with the tourists any more. It was then that a herd of elephants turned and confronted the group, not aggressively but consciously and the large male leader stepped forward, close to Zina, and held her gaze. She was looking into the eye of this majestic beast and knew at that moment she was witnessing all creation and the Creator.

As she told of the experience, she was visibly moved and excited, not knowing how I would respond to this out-of-body experience. Yet she was unable to hold back. From that time her life changed enormously. She had been, I would say, a pragmatic person up to that time who had been disappointed and disillusioned by a rigid catholic upbringing and had turned away from all religion. She turned now to a broader spirituality, took up painting, French and Italian lessons and experienced healing. When she travelled, which she did once a year, she took her easel and she could converse with the locals. She had not finished school but was now self-taught in many fields - life had become her finishing school.

Do you believe in angels?

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

The angels in my life are not winged babes though I could not describe them in any detail. I think there are more than one at any time but whether it is two or three I couldn't say. I usually check in with them when I remember, to get some direction or inspiration and there are many cases of being warned of potential danger. When I have not heeded the direction (because it seemed too silly) I have been thoroughly chastened and left in no doubt that I am being 'looked after'.

This usually causes me to reflect on my purpose in life and urges me to strive with more determination in making life a little better for others. I don't always succeed but I learn a little on the way and I know it is the angel who is working through me.

I guess that is what the elephant was doing. If the Divine talks to us, it can happen in many ways even through a wild beast. Zina changed almost overnight and became a beautiful person. She turned her energies from herself to others and has since inspired many others to see beyond the surface of things - into the world of angels.

Agape,

John Brogan, President



Angelic Life Now

We do not have to wait until after we die to experience heavenly joy, for Swedenborg writes:

“Heavenly love is loving what is good, honest, and fair because it is good, honest and fair, and doing it because of that love. So they have a life of goodness, honesty, and fairness, which is a heavenly life. The person who loves these things for their own sake and who does and lives them, also loves the Lord supremely, because these things come from Him.”
Heaven and Hell (para 481)



A good number of the articles, stories and items which follow reflect this thought and attitude to life. We hope that you will gain much from what you read. If you have any reflections during your reading, do jot them down and send them to me at the Registered Office. It would be great to share them with others in subsequent issues.

Neville Jarvis, Newsletter Coordinator

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Please Note: The views expressed in this Newsletter are the writers' own 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.

Candela - September 2005 Issue

Our theme will be: *The Value of Prayer in Modern Life*

Times of praying, meditating, reflecting etc. are valuable episodes in our lives to cope with everything that is going on around us and to reorientate our thinking and direction. Your contributions continue to be very welcome and it will be great to have lots of items and a bumper number of pages to publish! Do keep them flowing in.

Again, you might like to think about the following possibilities for submissions (the deadline for copy will be 6th September 2005) but do not feel limited to them:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ an article of up to 1000 words | ✓ a poem, etc. |
| ✓ art work in the form of line drawings | ✓ a question to which you would like an answer |

Talking With God by Gwynne Dresser Mack and *Learning to Pray* by Jill and Brian Kingslake would make helpful reading. Copies are available from the Swedenborg Centre for purchase or loan.



Angels in Our Lives

by Jeanette Frangoff

In the following recount I have attempted to revisit what I perceive to have been an encounter with angels. My experience happened in 1980 whilst I was living in Yamba (on the north coast). It was a time that marks the lowest point of my existence both emotionally and spiritually (for reasons I will go on to explain) and it was profound in the sense that it helped me change my life. The angels led me out of the darkness and into the light.

From 1978 up until 1980 my external and inner life dramatically deteriorated. My marriage of nine years had ended bitterly, I had fallen in love with a man who was emotionally unstable as well as verbally and physically abusive, I had contracted Hepatitis A from a local restaurant and my two young children were suffering the fallout from the chaotic mess I had created around them.

I had descended into a negative minefield where fear, anxiety, guilt and self-loathing were all consuming. I was deeply depressed to the point of mental breakdown, where life had become so painful I was entertaining thoughts of suicide. It was from this desolately sad situation that help finally came.

One night I had been lying in bed for hours unable to sleep with a multitude of recurring thoughts which were all negative. Somehow a fruit bat had squeezed itself through the unfinished eaves of the house and was circling near the ceiling above my bed. I opened the sliding door and managed to steer it out. I went back to bed and wondered about the dark significance of this event. Hours of mental turmoil later and my pleas for God's help (despite my lack of spiritual conviction) I must have finally fallen asleep. My angelic visitation came through a dream.

I became suddenly aware of a presence just above my right shoulder. The angels, for there were three males, were dressed in dark coloured middle eastern clothing similar to those worn in biblical times. I was unable to discern their faces, probably due to my spiritual desolation but this didn't seem to matter because I could sense their energy which emanated love, strength and concern. If they were in fact angels they appeared to be very serious. They then spoke to me, and I remember the exact words, they said "if you are not going to help yourself, then

we will have to help you". Many years later, with more understanding, I can see the significance of this message. Interestingly, *angel* in Biblical Hebrew is Mal'ak meaning messenger.

When I awoke, not only did I remember the dream, I felt that something had changed in me. It was analogous to that of a large heavy boulder being removed from one's shoulders. I was no longer as deeply depressed as I had been the night before. This is not to say that my problems had miraculously disappeared. However, for the first time in two years I could see with more clarity some of the initial things I needed to do in order to transform my life.

All I knew at the time was that I had to leave Yamba. I organized to move, and within a week had arrived with my children at my parents home in Wollongong where life gradually started to improve. I found a rental apartment, a job, placed the kids in school, began educating myself and met my current husband who I firmly believe is the soul-mate I was destined to be with. Although we had crossed paths earlier in life, I don't think it would have worked; we met at the right time having learned some important lessons first.

Emanuel Swedenborg, who had many encounters with angels, was told by one "*The pleasure in being useful is the life and soul of all heavenly joys*" (Conjugal Love 5). The expression of this is in the presence of angels whose purpose is to protect, guide, encourage, and even celebrate with us which is often disguised as our intuition, insight, dream, daydream, prayer, or some other resource.

Swedenborg also saw angels not as coming from separately created order but as having lived on earth as human beings. This is not to underestimate angels' power, but we are presented with the optimistic picture that angels are human and humans essentially angelic, in both cases the angelic element coming from the connection with the Divine.

If angels intervene when we are in situations that put our spiritual future in danger and help carry us through a tough time or lead us to new levels of compassion and enlightenment, then this certainly applies to my encounter. The story gets better!



In 1992 Chris and I were introduced to Dr Groves' work and we began travelling up to Balgowlah for a number of years to lectures until Dr Groves moved to the spiritual realm where I am sure he is of great use to the Divine. I remember relating to Dr Groves the encounter I have just described. His response was that angels or spirit guides appear to us at times when we really need them, that when things are going well in our lives they do not intervene.

It is also interesting to note that the power of the angels in our lives comes from the power of the Lord. As Swedenborg says "*Angels were sent to people, and they also spoke through the prophets. But what they said did not originate in those angels; it came through them*" (*Arcana Caelestia* #1925). What comes through the angels comes from the Lord.

Thank you Lord and your angels for lifting me out of a deep dark chasm, pointing me in the right direction and giving me the strength to love again.

Jeanette Frangoff lives in Robertson, NSW

For those with Internet access, Jeanette recommended a website for information on the Swedenborgian understanding of angels which she found very helpful:
www.swedenborgianchurch.org/angels.htm

Immortality

*"If I am rock
 By the ocean --
 I am buffeted,
 And worn away,
 By the waves.
 But if I am waves,
 I go on forever --.
 Immortality is in --
 Where we place ourselves.*

*Identify with your body,
 And you last a brief season.
 Identify with all there is,
 And stroll in eternity."*

*Moments of Enlightenment
 Wilson Van Dusen*

VALE WILSON VAN DUSEN Ph.D

For more than thirty years, the name Wilson Van Dusen has been well known within the Swedenborg movement. Many readers of this Newsletter will have books he has written on their shelves; there will be some who were introduced to Swedenborg by them. His love for the teachings found in Swedenborg's writings led him to pen books and articles explaining them both from his own background in clinical psychology and interest in the mystical pathway. However, not only did he explain them, he was an ardent advocate for their investigation.

During the 1960's, Wilson saw a newspaper advert offering a book that promised to clarify the whole of existence - *Divine Providence* by Swedenborg. Initially, for him, it "seemed rather abstract, dull, and a rehash of Christian ideas". A few years later, after a series of his own religious visions, he took up the book again because he could then recognise Swedenborg's own deep experiences. Already an author in the field of Gestalt psychology, Wilson began to write his first book drawing on Swedenborg's teachings - *The Natural Depth in Man*, subtitled a searcher's guide for exploring the secret spaces of our inner worlds. This was published in 1972 by Harper & Row. Two years later, with his specific, simple purpose being "to bring Swedenborg within the reach of many", *The Presence of Other Worlds* was issued by the same publisher. Over the next 25 years, another five books have been published focussing more and more on the visionary and mystical experience avenues for relating to the higher source of life.

Now, this Canadian champion of Swedenborg's teachings, born in 1924 on a day when there was a rare full eclipse of the sun in San Francisco, has passed into the spiritual world himself - on 25th April 2005. His grandmother was a spiritualist minister who willed Wilson her Swedenborg collection. His parents decided to "protect him" by throwing it out. Yet the Divine had other ideas! Wilson's writings have certainly introduced many to the teachings in Swedenborg's works and to those writings directly. The Swedenborg movement here in Australia has sold quite a large number of his books over the years and this will surely continue well into the future.

Neville Jarvis (Executive Manager)



ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Membership

We are very pleased to warmly welcome the following new Members to the Association:

Maureen Barelli (VIC)
 Leonie Dale (NSW)
 Mr H. Forrest (VIC)
 Gillian Hopkinson (QLD)
 Eduard Klassen (QLD)
 John Maitland (NSW)

Following the despatch of the renewal letters for the 2005 subscription year, for differing reasons, four of our members have advised that they will not be renewing. Subscriptions are still outstanding for a small number of members. No further reminder letters will be issued and membership will lapse where subscriptions are not received by 30th June 2005. If you are unsure of the current status of your membership, do contact the Swedenborg Centre who will be able to assist (phone 02 9888 1066; email; saa@swedenborg.com.au).

Business Items

The Committee met in May to review progress on projects which are currently being worked on. Due to other commitments, Committee members often find it difficult to give as much time to Swedenborg Association issues as they would wish. We have to be realistic and remind ourselves that we can only achieve the possible! The next Committee meeting is in late July and again you are invited to submit ideas and suggestions for consideration. Send them to the Registered Office in good time.

Neville Jarvis (Executive Manager)


 **A Passing Thought** 

In the course of your lifetime and unbeknown
to you

Some people may look up to you

Let them not, by your actions, revert their
gaze

and look down on you!



Ken Cross, NSW

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION VIA MEMBERS

Your Committee has decided to provide each member a set of the audio tapes of:

The Heavenly City

This is a modern translation of Swedenborg's valuable work *The New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrines*, in which he succinctly presents the main corpus of his spiritual writings. The two 90min. tapes contain a recording of the text by ABC presenter, Barry Eaton, with pleasant musical interludes.

It is realised that a good number of members may already have either these tapes or the book of the same name. However, the Committee reminds members that the purpose for providing the annual item is to pass on to someone who might benefit.

GROUP'S NEWS

Brisbane:

There were 11 present at the April 27th meeting when **Paul Eldar** gave an absorbing and useful talk on *The Vedic Tradition*. Amongst those attending were four Filipino students studying with The Australian New Church College and 'regulars' from as far away as Tweed Heads and the Gold Coast. Illness caused the May meeting to be cancelled.

With Paul's move interstate we are needing to 'ring the changes' so far as Brisbane meetings are concerned. Paul has been the regular (and only) speaker at our meetings since their inception in July 2003 and we are deeply grateful to him for his talks over this period, scholarly yet simple, always thought provoking and precise, and often with a dash of humour. Paul is offering to record further talks and we may yet arrange future meetings around these, having a suitable introduction, etc.

At the same time, we are conscious of requests from people for meetings at other times and are presently reviewing things. For July and August we are taking a break and plan to resume in September.

Ian Arnold





GROUP'S NEWS (Cond)

Melbourne:

We endeavour to provide a variety of topics to accommodate the wide interests of the people who attend the group. In March our speaker was **Geoff Forster** who spoke on the subject of *Current Research in Consciousness Studies*. Geoff drew upon work undertaken by David Lorimer, past President of Swedenborg Society in the UK, and provided a very good synopsis of findings in this field looking at experiences beyond cognitive thought. The topic was of interest to those present and demonstrated that up to a point research is recognising the validity of experiences that cannot necessarily be quantified scientifically. A summary of the presentation will be published in a later issue of Candela.

In April our speaker was **Sylvia Eriksson** who is a Minister of the New Thought Alliance and has spoken to us on other occasions on topics such as the Near Death Experience and Spiritual Healing. On this occasion her topic was *Creative Thought*. Sylvia spoke about the importance of affirmations and looking to the positive flow of Divine Love so that negative thoughts and feelings cannot envelop our living. The practice of positive living and prayer provides an environment in which God can work with us. As usual Sylvia's presentation was well received and the 23 in attendance enjoyed the talk with a lively question time following.

Our speaker in May was **Martin Pennington**, a Swedenborgian Minister living in Victoria, and Martin's subject was *The Significance of Numbers in the Bible*. The presentation focussed on the way the numbers between one and twelve re-occur in the biblical narrative in all sorts of ways showing the essentials of our relationship with God and He with us, our spiritual journey, temptation and remains implanted in us. Martin touched on the way numbers are divisible and in this way shed light on our regeneration. Passages from Swedenborg's writings were used to illustrate the points being made. We had a good attendance of 22 at this meeting and everyone enjoyed the very thorough treatment of what is a very big topic

Chris Skinner



Perth:

27th May saw a small group gather at Petros Bookshop to consider *An approach to reading*

Swedenborg which led into lengthy discussion over tea and coffee. This was the first in a series of ongoing presentations, which we hope people will find stimulating.

We believe there is a growing interest in deeper issues within the general population of Perth and its surrounds. With this in mind we plan to regularly attempt to stimulate the perceived interest by advertising the Swedenborg meetings in a variety of ways. In saying this we acknowledge that the best form of advertising is 'word of mouth' and urge everyone to pass the word along. We look forward to seeing new and old friends at future meetings.

Trevor Moffat



North Ryde, Sydney:

Julian Duckworth presented *Eros and Psyche* on May 27th. It was a very special evening where Julian looked at what *Eros* and *Psyche* represented and how the story touches on our lives. In Greek "psyche" means butterfly, and inspired by the butterfly's dramatic transformation, the Ancient Greeks used the same word to describe the human soul. This is the story of the potential we all have to undergo a dramatic transformation and awaken to a new way of living. He introduced the evening with various ideas from Swedenborg's writings regarding mythology such as "*In Greece they turned true correspondences into fables (myths).*" De Verbo 15. He also reminded us of Swedenborg's basic outline of spiritual life and growth involving the relationship between good and truth. Swedenborg calls it the marriage of good and truth because they are both essential to make us a complete whole person. Or to use the language of correspondence, only when good and truth come together can there be the offspring of use, or fulfilment like the child of the marriage.

Julian related this aspect of Swedenborg's insights to a number of love stories coming from Greek Mythology before reading a delightful version of the *Eros and Psyche* story. Afterwards he focussed on some of the symbolism of the myth and its relevance to our own personal lives. The presentation flowed really well, with interaction with the audience who shared some of their insights. For those who are drawn to this story, seeing this talk on video is very helpful as it leads you to see its deeper meanings and thereby provides inner guidance for your spiritual journey.

Michael Chester



Gratitude: a way of life

Everyone who reads this article, could have their own version on what they believe is “gratitude: a way of life” and each one’s opinion would be right for them!

I would like to share my version. Each day I give thanks for the gift of life and the presence of God in it! I’m eternally grateful for the wisdom granted over the years, of reading Swedenborg’s works, which have been an inspiration in my everyday life, and uplifted my faith.

We all have the ability to gather knowledge, before life passes us by. I have a thirst for these type of books, many of which grace my book shelves. A well known author has been quoted as saying ... “gratitude is one of life’s miracles.” How often do we take time to notice the wonders of the natural world around us:

- ▶ the rainbow after a storm,
- ▶ the silvery brilliance of the moon,
- ▶ the setting of the sun.

Gratitude is opening up our senses to life around us. It is an awesome awareness, when you express gratitude. You raise the vibrations around you - good things and good people gravitate toward you. Ernest Holmes wrote in his book *The Science of Mind* - “Within us is the unborn possibility of limitless experience!” Indeed, life is waiting for us to trust in its dreams, to enjoy the rapture of the moment. A grateful heart recharges the soul and revitalizes us, as with this biblical passage “*This is the day the Lord has made - I will rejoice and be glad in it*” empowers the start of each day.

One of the confusing things about gratitude is that it can be interpreted by any individual in a number of different ways. I gave a small speech at my mothers 90th birthday. I titled my speech ‘Gratitude’. I felt there was an unlimited amount of gratitude I owed to my mother and I could only touch on a minority, but she knew it all came from my heart.

I have a book entitled *Gratitude* which I purchased many years ago, and back then I had written on the inside cover: *Gratitude is the language of angels.*

Obviously that book touched me to have written that inside. Many of us have sung one of the best known hymns in the world, *Amazing Grace*, but few

have known how this hymn came to be written. It was by a John Newton, more than a century ago, he was a slave trader who had lost his soul in search for money, power and pleasure - when out of the blue, grace came into his life - he changed completely and was moved to write, “*I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*” Before that moment of grace, he could not see the truth of love, compassion and kindness. But, after, he found his soul - he could see the light, and it was amazing - hence, the song came about and has touched the hearts of many too numerous to count! Imagine how wonderful it would be to feel so fulfilled in your inner being, without needing the reassurance of another person.

When you open your heart and soul to the delight of the universe, you are filled to overflowing, and delight flows out to others. Ripples of delight expand, making a better world for all of us.

It has been written by a well known author that, and I quote: “*Delight is the spark that ignites us to become our best selves.*” (Gregg Harris) Yes, delight improves our attitude toward everyone and everything in our lives. Nature shows us in every way that happiness is never far away - delight in the majesty of mountains, the quiet beauty of the forests. Just to walk in a forest is pure bliss! It enriches your soul and makes your heart sing! I have gathered fallen pine-cones in a forest, it gave me a feeling of exuberance and I came away with an inner calm.

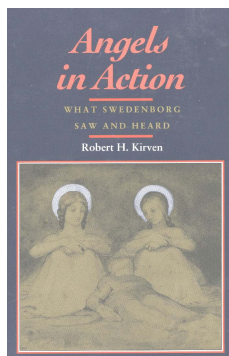
Yes, indeed, gratitude and delight can come into our lives in special ways; you just have to take the time-out, to appreciate those moments.

Merlene Stratton, Victoria



If we live as angels on earth, we receive heavenly joy.

Every action or every work of a spiritual person is, in the sight of angels, like a flavorful, useful, and beautiful fruit, which when opened and eaten yields flavour, utility, and delight.
Swedenborg: *Divine Love and Wisdom* #279



Angels in Action: What Swedenborg Saw and Heard

I have a confession to make! I'm not very good at reading Swedenborg straight!
So, when I was asked for a review of one of the "Angel" books which the Swedenborg Centre carries, I thought that this was my big opportunity to find out what Swedenborg had to say about Angels, without having to read directly what Swedenborg had to say about Angels!

Make sense? Well, maybe not, but let me say this - I found the book *Angels in Action* by **Robert H Kirven** nothing short of brilliant!

I'm usually hesitant to recommend books to people, as I am aware that each of us is at our own particular stage along our path, and it is not for me to know what is good for whom: however, if you want to know "what Swedenborg saw and heard", and experienced, with and through Angels, then this is definitely the book for you.

Kirven writes with such clarity. Each Angelic concept unfolds, idea by idea; feeling by feeling, culminating in such a magnificently full and complete picture of Angels and Angelic life and purpose; I was left tear filled, happy, peaceful: content with what I had just read. This, together with the beautiful and sensitive illustrations, gives a full and rounded reading experience.

Many of Swedenborg's foundation precepts are covered in this book, from how Angels help, how they develop and grow, how they live, what we, ourselves, can do (which is what I like - instructions!) and even more about Swedenborg, the man, and his own experiences.

The last paragraph on page 32 was a major "AHA" moment for me - I really "got" the reason for humans - us - living and being on this planet, in a physical body. Don't want to say any more and spoil it for you!

Enjoy reading it - you won't want to put it down!

Louise Brogan, NSW

See page 11 with details of price and ordering this book

ATTITUDE

*S*uccess is a goal, for all mankind,
*A*chieved through thought and a state of mind,
*T*hat strength of purpose we cannot exclude,
*F*or success depends on our attitude.

*S*o hear yourself, your voice within,
*I*t will guide you through your life herein,
*S*ix days of labour, one day of rest,
*S*hrug not your shoulders, do your best.

*T*ake not in life the mild approach,
*T*he results you receive, you will not boast,
*S*o give your all with plenty of drive,
*F*or none of us leave this world alive.

*L*abour and learn in pursuit of your dreams,
*T*he best things in life are all upstream,
*W*hat you put in, is what you get,
*P*ain of discipline beats regret.

*L*ife is too long not to do well,
*I*f you do not try, it's a living hell,
*S*o play out your hand, if you have any pride,
*O*r live to regret, of not having tried.

Author Unknown
Submitted by Rosemary Goodwin, QLD

***Good friends are like angels;
you don't have to see them to know
they are there.***

Swedenborg writes: "The more we love what is good and what is true, the more the angels love to be with us" and "Angels are sent to people to watch over them and to lead them away from evil affections and thoughts."



ARE THERE ANGELS IN YOUR LIFE?

On the face of it, the title of this article calls for a simple and direct answer which, in my own case, is a direct *Yes! There is an angel in my life.*

I am fortunate; knowledge that there is a great deal more to this earthly life of which we are part than that which is immediately clear from the senses we have at our disposal - sight, touch, hearing and smell - came when I was only in my 'teens. It does not follow that I understood the significance of this knowledge at the time, only that I accepted it as gospel.

As is often the case, positive evidence of the existence of a personal angel only followed later as I stood upon the brink of changes that were to not just threaten my life, but bring about a complete change to the value I put upon it, along with its purpose. Although I was not to know it, my whole future and that of my wife and children as well as other members of my family were to be dramatically altered as a consequence.

Spiritual conviction comes in many ways; for me, it came in what I can only imagine was a unique way for the evidence to which I have referred arrived in a strangely material form that impacted upon me in two ways . . . spiritual and material!

Over the many decades that have followed that event, my angel - I guess more accurately the angel that attaches to me - has been a constant companion in whom I can put absolute trust at all times and in all things spiritual. The word 'spiritual' is here chosen deliberately, for those who expect either an angel or some form of deity to make choices for us, or to correct in a material way mistakes we make in this world, should look elsewhere! In this life we are in charge of our own destiny, and had better learn to act accordingly!

To my mind, however, the above title invites a much more significant answer than to the simple question, for accepting there are angels must surely demand an explanation of what their role is to those of us living this material life . . . and that is far from simple and can only be answered on the basis of personal belief - and is therefore almost sure to prove contentious!

Before proceeding to answer, as best I can, that aspect of the question asked, it is of interest to note as early as the fourth century AD (about 392) Saint Augustine, whose father is labelled a pagan and mother a believer in the early Christian teachings, explained his view of angels by stating:-

"Angels are spirits but it is not because they are spirits that they are angels: they become

angels when they are sent, for the name 'angel' refers to their office. You ask the name, the nature . . . it is spirit. You ask it's office . . . it is that of angel . . . which is a messenger."

It is no accident that, when translating the original Hebraic Holy Book into Greek, angels were given the descriptive name of "messengers", for - just as St. Augustine was pointing out - this is not only a correct translation of the original, but more importantly, correctly identified them as direct carriers of the Word to mankind!

The word 'angel' is derived from the Greek 'aggelos' which means messenger, and St Augustine was telling those with a desire to learn far more than just that. He was bridging the gap between what man has always felt about angels and the idea that later became a pictorial image, which has had the effect of separating them from our day-to-day behaviour. I am confident that when I hear the voice of my angel, I hear the Word of God - not directly, perhaps, but just as surely - and have no need for an even less direct human voice, however stridently it may claim spiritual authority!

Angels bring us a message all right, and it is not in a form that requires an intermediary to interpret . . . for it is deeply personal and directed only to one end: to remind the person to whom it is given of why he/she is here, and of the obligation each of us has to resist our animal instinct to survive no matter the cost to others!

We must never forget that here on this earth we are spirit encased in an animal body, and therefore exposed to all the survival instincts which are so much the driving force behind animal life. It is odd that while so many religious doctrines recognise, even warn against, the temptation of giving way to 'the flesh', none have chosen to look any deeper into the implications underlying those words beyond what supports their own authority.

It has been said that upon being born into this earthly world we immediately become subjected to all the pressures emanating from everything around us - including from the family of which we become part - and begin to forget the knowledge accumulated from wherever we were before! The purpose of our angels is to remind us of what we have forgotten. This is the explanation of the meaning of the exhortation so often made by Jesus when pointing out particularly cryptic words which would be understood by those who have "ears that hear and eyes that see"! When read in this light



they take on a new meaning . . . and when considering our relationship with angels, it is with ears that hear and eyes that see we can each communicate!

At every step of the path we choose to follow during our life on this earth, we make choices . . . and when we do so we either give way to temptation and consider only what is best for ourselves, or remember that we came into this particular world to learn to choose wisely.

I have asked myself: *Is the quiet and unobtrusive voice of conscience also that of my angel?*, and have come to the conclusion that it is not, for it seems to me that conscience is the stirring of our own memory, whereas the presence of our angels and the message they bring is imparted rather differently . . . but is a presence we can find only when we wish to do so.

Peter Bartlett, NSW

A GLASS OF MILK

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next



house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

You don't owe me anything, she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said . . . "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many year's later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled! They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once.

He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case. After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words

Paid in full with one glass of milk.

(Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: *Thank You, God, that Your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands.*

There's a saying which goes something like this: *Bread cast on the waters comes back to you. The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place.*

And, after all, isn't that what life is all about?

This story has been circulating a lot in emails recently. Dr. Howard Kelly was a distinguished physician who, in 1895, founded the Johns Hopkins Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Johns Hopkins University, USA.

As is often the case, someone has fictionalised the details of this story and had probably got some of it wrong. According to Dr. Kelly's biographer, Audrey Davis, it is essentially a true event.

It certainly fits nicely with the theme of this issue.



Books for the Quarter



If you order the following titles in the July to September 2005 Quarter, you will receive approx. 25% off the retail price (see the discounted price and postage on the form below)

Complete the form below (you can copy it) and return it to the Swedenborg Centre or telephone on 02 9888 1066 and mention this notice

Angels in Action by **Robert Kirven** **RRP \$20.00**

111 pages, paper. See page 8 for more information about this very valuable publication.

In the Company of Angels by **Cherie Sutherland** **RRP \$22.00**

245 pages, paper

Bestselling Australian author and expert on near-death experiences, Dr Sutherland draws on research gathered from around the world plus many interviews with people who have experienced the light and love of angels. She deals objectively with such questions as *What are angels? Do they exist? What do angels really look like? What do angels do?* Some references to Swedenborg's experiences are included.



The Portable Heaven and Hell by **Emanuel Swedenborg** **RRP \$24.00**

400 pages, paper

A majority of readers will be well aware of Swedenborg's work *Heaven and Hell*, perhaps having read it years ago. This is a recently released edition, newly translated by George Dole. It has been very favourably received. Why not get a copy and revisit Swedenborg's experiences in a refreshing way.



The Everyday Life of an Angel by **Geoffrey Cunningham** **RRP \$3.00**

16 pages, paper (booklet)

A helpful overview of Swedenborg's concepts on angels, especially what it is like to live as an angel in heaven, how they assist us to move into the spiritual realm when our time comes and what qualifications are needed to become one.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

For Group activities, contact your nearest Group Convenor

- Brisbane (Ian Arnold on (07) 3369 0054; email: iaarnold@ozemail.com.au)
- Gold Coast (Kevin Attwater on (07) 5545 2401 and Jack Benson on (07) 5545 4115);
- Melbourne (Chris Skinner on (03) 9432 0322; email: cskinner9@optusnet.com.au);
- Perth (Trevor Moffat on (08) 9470 9775; email: trevorm@ic-net.com.au);
- Sydney region (Michael Chester on (02) 9913 2421; email: mchester@accsoft.com.au);



It would be good to see additional viable Groups established in new areas. If you can help contact Michael Chester.

Brisbane:) Meetings currently irregular.
Gold Coast:) Check with Convenors for news.

Melbourne: The New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mount Waverley. Usually last Fridays commencing 8pm
2005
 24th June ~ *Eros and Psyche* with **Julian Duckworth**
 29th July ~ Details being finalised - see website
 26th August ~ Details being finalised - see website

Perth: Petros Lifeskills Bookshop, 281 Albany Highway, Victoria Park usually last Fridays commencing 8pm
2005
 24th June ~ *Studies in the Arcana* with **Ian Arnold**
 22nd July ~ *Favourite Passages* with **Trevor Moffat**
 19th August ~ *How Swedenborg Describes a Useful Life* with **Julian Duckworth**

Sydney: Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde. Usually 4th Fridays commencing 7.45pm.
2005
 24th June ~ *Anatomy of a Church: Symbols and Meanings* with **John Brogan**
 12th August ~ *Synchronicity, Prophecy, Providence and God* with **Chris Skinner**
 2nd September ~ *The Random Walk and Other Stories* with **Robert Bryce**

Why a Swedenborg Association?

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

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