



ADELAIDE CHRISTIAN NEW CHURCH

Newsletter

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February/March 2021

NEW YEARS GREETINGS

NEW YEARS PRAYERS

All over the world we are witnessing the Coronavirus and so many people's lives and families have been irreversibly affected. We can pray and wish them hope and comfort, but sometimes that just doesn't seem enough.

We can hold them in our prayers and hearts. At the same time be so very grateful for all the Doctors and Nurses, the frontline staff, who have been so overworked coping and carefully looking after all those who come into their care.

In Australia, our island Continent has fared through the worst of it, we can just hope, and take all the precautions to keep safe that our Medical Experts and those in charge of us tell us what steps to take. Our economic situation has perhaps taken a downturn; and those folks that perhaps have lost their employment – we pray that better times are ahead for us all.

It can be an inspiration to us all, to watch and take pleasure in the way that little children seem quite oblivious of what is happening in the "big, wide, world that they reside in". They continue to play and enjoy the simple joys in life – albeit there could be a few stressed out parents, trying to shield them from their own anxieties.



SPREAD LOVE
EVERYWHERE YOU GO

LET NO ONE EVER
COME
TO YOU WITHOUT
LEAVING HAPPIER

- MOTHER TERESA

The sun will always be shining; the rains will come to water God's garden; in a little while, the autumn leaves will surely begin to fall. For those who have sadly endured any bushfires – please may they recover from it as soon as possible. Winter weather will be coming around, then the spring and summer again. Life's continuous cycle is as reassuring as it is varied.

Jesus when speaking to his disciples "And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be of anxious mind. For all the nations of the world seek these things; and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek His kingdom, and these things shall be yours as well." John 12:29-31



THE PILLARS OF NEW CHURCH BELIEFS

Written by Rev J Duckworth
from a suggestion by Rev D Moffat

Let's start out then with the basic idea of God, so far as we can know about God...

The best way to think of God is to say that God is. This sort of says it all and it takes us away from ideas about space and time which can become a real problem when we think about God.

God is ... is everywhere, all the time, completely.

Yes, but what is God? The best way to think about that is to say that God is being. Try to understand this. God is not a being! We are beings, because we've been made. God isn't, because that would put him somewhere, which is impossible.

But God is not simply an idea. He isn't abstract. He is incredibly real. We can say that God is personal because he is and has perfect love. Notice that it is perfect love. We love, but our love is always less than perfect. God's infinite love wants everything to be well and be as it should be.

Now we must mention something else, that God is infinite wisdom. This means he always knows how to direct his infinite love and he will always do so perfectly. God is everywhere and God knows everything. We cannot ever be apart from God's love and wisdom.

The last thing we need to include is that God's infinite love and wisdom is always towards everything being useful. In a way, that is all that God is about, in the sense that everything created is there to be an integral part of existence. And of course that includes each of us in it.

Now we will look at the area of human nature and what we can say we are like, realising we are created by God and yet we feel that our life is our own.

A really important word with this topic is 'tendencies' – important because it means we are likely to get things wrong, or likely to act selfishly, not bound to do so just because we are human. This will help us a lot, and it also helps us to think about whether human nature makes us 'good' or 'bad' or 'both good and bad' or 'neither good nor bad'. And remember we are thinking about human nature in general, not what so-and-so is like or does but what we are all generally like.

The starting-point has to be with love. Love is our life's energy, but what we love may differ or it may change over time. But we must (by nature) love something. Because it seems to us that our life is ours, we tend (note the word) to love ourselves most of all to begin with. The goal is for that to change more towards loving other people and loving the Lord. How that can happen is for another time.

Another important part of human nature is that we can think things over. We call this being rational. It dovetails with our free will which means that we can choose and determine things for ourselves. Hopefully both reasoning and free will together are pointing in the same direction of wanting to love more than just us.

Lastly – and very neatly – is the idea that we make these choices as if we're making them ourselves but learning more and more that our wish to reach out to others or to do what is good and right is something that comes to us from the Lord. But even so, the Lord still lets us feel it's all our doing because he loves us.

GARAGE SALE / OP-SHOP

Our Church has long noticed other Churches in the area having their premises open to these sales, and our Church thought it was about time to have one.

We have long missed Biruta's plant sales and her 'Jam and Pickles' sales since her passing – she was a delightful elderly lady. The loveliest thing that happened during our open sale, was two or three people coming up to ask about Biruta, and saying how well they remember Biruta's sales, as they so often came to them when Biruta held them. It really was a good conversation opener with these people and we hope to see them again sometime.

It was such an effort to plan and organise it all. We are very thankful to the people that have donated such a good array of items – a big range of many things. We did very well on our first Sale day, making sure all was Covid-19 safe. Details on a Form for signing in was at the entrance – and all people attending signed in with no problem. Keeping 1.5 m apart was also displayed on the table – and everyone was compliant, polite and friendly.



We still have plenty of stock of such a good, wide variety, and we will certainly be having another one again. It was certainly a worthwhile occurrence.

ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH

February 11th and 25th

Coffee and Chat 10.30am to 12.00pm (unavailable for 18th)

March 11th and 25th

Coffee and Chat 10.30am to 12.00pm (unavailable for 4th)

Please always phone 0147632207 to confirm dates as Host is often caught up with booked appointments.

Book Study Groups

Small group studies, are being planned, either in one's home or via Zoom with day and time arranged between participants. The book studied, to be decided upon by the participants in each group. The topics can be chosen from our Church Library or a new one chosen by one of the participants. Ask in advance if the book is available, or it can be obtained from the Swedenborg Association from the Koorong Book Shop in the city. The Church is signed up with Koorong Books and should you like to buy a book/s from there, please contact June on 0417632207 for planning and questions.

Back to Basics Bible Study

This is on a Monday evening via Zoom, covering 1 Chapter at a time, preferably pre-read by individuals and then an interesting and enjoyable open discussion time for all. Question raised bring new understanding.

This study group is run by our N.C.I.A. President, Rev. David Moffat, Minister of the Melbourne Church now.

Please contact Rev. David Moffat for further information and times and dates for Zoom.

Then David will email you the information and details.



INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock."

Mathew 7:24

If you hear, and do as Jesus says, He will liken you to a wise man. A wise man who built his house on a rock.

The sayings of Jesus are the Wisdom of divine Love.

The house built on a rock represents the character established on the foundation of eternal truth – the Wisdom of God. Our first concern should be to listen to the Lord; and our next, to put what we hear into practice. Then even you and I will be likened to a wise man.

Prayer From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart I over-whelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Amen

Adelaide Church Motto

"The Law of the Lord is Perfect"

This motto was created at the time the New Church began here in Adelaide in 1844.

As relevant today as it was then.

SERVICE DATES FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH

February

7th - Musical Traditional

21st - Traditional, Holy Supper, shared luncheon

March

7th - Musical Traditional

21st - Traditional, Holy Supper, shared luncheon



We are currently having some technical issues with our internet provider, and as such our website and e-mail account are not yet fully functional.

We hope this issue can be resolved as soon as possible.

We will be hoping for a refund for lack of service..



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEWSLETTER

If you have any news, articles, poems or submissions we would love to hear from you.

Simply post us a letter, or send us an email.

Our postal address is: ADELAIDE CHRISTIAN NEW CHURCH P.O BOX 469 PARK HOLME S.A 5043

Or simply address your email to:

admin@adelaidenewchurch.org.au or: sanewchurch@gmail.com

More informative articles can also be found at: swedenborg.com.au It would be nice to receive your feed-back.