

The New Church Newsletter

Hurstville Society

June 2011



Meet Our New Pastor and His Family

We asked Todd Beiswenger to give us a pen picture of himself and his family. It will be some months yet before they arrive due to the immigration processes. Todd's recent graduation and ordination on 21st and 22nd May respectively, takes us one very big step further along this process. It is fair to say that the excitement is building on both sides of the world.

Greetings from America! It seems like a good idea to have me write a few words so we can get to know each other a little bit before I arrive. Jenn, Zach and I are really excited to be getting this assignment in Hurstville, so we'll be doing our best to get there as soon as we can.

Here is a little background on us. After meeting at Bryn Athyn College, Jenn and I were married June 12, 1999, and were blessed with baby Zach on October 10th, 2006. Jenn is a native Canadian, who spent much of her youth in the

suburbs of Montreal before her family moved to the suburbs of Toronto. While raised on New Church teachings, it wasn't until moving to Toronto in 8th grade that she lived in a General Church society.

Jenn's primary love is that of children, particularly infants. As a result, out of college she took a job as the head of the infant room at a local day care facility. After a while she accepted an opportunity to work with larger children as the Office Manager of Bryn Athyn College. She left that to be a stay-at-home mom for Zach.

I, on the other hand, was raised in Huntingdon Valley, about one mile from Bryn Athyn, and went through the General Church education system until receiving my associate's degree at Bryn Athyn College. After that I took a year off from school, got a full time job at a local Toyota dealership before returning to get my B.S. in Marketing from Auburn University. I swore it would be the last time I would be in school.

After graduating I took a job at a company that was in the automotive aftermarket industry. My job was to sell their services to a wide range of clientele, and so my customer base ranged from the shade-tree mechanic and professional race teams all the way to Ford, General Motors and Volvo Trucks of North America, to name a few. During my time there my boss offered to send me back to school to get my MBA. He was paying, so I agreed, but swore it would be the last time I would be in school.

I stayed in that job until 2008, but started looking into the ministry around 2005. Providence lined up a whole lot of things for me in 2008 though, and created the perfect opportunity to enter a new phase of life. I consented to go back to school again, and this time I have decided not to swear off any further education.

As for interests, we quite enjoy travel and "outdoor adventures" such as taking road trips to see new places, riding our bicycles, and just exploring weird local things. On the more adventurous side, we've also tried our hands at sky diving, scuba diving, zip line tours, bungee jumping and go-kart racing. (Okay, only I have bungee jumped and raced go-karts, but this last one I do often!) We love to see and do new things. Our one regret from our trip to Hawaii was not having tried surfing - and what better opportunity to give it a go than while we're living down under! (...Any surf trainers out there?)

Footnote: The Beiswengers have a website giving lots more details of themselves and their interests. <http://www.beiswenger.net/>

Ordinations of Graduating Candidates for the Ministry 2011

At a special service conducted in the Bryn Athyn Cathedral on May 22nd the following candidates were ordained: Todd Beiswenger, Pearse Frazier, Stephen Muires, Calvin Odhner, Ryan Sandstrom and Howard Thompson. Of particular note for Australia of course is our pastor elect Todd Beiswenger but readers will also be interested in Ryan Sandstrom's ordination given that Ryan grew up in Hurstville when his father Erik was the pastor 1981 to 1988.

The Hurstville Society sent gifts to Todd and Ryan. Todd received a travel guide of Australia and some maps and Ryan was sent a copy of the New King James Bible which as a little boy just learning to write he had inscribed his name across the closed pages (impossible to remove). Todd wrote to thank us for his gift and also to say "I loved the gift Hurstville sent for Ryan! That was hysterical! Seeing the love and humour that went into that makes me feel great about my soon to be home."

Visit of Rev Glenn Alden

Recently Bishop Brian Keith sprang a pleasant surprise when he wrote to say that Rev Glenn Alden who is retiring from duties at the Society in Tucson Arizona is keen to come to Australia to serve the Hurstville Society as an interim pastor while we wait for the immigration process to be completed for Rev Todd Beiswenger. Not only that but Glenn and his wife Mary are happy to visit for longer than the usual three month stint that visiting ministers usually come for and they hope to be here soon, possibly as early as July.

The White Horse by Rev. David R. Simons

Can you picture in your mind a prancing white stallion whose coat glistens in the sunlight? Can you see him carrying on his back the most important rider in the universe?

"Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.... He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.... And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 19:11-13, 16).

Perhaps you have already guessed that the beautiful white horse with his powerful rider is not the kind of horse and rider that we would see in the natural world. So you have come to the conclusion that something else, some other kind of horse is meant in the passage from Revelation.

This is the horse and rider that John saw on the Isle of Patmos when his spiritual eyes were opened to see into the spiritual world. If you were in the spiritual world, and your spiritual eyes were opened to the light of heaven, you, too, might see this horse and know exactly what you were seeing. For, we are told, a white horse means the Spiritual Sense of the Word, which glistens in the light of the Spiritual Sun. The Rider is the Lord Himself, whose name is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

What if I said that we really cannot celebrate New Church Day - the Nineteenth of June - unless we see this white horse and learn to know who the majestic rider is, and what He calls Himself?

Here on earth you can see this special horse in a book of the Heavenly Doctrine called The White Horse. If I were to show you this book you might say, "But that's a book and not a horse. How can anyone ride a book?" You would be right; it is a book and not a natural animal. However, if you saw it spiritually, you would see it as a beautiful white horse.

Did you ever consider that the things a book can do for our minds a horse can do for us in the physical world? Think about this and you will understand why John saw a white horse, and why a book which tells us about the Spiritual Sense of the Word is called The White Horse. As a horse is spirited, lively, and beautiful, so a book can inspire us to stimulating thoughts and beautiful feelings or loves. As a horse carries his rider swiftly from one place to another, so a book can carry us to new ideas. Once men used to fight from horseback, and books - especially those given to us by the Lord - provide us with truths from which to fight what is evil and false. A horse can jump over obstacles and hurdles. And so the truth carries us over walls or bars, over false ideas that would stop our spiritual progress. A horse can carry us great distances, just as a book revealed by the Lord can carry us all the way to heaven. And, what's more, when we study this book, when we learn to think from it and live from it, then the Lord can ride into our minds to be for us the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

If we think about what horses do for us and what they mean spiritually we can understand why Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger - a feeding place for horses. In ancient times the kings of Judah rode triumphantly into the capital city on an ass or donkey - a close relative of the horse. So Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king riding on a colt, the foal of an ass. At His Second Coming the Lord chose to come riding on a white horse, on the Spiritual Sense of the Word. And He presented Himself, His precious truth, in a book called The White Horse. This is so that all people who read, study, and think about Him from His revelation will come to see, with greater and greater clarity, that "The Lord God Jesus Christ Reigns, and of His kingdom there shall be no end."

This is chapter 10 from the book "Take a Deep Breath" an illustrated book for young adults dealing with a variety of religious topics. It is available from the General Church Office of Education.

June 19th Celebration 2011

This year 19th June falls on a Sunday. To mark the occasion our pastor elect Rev Todd Beiswenger has agreed to write a New Church Day sermon for us to be delivered at our Sunday service. Following church we plan a banquet lunch which will be catered. Please notify Lori Heldon by the previous Sunday 12th June if you plan to come. Cost will be \$10 per head.

New Church Journey Presents its 2011-2012 Program, Shift: Small Changes. Big Difference.

Often as we approach a big life change we encounter internal struggles - wrestling matches about financial concerns, bad habits, relationships, just about anything in our daily lives. Something great is surely on the horizon, if we can only persevere.

In the story of Jacob from the Old Testament we can follow his life on a similar path through tough times when he encounters deception, frustration, and painful struggles, and also through times of hope, inspiration and love.

Through Bible study and inspiration from the works of Emanuel Swedenborg, we can discover that at each stage of Jacob's journey he undergoes various shifts: in his awareness, perspective, and focus, as well as his expectations, motivations, and priorities. Each of these shifts brings him a little closer to fulfilment and peace.

Join New Church Journey as we come together in community to engage the Lord's Word, and create a space to grow closer to the Lord and to each other. New Church Journey will be supporting two launches of the Shift program: September 25th 2011, and February 5th 2012.

To learn more about the program visit:
www.newchurchjourney.org .

At the recent Society Meeting on 22nd May bearing in mind the success of the last Journey program ("Pause Make Space for God") which we did in February it was decided to participate in this program as well.

Stay tuned for more information.

A Taste of Greece

In our last issue we mentioned that Blair Milan, who many in the Society knew from camps years ago, died on 17th April from aggressive leukaemia.

Blair's mother, Lyndey Milan, a well-known Sydney TV food presenter finished a TV series with Blair, "Lyndey and Blair's Taste of Greece" on location in Greece. This will be shown nationally on SBS for 7 weeks from Thursday 26th May at 8 p.m. each week.

This is a program we can recommend. Blair and Lyndey exude fun and life and this is a great way to remember Blair.

Summer Camps 2012 & 2013

A reminder that the New Church in Australia is seeking indications of firm commitments for the Camp to be held at Phillip Island Victoria from 2nd to 8th January 2012 by 15th July 2011. It is critical that the organisers get this firm commitment to assess the Camp's viability. This site has excellent facilities and previous camps held here have been very successful. Booking forms are available at the church.

The people in Perth are planning to hold the January 2013 camp in Western Australia. It has been many, many years since Perth hosted a camp (the 1980's) so this is really something to plan for and look forward to.

News Notes

There is great excitement in the Walsh family looking forward to the visit in June of Deanna and Ashley Walsh who are making the visit to see the family. We understand they have now grown into young ladies since they left here in 2005.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Angela Heldon (8th), Michelle Heldon (8th), June Kirsten (9th) and Isaak Horner (17th)

June 2011 Calendar of Events

Note: All events are located at the church at 22 Dudley St, Penshurst 2222 (off Hillcrest Ave) unless otherwise stated. Contact the Hurstville New Church on (02) 9580 1589 for more information or email us at newchurch@optusnet.com.au

All are welcome and refreshments are served after church each Sunday.

Sunday 5th June	No Church in Hurstville	(Service at Roseville)
Sunday 12th June	10 00 a.m. Worship	
Sunday 19th June	10 00 a.m. Worship	followed by Banquet
Sunday 26th June	10 00 a.m. Worship	