

# **The New Church Newsletter**

## **Hurstville Society April 2005**

### **Important Announcement!**

In the March issue of the Hurstville Newsletter the timing of events surrounding the visit by Rev. David Lindrooth was outlined. That timing has now changed! Please look at the [News Notes](#) and the [April Calendar of Events](#) sections later in this Newsletter.

### **The Homing Instinct**

by Rev. Garry Walsh

Some years ago a study was conducted involving a lovely little bird called the Bank Swallow. This is the smallest of the swallows found in the Americas. In the northern hemisphere summer it nests and bears its young across a broad sweep of the northern United States and southern Canada. In winter it makes its home in South America. The swallow takes its name from its habit of building its nests in deep burrows towards the tops of steep river banks. With the progressive influx of people into its territories, the swallow has adapted like many other species and now can be found making its burrows in a variety of man-made excavations as well.

By now you might be wondering what a discussion of the Bank Swallow is doing in a New Church publication. The answer is found in the study mentioned a moment ago. Researchers went into a series of summer nesting colonies and banded a large number of birds. While doing so they noted not only the colony that the bird was from, but also the position of that bird's burrow within the colony. With the approach of winter the birds migrated south as they always do. In the following Spring, the researchers were surprised to find that a very large percentage of the banded birds had not only returned to the same location, but had also returned to the same region within the colony.

Most of us have probably seen enough documentaries by now to not be too surprised by this discovery. Since the banding and recording mentioned above took place, many other studies with other species have produced similar results. It still leaves us with the questions, though, "Why do birds such as this tend to return to the same spot every year?" And, "How do they know how to get back there?" These are especially questions we can apply to the Bank Swallow. This bird's range is huge. And, within that range there are many sites that appear equally suitable for nesting. So why does a bird colony such as the

Bank Swallow's stick together the way it does? And, why do they keep coming back to the same place?

There is a lovely passage in the *Arcana Coelestia* that deals with this. We read:

*Animals are propelled by nothing else than the loves and accompanying affections into which they have been created and afterwards born; for every animal is carried in the direction its affections and loves take it. That being so, animals also have all the knowledge that ever accompanies that love. For they know from a love resembling the love that belongs to marriage how they are to mate, cattle in one way, birds in another. Birds know how they must build nests, lay eggs and sit on them, how they must hatch chicks and feed them. They know these things without any instruction... ..Creatures are born into that knowledge because they exist in the order which belongs to their true nature and into which they have been created; and as such they are driven by a general inflow from the spiritual world (Arcana Coelestia 6323:2)*

So, the Bank Swallow automatically knows how and where to build its nest. It knows its true home in the northern hemisphere summer and it knows how to breed and raise its young. Then, as the seasons change, it knows how and where to fly in order to remain warm and find food until the seasons change once again. The swallow does not need to learn any of these things. It just knows them. These swallows, like all animals, are born into the order of their creation. They are what they are. And, we can look at them and marvel at the wonder in this universe that the Lord created.

What about us? Why is it that people don't find it as easy to do what they are supposed to do? Why is it that we can get lost at times, philosophically speaking? The answer, quite clearly, is that we are not born into the order in which the Lord created us. There tends to be a disconnection between the person the Lord created us to be and the person we often are. The result is that we sometimes fail to spontaneously do the right thing. We tend to not automatically make good decisions. We sometimes struggle to know with any certainty what we are supposed to be doing in our lives.

The *Arcana Coelestia* goes on to talk about the result of our tendency to be in a state that is not in line with the order in which the Lord created us:

*If the human being were living in the order into which he was created -; that is to say, in love towards the neighbour and in love to the Lord, for these loves are peculiar to the human being -; he would be born, pre-eminently over all animals, not only into the knowledge but also into all spiritual truths and all celestial forms of good, thus into all wisdom and intelligence. For the human being is able to think about the Lord and to be joined to Him through love, and so be raised up to what is Divine and eternal, which animals cannot be. Thus if he were living in his true order he would be governed solely by general influx from the Lord through the spiritual world (Arcana Coelestia 6323:3).*

The process of being regenerated by the Lord is really the process of being brought into the order into which we were created. Heaven is opened to those for whom this return to

order has been achieved. So it is that the angels of heaven know their place just as surely as the Bank Swallow knows the breeding spot that it returns to. Angels know which zone in the heavens is right for them. And, they know exactly what services the Lord asks them to perform there.

*Since the zones are thus engraved, so to speak, on every angel, and on the whole heaven as well, therefore an angel knows the location of his home and of his place of abode wherever he goes, unlike a person in the world. A person does not know the location of his home and place of abode from any interior orientation for the reason he thinks in terms of space, thus in terms of points of the compass in the natural world, which have nothing in common with the zones in the spiritual world.*

*On the other hand, birds and animals have this knowledge in them, for it is inborn in them to know the location of their homes and places of abode instinctively, as people know from a good deal of empirical observation -; evidence that a like phenomena is found in the spiritual world. For all phenomena that occur in the natural world are effects, and all phenomena that occur in the spiritual world are the causes of those effects. One does not find anything natural that does not have its cause from something spiritual (Divine Love and Wisdom 134).*

## **The Happiness of Heaven and the Happiness of Earth**

by Rev. Frederick L. Schnarr

(Adapted from the final chapter of his book *Thy Kingdom Come*)

All the doctrines in the Word teach and confirm that genuine happiness comes from a true acknowledgment that the Lord Jesus Christ alone is God. In explaining the key ingredients that make such a true acknowledgment, the following things are noted:

1. There must be a knowledge of the Lord as defined and described in the Word.
2. There must then be a willingness, and in time a desire, to obey and be led by the Lord by means of knowledge learned and understood.
3. Finally, there must be an effort to bring the intellectual acknowledgment of the Lord into works and uses of life.

So faith, charity, and good works must come together as one for us to have a full and true acknowledgment of the Lord. And from this it follows that they must be together as one also if we are to enter those states of life which are truly happy and heavenly. It is indeed in this vein that the Word declares in the Psalms, "Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!" (Psalm 144:15).

We are conjoined with heavenly states from the Lord when we truly acknowledge Him, or what is the same, when we do the work of reformation and regeneration. For this reason it is stated as a law of Divine Providence that "The more closely a man is conjoined with the Lord the happier he becomes" (*Divine Providence* 37).

The Lord, of course, desires that every person should have the fullness of heavenly happiness. Yet for us to receive any heavenly happiness requires that the Lord leave us in freedom to determine what degree of life from the Lord we desire to receive. It is according to our free desire to receive or reject Him that the Lord can give us more or less of His Divine life and the happiness thereof. The happiness of angels in the natural heaven, therefore, who have only desired to receive a small part of the Lord's life, cannot be compared to the happiness of angels in the celestial heaven, who desire nothing more than to receive everything from the Lord.

Because we on earth had lost a true idea of the nature of heavenly happiness, the Lord in His second coming has once more revealed something of its character and quality. He has given us this knowledge so that in our understanding, we can see that it must be so, and so that, in this delight, we can find a new source of courage and patience in striving for happiness and peace in earthly life. Besides this, the teachings concerning the source and nature of heavenly happiness bear an immediate relationship to our earthly lives, in that they give us the means to search for an earthly happiness and to defend ourselves from those pleasures and allurements of hell which parade before our natural senses, disguised as the true happiness of earth and heaven.

With an angel of heaven, two things spring from his acknowledgment of the Lord which make his eternal happiness possible; they are a state of peace and the love of use. In regard to the first, we read that "peace is the inmost of all happiness" (*Arcana Coelestia* 5662, 8722). The angels have a peace of mind utterly unknown on earth. Such a peace of mind is possible because they have a sure and abiding trust in the Lord's Divine Providence. In the life and happiness of the heavens, they see before them the fullness of the Lord's wisdom and love. No longer are they bothered and troubled by perverted inclinations from heredity; no longer are they enmeshed in the wild imaginations which spring from the disorderly impressions of the natural memory. This heredity and this memory are now quieted by the Lord. And so the angels know a peace of mind that, while primarily concerned with the welfare and happiness of others, is not in the least burdened by states of doubt, fear, or despair.

The [Lord's] Word requires that we look beyond what is natural and temporal. Rather, we must look to purpose and use, and, in the sad and unpleasant chaos that often arise in worldly states, we must never forget the essential work that the Lord put us in this natural world to accomplish, our reformation and regeneration. From the new doctrine the Lord has given, we are instructed to fight to repel all states that would destroy peace, both spiritual and natural peace. We are to find ways to think and act on behalf of our neighbour without thought of recompense or reward. This is not an easy task in a world where the necessary requirements of life demand that we think of just recompense and reward for our employment and skills. Yet if we search well, we will find many such uses

in the home, in society, and especially in the church, where we can exercise a just charity for the sake of use, without a dominant thought of self. This charity acts first because it sees what is right in the eyes of the Lord and does it even if it does not give apparent delight or recognition or reward of any kind. It is through such effort that the peace and contentment of all natural happiness is born.

This is why we are instructed that a truly religious person is essentially a happy person. The activity of use, from the acknowledgment of the Lord and the purposes of His creation, brings something of spiritual peace and happiness down into the natural. It pervades the natural with a sense of well-being, trust, and contentment in the dispensations of the Lord's providence. This state in the natural receives the seeds of heavenly peace and happiness: the spiritual delight in truth, and good, and use for their own sakes. These are the internal treasures that are stored up in us by the Lord for our eternal use. These are the gifts of heavenly loves that neither moth nor rust can corrupt, nor which thieves can break through and steal - "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Note: Rev. Schnarr sadly passed away just a few weeks ago. His memorial service can be heard online by going to [www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org) and following the links to "recent audio events." A longer extract from this portion of the book Thy Kingdom Come can be found by going to [www.newchurchvineyard.org](http://www.newchurchvineyard.org), or by following the links from the main General Church site given above.

## News Notes

### **Rev. David Lindrooth's Visit**

As announced in the March Newsletter, we are eagerly awaiting a visit from Rev. David Lindrooth, the Director of General Church Outreach. The plan is for David to use our Friday doctrinal class time to talk to us about the uses of the office of General Church Outreach and to discuss the work of outreach that is occurring at various places across the international General Church community. David will also lead our Sunday morning worship service and then also lead a Society Meeting to follow in which issues immediately affecting the Hurstville Society will be discussed and where strategies for the future can begin to be explored and put in place.

All of this was initially planned to take place on the first weekend in April (1st -; 3rd). Unfortunately, for various reasons, David's trip has been delayed a few days. He is now due to arrive sometime during that weekend, although his revised flight schedule is yet to be completely worked out. What this means is that the events that were scheduled for the first weekend in April will be delayed until the 2nd weekend. The schedule will now be:

- **Friday 8th Dinner and Class.**
- **Sunday 10th** after church there will be a **Pot Luck Luncheon** followed by the **Society Meeting**, which we hope as many people as possible can attend. *Please bring a savoury or sweet dish to share for the luncheon.*

(Please note these events on your April calendars.)

As a result of moving the Dinner and Class to 8 April, we will no longer have a second Friday class this month. The **next scheduled class** will be **Friday, 6 May**.

Please accept our apologies for this unavoidable change in plans. Hopefully most people in the congregation who were planning on attending these events will still be able to.

A **Young People's** meeting will still take place on **Friday 29 April**.

### **Pastoral Travels**

At this stage **Garry** is planning to travel with **David Lindrooth** to Brisbane for the day on **Monday, 4 April**. The purpose of this trip, which is sponsored by the General Church, is to visit **Rev. Les Shepherd** and to introduce David to **Rev. Ian Arnold** and discuss the uses of the Australian New Church College (ANCC).

Garry will also travel to Brisbane for the day on **Thursday, 21 April** to attend the annual New Church in Australia (NCIA) Council of Ministers' meetings.

### **100th Anniversary Planning**

During the last month the Anniversary planning committee has continued to work to put together the details of this celebration. There is not a lot new to discuss at this time other than to make special note that some of the Young People in the congregation have come up with the fabulous idea of creating what they simply call "Hurstville Society New Church Artwork." It involves having the members of the Society decorate a small piece of cardboard (square mostly) that will be joined together with the others to make a circular collage that captures the collective spirit and imagination of the congregation. Contributors are asked to decorate their square in a way that reflects themselves or their sense of the congregation at this time when we celebrate our history and look to the future. The intent is to take the completed circle to the General Church Assembly in June and display it as part of the Societies' exhibit.

Completed squares are to be returned to Kristen Johnson or Michelle Heldon by 1st May. If you need further information, the ladies can be contacted on: Kristen -; 9028 4647, and Michelle/Angela -; 9545 3823.

### **New Intern**

Plans are still coming together, but at this early stage it seems very likely that the Hurstville Society will have the pleasure of hosting a young lady from the Bryn Athyn College. The plan is for her to visit us from early May until sometime after the Anniversary in mid-July. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to be joined by a very capable and enthusiastic young lady as we work through the Anniversary planning and running process.

### **Work Days**

You will note in the calendar that another **Work Day** has been scheduled for after church

on **17 April**. It is our intention to schedule one Work Day each month until the time of the Anniversary. Please stay after church and help with this important use if at all possible. The work mostly involves gardening and general property fix-up projects together with cleaning and other work to tidy and enhance the appearance of our buildings and grounds. If you would like to lend a hand but find that the timing of the Work Day is not suitable for you please talk to Garry Walsh and together plans for your greatly appreciated assistance can be worked out.

### **"Off Assembly" Notice**

As most readers of this Newsletter will know by now, The General Church is holding an Assembly in Bryn Athyn this coming June. The Committee organizing the Assembly called for proposals for workshops and received more than they were able to use. A group of people have since come forward with the idea for an "Off Assembly," in the tradition of "Off Broadway." Everyone who proposed a workshop that could not be used would have an opportunity to share their passion and present their workshop, in a setting where a variety of viewpoints can be respectfully heard. This probably day-long event in Bryn Athyn would not be part of the Assembly, but a separate event later. If you are interested in participating, please contact Roslyn Taylor at P.O. Box 620, Bryn Athyn PA, 19009, 215-947-9673, or by email at [hrtaylor@temple.edu](mailto:hrtaylor@temple.edu).

### **Tom and Shirley Taylor**

It is sad to report that at the time of writing, long-term Hurstville Society stalwart Tom Taylor's health was not as good as he or Shirley would hope. Tom has been suffering from repeated chest and bronchial infections with the result that he may need to return to hospital following Easter. We wish Tom and Shirley the best and send our love as they continue to fight through these periods of ill health.

Continuing on the subject of the Taylors, Tom and Shirley celebrate their **60th wedding anniversary** on the 10th of April. Shirley reports that Tom has already given her a "little diamond ring." I'm sure we all share a sense of joy that the Lord has helped these two wonderful people be together so long, and we pray that they will be together in this world for quite a while to come.

### **From the Heavenly Doctrines**

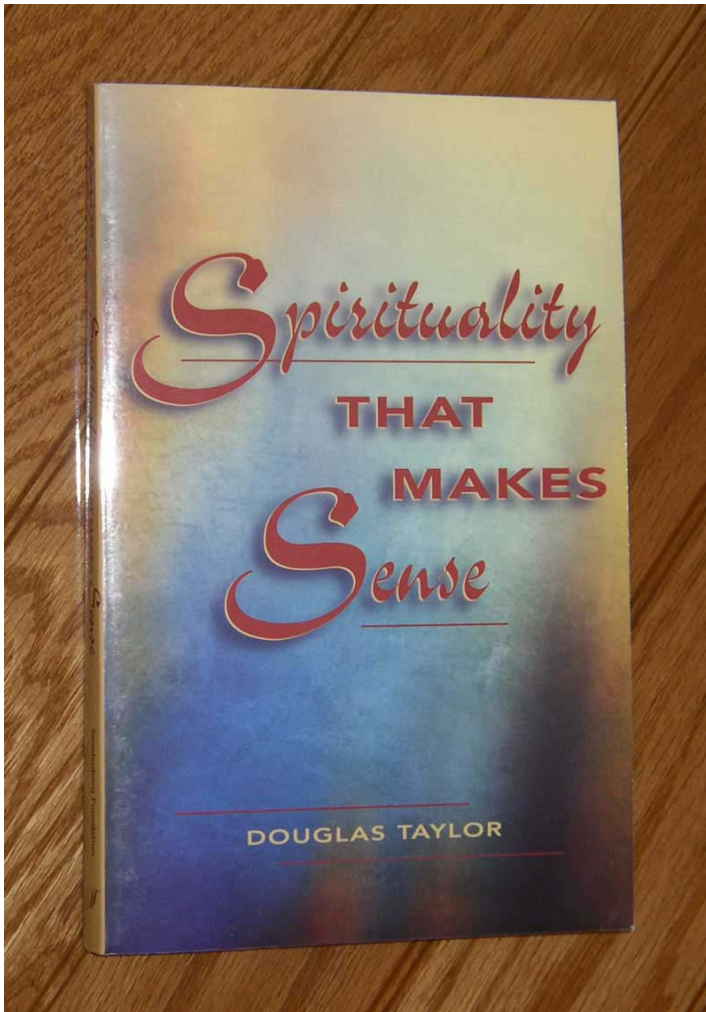
"... love truly conjugal endures to eternity, it follows that the wife becomes more and more a wife, and the husband more and more a husband." (Conjugal Love 200)

## **April Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to **Donna Heldon** (5th), **Gaye Heldon** (15th), **Merv Kennedy** (17th), **Huiling Sun** (20th), **Kerry Horner** (22nd), **David Horner** (25th)

## Book Review: "Spirituality That Makes Sense"

Rev. Douglas Taylor



For years people have looked for a book that helps introduce the wonderful teachings of the New Church. We now have such a book. It is Rev. Douglas Taylor's "*Spirituality That Makes Sense.*" Many will know Doug from his combined total of more than 17 years as Pastor of the Hurstville Society. Altogether Doug has served in the New Church ministry for over 30 years and during this time he has continually reached out to the broader community, offering "Inquirer's Classes" to people who crave a new and fuller understanding of the Lord and His Word.

*Spirituality That Makes Sense* is the text of those "Inquirer's Classes." The introductory sections draw heavily from the Scriptures, with quotes from Swedenborg used sparingly. The later sections increase the use of these quotes. Throughout its pages the reader finds clear and eloquently stated teachings on all the foundational concepts regarding the Lord, as well as the true nature of the faith and life that flow from these.

*Spirituality That Makes Sense* is an ideal choice for friends who have an inquiring mind and who are open to examining the life of

faith. It is also a wonderful reference book for those in the church who simply want a convenient place to find the key teachings that define the New Church. Copies are currently available through the Hurstville Society's Swedenborg Bookroom. Each copy costs \$19.00 Australian plus postage where necessary, and makes a wonderful gift for a friend or a great addition to your library.

## April 2005 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 pastor **Rev Garry Walsh** on (02) 9580 1589 for more information or email Garry at [newchurch@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newchurch@optusnet.com.au)

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

Sunday	April 3rd	10 00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School
Monday	April 4th	<a href="#">Pastor and Rev David Lindrooth to Brisbane</a>
Wednesday	April 6th	9 30 a.m. Discussion Group
Friday	April 8th	6 00 p.m. Young People (at Roseville)  <a href="#">7.00 p.m. Dinner and Class</a> (Rev David Lindrooth)
Sunday	April 10th	<a href="#">10 00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School</a> (Rev David Lindrooth) followed by <a href="#">Pot Luck Luncheon and</a> <a href="#">Society Meeting</a>
Wednesday	April 13th	9 30 a.m. Discussion Group
Sunday	April 17th	10 00 a.m. Family Service followed by Property Trust Meeting and <a href="#">Work Day</a>
Wednesday	April 20th	9 30 a.m. Discussion Group
Thursday	April 21st	<a href="#">Pastor in Brisbane to attend New Church</a> <a href="#">Ministers' Meeting</a>

Sunday	April 24th	10 00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School
Monday	April 25th	Anzac Day Holiday
Wednesday	April 27th	9 30 a.m. Discussion Group
Friday	April 29th	6 30 p.m. Young People