



**SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION
of Australia Inc**

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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) 9416 2812 or browse <http://www.swedenborg.com.au/membership>

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Notice immediately that spaces and kilometres no longer apply. Social media, which has been a real godsend (literally?) during lockdowns, school closures and yoga classes, has kept us close together, contactable, and probably sane, even though it doesn't quite substitute for actual physically meeting up.

One of the intriguing spiritual teaching points of Swedenborg is that on the spirit level (excuse the pun) there are no set measurable spaces, gaps or distances. We just gravitate towards others with whom we have an affinity and away from those with whom we have no affinity or even have animosity. This fact shows itself to some degree while we are here in this world, and this will be the main determiner of all our relationships in the spiritual world.

It has to be like this, doesn't it? Our neighbour told me yesterday, after telling

us that they would soon be moving, that at the end of the day life and contentment is really all about personalities. I am sure he was saying that where people get on or are straight with each other, it's great (we might say 'it's heaven'). We are happy when we're with others who make us feel we are an important part of the group and they are important for us too.

This doesn't mean that eternity is going to be spent with people who are almost identical to ourselves. Surely that would inevitably become tedious! Differences are great and we enrich each other as a result. "Opposition is true friendship." (William Blake). But the essential underlying affinity must be present, that of similar beliefs, values, purposes.

So, as the current situation continues, keep your sense of spiritual closeness and hold people near to you in your heart as well as on WhatsApp. Here to reinforce this idea is a great passage from Swedenborg, Arcana Caelestia 1277, part of it: "...people who are distant from each other some hundreds or thousands of miles, when they appear in a more interior way they can be so near each other that some of them may touch, according to their state. So if there were people on earth whose spiritual eyes were opened, they might be together even though one was in India and another in Europe."

I wish you well in everything

Julian

Welcome to our new members

We hope that our new members enjoy being a part of our association. Welcome to Mr Alan J Milne from Victoria.