

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Swedenborg makes it very clear that all good comes from the Lord and not from ourselves. Falsity and evil on the other hand is a choice we may make but it is contrary to Divine order. It would be nice to think we could do good from our own resources but it does not work this way. We act as instruments of the Lord when we do good works when in fact we appear to act out of ourselves. What then about the idea of “*the power of one*”?

The phrase “*power of one*” suggests that any one of us can have the power to make monumental changes for the good of a great many people. At this moment, straddling the fence of war and peace, we are all asking ourselves “*What can I do as only one person in the world arena?*”

The answer perhaps lies in the origin of the “one” we are talking about. Is it “**me**” or is it the “**One**”, the source of all goodness? Well, it is both in a way. The Lord works through people but they must be willing to be in concordance with God. In the troubled times each one of us must strive to make the choice which we feel the Lord would wish to make.

Each day, newspapers and television news are hot with speculation about war. It is always imminent and we are living with threats and counter-threats. It is the cold war of the 1950's and 60's. Much of our personal view of war has to do about us being told we will win any war there is. We are making up our minds from a perceived position of strength based not on right and good but on weaponry and numbers.

The first thing we must do is to strive to make the distinction between right and might.

Agape,

John Brogan

Easter ~ The Role of Pontius Pilate

The most central and interesting character in the passion narrative (apart from Jesus himself, of course) is Pilate, in whose hands, it seemed, Jesus' earthly destiny came to lie. Pilate was caught in a difficult position between the threats of the Jews and the need to uphold justice. His thorough questioning of Jesus revealed nothing for which Jesus could be punished. At first Pilate sought to have Jesus released as innocent. But finally when the Jews threatened to make his policy look bad to the authorities in Rome, Pilate gave in and handed Jesus over to be crucified. He weakly passed a judgement he well knew to be totally false.

What can we “hear” in this account of Pilate's collapse of moral fibre? We may well “hear” echoes of our own loss of spiritual nerve on past occasions, when we could see what was right, had the power to act justly, yet gave in to the arguments and pressure of selfish fear or ambition. There is moral weakness that lurks in us all, and which emerges on occasions to allow us to “crucify” some well-known truth of life as though it were a falsity and leading us astray. The Bible account of Easter tells us that no one stood by Jesus in his greatest hour of need. Even Peter found himself denying his Lord three times.

We may often desert or crucify the truth through moral weakness, but truth in us is “raised from the dead” by God. We, of ourselves, let truth be crucified. God, and only God, raises truth to new life in us, so that we come to know by living experience that it is the Lord's doing, and his alone.

Extracted from an article by Dr. Michael Stanley of the Swedenborg Movement in UK

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

Newsletter of the**SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Ltd. and SWEDENBORG CENTRE****1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113**

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The Canberra Fires ~ Spiritual Lessons by David Moffat

There are few experiences in my memory which have the personal impact of Saturday 18th January 2003 in Canberra. Of course, there have been bush fires before, and each has had its effect upon us. In January 1994, Pam, my wife, and I felt the helplessness of living half a world away in England while friends battled fires in Sydney and familiar territory was destroyed. Just over a year ago, fires threatened the very heart of Canberra, and we wondered whether it would creep down the western border of our city towards our home. But until a few months ago, we had been no closer to bush fire than smoke on the horizon.

I don't really want to dwell on the details of our personal story. Having been in Melbourne, we returned home that day, to be evacuated less than an hour later. The pillar of smoke above us was thick enough to turn an otherwise bright day into night. As we left home, we could see fire coming down over Mt Arawang, in the neighbouring reserve. We spent that evening in two different evacuation centres before finding a room in Queanbeyan for the night. We were able to return to our house safely the following morning. Some 500 homes were destroyed in Canberra, of which approximately 14 were in our immediate vicinity.

As the city looks back now, we are all trying to come to terms with the events of that day. There is the inquiry, of course - what could have been done to prevent or lessen the damage and injury which took place? But then, there's the inevitable question - Why? So many who lost homes would be asking that. But there are also instances of people whose homes are the sole survivors in their street, and some of these people are feeling the pain of guilt, and asking, Why NOT? Everyone in Canberra today has their own questions.

Personally, the fires provide a rather dramatic illustration of Providence - that the Lord turns our evil actions to good. I mentioned the fires we experienced just over a year ago. Those fires were deliberately lit. They devastated large areas of pine forest close to the centre of Canberra, turning what was once lush and green into a moonscape. We mourned the loss at the time. However, I heard it said in the week after the 18th January, albeit in jest, that the people responsible for lighting those fires should be awarded Canberran of the Year. Beautiful as they were, those plantations had the potential to become a highway of fire leading to the very heart of the city, carrying the same destructive forces that wreaked havoc in Duffy and Chapman.

The fires provide a rather dramatic illustration of Providence - the Lord turns our evil actions to good

“Nothing is therefore allowed to happen except to the end that something good may come out of it.”

(Swedenborg: *Arcana Caelestia*, para 6489)

But another issue has been exercising my mind recently. A few weeks after the fires I received an email, in which the writer (from Queensland) recognised striking similarities between the happenings in Canberra and the fire in the forest spoken of at the end of the Biblical Book, *Ezekiel 20*:

“Say to the southern forest: ‘Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am about to set fire to you, and it will consume all your trees, both green and dry. The blazing flame will not be quenched, and every face from south to north will be scorched by it. Everyone will see that I the LORD have kindled it; it will not be quenched.’”
(20:47 & 48, NIV)

Having read this passage out loud on Friday 17th January, he believed it to be a judgement upon the sins of Australia, drawing particular attention to the religious isolationism of many Christian Churches. He goes so far as to write, “[The fire] was originally lit by lightning strikes. . . . Since His word clearly shows us that lightning and wind are used by the Lord for His purposes, it can be said that the Lord kindled the fire.”

While I agree that many churches reject other points of view all too easily, I find myself profoundly uncomfortable when parallels are drawn between contemporary events and the prophecies found in the Bible. Is it justifiable, or even rational, to relate scripture passages such as this to the everyday, or contemporary events? Perhaps I have grown used to the prophecies of judgement, of doom and gloom which usually accompany such observations. But is it really wrong? Or can it teach us valuable lessons? It is easy to reject an approach when one disagrees with its conclusions, more difficult when one finds some common ground.

Swedenborg talks about the people of earliest times who saw spiritual and heavenly things reflected in the natural objects all around them (see *Arcana Caelestia*, paragraph 2995). This connection later became the basis for the written Word, and the means by which it links the Lord Himself with the heavens and with earth. Furthermore, he writes, *“nothing ever exists in the created world that does not have a correspondence with things in the spiritual world, and so that does not represent in its own way something in the Lord’s kingdom. It is from there that all things come into being and are kept in being. If man knew that this is how things stand he would never attribute everything to natural forces as he is accustomed to do.”* (*Arcana Caelestia*, paragraph 2999) Of course, Swedenborg is

not the only writer to take this approach. Denise Linn's book, *Signposts: The Universe is Whispering to You*, suggests by its very title that spiritual realities can descend and be made known in the natural environment.

But there's more! When Swedenborg comments upon Ezekiel 20, he writes, "The south here stands for those who have the light of truth provided by the Word, thus those who belong to the Church, yet who are influenced by falsities which they substantiate from the sense of the letter of the Word wrongly explained. . . . 'A forest' is a state in which factual knowledge is predominant, whereas 'a garden' is one in which truth is predominant. (*Arcana Caelestia*, paragraph 9642.3) At this point I think, maybe this guy's got something here!

Although the concept challenges me deeply, I think it may be entirely valid to use the Word in this way ~ with a couple of provisos. Firstly, the primary purpose of these type of reflections should be that of self examination. The sword of truth is best used to cut away what is diseased from my own heart. As Jesus said, ". . . first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (*Luke* 6:42, NIV) Too often the world has seen the Bible used as a tool of oppression or suppression - oppression because people are kept in their place by its misuse, suppression because the learned have hidden their own faults by focussing the Bible upon the failings of others. However, self reflection does go beyond the individual, to groups of which we are a part and which represent our interests, as might be said of this sincere Christian and the wider Church to which he belongs.

Secondly, I think we should be careful about saying the Lord is responsible for this or that event. Whilst lightning may indeed be used for Divine purposes, so is hell, but that doesn't mean He is responsible for its actions. Humanity plays its part in the spiritual atmosphere in which we live. I don't think He lit the fires, nor do I see them as "His judgement", but I do think that they can reflect for us the spiritual times in which we live. And I do see the tangible goods which have come out of it all - the great outpouring of community spirit which has arisen in the midst of this crisis, the dedication with which the professionals have carried out their duties, the sense of calm at the evacuation centres when rationally one might expect chaos to reign supreme.



David Moffat is pastor of *New Spirit*, a Swedenborgian-related ministry in Canberra. His primary focus involves exploring alternative approaches to spirituality and religion, and networking with spiritually-orientated groups and individuals. David studied music and education at the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney. He worked as a music teacher for some 5 years prior to training for ministry. He is married to Pam and they have three young children.

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Book Review

The Design of Existence: Emanations from Source to Creation by **Wilson Van Dusen**

"The design of the whole of existence is an awesome idea". So the introduction begins in this book which then sets out to explore not only the emanation from Source to creation but also the return from creation to Source. Van Dusen, a self-confessed mystic, embraces the universal truths of other mystics throughout time and throughout different beliefs.

He reconciles the beliefs of the major religions as well as the beliefs of so-called animist societies. At a time when we in this country are looking towards reconciliation and understanding of the Australian indigenous people, this oneness of the human consciousness operating through the physical body is central if world peace is to be realised.

Van Dusen draws on the experiences of mystics from all major religions and their direct experiences of God. Understanding the design beyond our present life comes through inner experiences that transcend the material world in which we live. The strength of perception of the grand design is that spiritually sensitive people throughout the ages agree on the principles of life. The apparent differences of say Buddhism in regard to reincarnation are nothing except the principle of One Life. Mystics have come to a remarkable concordance of understanding but it is Emanuel Swedenborg who is the most definitive in describing the spiritual world, the account of the heavens and hells, and the detailed connections between those remarkable realms and our personal experiences.

This book bridges the apparent gap that exists between one's own religion and that of others, and is a timely corrective to the exclusiveness that pervades thought today and which can cause such animosity.

John Brogan



This paperback, consisting of 188 pages, is available from the **Swedenborg Centre** for \$33.00 (Swedenborg Association members price is \$26.40) plus postage/packing of \$5.00. Send a cheque/money order payable to the "Swedenborg Centre" to 1 Avon Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113 or ring 02 9888 1066 quoting your credit card details.

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GROUP'S NEWS

North Ryde, Sydney:

Roy Simmonds gave a talk on Friday 31st January titled *Internal and External - God and DNA* (see page 6). 23 attended this interesting talk, where Roy looked at the questions of *What can DNA tell us about the Creator?* and *What can the external tell us about the Internal?* One of Roy's beliefs is that all life forms exist from the totality of God's Law. "The beauty and power of that Law shows us much more than the wonders of the created Universe." Roy has maintained his interest in Science throughout his adult life and it was wonderful to see him sharing it in this presentation of how DNA arose and in answering the many questions that followed. Ruth Duckworth made a special cake for the supper, to mark the 315th anniversary of Swedenborg's birthday.

Julian Duckworth presented *Swedenborg and the Bhagavad Gita ~ exploring what is common in their different texts* on Friday 28th February. He provided the background setting for the Bhagavad Gita which is part of an epic story known as the Mahabharata. Julian also provided a quick overview of the 18 chapters of this sacred book. Various passages were selected from Swedenborg's writings and the Bhagavad Gita to show similar ideas being described. Here is one example of the parallel passages that was read out on the night by one of the 12 attending.

I am the same to all beings and my love is ever the same; But those who worship me with devotion, they are in me and I in them. (Gita 9:29)

The Lord is indeed present with everyone for from no other source does life flow and He governs every detail of it. This is so even with the worst of men. But the nature of His presence varies according to the way His life is received. But let it be known that to be joined to the Lord is one thing and for the Lord to be present is another. Conjunction with the Lord is not possible with anyone except those who approach the Lord directly and immediately. To all others He is only very present. (Arcana Coelestia 2706/Apocalypse Revealed 883)

He encouraged those who had not read the Bhagavad Gita to do so and recommended the penguin edition translated by Juan Mascaro.

Both evenings were videoed and can be borrowed by calling the Swedenborg Centre.

Michael Chester



Melbourne:

At our first meeting at the end of February the subject of the talk was 'What happens when we die' and Chris Skinner was the speaker. The talk provided a Swedenborgian view on the process of death, what will we find immediately after we die, what heaven is like and the state for those who die in childhood.

The number in attendance was twelve which is a little lower than normal but some of our regular attendees were unable to be with us. We were pleased to have a visitor who attended for the first time. There was lively discussion as usual and questions were wide and varied and went beyond the topic of the night.

Our speaker in March will be James Edgar and the title of his talk will be 'Man, Myth and Mystery part 2'

He will develop the topic of his talk given last October looking at how a central thread of ancient wisdom can be traced through religions and cultures through the ages.

Chris Skinner

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

We are very pleased to have Mrs Joanne Southcombe (Canada) again as a member after a period "off the list", and we warmly welcome the following new members to the Association:

Elsa Van Baaren, WA	Brett Jenkins, VIC
Sandra Glass, QLD	Gwynneth Klaassen, QLD
John Green, VIC	Margaret Sangster, VIC

Swedenborg Quotation from the Secretary

"And the Lord, for the sake of His reception by man, makes it appear that life is, as it were, man's."

Divine Love and Wisdom, 394

Welcome again to *Candela*, our first edition for the calendar year. As usual, the Association has been busily engaged in its normal administrative functions and scheduled activities. The past few months have evidenced the SAA's first regular quarterly Board Meeting (conducted 18th February), as well as the regular monthly meetings conducted in Melbourne and Sydney as reported elsewhere.

The Board Meeting in February brought with it a number of matters for consideration including Membership/Renewals, Group News, both local and interstate, and the annual complimentary item for members.

During December of last year, all members received a letter informing them of the coming together of the Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre (Swedenborg Centre) and the Swedenborg Association of Australia under the one banner, *Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd*. I would like to report that the administrative repositioning and integration of the two bodies is well under way and continuing smoothly.

During February, all members with membership active to 2002 were contacted by the Association with the view to renewing their membership. Member's response has been constant, and on behalf of the Board, thanks are extended to all our members for their continued support and encouragement.

We reported in our December issue that there were two positions as Directors to the Board that were unfilled. These positions remain unfilled and I do invite members to consider their possible appointment to the role. The role is a rewarding one as the Board Meetings provide a forum at which important and relevant issues affecting or impacting upon both the Association and its Members can be given voice, with important decisions being made in a democratic environment. If you are interested in joining the Board, please call me on (02) 9888 1066.

Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for May 13th 2003. Board meetings are open to all members and should you wish to attend please contact me to confirm details and to receive an Agenda.

Michele Knight

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A Member's Journey

Hello, my name is Henry Gill. I now live in North East NSW at Lismore, and have only been a member of the Swedenborg Association for less than twelve months, very much a new chum.

Upon retiring from the Insurance/Financial Services Industry in Sydney, I undertook voluntary work at our State Library for about four years and then decided to move out of the city. A lot of Sydney-siders get that itch to leave the noise and other pollution and in effect completely change life styles, I did just that. But why Lismore?

To answer the question I should explain that Lismore is a regional centre of 46,000 people; it has a university and is not too far from the influences, good and bad, of Byron Bay and Nimbin, both well known to the devotees of the New Age. One can describe Lismore as “alternative” with a feeling of substance about the city, I do feel that I belong spiritually to this area.

Since moving here I have undertaken a short course at the University on Bundjalung culture and language. The Bundjalung is a Koori nation whose traditional land expands from south of Brisbane to the Clarence River in North East NSW. My particular interest was Aboriginal spirituality which broadly embraces Animism with belief in the spirit world.

To go back to my younger days, I had a very deep interest in Wicca (Witchcraft) and Ancient Egyptian Religion and Magick. As I developed, or matured (a better way of putting it), I began to harbour doubts about the efficacy of such teachings. I then turned to Eastern mysticism, oddly enough, influenced by Jack Kerouac and other writers of the “Beat” generation with emphasis on Buddhism. Buddhism by the way is not unknown in the Lismore region. Kerouac’s novels like “*Dharma Bums*” and “*The Scripture of the Golden Eternity*”, Kerouac’s sutra, had a profound influence on me. Studies in Eastern religious texts followed on for a number of years.

Then I again changed. I really do not know the reason why, maybe God tapped me on the shoulder and said to my subconscious mind, “Hey it is time you looked to the Western world and Christianity.” After flings with the Rosicrucians and Steiner’s teachings, I moved to William Blake and for the first time came upon Swedenborg. Blake lived in London about the same time as Swedenborg and was fourteen years old when Swedenborg died in 1772.

I think later God gave me another shoulder tap and said, “Look at Swedenborg, this is what you have been seeking, everything else constituted an education towards this end.” I gradually moved from the Christian mysticism of William Blake to that of Emanuel Swedenborg. I joined the Swedenborg Association in 2002.

I would recommend the book, “*Blake and Swedenborg, Opposition is True Friendship*”, subtitled “*The Sources of William Blake’s Arts in the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg*”, edited by Bellin and Ruhl. This is an anthology well worthwhile reading. It contains not only biographical notes on Swedenborg and Blake, but corresponding ideas, analysis of both persons and historical contexts. If I was asked what book gave me the most help understanding Swedenborg I would nominate “*Swedenborg Explores the Spiritual Dimension*”, by Brian Kingslake, my copy is scored on many pages.

I feel I have completed my journey or to express it better, my spiritual search. I was meant to go the way I have and to live in the region I live now, my search was extremely complex but I learnt as I went along the path.

To me Swedenborg was a true Christian charismatic, visionary and prophet. He provided a new answer to religious questions on the basis of his visionary experiences and opened an inner sense of spiritual awakening and revelation.

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Interior and Exterior: God and DNA

A synopsis of a Talk given by Roy Simmonds to the Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd North Ryde Group meeting on 31st January 2003

We humans, homo sapiens sapiens, are deeply attached to the natural – this incredible, magnificent Universe. In our search for the meanings in Higher Life it is essential to know the point of departure and its environment. This permits us to set our course and track our progress.

How did we come to be?

Biblically speaking - Out of the dust.

In the Natural - from stardust.

Our substance and all substances on this planet were created in the heart of an exploding sun. A Supernova. We are children of the stars. There was a moment of change ~ shall we say “A Biblical event” - the Genesis act ~ but where do we find this in the natural?

We perceive God by:

- ★ Faith When one sees a light clearly and requires no further clarification we see Faith at work. Naïve ~ Unsophisticated ~ Complete. A totally satisfactory method.
- ★ Prophets All existing prophetic writings carry a duality of information ~ external and internal. The code for the inner meanings has been openly displayed by successive regenerations by prophets.
- ★ Correspondences Swedenborg has opened the inner wisdom of Judaic and Christian teachings by the science of Correspondences which together with his personal insights gives all an opportunity to open the door for spiritual growth. Our responsibility as earnest seekers of truth is to understand the mechanism of Correspondences and work toward increasing that library of references.
- ★ Understanding (Why do I take such pains to seek understandings in the natural as the road to God? *Jesus said “I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe: how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things”* - John)

Swedenborg possessed an enormous intellect by which, under his rigorous discipline and with a background of disciplined knowledge, he came into spiritual sensitivity revealing the outcome of aligning with God’s laws in the natural and, by interpretation of the Word, to understanding in the Spiritual. Much later, Dr. Philip Groves took the greatest pains to teach that to know the Creator one must understand the Creation. The road toward elevation is that of study, challenge and understanding in the Natural. “Perception by understanding” looks at the way in which God can be perceived by the examination of God’s own Creation. God’s Law is the governance of the Universe.

The Law is that set of fundamental commands built into the fabric and environment of the Universe by the Creator, which commands and permits the origin and perpetuates both the Universe and our own spirituality It is the beginning and the end. Without the Law there is nothing.

Let us step forward 10 billion years from the instant of creation and look at a not particularly noteworthy set of events taking place in a not particularly spectacular neighbourhood in our galaxy. 4.55 billion years ago, in an outlying arm of the galaxy, near a medium sized yellow nuclear powered star, rotating hot gases condensed to molten rock bombarded by large and small meteorites. It would become known to us as our home planet - *Earth*.

Then Mother appeared 3.8 billion years ago in a shallow ocean near volcanic thermal vents.

Who is Mother ?

Mother is a bacterium cell with one incredible and essential component - *DNA* or *Deoxyribonucleic Acid*

Before DNA there was no life as we know it. This was the crucial innovation. With the earliest microscopes, we were able to discriminate individual cells in living tissue including our own. As microscopy improved, grew more powerful, we could see cell division and a shadowy indication of rods in the nucleus which seemed to play a part in cell division. These we called *chromosomes*. Much later when tunnelling electron microscopes arrived we were able to see the detail of these rods and the search was on for their constituents. We now know that these are chains of molecules of the DNA sequence tight wound around histones, further coiled and packaged into highly condensed chromosomes. A single DNA chain of nucleotides from a human cell when unravelled is 1.7m long. Along the length of the DNA there are subsets which we call genes. Genes are the instruction codes for all life functions. Using x-ray crystal spectroscopy the physical structure of the DNA has been confirmed by direct observation.

Life

“The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being” - Genesis

Definition:

A living cell exists by virtue of the DNA RNA principle and enzymatic action.

DNA is a long chain of molecules of extraordinary configuration in a double helix formation - a spiral ladder. The exterior rails chain Phosphate and Sugar, and the rungs are Organic bases joined by Hydrogen bonds in hydrophobic interaction. The “rungs” are paired: **Adenine and Cytosine with Thymine and Guanine.**

This is an immensely stable configuration but by virtue of sheer numbers, it has the capacity to change groupings and to respond to external influences and replicate the changes, thus capable of evolving. Each of the components involved in the DNA saga are themselves extremely complex molecules and the way in which these have come together is extremely complex. Here is complexity upon complexity ~ and this refers only to a nucleotide. We should note that Science has been unable to produce a nucleotide in the laboratory. Science has been unable to determine why the complex chemistry in the nucleus came together or determined its separate functions so that life could come into existence. The Phosphate - Sugar - Base groups must have been produced by abiotic means ~ life did not exist. Inescapably, there must be a very special physical quality in this universe which accounts for what seems to be an impossibly remote accidental occurrence.

I have long suspected that part of natural law is a function I call “**tendency**”. In chemistry, the physical reality – the molecule - results from physical shape - the way in which atoms associate. It gives a *tendency* to favour one outcome rather than another.

If we apply the idea of random selection to produce in one environment, DNA, its pair of RNA functions, the enzymatic action and its requirement, the associated chemistry of the nucleic soup and the other complex interactive components, mitochondria, and, in mitosis, setting in motion the binding then separating of the chromosomes to form a pair of nuclei and then cells; then by reasonably simple mathematics, a billion years is a laughably small window of opportunity for purely random outcome. Bear in mind too, that all these formations and congregations must have a purpose for taking place and perpetuating.

To form DNA or RNA once is totally useless. It must have formed and remained formed while all of the necessary other components were formed and came together. None of this can have occurred in the logic of cell formation - that did not yet exist. There must be a built-in *tendency* in chemical formations and, particularly for us this one, for the sequencing and formatting of the components required.

There must be a *tendency* favouring one outcome over another. God’s Law? Of course. Whether we see this as a tendency for an outcome or the emergence of an outcome is not the question. The Law is in place to enable such an outcome. What does this indicate?

1. There was an instant at which life - that is DNA - occurred.
2. It was not produced by existing life.
3. It had to come into existence by natural law.
4. If this seems to be the point in time when the Lord God performed the Genesis act. IT IS!

- but **HOW?** God set the Laws of the Universe at the instant of its instigation and DNA arose out of the Law of God in a time, and times, and half a time.

All that occurs in the Universe arises from the interaction of the Laws which are the supporting pillars of the whole of creation. We are coming to know many of these laws and actively continue to seek more detail all the time. Yet, we have a great mind and theorist in Stephen Hawking, who presents an incredibly naïve explanation for creation that “it just happened”. If it just

happened there must have been order and regulation. Every activity in the universe arises from laws that we understand and from those we have still to grasp. For all those who see God as ever present, of course, that is true. God’s Law is ubiquitous. We exist because God’s all pervading Law permits it. *All beauty, all love, all compassion, all aspiration, all life exists because of the totality of God’s Law.*

The beauty and power of that Law shows us much more than the wonder beyond measure of the Created Universe - it also shows us an enormous amount of the Glory and nature of its Creator. God’s Law throws a shadow across our minds which can allow us some insight and understanding of the nature of the Lord God.

The Lord said “You cannot see My Face for no one may see Me and live..... I will cover you with My Hand until I pass by and you will see My Back”

Exodus 33

We are permitted to see God in the Glory of where God has passed by. Where is “God’s back” for us? Surely the Universe, God’s Creation, displayed openly for us to see and, by God’s Law, to comprehend. From these pieces of information we can come to see and adore with all our heart, the wonder and beauty of God.

So what are some of the realisations which arise?

- ★ The supreme grace of the Divine logic is seen in everything from an electron orbiting an atomic nucleus to the fertilisation of a plant seed by a bee attracted to a flower.
- ★ Everything that we count as beautiful is beautiful because God’s Law causes it and defines it, from the exquisite symmetry of the female human to the display of a trillion, trillion stars in galaxies and clusters of unimaginable majesty.
- ★ All true love is that which is freely given; that is how Divine Love is given. Look at the greatest free gift of love - the Universe - and at the life to behold it.
- ★ The Laws with which we are becoming increasingly acquainted speak of continuous creation at work. The Second Law of Thermodynamics seems to prohibit this but consider that it speaks of closed systems and there is only limited support for the Universe being a closed system..

So what can the story of DNA tell us about the Creator? What can the External tell us about the Internal?

Everything that we are or can be arises from application of the great Law of God in this Universe. Everything that we count as worthy, magnificent, loving arises from the Lord God and we see it by the Law.

Our Lord God is of unsurpassable Beauty.

Our God is the essence of Love.

Our God is full and total Wisdom.

Our God has set the pillars of Creation - God is the Law Maker.

Our God is the creationist - in every act, creation is the outcome.

Love and Wisdom are the great twin seals of the Lord God.

How Wonderful!

Roy Simmonds has spent 77 years in the search of verification of Life Source. As a student for a near decade of the teachings of the late Dr Philip Groves, Roy has been granted glimpses of Creator and Created.

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Despite many events bringing suffering and hardship to millions around the globe



The Directors of the Swedenborg Association of Australia
and the staff of the Swedenborg Centre
wish all readers of *Candela* a very fulfilling Eastertide



WHAT'S HAPPENING

For Group activities, contact your nearest Group Convenor

- Gold Coast (Kevin Attwater on (07) 5545 2401 and Jack Benson on (07) 5545 4115)
- Melbourne (Chris Skinner on (03) 9435 8599);
- Sydney region (Michael Chester on (02) 9913 2421);

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

Melbourne: The New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mount Waverley commencing 8pm

28th March ~ *Man, Myth and Mystery* (Part 2) with James Edgar

25th April ~ *Effect of the Absence of Love* with Donna Golding

30th May ~ *Blending Natural Therapies and Spiritual Healing* with Judy Jacka

Sydney: Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde commencing at 7.45pm.

28th March ~ *Complexity and Spirituality* with Dr. Vladimir Dimitrov

9th May ~ *Introduction to Christian Meditation* with Michael Chester

30th May ~ *Self-Healing* with Jan Goldsmith

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WHY A SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION?

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

Having active Branches for those with common interests.

Providing information on topical subjects by drawing on Swedenborg's contributions .

Ensuring Swedenborg's writings before the community's awareness.

WHY JOIN?

To share with others what has been of help to you in your quest for truth.

Pursuing areas of interest in Swedenborg through ready access to material and events when available.

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