

Candela



Newsletter of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc
Organisational Details are provided on the next page

JUNE 2011

ISSUE 64

Issue Theme ~ Age: maturing in wisdom

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friend,
I have always been intrigued by human birth sex ratios. The ideal would seem to be one male for every female, which is almost the case. The world birth ratio is 101 males to 100 females (slight variation in different parts of the world, e.g. 105 males to 100 females in USA). Still, that's fairly close to 1 for 1. The ratio at birth is offset by earlier male deaths, so at retirement (again in the USA at least) this results in approximately 95 males for every 100 females for the population aged around 65. It often struck me as an example of finely tuned provisioning, whatever might be the mechanism of achieving such a fortunate outcome. If sex is randomly assigned to individuals at conception, I would muse why the trend didn't swing more wildly one way or the other for a year or several years at a time. Eventually I concluded it was probably my ignorance of the statistical law that a bigger sample gives a smoother result. One theory says the difference could be due to

sperm carrying the male's Y-chromosome being 3% lighter than sperm carrying the heavier X-chromosome, thereby giving it a 3% advantage in the marathon to reach the egg, providing around 3% more males at birth. Maybe...

We are born, we grow, we (hopefully) mature, we die. So what's the point? If we see death as a door, we have work to do. Preparation for what lies beyond that door. I compare the body to the rocket boosters strapped under that winged orbiter of the space shuttle.

* * continued on page 2 * * *

MAIN CONTENTS

President's Message	Joe Vandermeer	1
Old Age?	Christopher V A Hasler	3
Business Matters		5
Poetry from some older readers		6
Swedenborg and Ageing	Janice Daw	8
Book review	Elizabeth Kemmis	9
Interview with Rosemary	Julian Duckworth	10

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

Next Issue – September 2011

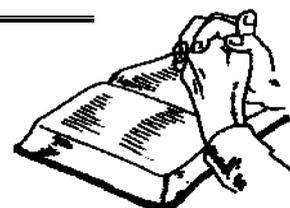
Theme : "Sacred text : God speaking to us"

There are a lot of sacred texts used by the different religions in the world. Swedenborg tells us that "The Word" (The Bible) is more than just inspired, it is actually God here in the world. Do you feel this when you read the Bible? Do you find inspiration from other sacred texts?

Thank you to everyone who wrote for this current issue. I was very happy to have most articles from or about older people. If you have not contributed before perhaps this next issue will inspire you. You could just send a short quote of your favourite text and how it has helped you.

The deadline is the 20th August 2011

Email to rduckworth@optusnet.com.au or by post to the registered office.





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Please Note: The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributor and do not necessarily reflect any particular position of the Swedenborg Association of Australia or its Committee.

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) 9888 1066 or browse www.swedenborg.com.au, go to 'Organisation' in the menu and click on 'Membership.'

continued from page 1

The rockets are only there to lift the orbiter to a height where it can travel independently, they're offering it a 'leg-up' so to speak. Having done their duty the rockets detach and descend back to earth. If the orbiter does not activate its own engine by then, it too will end up whence it came without venturing into space. While we have the body as our booster,



we need to fire our engines of right living, understanding and motivation before the chance to work in such an ideal place of preparation comes to an end as we lose this physical body and our ability to interact with this spiritual kindergarten, the physical world. We have a funny habit of asking people their 'age,' meaning the age of their body, number of ticks of the calendar clock. Why not ask

them how mature they are? Or ask what 'state' of spiritual development they have reached and put that in their passports?

So much of our perceptions and ideas are influenced by the peculiar conditions of our planet, for example how we evaluate time and space. For example, take my age (please, someone take it). On Mercury, my age would be an ancient 212 'years', on Mars have only 27 candles on my birthday cake, while to Neptune and Pluto I'm only a newborn (does that tell you how old I am on Earth?)

All this thanks to the unique duration of each planet's orbit around our sun. I would also weigh less on the inner planets. Had I lived in the age of dinosaurs, a day would have given me just 18 modern hours (imagine how busy that would make you) due to the gradual slowing of the earth's spin on its own axis. In another 13,000 years mid-winter in Sydney will be in December (finally a white Christmas). On the smallest scale, time and space seem to evaporate. Subatomic particles have been a certain direction of spin and when twin particles were separated by some 7 miles, changing the spin of one immediately caused the other particle to act likewise.

We must wrestle to detach ourselves from a fixed view of reality based on the ruler and the clock. According to Swedenborg, if we wish our thoughts to perceive things of a spiritual and Divine nature we must raise our thinking above the literal natural level. Spiritual sight sees objects familiar from the natural world, but their presence in the spiritual realm is due to their correspondential (internal) meaning. Space and time are no longer fixed as they are here but are changeable according to the states of our life there. In spiritual thought space refers to states of love and time refers to states of wisdom (*Divine Love and Wisdom 69-70*).

We should aim to die before we die – to die to our identification with whom we think we are, die to the sense of permanence of this physical existence, die to the cold, finite, hard physicalities of this world. Instead, the ideal which Swedenborg's writings surely carry is that we should strive to read the spiritual correspondences spoken through all things for our benefit and then to apply what we understand to our life.

Wishing you a wonderfully time striving for ripeness of spirit.

"Human beings are asleep, and when they die they wake up" – Muhammad.

Joe Vandermeer



Old Age?

By Christopher V A Hasler - United Kingdom

Christopher is a retired Swedenborgian Minister who has served in Mauritius, Australia and England.

My daughter Ruth asked me if I would like to write an article about old age for THE CANDELA. No, I wouldn't like to write it. I am against old age! I replied, rather ungraciously.

Take Swedenborg as an example. He spent nearly half his life writing about the theology of the New Church as a humble servant of the Lord; and he finished his life in London in rather poor lodgings because his own country confiscated his newly printed book on marriage, which the clergy found offensive: it even might have come to a trial. Swedenborg, by this time was nearly 84 and suffering from partial paralysis. He was sometimes visited by the Swedish pastor in London, who had little sympathy with Swedenborg's new theology, but was pleased to hear Swedenborg's confession that he was a sinner! When he died, in 1772, he was buried in the Swedish Church in London; and it was not until 1908, when the church building was about to be demolished, that Swedenborg's coffin was removed to Sweden and was finally taken to the Uppsala Cathedral, where it can be seen today.

Swedenborg did have an advantage over us, because for many years he had daily contact with the spiritual world in which he was present with his spiritual body, and was able to talk to spirits and angels. He described everything very vividly in his theological books. Why should he care about the infirmity of old age which would soon be over?

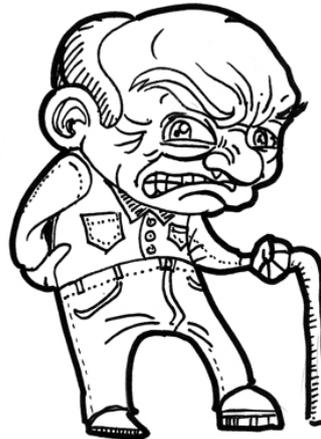
Not for him the old theological belief (still the official doctrine of most Christian denominations today) that our soul has to wait in limbo until the Last Judgement, when it will be re-united with its old body resurrected from dust. Such an eventuality would have been particularly difficult in Swedenborg's case, as his coffin had been broken open and his skull stolen in order to be sold to some New Church adherents (who were unwilling to have anything to do with such a desecration). A skull was eventually returned and the coffin resealed; and there is no absolute certainty that the skull was really Swedenborg's own. None of that would have mattered to Swedenborg, who - from many years' experience - knew that the

spiritual body is not reunited with the physical body, which would be absolutely no use in the spiritual world.

I too want that new body of spiritual substance which will not be affected by the aches and pains of old age. I also look forward to being freed from the limitations of the loss of hearing, partial loss of memory and aching body. What sane person would ever want them?

However, I am still alive on this earth (at the time of writing this), so does that mean I still have some use, or the need to do something

before I pass over? If so, I sincerely hope that it is more than to provide employment for nurses and carers for the geriatrics. But only a week or two ago, we heard on the radio that in another 10-15 years, many people will live till they are 110 and



that will rise to 120 by about 2030. So that is one unwanted 'blessing' I shall be able to escape. These prophets of longevity believe that most people will be sensible, and never start smoking, never start abusing drugs and alcohol, and always eat healthy food in moderation. Yet, as I look around the town I live in, a very large number of people and children are obese and seem to move with great difficulty.

So let us leave humanity on earth and have a peep into our future in the spiritual world, which Swedenborg described in great detail in his most popular work, Heaven and Hell. We even have a new translation done by K. N. Ryder straight from Latin into modern English as spoken in Britain - so be forewarned about that! But as you read on the more you read, you come to feel, that if there is a life after this one, it could not be other than described by our reporter Swedenborg. Let me choose a few morsels for you from this book to whet your appetite:



As regards the spirit

(432) *Anyone who considers the matter correctly can see that the body does not think, because it is material, but the soul does, because it is spiritual. Many have written about the immortality of the soul. A person's soul is a person's spirit, for this in all respects is completely immortal. It is also what does the thinking within the body, for it is spiritual, and something that is spiritual receives what is spiritual, as well as being actively spiritual; that is, thinking and intending. Therefore all the rational life manifested in the body belongs to the soul, and none of it to the body.*

(433) *Since everything that is alive within the body, and through being alive can act and have feeling, belong exclusively to the spirit and not at all to the body, it follows that the spirit is what constitutes the actual person; or, what is nearly the same, a person looked at as herself or himself is essentially a spirit, and is also similar in form. For everything that has life and feeling in a person belongs to that person's spirit, and there is nothing in a person, from the head to the soles of the feet, that does not have life and feeling. That is why, when the body separates from its spirit (what we call dying), a person goes on being a person, and lives on.*

(436) *I have been allowed to know, from a good deal of personal experience, that people are spirits as regards their inner selves: if I put it all before you, it would fill whole volumes, as the saying goes. I have talked with spirits as a spirit myself, and also as a person in a body. And when I spoke with them as a spirit, for all they knew I was a spirit myself, also in human form, like them. In this way my inner self was visible to them, since when I spoke to them as a spirit they did not see my material body.*

After death people possess all the senses, and the memory, thought and feeling, that they possessed on earth; they leave nothing behind apart from their earthly body

(461) *I have had a great number of experiences which have shown me that when people pass from the natural world into the spiritual, which happens when they die, they take with them their whole selves, or if you like, everything that makes them human beings, apart from their earthly body. For people entering the spiritual world, or life after death, are still within a body, just as they were on earth. Seemingly, there is no difference, for they do not feel or see a difference. But it is their spiritual body, and thus it is separated, or if you like purified, from earthly substances; and when the spiritual body touches or sees a spiritual one, it is exactly like when the natural body touches or sees a natural one.*

What people are after death depends on what their life was like on earth

(470) *Every Christian knows, from the Word, what awaits any person after his or her death, for in many places there it says that people will be judged according to their deeds and works, and repaid accordingly. Also, all those who base their*

thoughts and goodness and actual truth are bound to see that someone who has lived well will go to heaven, and someone who has lived badly will go to hell. But people who have lived a wicked life are unwilling to believe that their condition after death depends on their life on earth, thinking that heaven is granted to everyone out of pure mercy, no matter how they have lived, and that it depends on their faith, which for them is quite separate from life. People think like this especially when they are ill.

(476) *From all this we can now agree what is meant by the life which awaits people after death: it is of course their love, and therefore faith, not only potentially but also actually. These are also deeds or works, because these contain within themselves all things belonging to people's love and faith.*

(486) *All the pleasures that people feel are those belonging to their **ruling love**, for people find nothing pleasurable apart from what they love, so this applies especially to what they love more than anything. Whether you say ruling love, or what they love more than anything, it is the same thing. These pleasures are various, and in general they are as numerous as there are ruling loves; therefore, as numerous as there are people, spirits and angels. For the ruling love of any individual is not like another's in every way. This is why one person's face is never exactly the same as another's, for the face is the image of each one's disposition, and in the spiritual world it is the image of each one's ruling love.*

So look to your ruling love! Forget your ageing body which is the least important part of you and will be completely and finally disposed of when you die, and thank the Lord for that! Begin to discover your real potential, whether you are 18 or 81: that is where your everlasting life lies, waiting to be discovered!

Christopher V A Hasler

(Editor's note) When my father sent me this article I thought that something he said in his accompanying letter summed up a lot about the wisdom we gain as we get older. I quote,

I really do not know what you wanted me to say about Old Age, so perhaps, I treated the subject with less respect than it deserves. When I look at Mum, battling with so many serious ailments, but with her eyes full of love, I think she has never looked more beautiful – as you will see for yourself in two months' time. I will not be upset if you do not use my article which is a bit mischievous – and why not? I do not think we should take life too seriously and worry too much about what is wrong with it. Let's see what is right with it. Yesterday's Royal wedding is a good example of that.



Business Matters

Secretary's Report

Since March we have been happy to welcome into membership the following:

Mr Bill Hall, North Rockhampton, Qld
 Mr Konrad Pircher, Richmond, NSW
 Mrs Moya Williams, Hackett, ACT
 Mr Frank Leaver, Parramatta, NSW



The time is fast approaching for our Annual General Meeting on 23rd September. As well as the usual general business there will be a special resolution brought forward to change the Constitution (following) and, of course, the election of office bearers and committee members. The President and Treasurer are available to continue, but the position of Secretary will again be vacant. All of the current committee members are happy to be re-elected, that still leaves some vacancies as not all committee places have been filled. Any member would be welcome to serve on the committee or to take the position of Secretary. It is not necessary to live in Sydney where the meetings take place as telephone facilities are available and possibly Skype, so interstate members would be very welcome as they have been in the past. The meetings are held quarterly and between meetings contact is maintained by email.

To remain a vibrant, interesting organisation the committee constantly needs new faces and different ideas, so I would ask all members to consider seriously whether they could be involved at committee level. To paraphrase John F Kennedy, "Think not what your SAA can do for you, but what you can do for your SAA".

Hoping to see you at the AGM,
 Best wishes,

Alexis Jarvis

Evening Prayer by Max Ehrmann

Let me not follow the clamour of the world, but walk calmly in my path. Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am. And though age and infirmity overtake me and I am not within sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me to be thankful for life, and for time's olden memories that are good and sweet.

Public Notice

Proposed New Constitution

Through the pages of the June Candela, the Committee gives early advice that it will present a motion to the 2011 AGM of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. on Friday 23rd September proposing the adoption of a new Constitution.

Two years ago, the NSW Government introduced a new Associations Incorporation Act 2009, under which our Association is registered, that commenced on 1st July 2010. It contains reforms aimed at helping associations to operate more effectively and to more easily manage their affairs. The changes embrace modern legal principles, reduce red tape, allow for more flexibility, and create stronger protection of finances. As well as some additional requirements, a Model Constitution is provided. All organisations operating under the Legislation (approx. 35,000) have been requested to review their current Constitution to ensure it conforms to the new obligations and is properly presented. Ours, essentially framed under Companies Act, meets the majority of matters that need to be addressed. However, rather than making some necessary changes to it (not a straightforward task), the Committee decided a better course of action would be to simply adopt the Model Constitution with a few minor amendments to fit the way we operate today.

A special resolution of ¾ of the votes cast in person or by proxy will be required to accept the proposed constitution.

The motion itself will be included on the AGM notice which will be forwarded to members in due course. The proposed new Constitution will be available for inspection at the meeting. However, members may obtain a copy earlier by writing to the Secretary at the Registered Office (paper), emailing saa@swedenborg.com.au (electronic) or viewing it online at www.swedenborg.com.au and following links to 'Organisation' and then to 'Management'. Questions can be directed to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

Neville Jarvis, Public Officer



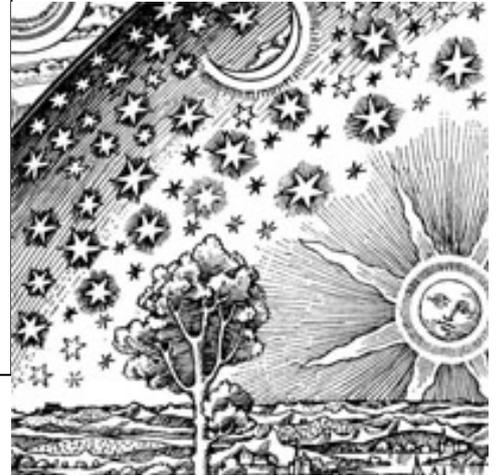
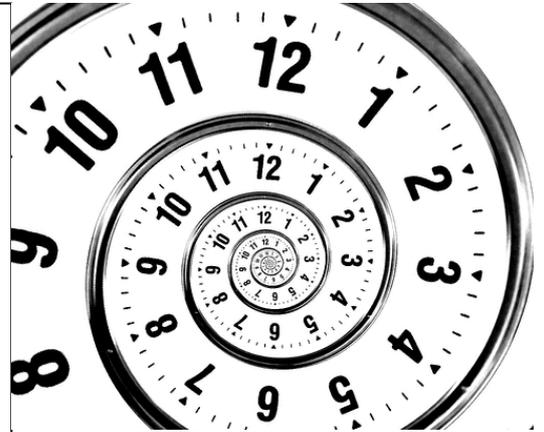
GARDEN OF POETRY

Thank you to three of our older readers who have let me publish some of their poetry. It is mostly on the topic of time, age and wisdom. Two of them are nonagenarians!

TIME

Time is the space unrolling between this and that event.
 Time is measured by the breaths knowingly spent in between sleep and dreams.
 Time, so it seems, is my life's drive, waxing and waning as I strive.
 Time is my sphere to expand at my will.
 Time, the most precious gift I will fill with my dreams and my play
 and if I touch you along my way or you make my thoughts overwhelm
 to a new, still unknown realm
 steep mountains, luscious fields or arid plain
 by my heart's beat will be my gain.
 Time, this lucid crystal mould
 in my own strong or trembling hand I hold
 as my endowment to cherish and use
 until – back to eternal realms I fuse.

Rosemarie Lorenz



Grandmothers at the Pantomime

Grandmothers at the Pantomime
 sit in solid lumps
 preparing to protect
 against the witch's threats
 offering reassurance through the din
 munching on chips
 and waiting for the wonder
 to begin.

© Joan Aronsten

DIMENSIONS OF SPACE AND TIME

A tiny ant climbs up the tallest tree'
 An agile lizard scampers up a wall;
 Our feet, indeed, will take us up the hill to see
 The ground, green pastures, springs and all
 the vibrant life on earth around.

Your mind and thoughts will make you free
 To roam blue endless spheres above.
 To reach the stars, with them to see
 The endless source of Love,
 Where there is peace and harmony
 Unfettered life in Heaven's sun – blessed time:
 Eternity!

Rosemarie Lorenz



Grandsons

We planted four trees
each in its own space
the roots buried deep in the nurturing
earth.

Now branches reach out
heavy with live sap
creating new shapes from the master
seed.

We ask for stretched time
to witness the full height
to scatter dust
about their feet.

© Joan Aronsten

JUST YOU TWO

What a lovely view from where you are!
Up high, just you two.
And you can see far
Down the path of beautiful years.
Why, there's hardly a cloud!
Love has no time for tears;
And in the trees all blossom-bowed
The birds are singing your song
All the day long.
What a lovely view from where you are!
Hold the picture, waking and sleeping,
'Tis a treasure worth keeping.

Norman Heldon

Change of Address

Here in the room
with sun washed walls
I come alive again.

Blending new songs
with phrases that remain
stitching new patterns
with bright thread
over dark memories
that time will shed.

Time now to search the scene
that stretches through
clean windows where my eyes acclaim
fresh colours in the bright visions frame
the edge of distance never sought before.

The key fits well
that opens my door.

© Joan Aronsten

AS IT SHOULD BE

Could be the world but sees in me
An aged, gnarled and withered tree,
That with the querulous winds I sigh
In vain for fertile years gone by;
For golden Springs and blossomed splendour,
And fruit that I was glad to render.
The axe of time, they say, will fall;
That surely is the end of all.

Not so

I trust the Power that grafts in me
A scion from the Living Tree.
I feel the glowing heat, and bright
My leaves now shine in Heaven's light;
Already in my branches sing
The winds of an eternal spring;
A purer sap begins to flow
To sweeter fruit – Ah, this I know.

Norman Heldon



Swedenborg and Aging

By Janice Daw

The journal Swedenborg kept of his dreams and reflections when he was 55 years old (in 1743) mark a turning point in his life – a change of orientation from ego and the outer world to the Self and the inner or spiritual world; from his scientific career to his spiritual explorations. It can provide insight into that turning point which takes place as we cross into our older years – the years in which we become elders and approach death. A new orientation occurs within us which we can find confusing as we risk letting go the aims and securities of our familiar working life.

By our late fifties we have become skilled in our work or profession, which can be a source of pride and recognition from others. This was particularly true of Swedenborg. His brilliant intellect and creative mind had brought him fame and recognition in many scientific fields. He was proud of this. Excessively so it seems. To his dismay something in him felt 'ill' about his attitude. He found himself no longer in control. The motivation and energy for his work were failing him. He observes *'there remained nothing of the desire to work for my own glory'*. In a dream, the scientific tomes he was writing now appear to be too heavy a load to carry and cause a bloody death to the horse he rides. He sees harm in the over-intellectual, rational approach he has taken. At the same time he experiences states of deep happiness and beauty which attract his whole being. And so he is led toward? He has no idea. He keeps struggling to return to his familiar way of working.

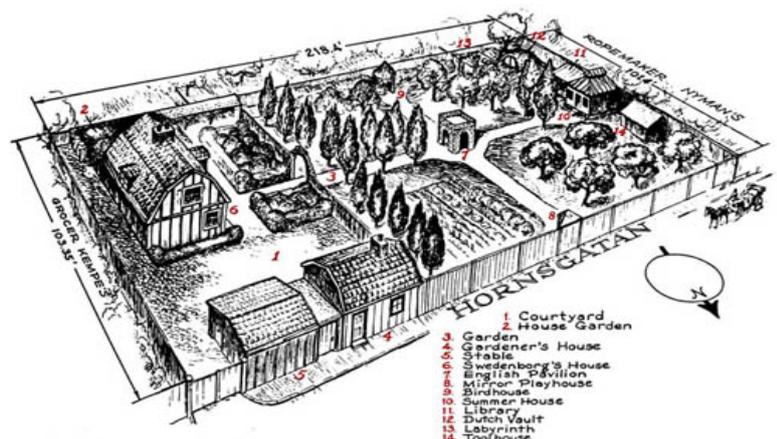
I have been fascinated by the process in Swedenborg's dream journal for many years. It lays bare such a clear deep process of change and growth in spiritual awareness. It led to a radical change in Swedenborg's life. Not that his particular gifts –his clarity of observation and expression did not accompany him on the latter journey of spiritual exploration, but his focus and allegiance shifted from the outer to the inner. This change of perspective led him toward more and more subtle spiritual and ethical observation and experiences and went hand in hand with deep changes in his attitudes and behaviour. It involved self- examination of his actions, feelings and thoughts and recognition of false attitudes and aims. The process was often painful and confusing, an old sense of identity was being stripped away, but he was attracted by deeper and more intimate

experiences of the beauty of the soul and of heavenly states of grace, love and joy. And so his inner nature persuades him to let go the way of working which had brought him such acclaim to that date.

Swedenborg's dreams refer to a 'turning around' and 'completing' : a turning from ego to Self which requires a humbler attitude as he is now the servant of something greater – and more lovely -than himself. He is submitting to being led rather than leading. And 'completing' : *'It seemed to me it was said that he grows more internal, he is completing'*. These descriptions occur in the context of a series of beautiful dreams where he becomes conscious of an inner man which he now represents. He experiences qualities which his intellectual pride had overlooked – love, grace humility ('the foundation of all'), faith and innocence. He also sees that this completing is coming from a deep inner source which he is not in control of. It provides what his ego lacks. He desires to give his all to this. This awareness of the inner nature is related to the experience of wholeness. Jung speaks of the experience of wholeness being the goal of life. In Swedenborg's journal we see his one-sided intellectual approach is undermined from within and led to deeper states of feeling and awareness in which his whole being rejoices.

And so what happens next? In 1747, 2 years after the last entry in his journal, Swedenborg resigns his post at the Board Mines where he had worked for 30 years. He retires to an acre of land he had bought a few years earlier. To the existing dwelling, he adds a simple cottage built of logs with a walk down the centre of a lovely garden which includes fruit-trees, vegetables, flowers and plants from many parts of the world. And a summer pavilion.

Plan drawing of Swedenborg's land





heart strings as a mother struggled through the pain of coming to terms with her homosexual daughter.

I was given hope for young girls as I read of a mother and daughter group that gently allows the aspects of feminine wisdom - purity of body, mind and spirit - to pass to the next generation. Believing true spirituality is a gift from God, one author studied three women of the Bible to learn how we can receive and use our own gift. I came to see a real vision for the role of women in the community and the planet. I know I have an important part to play.

The symbolism of a tree seemed apt. It was found to be "the feminine principle, the nourishing, sheltering, protecting, supporting aspect of the Great Mother, the matrix and the

power of the inexhaustible and fertilizing waters she controls". JC Cooper.

Spirituality is part of the divine pattern for humanity, the essence of our being, yet it must be discovered and chosen by each person for him or herself. I found this book examined ideas that will help me to recognize and cultivate my individual spiritual self. I was given hope for the future of the planet through the power of the nurturing spirit of our feminine aspect.

For those wishing to buy a copy please call the Swedenborg Centre Monday to Friday between 10am – 4pm or email us at orders@swedenborg.com.au. There is a 20% discount to the first 7 orders. Normally \$30, the discounted price is \$24. Postage is \$10.

Interview with Rosemary Greenwood

By Julian Duckworth

Rosemary is in her 80s and a keen student of Swedenborg

I got a lot of pleasure, when I was over in Adelaide recently, to do an interview with Rosemary Greenwood who is David Millar's mother-in-law, a lovely lady in her 80s, a real believer, deep thinker and a lively conversationalist. I scribbled down 10 questions in a few minutes and we took them through one afternoon, sitting with the sun on our backs.

Julian: Thanks for being willing to do this interview for the Candela, Rosemary. I'm sure people will enjoy what you have to say. I know you've lived in England and New Zealand as well as here in Australia. I'm sure that's given you a lot of experiences and wisdom over your life. Here's my first question. What would you say are some of the things that you've learned during your life?

Rosemary: I've learned very much that I am responsible for everything that has happened to me, not other people, me. It's been like that because I didn't have much of an understanding of human nature and I didn't handle a lot of things very well or think about the need to try and understand other people. I've learned not to judge anyone by their actions.

I didn't have much input from my mother early on in my life so was very unprepared for life in the world. I didn't understand about religion or about personal faith so they were actually shut off from me. We had church but there was a kind of strange gap between

being in church and being at home in my own life with my family. And I realise that so many things that happened have not been my fault, but were my responsibility, no matter what others may have seemed to think.

Julian: What do you think the real purpose of later life is, considering that nowadays a lot of people live a lot longer and not always wanting to.

Rosemary: I think for me it's being able to function in a ministry of being helpful, being a help and not a burden. And that means being as well as I can be. I do look forward to getting up in the mornings, every morning. I like to have something to fulfil me and I spent some time in a school where I just packed lunchboxes, and that was easy and very enjoyable.

Living longer today is good, if people can enjoy what they do and they are. We all like to be needed and wanted. Old age gives me substance, and reflecting on the past gives me wisdom. I am happy in my old age and I am learning to accept each day as it comes.

Julian: Are you conscious of basically being the same person you always were or of now being quite different?

Rosemary: I feel very much like I used to as a little girl. I feel like that inside, but I have to say that as an adult there's been a complete reversal.

Julian: What do you think about modern-day life?

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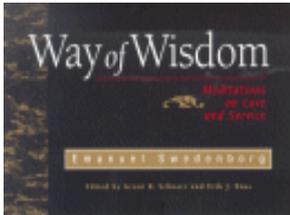


Discounted Items for the Quarter

As a reader of *Candela*, if you order the following titles in the June to August 2011 period, you will receive approx. 25% off the retail price (while stocks last).

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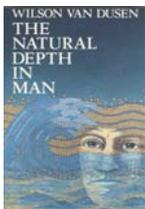
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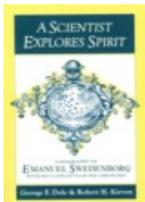
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?



For Group activities, contact your nearest Group Convenor

- Brisbane (Ian Arnold on (07) 33690054)
- Gold Coast (Kevin Attwater on (07) 55452401 and Jack Benson on (07) 55454115);
- Melbourne (Chris Skinner on (03) 94320322; email: cskinner9@optusnet.com.au);
- Sydney region (Michael Chester on (02) 98881066; email: michael@swedenborg.com.au);

It would be good to establish Groups in other areas. If you can help, please contact Michael Chester.

Our website is updated regularly. Go to meetings on www.swedenborg.com.au for more details. Please let us know if you would like to be informed via email.

- Brisbane:** New Church Hall, 21 Agars Street, Rosalie.
- Melbourne:** New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mount Waverley. Last Fridays commencing 8pm.
24th June ~ *The heart has reasons that reason knows not of.* ~ Speaker: **Julian Duckworth**
- Sydney:** Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde commencing 7.45pm.
24th June ~ *Swedenborg and Self-Help: The Influence of Swedenborg on the Modern Literature of Self Improvement.* Speaker: **Walter Mason**

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Continued from page 10..

Rosemary: I think there are two sides to it. It would be out of this world to my parents and I mean they would be amazed but they would be out of their depth. It looks like young people have it easier, but I'm not so sure. Things like children being in day care means that the usual bonding is much less. It's a blessing if you have some good experiences in life to help you but of course you don't have them until later on!

I do like the freedom that comes with having things and being able to do things, for example, having a car brings a lot of scope to what you can do. I also like the new technologies because they keep me brain-active. I do a lot of games and I also do the Logopraxis course that the College runs. **(For information about Logopraxis courses run by the Australian New Church College go to <http://anccollege.org/>)**

I don't like that there's so little respect for people who are older than you, and I think there is something missing with teaching young children. The more you have the more you want and expect. There is a lot of hunger for spiritual things but the church only gave the law in the past and laid things down rather than teaching about life. We need God in order to be happy, and to get his inflow into us.

Julian: What do you enjoy doing each day, Rosemary?

Rosemary: Well, I start my day every day with the Lord by reading and thinking about His Word because, you see, He knows. I get my booster injection that way. For example, I read the first Psalm about us being like trees and then I want to go out into the garden and look at them all, and think about it all. Everything out there in nature is in complete order.

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Helen Keller was a world renowned champion for the blind and deaf and has helped many people. Here are a few quotes from her wisdom about life. She was an avid reader of the Bible and Swedenborg's spiritual writings.

We differ, blind and seeing, one from another, not in our senses, but in the use we make of them, in the imagination and courage with which we seek wisdom beyond our senses.

We would never learn to be patient if there were only joy in the world.

When all you can feel are the shadows, turn your face towards the sun.

When one door of happiness closes, another one opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened to us.