



# THE NEW CHURCH CANADIAN

A Bi-monthly Newsletter of the General Church in Canada

Issue 135

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## When the Solution is the Problem

*Rev. Martie Johnson, Jr.*

*Priest - GCNJ; Chaplain - US Navy*

*"...But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" "The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." (Matthew 19:16-24)*

This last year was a year when humanity tried to address everything from stewardship of our planet to stewardship of ourselves. In the U.S. and around the world, passionate debates on life and its quality continue to rage as families re-prioritize their lives during a significant economic downturn. I hope and pray as we enter 2010 that the Lord's love and mercy will continue to grace and comfort us all while illuminating a path forward for us using the sure footing of His truth when we experience the shaky ground of this world.

In today's gospel, the rich young man felt that he was prepared to do what needed to be done, only to find out that the Lord required more of him, not from him. The Lord's will for our life is fulfilled when we follow Him. We all know this. Let's consider two ideas that may help us follow Him instead of choosing to walk away as the

rich man did: **Being Prepared** (our part) and **Being Fulfilled** (the Lord's part).

### **Preparation: Prayer is the beginning of our Dialogue**

To be prepared is to begin at the beginning: prayer. The reason this is the starting point is that nothing says you believe, love, and acknowledge God more than having the strength and courage to talk to Him.

The gift of prayer is our ability to have "speech with God," and this New Year might be a real chance to listen to the Lord and then hear Him. In this dialogue, the rich man offers to the Lord that he has obeyed the commandments "from [his] youth." For the record, I don't know if he was "just responding," perhaps being a little "defensive," or simply demonstrating what he had achieved. When you pray and offer

your thanksgiving and petition to God, always think about the spirit in which you offer it. Praying for the Lord's will and grace in our lives is critical, and we have to be mindful of our state of being and state of mind, so we don't pray and demand of God His compliance to our will.

There is no question that humility in prayer is always the essential ingredient. To see this clearly, you can read and re-read the dialogue between the thief on the cross and the Lord, and the parable of the tax-collector and the Pharisee praying in the temple.

I recall a sailor coming in to see me who was very angry about some folks in a shop where he worked on the ship. He came in to talk some things through, and he asked if he should pray about the issue. I said, "Absolutely." He said, "I was taught to have an 'attitude of gratitude' when I pray," and I smiled and responded, "I agree! Let's offer up all that you are experiencing, even this anger, so that He can help us remove it, not act from it." I was lucky to be reminded of this element of prayer on that day because like him, I felt he had been injured in the interaction in his shop.

Living in the human experience, we have to be deliberate about our actions. This is the power of the gift of free will restored by the Lord. We really do have to reach out to each other and reach up to the Lord – and choose to do so. We often talk about this theologically as being an open vessel to receive the Lord. How do we become an open vessel these days?

Sometimes, this is not easy, so here are three thoughts about what reaching out might require of us:

- With people who have been laid off, this may mean reaching out to the people in the congregation for connections and leads for work.
- With people who are stuck in crazy/unhealthy relationships, it may

mean being open and honest in a deliberate way about the respect you have for yourself, the respect you give to others, and the respect you expect as a result.

- With people who are consumed by injury from the past or fear of the future, it may mean that you have to move to a place in your life to let go of the hurt or move to a place that is separated from the source of the hurt.

This is tough stuff, and I know it because human interactions are full of competing emotions, life experiences, long-standing habits, and fixed perspectives on people, places, and things. I also know that about 10% of our life is made up of the things that happen to us and about 90% of our life is made up of the choices we make in response. Yes, we control how we respond to things that happen to us, and this is the other element of the gift of free will. What works against us in this "equilibrium" where free will reigns? Pride.

In this story, the rich man will respond to Jesus' answers to his questions regarding eternal life. The Lord's solution to him is to "sell all that he owns," and in this instance, the solution becomes the rich man's problem.

What happens when the solution is the problem?

My first response is: It is so annoying!!!

Just last month, I had my "you are over 40 years old now" military physical examination, and while I am fine...I also got some answers to questions for my life. I don't remember asking these questions! But I got the answers anyway! How about you? Have you asked questions that you wish you could hand back? Have you made inquiries only to find that you may have known the answer or did not want to hear that answer...again?

I don't know if the rich man in this story knew the answer, but even after telling the Lord that he kept the commandments, he was unprepared for the Lord's response.

In the text *The True Christian Religion* #481, this is magnified. It states, "...a person has...freedom of choice in spiritual things; for, as has been shown already, the Lord flows into everyone from above or within with the Divine good and truth, and thereby breathes into everyone a life distinct from the life of beasts, and gives him the power and the will to receive the Divine good and Divine truth and to act from these; and this He never takes away from any. From this it follows that it is the unceasing will of the Lord that people should receive truth and do good, and thus become spiritual, and for this he was born; and **to become spiritual without freedom of choice in spiritual things is as impossible as it is to thrust a camel through the eye of a sewing needle, or to touch a star in the firmament with the hand. That the ability to understand truth and to will it is given to everyone, even to devils, and is never taken away...**"

In my case I was told, "Stay in the gym, put down the salt shaker, and pick up more fruits and vegetables." How about in your life? What have you learned that may be what you need to do this year? Were you prepared for it?

Being prepared means being in dialogue with the Lord, with His end in view, not ours. This is tough because all around us are a world and people who live in all sorts of ways. We often can't see the end in view, or the reason for things that assail us in our lives.

Consider that the Lord tells us that He is "the way, the truth, and the life." This is an invitation for us to follow Him. How? We really do have to thirst for more of His ways, not ours, and we have to try when it may be the last thing that makes sense to us. We often feel like our cup is wide open to

receive His influx (the Holy Spirit), and worse still, we can feel that the Lord, who knows us, surely knows what we went through and are going through. It can make us throw out solutions.

Let's make this real:

We all know people who struggle with weight gain or weight loss. There are many solutions that involve some kind of diet change or diet restriction. Who wants to hear that? If you tell me that I can't have a Whopper, I might respond, "There is no way that is the solution, right?"

If money is tight in our lives, as it is in the church, there will be many solutions, but to actually pick one and then make the changes or adjustments, as the Lord required of the rich man, can be very difficult. This is where the rubber meets the road. What might we need to part with to prepare to receive the Lord this year? "Possessions" can be anything; this word can refer to material goods, such as a T.V., but it can also be a frame of mind or reference about someone or something. Can you think of ways in which we see ourselves and others in relation to ourselves that we may need to give up? Who is poor in our lives and may benefit from a richness or forgiveness that we may possess? If we are poor or rich, can we stay strong and follow the Lord's way as the answer for our lives?

**Being Fulfilled: The Lord's work in us that stirs us to move and think ...differently**

I think that rich young ruler had much to offer and was genuine in his question, and he found that he needed to offer his life, not just the things he had or didn't have in it. The Lord's kingdom has requirements for all of us, and this kingdom, which is not of this world, is really not of this world. This truth asks us to "seek first the kingdom" now and always. Our possessions and our body are not ours to keep; one will "gather

moths,” and the other will “wither and die.” It is clear that storing up treasures from this natural life makes that camel the Lord references so big and heavy that there is no (needle=cave) that we could ever enter if we are burdened by them.

The Lord’s burden is light. When we have a burden that makes solutions a problem, we can give it to Him, together, just as those early Christians did. They were strong and may have learned from this story of the rich man because *“all who believed were together, and had all things in common. And sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved.”* (Acts 2:44-47)

Being fulfilled in Christ is a peace and power that is not of this world and yet is available to us here and now. If the Lord’s way as a solution seems like a problem, do what you can to remove the obstacles and get help from your community of faith to support your resolve to stay strong, positive, and in the Lord’s love.

Be who you are and use what you have in the way of possessions in this world to the Glory of God. Be fulfilled in a life of useful endeavors serving the Lord’s priorities, priorities like caring for your children and family, your home, your health, and your church with the gift of faith and free will. There is always an answer from the Lord and a place to go with Him. As Peter remarked, when asked if he too would like to cease following Jesus as a disciple, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”* (John 6:68).

A final thought: I often hear people talk about the Lord being their “personal savior” or that they have Jesus in their heart...or

even that someone else needs Jesus in their life. I believe this is the opposite of our approach in the New Church. We are the Lord’s creation, and like all of the creations recorded in Genesis, when God saw what He had made, He saw “that it was good.” We must put our life in the Lord’s life and hands. This year, let’s accept the invitation and use our free will to enter into His way, life, and truth (choices) rather than simply making space for Him in our life and personal choices. He is THE Way to follow and THE Priority for our life, and we journey to Him; He is not just a personal savior joining us on our journey.

As we enter this New Year, take the time to find the blessing of Christ from this past year, however tough it has been. Stand for the priority of a new and eternal life from our commemoration of His birth, resurrection, and return on earth. And *“give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy is forever.”*

Amen.

Matthew 19:16-24, TCR 481, Acts 2:44-47

**MAPLE**   
LEAF ACADEMY  
A NEW CHURCH CAMP for TEENAGERS

**2010**

If you will have completed at least one year of high school, you can join us.

**Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> to  
Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**  
at Upper Canada Camp, Palgrave, Ontario

**Save these dates!**  
(More information to follow)

**Stephanie Kuhl, Camp Director**  
[gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com](mailto:gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com)  
or call 519-895-1891

## The Influence of the Teacher on the Pupil – Part 3 of 6 *edited by Denis Kuhl*



“Regardless in itself, the truth learned in childhood I nothing but a vessel adapted to the reception of what is celestial. Truth has no life from itself, but only from the celestial that flows in.” AC 1496

“Regarded in themselves, truths do not give life. Truths are only recipients of life, that is, of good.” AC 2261(2)

“No truth is holy unless it comes from good” AC 724

“To teach truth is the same as to teach what is good, because all truth looks to good.” AC 2372

“Before a man can be regenerated he needs to be furnished with all things that may serve as means – with the goods and delights of the affections as means for the will; and with truths from the Word of the Lord, and also with confirmatory things from other sources, as means for the understanding.” AC 677

“And therefore in place of the revelations of the Most Ancient Church, doctrinal things succeeded, which could first be received by the external senses, and from them material ideas of the memory could be formed, and from these, ideas of thought, by which and according to which they were instructed.” AC 608(2)



“...if man were not instructed by appearances, he would not suffer himself to be instructed at all.” AC 1838(2)

“It is known that everyone desires to be instructed in those things which he loves and has as the end.” AC 8349

“That all worship in its beginning is natural, and afterwards by truths from the Word, and a life according to them, becomes

spiritual, is known; for man is born natural, but is educated in order that he may become civil and moral, and afterwards spiritual, for thus he is born again.” AR 161(e)



“By spiritual things are signified,...all things of faith, consequently all doctrinal things, ...they are such things as do not flow in by internal dictate and conscience, as do those which are of love and charity, but they flow in by instruction, and so by hearing, thus not from the interior, but from the exterior, ...” AC 1832

“...man is in heaven when he both acknowledges the Divine and acts justly and honestly for the reason that he ought so to act because it is commanded in the Word. ...But no one can so act until he has been taught, for example, that there is a God, that there is a heaven and a hell, that there is life after death, that God ought to be loved supremely, and the neighbour as oneself, and that what is taught in the Word, ought to be believed because the Word is Divine.” HH 512(2&3)

“...man of the spiritual church knows truth only from doctrine, and not from good itself, as does the man of the celestial church” AC 2710

“...they who will be of the Lord’s New Church are instructed by the Lord in genuine and pure truths through the Word.” AR 814

“The inward things of worship which are faith and charity, must be implanted in freedom, for then they are appropriated, and what is so appropriated remains; whereas that which is implanted in compulsion, remains outside the internal man in the external,...” AC 7290(2)

“...what man does from himself in freedom remains to eternity; but what he does from fear, does not remain.” AR 164(e)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors:

Well, I must express my surprise at one line of the November 2009, New Church Canadian that just arrived in the mail this week.

Page 9 is a full page ad for the up-coming "**Living Courageously**" program to start soon. The paragraph with the heading "Program Focus" begins, "In the New Church we believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of the Lord." I'm not sure how I have lived 50+ years and never knew this was the position any New Church person would state!

For starters, I was taught not to say the word "Bible" and only say the "Word." I have a copy of "The Word" that was given to me as a child with 32 books less than the "Bible" has. I also remember learning that Paul was going to Hell... so how can that add up to a statement that we believe the Bible is infallible if we chopped great chunks out of it and condemn one of the main writers?

I have struggled for my entire adult life with the lack of common knowledge of what is contained in these 32 books I have been taught to distrust, I do not recognize, and I cannot quote. I have no reply to those who try to convince me of the stories and teachings they contain.

The gap is very large and uncomfortable between what I have been taught at New Church schools, readings and sermons and the theology found in these 32 books. I am confused and bewildered at the statement in this advertisement.

I also sense that this is a marketing tool to attract Fundamentalist Christians to participate in the study. I doubt anyone educated in a New Church school can stand up to the questions and positions other Christians will have because we do not know how to use the 32 books that the Christians are very skilled in using to build doctrine and theology.

I wonder if others spotted and feel uncomfortable about this statement.

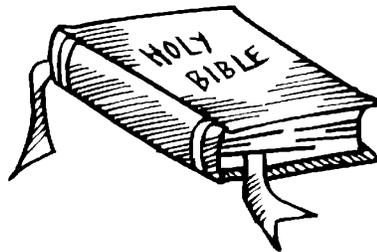
Eleanor Deckert  
Avola, BC

*(Editors note: We felt Eleanor made a very good point, and asked some of our ministers for a response. Two thoughtful responses follow.)*

### Living Courageously Correction

Dear Editors and Eleanor,

Thank-you for catching a quick edit I made of the Living Courageously advertisement that was not well thought through. The original advertisement from the Department of Outreach said, "In the New Church we believe that the Bible is inspired by God." I was not entirely comfortable with this statement, because to me an "inspired" work is something very different from a "Divine" work.



An inspired work can be valuable, informative, and yes even inspiring, but it can also contain errors and even falsities. The works of

Paul which you reference, I believe might fit well into this category and is why Swedenborg in a letter to Dr. Beyer on April 15, 1766 referred to them as "good books for the church," but distinguished them from the other books of the Word that we include in our Canon. (cf. AC 10325)

In my hasty edit, I was trying to get across the idea that in the New Church, we view the Word of the Lord as more than just inspirational, but as actually Divine and authoritative, containing no falsities but only truths.

Unfortunately, I wrote "In the New Church we believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of the Lord," and by using the term "Bible" I actually confused the very issue I tried to clarify. Perhaps what I should have written was "In the New Church we believe the Word of the Lord to be Divine and authoritative, an infinite source of eternal truths by which we live our lives."

At any rate, I hope you can see that this was in no way an attempt to try to attract Fundamentalist Christians to participate in the study, and I apologize for any confusion my quick editing caused.

I hope this will not deter you from participating in what looks to be an excellent and thought provoking study.



Rev. Bradley D. Heinrichs – E.V.P. of the G.C.I.C.

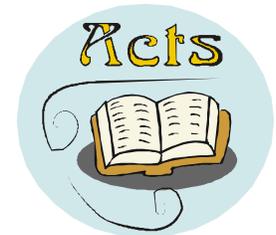
Dear Editors and Eleanor:

I was surprised to read that an ad was published with the statement that we believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God. I don't think I would have put it that way, since it does give the impression that we believe the Epistles to be part of the Word of God, which the New Church does not teach. Besides this, the phrase "infallible Word of God" for many people carries connotations of a completely literal interpretation of the Bible.

On the other hand, I think we do believe in "the Bible" – it's just that our Bible has fewer books than the Protestant Bible, which itself has fewer books than the Catholic Bible (the Catholic Bible includes several books in the Old Testament, called the Apocrypha, that most Protestants do not consider canonical since the Hebrew originals have never been found, only translations into Greek.). When the Writings refer to the Bible, they call it "the Word." They sometimes do this even when they are referring to non-canonical books of the Bible; for example, *True Christian Religion* n. 158 says, "In the Word of the New Testament, both in the gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles, as also in their epistles, [the Holy Spirit] is mentioned frequently." Does this mean that the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles are part of the Word? I think they are only in the sense that they are part of the Bible and the Writings almost always calls the Bible "the Word" – but they are not part of the *true* Word because

they do not have a continuous internal sense whose one subject is the Lord and His Kingdom (see AC 3540, AC 10325, NJHD 266, *White Horse* 16).

While it is true that the *Spiritual Diary* indicates that Paul attached himself to evil spirits and was in the love of self, this does not mean his epistles are false – the Writings point out that even evil people can preach truth. In fact, the Writings almost always cite Paul as a *confirmation* of New Church teachings. *Spiritual Diary* n. 6062 says, "Paul indeed spoke from inspiration, but not in the same way as the prophets, to whom every single word was dictated but that his inspiration was that he received an influx, according to those things which were with him, which is quite a different inspiration, and has no conjunction with heaven by correspondences." Paul's epistles were inspired by the Lord – but only in the same way that any person can be inspired by the Lord, not that they were the Lord's own words.



Swedenborg summed up his view of the epistles in a letter to Dr. Beyer on April 15, 1766:

As regards the writings of the Apostles and Paul, I have not quoted them in the *Arcana Coelestia* for the reason that they are doctrinal writings, and so are not written in the style of the Word as are the Prophets, David, the Gospels, and the Apocalypse. The style of the Word consists wholly of correspondences, and therefore they effect immediately communication with heaven, while in doctrinal writings, there is another style, which does indeed have communication with heaven but mediately. The reason why they were so written by the Apostles was that, by them, the new Christian Church should have its beginning, and therefore doctrinal matters could not be written in the style of the Word but only in a way which could be understood more

clearly and intimately. The Apostles' writings are nevertheless good church-books and maintain the doctrine of charity and the faith thereof, just as strongly as does the Lord Himself in the Gospels and the Apocalypse, as can be clearly seen and discovered if one has his mind thereon when reading them. That Paul's words concerning justification by faith (Rom. 3:28)\*\* are incorrectly understood, is shown in Apocalypsis Revalata n. 417. It may thus be also seen that the doctrine concerning faith alone justifying, which constitutes the present day theology in the churches of the Reformed, is built on an entirely false foundation.

Swedenborg writes that Protestantism lost its way because it *incorrectly understood* Paul's statement that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law – not because the theology found in the epistles themselves is wrong. Several modern scholars have actually come to see this passage the way the Writings explain it: Paul meant that people did not have to follow the Jewish rituals laid out in the law of Moses; he did not mean that people do not have to shun evil and do good (see for example the book *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* by James D.G. Dunn).

For several months in the fall I worked replying to emails that were sent to <http://newchurch.org> by Christians taking issue with New Church teachings as presented on the web page. To respond to them, I had to quickly learn a lot about the epistles. I still feel like a novice, but what I learned through reading the epistles themselves and the book mentioned above by Dunn that the theology found in the epistles themselves – *if rightly understood* – is actually very different from the theology of a fundamentalist evangelical Christian. There are a lot of passages in the epistles that are hard to understand, but by and large they *do* present loving the Lord and loving your neighbor as essential to salvation.

But I sympathize with your concerns. Most people that I know in the New Church, myself included, have not studied the epistles enough to be able to demonstrate that they really do support New Church doctrine, and so it's difficult to defend yourself against attacks from people who know them thoroughly. And I like calling the Word "the Word" – the most common Latin word for the Bible at Swedenborg's time was "Biblia," and yet the Lord chose to use "Verbum," i.e. "the Word." Still, it's always a challenge to find ways to speak to people in terms they understand without straying from what the Writings say. I think the truth the advertisement was trying to get across is that we hold the Word of God to be sacred. It could have done more to let people know that we consider the Word to consist of fewer books than the Protestant Word – but there's always a decision to be made about how much information to include in any given advertisement, and the decision was made not to include further qualifications about what we mean when we say that the Bible is the infallible Word of God.

Rev. Coleman Glenn

#### REVEREND COLEMAN GLENN BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



I'm here! After a sixth-month delay, I moved up to Toronto at the end of December, in time for the Tableaux and Christmas services. I'll be serving as Assistant to the Pastor for the Olivet New Church. In addition to this, I'll

be travelling to Dawson Creek (and others parts west) once a month as visiting pastor. I've already started teaching religion here at Olivet to grades 3 and 4, and I'll be making my first trip to Dawson Creek on January 22. I'm excited to get started.

A little bit about me. I grew up in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, and attended New Church schools all the way up through my second year at Bryn Athyn College of the New Church. For my third year of university I transferred to Kenyon College in Ohio, thinking I wanted to be an actor or a writer or an English teacher. I realized while I was there that what I *really* liked doing was talking to people about the Writings, teaching, helping friends through difficult times, and things of that nature. At some point it dawned on me that all those things that I had consistently loved doing were the very things that a minister does. So, I transferred back to Bryn Athyn (after just one semester at Kenyon) to take more religion and Sacred Language classes. After graduating from Bryn Athyn College, I attended the Theological School for three years, spending time as a candidate in Hurstville, Australia, and Glenview, Illinois. I graduated in May of 2009. Within a week of graduating I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, and for the next six months I received chemotherapy every other week. I finished my treatments on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and all the tests so far have indicated that the treatments were successful.

As I said, I'm excited to get started. I've been welcomed by some of the friendliest people I've met, and I'm looking forward to meeting more of you. In short, I'm thrilled to be here.

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## Tools 4 Life

**Tools 4 Life Camp** will be held **July 18<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>** this summer on the Bryn Athyn College campus.

Save the date as you plan your summer vacations! Open to all High School students going into Junior or Senior year.

Information will be mailed out shortly but if you have questions contact:

[Laura.Nash@BrynAthyn.edu](mailto:Laura.Nash@BrynAthyn.edu)

or call 267-502-2412.

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## **ISI NEWS** **by Rev. Bradley D. Heinrichs** **E.V.P. of the G.C.I.C.**

I am writing to give you an update on recent happenings over the last 8 months of ISI, in an effort to keep you in the loop, as many GCIC members also support ISI. As many of you know, Rev. Mike Gladish served for many years as the EVP of the GCIC and Chairman of ISI, but his capable service came to an end in April when he was called to become the Pastor of the Washington New Church. As the new Executive Vice President of the General Church in Canada, I became, according to the by-laws, the new Chairman of ISI as well.

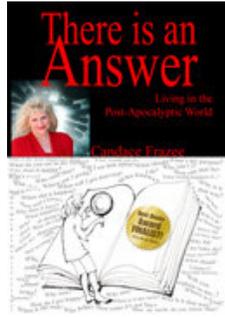
For the last few years David Simpson served as the Executive Director of ISI, and did a fantastic job of getting all the books of Swedenborg up on the web site, where people could browse through the titles and get a brief overview of what each book contained. David also produced many thought provoking essays on Swedenborg's life and teachings.

When the Board of ISI determined that the book store was no longer proving to be a viable operation, they turned ownership of the book store back to Olivet. This enabled us to take a fresh look at what areas ISI could focus on for the future. After considerable discussion, the Board decided that the internet was where we should be focusing a majority of our energy, and with that in mind we advertised for a new Executive Director of ISI who had particular knowledge of some of these areas.

We were fortunate to have quite a few well qualified candidates apply, and in the end, Liz Lichti was chosen to assume the role of the Executive Director of ISI. We are thrilled with the passion she has brought to her work, and her desire to unabashedly make known the extraordinary teachings Swedenborg was inspired to reveal. As some of you may have noticed Liz has been very busy over that last couple of months. Highlights of what she plans to initiate or has already initiated include:

- The creation of a blog (website) for ISI at <http://heavenlysecrets.ca/>

- ‘There Is An Answer’ campaign, based on the award winning book by Candace Frazee, including a “meet-up” discussion group  
<http://www.meetup.com/Kitchener-Swedenborg-Seekers/>
- Insightful articles on fresh topics
- A brief e-newsletter with new blog updates and uplifting meditations from the Writings sent weekly/bi-weekly/monthly
- Free PDF download of an excerpt from Heaven and Hell for new subscribers to the e-newsletter
- Live interviews with knowledgeable Swedenborg enthusiasts on current hot topics
- Downloadable MP3 recordings of interview replays



*a national network of individuals, groups and societies dedicated to the humble worship of the Lord, the rational understanding of His Word, actual repentance, and the life of genuine charity as taught in the Heavenly Doctrines of the New Jerusalem.”*

In many ways, I see this difference in focus, as the difference between sowing the seed and harvesting the crop. ISI is primarily interested in sowing the seed broadly, on all types of ground, whereas the GCIC, as a Church body, is interested in gathering the crop or providing the opportunity for people to connect to a Church and worship the Lord together.

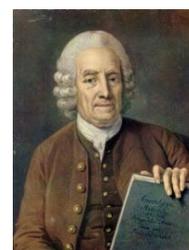
The purpose of the GCIC strategic planning committee (which is a sub-committee of the GCIC Board) is to figure out how much money is needed to appropriately finance both of these endeavours. Put more simply, how much money should be spent by the Church funding ISI and sowing the seed, and how much money should be spent harvesting the crop and advertising specifically with the purpose of interesting people in the Church? Both missions have value and serve an important purpose, and in an ideal world there would be unlimited funding for both, but the reality is that we have to use to the best of our ability the prudence the Lord gives to us, in order to evaluate how to appropriately support each use.

In closing, I want to ensure GCIC and ISI members that I see a bright future for ISI, and if early indications of Liz Lichti’s work are any barometer for future success, then I think we will be bringing more people into contact with Swedenborg’s life and teachings than ever before!

The Board is very excited about the future of ISI under Liz’s leadership. For your information, the current Board of Directors of ISI is comprised of Brad Heinrichs (Chairman), Nathan Cole (Secretary), Gordon Jorgenson (Treasurer), Jim Cooper, Adri Braam, Reinhold Kauk, and Coleman Glenn. Nathan Cole and Coleman Glenn were appointed by the ISI Board at the last meeting to fill the two vacant positions on the Board.

The last thing I would like to address is concerns some GCIC and ISI members have expressed about the future of ISI and its relationship to the GCIC. The concerns seem to come primarily from a statement in the November New Church Canadian from the GCIC Administrator which said *“it seems reasonable to consider ISI to be the outreach arm of the GCIC. How much guidance can GCIC be reasonably expected to give ISI?”*

I want to be clear that the GCIC Board understands that there are two fundamentally different purposes for ISI and GCIC. The mission of ISI is *“to promote, publicize and attract public interest in the Theological Writings of Emmanuel Swedenborg.”* While the mission of GCIC is *“to establish and strengthen*



January 29, 1688 -  
March 29, 1772

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
Emanuel Swedenborg!**

## News from the Regional Pastor

First I'd like to welcome Rev. Coleman Glenn to Canada. Coleman graduated from the Academy of the New Church Theological School last spring and was assigned to Olivet Church. Olivet has been without an Assistant Pastor since Jong-Ui Lee had to return to Korea, so it was a happy decision. Unfortunately, between his ordination and beginning the move to Toronto, Coleman was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The good news is that this is a type of cancer that responds quite well to treatment. Coleman remained in the US for his treatments and has been pronounced fit for service. He arrived in Toronto on January 5<sup>th</sup> and is off and running. He will be making his first visit to Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie at the end of January.

Here are some autobiographical notes provided by Coleman to help you get to know him better: "I was born in Bryn Athyn in 1983, and I've lived there ever since. I graduated from the ANC Boys' School in 2002 and went on to Bryn Athyn College of the New Church. My junior year I transferred to Kenyon College in Ohio to pursue a degree in drama and English, but soon after arriving there I realized that what I really wanted to do was to be a minister, so I returned to Bryn Athyn for my senior year to get a degree in religion. In the last year of theological school as a candidate I've had some amazing experiences. Last summer I got to travel to Australia and serve in the Hurstville congregation, in addition to visiting New Church circles in Canberra and Perth; and in the fall I had the opportunity to work with the ministers in Glenview, teaching elementary school and helping out with the youth group. I'm excited about all aspects of the ministry –



preaching, teaching, counseling – but I particularly like working with teens and young adults, whether it's in the classroom or in a youth

group or at an informal get-together."

Since Mike Gladish moved to Washington last summer, we have been trying to serve the whole of Canada with just 3 resident ministers. It's been a challenge to coordinate our schedules so that there's somebody to fill every pulpit on the scheduled dates. Now that Coleman has arrived, it will take some of the pressure off, but we are not yet up to the level of service that we think is needed and wanted in Canada. I have been working with the General Church administration in Bryn Athyn, the General Church in Canada administration, and the Olivet Board to have a 5<sup>th</sup> minister, one of the young men scheduled to graduate in May, assigned to Canada. If that happens, we will be able to improve services to the groups and isolated in Ontario, Quebec and east. I look forward to being able to report a happy conclusion to these discussions in the spring.

*Rev. James P. Cooper  
Regional Pastor for Canada*

### **New Church Perspective**

*Rev. Coleman Glenn*

***New Church Perspective*** is a brand new online magazine which publishes weekly articles. We discuss perspectives on the New Church and we also consider all sorts of topics from a New Church perspective. We'd love to have readers and writers join the conversation at <http://NewChurchPerspective.com>.

Subscribe for free and receive notices when each new article is posted and write and submit your own piece if you have something on your mind. Expect article topics to range all over the map. But also expect that all will have you thinking and re-discovering what the New Church means in today's world! Please spread the word!

## General Church News



### THETA ALPHA INTERNATIONAL

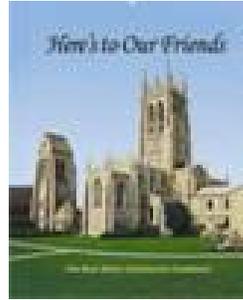
#### *Sunday School Translation Project*

The Theta Alpha International Sunday School Translation Project, started in the fall of 2003, has as its goal the translation into French and publication of four levels of *Jacob's Ladder* Religion Lessons. These are presently used as the basis of the Sunday school program in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, where they are being enjoyed by many. They will be distributed to all the congregations in Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, and any other French-speaking country that wants them.

The Theta Alpha International Executive Committee has decided to put 2010 Theta Alpha *Journal* contributions toward the Sunday School Translation Project, in part to compensate for not having produced a *Journal* in 2009. (You will see this reflected on the dues notices which were recently sent out.) We are grateful to have a new *Journal* editor coming aboard, Angela Rose, who will work towards getting us back into our biannual publication pattern.

Thank you for your patience as we worked to find volunteers willing to manage the big commitment of *Journal* editorship, and thank you also, in advance, for your generosity towards the Sunday School Translation Project and our other uses. We look forward to playing our part in helping people throughout the world grow closer to the Lord God, Jesus Christ, in His Second Coming!

*Lisa Weiss, Corresponding Secretary*  
267-502-4966



### The Bryn Athyn Community Cookbook

#### *"Here's to Our Friends"*

This would be a great gift for friends from all walks of life.

With more than 400 updated recipes and family favorites, it also includes beautiful drawings of Bryn Athyn's landmark buildings, with colorful write-ups of their histories. The cookbook can be purchased for **\$20, plus shipping**.

Proceeds benefit the uses of The Bryn Athyn Chapter of Theta Alpha Guild.

Contact: Rob Nash, New Church Bookstore  
900 Cathedral Road, PO Box 752  
Bryn Athyn, PA 19009  
267-502-4922

Website: <http://store.newchurch.org>  
e-mail: [bookstore@newchurch.org](mailto:bookstore@newchurch.org)

#### **New General Church Controller**

**Danielle Bangs** has joined the General Church Financial Office as the new Controller. She replaces Tina Bartels, who has moved over to the Academy.

Danielle is a Certified Public Accountant and a graduate of Temple University with a degree in accounting. During her first years out of college she worked as an accountant and then controller in private industry. She has spent the past 10 years in public accounting with the firm Morison Cogen LLP where she rose to the supervisory level. She obtained extensive knowledge of the not-for-profit world while engaged with several not-for-profit clients.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### DAWSON CREEK AND GRAND PRAIRIE

(every two weeks: January - June)

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|   |                |         |                       |
|---|----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| <b>Jan. 10</b> – Rev. Bradley Heinrichs | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship & AGM         |
| <b>Jan. 10</b> – Rev. Bradley Heinrichs | Debolt         | 4:30pm  | Worship & Holy Supper |
| <b>Jan. 24</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn     | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship & Holy Supper |
| <b>Jan. 24</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn     | Grande Prairie | 4:30pm  | Worship               |

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|   |                |         |               |
|---|----------------|---------|---------------|
| <b>Feb. 14</b> – Rev. Nathan Cole   | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship & AGM |
| <b>Feb. 14</b> – Rev. Nathan Cole   | Grande Prairie | 4:30pm  | Worship       |
| <b>Feb. 28</b> – <i>No Services ( Ministers away at Clergy Meetings )</i> |                |         |               |

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|                                     |                |         |                       |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| <b>Mar. 14</b> – Rev. Jim Cooper    | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship & AGM         |
| <b>Mar. 14</b> – Rev. Jim Cooper    | Grande Prairie | 4:30pm  | Worship               |
| <b>Mar. 28</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship & Holy Supper |
| <b>Mar. 28</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn | Debolt         | 4:30pm  | Worship & Holy Supper |

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|                                     |                |         |                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|
| <b>Apr. 11</b> – Rev. Nathan Cole   | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship / Easter |
| <b>Apr. 11</b> – Rev. Nathan Cole   | Grande Prairie | 4:30pm  | Worship / Easter |
| <b>Apr. 25</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship          |
| <b>Apr. 25</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn | Debolt         | 4:30pm  | Worship          |

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|                                       |                |         |         |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| <b>May 9</b> – Rev. Bradley Heinrichs | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship |
| <b>May 9</b> – Rev. Bradley Heinrichs | Grande Prairie | 4:30pm  | Worship |
| <b>May 30</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn    | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship |
| <b>May 30</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn    | Debolt         | 4:30pm  | Worship |

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|                                     |                |         |  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|--|
| <b>June 20</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn | Moonshine Lake | 11:00am | Worship & June 19 <sup>th</sup> Picnic |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|--|

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|  |                |         |                           |
|--|----------------|---------|---------------------------|
| <b>July 11</b> – Rev. Nathan Cole      | Dawson Creek   | 11:00am | Worship                   |
| <b>July 11</b> – Rev. Nathan Cole      | Grande Prairie | 4:30pm  | Worship                   |
| <b>July 23-25</b> – Rev. Coleman Glenn | Moberly Lake   |         | Family Camp at Camp Emile |

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## **General Church in Canada**

### **Administrative Office**

279 Burnhamthorpe Road  
Toronto, Ontario M9B 1Z6  
Phone: 416-239-3054 FAX: 416-239-4935

**Rev. Brad Heinrichs, Executive V.P.**

[pastor@carmelnewchurch.org](mailto:pastor@carmelnewchurch.org)

**Gordon Jorgenson, Administrator**

[gtjorgenson@sympatico.ca](mailto:gtjorgenson@sympatico.ca)

### **Carmel New Church and School**

40 Chapel Hill Drive  
Kitchener, ON N2R 1N2  
Telephone: 519-748-5802

**Rev. Brad Heinrichs, Pastor/Principal**

[pastor@carmelnewchurch.org](mailto:pastor@carmelnewchurch.org)

**Rev. Nathan Cole, Asst. to the Pastor**

[asstpastor@carmelnewchurch.org](mailto:asstpastor@carmelnewchurch.org)

**James Bellinger, High School Principal**

[jbellinge@carmelnewchurch.org](mailto:jbellinge@carmelnewchurch.org)

**Liz Longstaff, Vice Principal, CNCS**

[asstprincipal@carmelnewchurch.org](mailto:asstprincipal@carmelnewchurch.org)

### **Dawson Creek Church**

9013 – 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 3N3

**Rev. Coleman Glenn, Dawson Creek**

[Coleman.Glenn@gmail.com](mailto:Coleman.Glenn@gmail.com)

**Mrs. Lavina Scott, Grande Prairie**

708-957-3625

### **Olivet New Church and School**

279 Burnhamthorpe Road  
Etobicoke, ON M9B 1Z6  
Phone: 416-239-3054 Fax: 416-239-4935

**Rev. James Cooper, Pastor/Principal**

[pastor@olivetnewchurch.org](mailto:pastor@olivetnewchurch.org)

**Rev. Coleman Glenn, Asst. to the Pastor**

[Coleman.Glenn@gmail.com](mailto:Coleman.Glenn@gmail.com)

**Sara Gatti, Head Teacher**

### **Information Swedenborg Inc.**

279 Burnhamthorpe Road  
Etobicoke, ON M9B 1Z6  
Phone: 416-233-3929

Toll free: 1-877-774-7775

**Liz Lichti, Executive Director**

[information@swedenborg.ca](mailto:information@swedenborg.ca)

## **Bishops' Representative in Canada**

**Rev. James Cooper**

[pastor@olivetnewchurch.org](mailto:pastor@olivetnewchurch.org)

## **Worship Services**

*Carmel New Church, Kitchener*

Sundays, 11:00 am

*Dawson Creek Church – 11:00 am*

*Grande Prairie / Debolt – 4:30 pm*  
(for details see schedule on page 13)

*Olivet New Church, Toronto*

Sundays, 10:30 am

## **GCIC Meetings**

### **Proposed Board Meeting Dates**

|                   |          |           |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| February 20, 2010 | 10:00 am | Kitchener |
| April 17, 2010    | 2:30 pm  | Toronto   |

### **Annual General Meeting**

|                |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| April 17, 2010 | 7:30 PM | Toronto |
|----------------|---------|---------|

Preceded by supper at 6:30 PM

## **Editorial Deadline**

*March Issue: February 15, 2010*

**Please send submissions to:**  
**Denis and Sandy Kuhl, Editors NCC**

87 Baird St., Bright, ON N0J 1B0

Telephone: 519-454-4522

Fax: 519-454-4523

email: [kuhls@rogers.com](mailto:kuhls@rogers.com)



**Please let the editors know if you would like to receive the "Canadian" via email.**