



THE NEW CHURCH CANADIAN

A Bi-monthly Newsletter of the General Church in Canada

Issue 136

March 2010

Report on the General Church Clergy Meetings

Rev. Bradley D. Heinrichs, EVP

The last week of February was a busy one for the Clergy of the General Church from all around the world as they gathered for five days of meetings. As usual there was a collection of inspiring doctrinal papers presented to us for discussion by various ministers.

Rev. John Odhner led off our meetings with a paper on the doctrine of the Lord showing how intricately connected the glorification of the Lord was with the redemption of the human race. Rev. Lawson Smith produced a comprehensive study on the laws of marriage the Lord has revealed to us in the Sacred Scriptures and the Heavenly Doctrines of the New Jerusalem. Rt. Rev. Brian Keith gave a fascinating paper dealing with the use of the superlative throughout the Heavenly Doctrines. Rev. Alain Nicolier then closed the meetings with another paper on the doctrine of the Lord, looking into how the Lord embodies all the qualities of masculinity and femininity in His Divine Love and Wisdom.

In between these presentations there were numerous studies done and presentations given on the subject of the government of the Church, the role of the Executive Bishop, and the nomination and selection process of the next Bishop who is to take over the leadership of the General Church in 2014. This generated a great deal of discussion about the direction the General Church and the Bryn Athyn College are currently heading and a general feeling that some course corrections need to be made as to how we arrive at decisions, how we govern ourselves, and how we present ourselves as we reach out to the world. This discussion led to the following statement from the General Church Clergy which was put forth as an official motion and voted upon:

“While acknowledging with appreciation many of the exciting new initiatives that have been recently undertaken; the Clergy would also like to express sincere reservations and concerns with the seemingly rapid change in direction of the Bryn Athyn College and the General Church resulting from decisions and actions being made without sufficient prior counsel and discussions; and we appeal to the Bishop to provide leadership in implementing processes that

will actively involve the Clergy in the review of past decisions that appear to stray from the Charter Purposes and meaningfully include the Clergy in the development of future plans.”

The vote of those present was: Yes 64 (77%), No 7 (8%), Abstain 12 (14%). So what does this mean? Obviously it is a general statement that is open to interpretation, but my understanding is that it was the Clergy’s way of letting the laity know that we have heard the concerns many have expressed in recent months about the direction of the Church via the internet and personal communications. It is also a pledge from the Clergy that we are willing to actively work with the Bishop and support him in addressing these issues.

I think it is important to understand that everyone involved in the decision making processes of the General Church and the Bryn Athyn College have the best interests of these organizations at heart and want the Lord’s New Church to flourish. The disagreements that arise seem to come from not having efficient mechanisms for getting a broad range of input on decisions and from varying and sometimes divergent opinions about the methodology that should be used in helping to effectively establish the church.

I believe that the Bishop now feels empowered and encouraged to work on developing better mechanisms to receive the necessary and valuable input from both clergy and laity alike. It is my hope that the laity of the General Church in Canada will take the opportunity to be a part of these discussions by contacting myself, Rev. Jim Cooper or any of the other ministers in Canada so that your voice is heard. I am a member of the Bishop’s Consistory and Jim is a member of the Bishop’s Advisory, so the Church in Canada has a viable means of communicating our hopes, desires, and concerns to the larger General Church body.

I also believe that whenever there is a crisis that it is an opportunity for spiritual growth and development and the chance to come out better and stronger on the other side after wrestling with temptations. The key is to have everyone return to the Lord’s Word for guidance and have our united prayer be not “my will” but “THY WILL” be done.

As we approach the Easter season one of the main events that we focus on is the Lord’s triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The joy that we experience during this celebration comes from a community of people turning their thoughts toward welcoming the Lord as the King of their lives. This means we must be willing to submit our own selfish desires to the rule of His Divine Truth, and make His teachings the only authority on which we base our thinking.

When we do this collectively as a Church body we will become a Church which will not fall because it is built on the “rock” – the stable foundation of Divine Truth from the Word (cf. Matthew 7:24-25). Now the hells will invariably beat upon this house with wind and rain in the form of a deluge of falsities, but their attempt at destruction will fail as long as the Church remains grounded firmly in the Lord’s truth.

As we think about the future of the General Church as a whole and the about the General Church in Canada, may all of us this Easter make a special point of really welcoming the Lord into our midst as our King and Saviour. May we have confidence that as we bow our wills to the truth of His Word that He will make the New Church in His own good time *“the crown of all the churches that have hitherto existed on the earth”* (TCR 787).

COUNCIL OF THE CLERGY MEETINGS

Rev. James P. Cooper
Bishop's Representative to Canada

This year for the first time, the members of the clergy from outside North America were invited to two days of International meetings prior to the regular meetings. One reason for this is that there has been significant and rapid growth in sub-Saharan Africa in recent years, and we needed to spend some time meeting their unique organizational needs. We have also found that since the church has been centred in North America for so long, North Americans tend to dominate the discussions. This was an opportunity for some of the newer members to speak up and be heard. All in all, it was a very valuable experience.

The full clergy meetings ran from Monday Feb. 22 through Friday Feb. 26. We met all day each day, and had programs on two of the evenings, so we made good use of the time allotted. On Friday, the clergy was invited to meet with the Board of Directors of the General Church and the Board provided a nice dinner at Cairnwood Mansion to conclude the proceedings.

The clergy heard reports from the Executive Bishop and other administrators; they heard reports from several committees such as the Membership Committee and the Committee charged with starting the process of nominating the next Executive Bishop; and we heard and discussed at length several doctrinal presentations about the Lord, the Word, and Marriage. I will not go into detail about these things here because it is customary for pastors to give full reports to their own congregations.

New Bishop to be Elected

The Executive Bishop will be retiring in 2014 after 10 years in office and the clergy needs to begin setting up the process for the future selection process. A twelve member committee started working on this last year. The committee was dissolved when it gave its report at the meetings, and in its place is a new committee consisting of 5 members. This committee is charged with receiving counsel from the church and providing a list of suitable candidates to the clergy at their next full meetings in June of 2011. The members are: Prescott Rogers (Charlotte, NC), Grant Odhner (ANC Theological School), Matthew Genzlinger (Boston), Jong-Ui Lee (Korea), and Eshun Ekow (Ghana).

News flash

I'm pleased to announce that Candidate Brian Smith has been assigned to work in Canada starting July 1 (pending graduation and ordination). Like the other men serving as assistants in Canada, Brian will be working half time for the GCIC, and half time for the local society where he is resident – in this case Olivet. Brian is married to Janine Gladish, and they have a small son, Kai. Brian spent 10 weeks based in Toronto last fall and has already travelled to Dawson Creek 3 times, so he should come up to speed pretty quickly. We are very much looking forward to having him join the team. With 5 ministers in Canada, we will be able to increase the frequency of visits to church centres – especially the smaller ones – without putting excessive travel requirements on any one minister.

Scholarship Funding!

Finally, I want to remind everyone that the GCIC has a scholarship fund to help students from Canada attend the Academy of the New Church. The Academy, especially the college, is in the midst of making some changes in their tuition requirements. The GCIC is working on developing some ways of helping Canadian students in a more effective way. We are still thinking about how it will all work out, but there is something you can do to help right now. If you know of anyone who is a potential student in the Academy schools, please get in contact with me right away. I need an accurate count of students – even if it's only a possibility – so we can make the appropriate plans and budget adjustments.

IT'S JUST THE BIBLE, RIGHT?

By Rev. Martie Johnson, Jr.
Chaplain, U.S. Navy

I don't think so. A few years ago, I was sent to Camp Lemonier in Djibouti, a tiny base in a tiny African country where American, French, British and some Eastern European countries have forces undertaking the mission of the global war on terrorism. If you look on a map, it may prove difficult to find (just look across the Gulf of Aden from the country of Yemen). As a chaplain, I was sent to support our naval personnel and allies with religious ministry and work with the chaplains there. It was good duty and I had never been to eastern (the horn) Africa. It is a very lawless and dangerous part of the world and is teeming with refugees from the entire region. Islam is the primary faith of most I met there. I did some work on base and spent a fair amount of time out in town and took a few trips to Ethiopia. Somalia is really a tough place as I learned, hearing story after story. Sadly, this region is the origin of many of the pirates operating in the Indian Ocean. I asked myself, what on earth could change a region like this?

Overseas service is surreal. On one of my trips, I met a Romanian priest who spoke English and he told me a story about a book. I talked to him about the Writings, and if I remember correctly he was a Byzantine Catholic. This made our conversation great, no one knows a thing about them or about us in the New Church! Anyway, I learned that the Byzantine Catholics are "Uniate" churches that are under the Roman Pope as opposed to the Russian Orthodox Church.

He told me that while growing up in Romania, the Soviets held an iron hand over all religious life and assembly. He said the Soviets had no problem with folks owning, sharing, and printing volumes of Russian theological works, which were dense with at least 300-500 pages, and attempted to explain everything, everyone,

and God. The one book the Soviets did not want printed, shared, available or read in Romania was the Bible - the Bible, the most printed text in history and humankind's best seller of all time. Fear of a book? It's just the Bible, right?

As I reflect on this story now, I can't help but think about what role the Writings play in our faith. It is certainly true that the texts Heaven and Hell, True Christian Religion and The Divine Providence are texts that have brought peace, joy and goodness to people who have entered our faith. But I also think that the Bible's role as a single text about the Lord's love, His testimony and the lessons and stories about our human condition and efforts to reunite with the Lord (the ways we do what we can to unite our will and understanding) certainly can be something to be feared.

Why? The Bible offers ways to treat other people and its source is not just human. It is a text that has a message about eternal life and the plain and "simple good" that we can give and receive from and about the Lord, the Divine Human. No system of humanity can compete (see TCR 272). In fact, the Writings teach that [knowing the Word] as to the sense of its Letter, is the Divine medium of conjunction with the Lord, and of association with the angels of heaven" (TCR 235). May we all view and follow the Lord's Word just as the Word teaches in the gospel of John, where we read: "It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life...From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'do you also want to go away?' But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life' " (John 6:62-68).

One final thought: as a chaplain, I am often sent to servicemen who are incarcerated. A prisoner is allowed only two books without a request: the Bible and the military manual for courts-martial. I have done this a fair amount, it is part of the job. I have read them both and I think I know why these are given. As I tell the prisoner who may find themselves there for 3 days, 3 months, 3 years or 3 decades: both of these books, if you read them and see yourself in them, will set you free, no matter where you find yourself right now.

As we begin the year 2010... when you read the Bible, allow the Writings to not just open the internal sense of the books of the Word or accentuate those powerful messages in the New Testament epistles

that are “good books of the church”, but use these interior truths to inspire and form your life anew. These words of the Bible can take root in you as the Lord’s will becomes manifest in your life...just as it did for another servant of the Lord, (Swedenborg) who tells us simply, “I affirm in truth; as also that from the first day of that call I have not received anything whatever pertaining to the doctrines of that church from any angel, but from the Lord alone ***while I have read the Word.***” (TCR 779)

May Almighty God bless you and keep you this year and to eternity.

Amen.

Eldergarten 2011

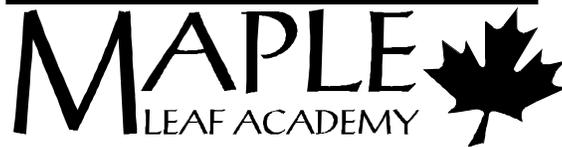
Eldergarten 2011 is now well along in the planning stage. We invite all those interested who are 50 years of age or older to join us for this event, January 16-20, 2011, at the Duncan Conference Center, about six miles south of the New Church at Boynton Beach.

If you have interest in attending, please contact Eldergarten@aol.com. We will acknowledge your inquiry and put you on our mailing list to receive registration materials this summer. All registration materials will be sent out via email. Completed forms will be returned to us via regular mail, including registration checks.

We will NOT be finding places for you to stay in private homes. If you have friends or family with whom you plan to stay, please contact them now to make arrangements. You will be asked to include this information on your registration form. Otherwise we will be able to offer you pleasant accommodations at the Duncan Center at a very reasonable cost. Each room accommodates two people and has a private bath.

Cost for basic registration is \$150 per person - including opening barbecue, meeting facilities, coffee breaks, four lunches, and a banquet - plus a sunset cruise on the Intracoastal Waterway on the Yacht *Lady Atlantic*. This cost is firm for all registrations received by September 15, 2010. After that date the fee will be \$175. Fee does not include housing.

We hope to hear from you soon.
Bob Brickman, Chairman



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 30th to Wednesday, July 7th

At Upper Canada Camp, Palgrave, Ontario.

Our theme this year is

~Voices~

"My Sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me." John 10:27

To Register by email, complete the registration and medical forms and email to Camp Director. The forms also need to be printed, signed, and mailed with payment to:

Maple Leaf
40 Chapel Hill Drive
Kitchener, Ontario N2R 1N2

Transportation is not provided to or from camp. Campers should arrive at camp between 4:00pm and 5:30pm on **June 30**. (Staff cannot be responsible for campers that arrive too early.) Campers may be picked up from Upper Canada Camp on **July 7** between 9:00 and 10:00am.

Directions to camp will be included with registration confirmation.

FEES:

Regular fee: \$270
Early Bird: \$240
Junior Staff: \$200

Junior Staff must have completed grade 12 and attended Maple at least once before. Junior staff campers are expected to hold a leadership role and participate in specific camp activities.

Full payment is required by June 15th please. A deposit of at least \$50 is required with registration (\$5 non-refundable once cheque is deposited.)

Financial Assistance is available. Please apply early as funds are limited. Direct requests to the Camp Director: Stephanie Kuhl at gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com or call 519-895-1891.

Early Bird fee is available to those who pay in full by May 15, 2010.

Please make cheque payable to: Maple Leaf Academy



'10 Registration Form

Full Name: _____ Age (on June 30th): _____

Name you'd like on your name-tag: _____

Home Address:

Do you currently attend the Academy of the New Church? YES NO

Street: _____

City: _____

Camper cell: _____

Province/State: _____

Camper email: _____

Postal/Zip: _____

Parent(s) email: _____

Phone: _____

Grade completed in June '10: 9 10 11 12

Previously attended Maple: no yes _____(year(s))

I would like to apply for a Junior Staff position:

I am enclosing: Full Amount of \$ _____

OR Deposit: \$ _____ *(Please send a deposit of at least \$50.00. \$5.00 non-refundable once cheque is cashed.)*

Please note the following:

* Due to the high cost of emergency hospital visits, campers are strongly urged to confirm their insurance coverage when travelling outside their country or province of residence.

* It is best to have a passport to cross the border. U.S. immigration requires one for those 18 and older. **Please check with U.S. immigration on the requirements for crossing the border and locate all necessary documentation WELL BEFORE leaving for camp.**

*If you have any questions please feel free to call or email Steph Kuhl:
(519) 895 -1891 or gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com*

MAPLE  **'10 Medical Form**
LEAF ACADEMY

Female
 Male

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Please list any allergies you have: _____

Do you require a special diet? (If yes, circle one of the following): **Vegan / Vegetarian / Non-Dairy**

Other? (Please specify) _____

Do you require regular medication? _____

Can you administer it yourself? _____

Do you have any current medical condition? _____

Medical Insurance - *Canadians* - Health Card Number: _____

Others (U.S.) - Policy Name: _____

Policy Number: _____ Insurance Co.'s Phone #: _____

Whom do we contact in case of emergency?

Name/Relationship: _____

Address: _____ Cell: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

The undersigned hereby releases the staff and personnel of
Maple Leaf Academy and Upper Canada Camp from liability in case of
accident, injury, or the theft of personal property.

Signature: _____
Parent or Guardian

Please Note: The responsibility of the staff of Maple Leaf Academy for any camper begins with the camper's arrival at Upper Canada Camp and ends with their departure from UCC.

Date: _____

Honour Received

Paula (Roschman) Niall was presented with the **Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award** at Queen's Park on February 19, 2010.

"This special award recognizes individuals who, for 25 years or more, have made extraordinary contributions to conserving Ontario's heritage."

Paula lives in Owen Sound, ON, which also plans to recognize her for her more than 30 years of volunteer accomplishments. She has written for NCC on a number of occasions and worked for a number of years collecting and compiling genealogies and histories of families associated with the Carmel New Church, where she grew up and went to school.

Congratulations Paula!

Following are excerpts from an article in **The Sun Times** of Owen Sound by correspondent James Masters.

Local history researcher Paula Niall says Owen Sound must quickly identify and protect the city's architectural "gems" before they fall into disrepair and risk being lost. "And before the developers come in and decide they want the land under the house. Then it becomes a fight between money and the love of heritage," she said in an interview Thursday afternoon.

The call for better heritage protection comes from a woman who has dedicated much of the last 30 years to researching, writing, preserving and celebrating Owen Sound and area history. Today Niall will be formally recognized for her contributions to heritage preservation, protection and promotion at a ceremony at Queen's Park. Lt.-Gov. David Onley will present her with a Lieutenant-Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Niall was nominated for the Provincial Lifetime Achievement Award by the city. "She has worked tirelessly and with a passion to celebrate the history of Owen Sound and to bring it forward so we can all learn more," Mayor Ruth Lovell Stanners said Thursday.

Niall and her husband moved to Owen Sound in 1971. A short time later, the childhood home of First World War flying ace Billy Bishop caught

her attention. In 1979, during her 20-year career in real estate, Niall learned the historic home was about to be put up for sale by Bishop's nephew. Along with Dorothy Vick, Niall, in her first term as president of the Owen Sound Historical Society, enlisted the help of ex-Air Force members to secure donations to purchase the home for use as a museum.

Niall served as the founding chairwoman of the Billy Bishop Heritage Committee and convinced retired Air Attaché to London, England, Capt. A.J. Bauer, to serve as the museum's first president to keep it linked to the Canadian Air Force. The museum has since been recognized as Grey-Bruce's first national historic site.

Niall has also helped create a permanent display at Grey Roots about black history of Owen Sound and Grey County. She has researched and recorded the history of local black settlers for more than 17 years.

Niall has been a member of Grey-Bruce Writers for nearly two decades. She was secretary of the Grey County Heritage Alliance, coordinated tours of historic homes in Owen Sound and initiated a plaque program to recognize Owen Sound's significant heritage properties. She has collected filing cabinets full of historical documents, photographs and newspaper clippings, which will be donated to Grey Roots.

Niall is also a heritage advocate and has written many research pieces about Owen Sound's historical buildings and the people and businesses that once occupied them. She has been awarded a Black History Service award, an Ontario Heritage Foundation award and an Ontario Historical Society Certificate of Merit for her heritage preservation, recognition and awareness work.

Niall said she has a passion for genealogy and historic architecture. The two go hand in hand, she said, as the stories of early residents and their ancestors enhances the significance of the buildings. "They give life to the building, the people who lived there. And the people really come to life when you learn about them," she said.

Academy Journal

The Academy Journal for 2008-09 has been posted at www.ourownacademy.org. If you would like it e-mailed to you as a pdf file, please send a request to development@anc-gc.org.

The Influence of the Teacher on the Pupil – Part 4 of 6

edited by Denis Kuhl

“No one is ever instructed by means of truth, but by means of the affections of truth; for truths apart from affection do indeed come to the ear as sound, but do not enter into the memory; that which causes them to enter into the memory and to abide in it, is affection.” AC 3066(2)

“Moreover that truths which are in themselves truths are with one person more true, with another less true, and with some not true at all, and even false is evident from almost all things which in themselves are true; for they are varied in the man with whom they are, in accordance with his affections.” AC 2439(2)

“The truths with man, no matter what they may be, or whatever nature, enter into his memory by means of affection, that is, by a certain delight which is of love. Without affection (or without the delight is of love) nothing can enter to man, for in these is his life.” AC 4205(2)

“Human rational good is such as to have in itself much from worldly delights, for it is formed not only from truths, but also from the delights of sensuous things, and from many of the delights that are in the world.” AC 2204

“..... all things are insinuated into the little ones of the other life by means of delightful and pleasant things suited to their genius, ..” AC 2296

“.....a man apprehends what delights him;” AC 9993(3)

“Nevertheless, these truths can be known, and when known be comprehended, provided the mind takes an interest in them; for interest carries light with it because it is from love; and upon those who love the things

pertaining to Divine and heavenly wisdom light shines forth from heaven and gives enlightenment.” HH 265

“..... wherefore from this age (childhood) he is imbued with truths by instruction, and especially by means of his own thoughts and confirmations from them. In so far therefore as he is then in the affection of good, so far truths are conjoined with good in him by the Lord, and are stored up for use.” AC 5342(3)

“The things which are of the Lord are called in the Word ‘remains’, and here are especially knowledges of faith, which have been learned from infancy, and which are stored up” AC 8

“..... remains are of the Lord alone;” AC 576(e)

“.....man is not born into any exercise of life, as brute animals are, but has everything to learn, and what he learns becomes by exercise habitual, and thus as it were natural to him” And such is the case also with the states of innocence, charity and mercy with which he is in like manner imbued from infancy,..... Yet these are states which man does not learn, but receives as a gift from the Lord, and which the Lord preserves in him. Together with the truths of faith, they are also what are called ‘remains’, and are of the Lord alone. AC 1050(2)

“But what are remains? They are not only the goods and truths that a man has learned from the Lord’s Word from infancy,” but they are also all the states thus derived, such as” all states of good and truth.” AC 561

“When man is in such persuasive state, and is elevated, then the Lord operates, and implants, and conceals in their minds those things which are called remains:” SD 3108(e)

Quick! Where is Heaven?

By Dr. Karen Shue

Did you answer that question? Did you say “up”?

You aren’t the only one...

One of the primary things Swedenborg talks about with respect to **reading and understanding the scriptures** is the idea of a **“spiritual sense”**, a correspondence between things spiritual and things natural. Certainly, from the beginning this idea was probably the most intriguing to me about Swedenborg’s Writings — the notion that **embedded in the words of the Bible is a deeper meaning. And that we “detect” that meaning in some way as we read**, whether we know it or not.

But how could that be? Don’t different people use “symbols” and metaphors differently? And how can reading have an impact if we don’t consciously “get” the meaning?

There are a couple of interesting lines of evidence that apply to these questions I would love to share with you. **The first relates directly to how the brain works** – that mass of **networked connections and associations** we are building and changing with every experience we have.

What’s Up With God?

In a unique study, [Brian Meier](#) looked at **how people process the “position” of God and heaven, the devil and hell**, and all things belonging to those realms. He and his colleagues had students **push one of two buttons to categorize words** as either belonging to a “God” category or “devil” category. The trick here was in **the positioning of the words on the screen** — either at the top or the bottom. Students were able to **more quickly categorize God-related words if they were at the top of the screen** and devil-related words if they were at the bottom of the screen. They were **slower to find the right category if the positions were reversed** – God down and devil up.

What’s important here is to know that this is the same kind of effect we see and use in neuropsychological testing. For example, people are slower at being able to name a colour when it is presented in a different colour (e.g., read the word “red” when it’s printed in a blue colour). This means that there is some kind of **interference with what is a deeply associated connection**.

If It’s Holy, It Must Be Up

But Meier did even more. He also asked students to **watch a number of images** randomly go by — **each image in a different location** on the computer screen. Then he asked the students where each image had appeared — and what happened? You got it! They **remembered God-related images as showing up higher** and devil-related images as down lower **than they had originally really appeared**. Which is to say, they **“re-positioned” the image positions to match those deep associations** they had already seen.

And here's one more bit of what they did.

If It's Up, They Must Be Holy

They showed the students **images of strangers** and then asked them to give an **opinion on how strongly each person believed** in God. Maybe more surprisingly this time, students judged that **strangers whose pictures were at the top of the screen believed more in God** than people whose pictures were at the bottom of the screen! Of course, these were all university students in a North American school, but still It's important to know that these associations were **not tied to the students' own degree or type of religious beliefs**.

So, this is our first connection to having some kind of *very strong, non-conscious association between things spiritual and a "metaphorical" association, that points to our actually having these kinds of connections embedded in the ways in which our brains work.* "People don't just use metaphors—they think in them," says Meier.

Learning by Osmosis?

Now let's go onto the question of **how reading can have an impact if we don't consciously "get" the meaning**. This time I can't point to just one study — there is a whole field of investigation on what's called "**nonconscious learning**". These studies repeatedly show that there are **components of our thinking — brain activity — operating outside of our awareness**. These elements are able to truly multitask, are agile, efficient, perceptive, can be quick and capable of recognizing complex patterns of information.

For example, **people can detect and use underlying patterns in information that consciously appears to them as "random"**. That's to say, they get better and better at predicting what will come next or what piece of information is most important, *even though* they **insist they don't know and that there is no pattern** to be found! In fact, in some studies, people weren't able to identify any pattern at all **even when they were paid to figure it out!**

In my neurofeedback work, this is exactly what we rely on — that the brain can find the pattern in the feedback (the mirroring) it gets from its own activity, without us consciously trying to "drive the bus". Recall how ancient **native Hawaiian navigators used the same non-conscious learning to read the waves** and knew where they were in the ocean at all times - no equipment required!

So we can indeed learn from these kinds of "invisible" patterns without ever being aware that there even is a pattern.

Which all adds up to interesting support for Swedenborg's claims, don't you think?

From her blog Psychology of Swedenborg (with permission) at: <http://kshue.wordpress.com>

2010 OLYMPICS

Jay James reports he helped coordinate the visits of a number of “notables” at the Vancouver Scandinavian Community Centre during the Olympics. It was renamed Scandinavian House for the duration of the competitions and became the headquarters for all the athletes from the Scandinavian countries. The notable visitors included the Presidents of Finland, Denmark and Norway, as well as the King and Queen of Norway. On Feb. 25th he was responsible for organizing, on behalf of the Sweden House Society of which he is a member, a private reception for the King and Queen of Sweden. A memorable time was had by all!

As an aside, the community centre has, over the years, been used a number of times for New Church church services and readings of the Writings. We have placed a complete set of the Writings in their library.

New General Church Board

At the annual meeting of the General Church Corporation February 27, 2010 in Bryn Athyn, six new members were elected to three-year terms:

Andrew R. Bruell, Dunmow, Essex, England
Stephen Ofori Darkwah, Tema Ghana
Robert M. Dike, Chamblee, Georgia
P. Blake Hill, Toronto, ON, Canada
Lee Horigan, Etobicoke, ON, Canada
M. David Norman, Oakton, Virginia

Re-elected to three-year terms were:

Charles H. Ebert, Longmont, Colorado
Dain Kistner, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania
Stephen A. McDonald, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania
Brooke Glenn Mullin, New York, NY

Retiring Board members honored for six years of devoted service were:

Robert Heinrichs, Montrose, Colorado
Steven Hendricks, Kempton, Pennsylvania
Nathan Morley, Surrey, England
Bryon Odhner, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania
John Wyncoll, Toronto, ON, Canada

New Church Pulse Promotes – COUCH SURFING

New Church young adults travel around the globe. A commonality of every New Church community is warm hospitality. We want to join the two together.

We know there are those of you out there who would love to put up one of these travelers for a day or two. New Church Pulse, an organization dedicated to connecting young adults, hopes to facilitate a link between New Church travelers and hosts.

We are gathering a list of potential hosts which will be posted on our website in the coming year. This list will be accessible to all New Church young adults looking to find a warm floor, couch, or bed during their travels.

For those of you willing to host, we ask for your phone number, address, and email. For your security, the only contact information shared on our website will be your email. If you're interested or have any questions, feel free to send us an email or give us a call.

New church Young Adults
Cathy Schnarr: 267-502-4918
or NcPulse@gmail.com

General Church in Canada

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Worship Services

Carmel New Church, Kitchener – Sun., 11:00 am

Dawson Creek Church – Sun., 11:00 am

Grande Prairie / Debolt – Sun. / late afternoon

Olivet New Church, Toronto – Sun., 10:30 am

Edmonton – Sun., 7:00 pm

GCIC Meetings

Proposed Board Meeting Dates

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

May Issue: April 15, 2009

Please send submissions to:

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**Happy
Easter**



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