



# THE NEW CHURCH CANADIAN

A Bi-monthly Newsletter of the General Church in Canada

Issue 126

July 2008

## Who is Knocking?

By Rev. Kenneth J. Alden

Jesus said in *Revelation* (the book that more than any other foretells the circumstances of His return), "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:20)

So we hear a knocking at the door. We wonder, "Who's there?" Should we open the door? Or should we keep it shut? Jesus, Himself, in foretelling His return, warned, "Take heed that you not be deceived, for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore, do not go after them." (Luke 21:8. See also Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-26; Mark 13:5-6, 21-23; Luke 17:23-24.)

Knock, knock, knock. "Who could it be?" It wouldn't do to keep our Savior waiting outside, but what if it isn't Him?

In another place He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them." (John 10:7-8) Here, He clearly recognizes the danger of opening to thieves and robbers, but He does not sound worried about the sheep doing so. In fact, just before that He said, "He who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep...and the sheep hear his voice...for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." (John 10:2-5)

Do we recognize the voice of the Lord when He knocks?

Jesus was speaking in His own voice to some Jews who asked, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." In reply, Jesus said, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep... My sheep hear My voice...and they follow Me." (John 10:24-27) Soon after, they took up stones to stone Him. Evidently, our Lord gives enough testimony so that His sheep can see His works and hear His voice, but to the perspective of those who are not His sheep, there is never incontrovertible proof of who He is.

Are *you* one of His sheep? How do *you* recognize His voice?

Many of those who did not accept Jesus' testimony were well-versed in the Old Testament which foretold the Christ. Although He speaks to us in the Word, and is Himself, the Divine

truth and goodness of the Word, clearly there is more to hearing the voice of our Lord than knowing Scripture. In proportion to our love for truth because it is true and useful in life are we enlightened to see truth. (See *Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* n. 57) It is in living by the truth of the Word that we follow Him as sheep and learn His voice. We learn, not just the *words* by which He spoke in the past, but we learn His *truth* and *goodness*. We learn His voice so that we hear the same truth and goodness whether He speaks in the words and style of the Old Testament or in that of the New Testament.

And what of Swedenborg's theological writings? The words and style are very different, but are the truth and goodness from the Lord, about the Lord, and leading back to the Lord? Does reading them impress us more with Swedenborg's genius, or with the Lord's wisdom and goodness? Does keeping what is written there make us great in our own eyes by emulating a man who is acclaimed as one of the greatest intellects of all time, or does it make us into humble images of the Lord, who alone is truly and Divinely Human?

If we see the Lord in the Heavenly Doctrine, we see the Door of the sheep. If we love the truth for its own sake and we hear His voice when we read, from the Lord's own enlightening power we recognize that it is He who is knocking at that door. If what we see and hear is the Lord, and not some thief climbing in some other way, (see John 10:1), or some false Christ leading us off to a wilderness or inner room, (See Matthew 24:26), we can open the door with confidence that He will come in and dine with us, and we with Him.

(For further reading on this subject, see *Arcana Coelestia* 8868, 3900, 9310:3, available online at [www.heavenlydoctrines.org](http://www.heavenlydoctrines.org))



## WHY WE NEED RULES

### A Family Talk

By Rev. Willard L. D. Heinrichs

Do you know what happens when people turn away from the Lord – turn away from His truth and His Commandments? When people think that their own ideas are the right way of doing things, they insist that their own opinion is the right one. They love themselves so much that they won't listen to what the Lord says. They won't listen to what other people say. Quarrelling and fighting break out. People split up and go their way, all by themselves.

Say three or four children come together and want to play a game. What happens if each child in his or her own mind decides to play by his or her own rules? They are not going to play by the rules of the game that are set down. They are going to play their own rules, the rules that they make

up. We call this cheating. They begin the game and we all know what happens. In no time at all they are quarrelling and accusing each other of cheating. They are fighting. Soon the game is broken up and everybody goes away, some to their rooms and some to do something else – all angry with one another because they would not play according to the rules.

What if Mom and Dad and all the children in a home decide that they are going to live according to their own rules? Each person will eat when he or she pleases. They will all go to sleep when they please. They will get up when they please. They will play the radio or TV whenever they want and as loudly as they want. Each has a different idea about these things. What does it make

the home like? It makes the home like hell, because in the home, also, there has got to be a set of rules that all of the people agree to obey. If there is a good set of rules that is just and fair, then everybody in the home will be happy. They will live at peace with one another - the home will stay together.

The same thing is true in a country. People have to have a set of laws that are just and fair and that everybody agrees to obey. As long as most people do this, the country has peace. People live happily together. They are able to work in peace and enjoy their work. But what happens if more and more people decide that they will make up their own laws? We call this anarchy. It leads to chaos. Fighting and quarrelling and revolutions start. The country or the empire is broken up. This happens between nations in the world as well. If the world is to be a happy place to live, all people must agree to live by a certain set of rules that they will all try to obey.

Now where are we going to find such a set of rules, rules that everybody – all nations, all people in a nation, all people in a house, etc. – can live according to and consequently find peace and happiness? We must turn to the Lord. The Lord alone is loving enough and wise enough to know of such a set of rules. He knows how to bring happiness and peace to everybody. But where are these rules to be found? They are in the Lord's Word. The most important rules in the Lord's Word are the Ten

Commandments. To make sure that there would be no mistake that these are the Lord's rules and not human rules, the first words were: "And God spoke all these words."

So these are the rules that all of us should obey if we wish to live together in happiness and peace. Just think for a moment what the world would be like, what our nations would be like, what our homes would be like, if everybody agreed to keep the Ten Commandments. Suppose that everybody loved the Lord Jesus Christ as the one God of heaven and earth; everybody kept the Lord's Word and His name holy; everybody worshiped the Lord together; everybody honoured their father and mother; nobody killed anybody; nobody committed adultery; nobody stole anything; nobody told lies; nobody coveted anything or envied anybody. What would we have if everybody tried to keep these rules? We know what we would have. We would have heaven on earth. People would be bound together in a heavenly society.

Those who keep the Commandments of the Lord have peace inside of them and in their homes. Then when they come into the life after death, they have peace and happiness there too. They find their eternal life in heaven.

Amen.



## Laurels go to....

the **Olivet New Church School**, which has won the first place Diamond Award as the best private school in Etobicoke, part of Greater Toronto Region. The competition was sponsored by the *Etobicoke Guardian*. The school will be featured in the newspaper, presented with a plaque, invited to an awards banquet and offered advertising discounts. Olivet School finished ahead of three well-known and respected private schools for the newspaper's Readers Choice Award.

Congratulations to Olivet, its teachers, volunteers and many supporters for a job well done.

# HEART OF GOLD

By Lavina Scott

When once a tiny seed begins to grow  
It bursts the bonds, so stiff and cold  
Of dormant darkness, husk and shell,  
As truth comes out, and **will** be told.  
Goods grow from truth, expand and swell,  
And fill the heart with life, and joy so bright,  
As leaf uncurls and opens in the warmth of sun  
And reaches upwards to the wondrous light.  
It grows, and blooms, and makes new seed  
And hearts rejoice in freedom's flight.  
As dross, the husk falls down, away  
In the warm and radiant light of day.  
And the tiny seed becomes a mighty tree  
So that the birds of the air come to thee  
And make their nests in branches free.  
As truth expressed in goods of life, conceals  
New truth from good: New truth is born that heals.  
So, born from sadness, and from rigid cold  
Now the Lord creates, the Lord reveals  
The lovely, living, shining heart of gold!

**“The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof”**

**Matthew 13: 3 1-32**

## NOTES REGARDING “HEART OF GOLD”

As we are regenerated by the Lord, we first learn truths, which, when they are lived, become good in life. This is **“the good of (or from) truth”**. This first truth, even though correct, often is harsh and condemning and judgmental. But there is a sense of enlightenment, and there is a sense of freedom associated with this state, and therefore a sense of flying and exhilaration.

However, it also ushers in a new state of life, when, from living a life of goodness, we get new insights of truth, which is a state when truth is born from good: **“truth of (or from) good”**. This truth is merciful, filled with love and gentleness, as it looks at and seeks to help and serve others. This is the higher state of being in **truth born from (or of) good**. This merciful truth **heals** as it is used in relationships with others.

“Dross” is the impurities and waste materials that are separated and discarded, as when metal is being refined and purified.

A tree is a symbol of man's life. “There is a correspondence of the life of man with the vegetation of a tree . . . Man's infancy is like the tender shoot of a tree sprouting from the seed out of the ground; his childhood and youth are like that shoot growing into a stem with its little branches; the natural truths with which everyone is first imbued are like the leaves with which the branches are covered. . . . the things connected with the initiation of man into the marriage of good and truth . . . (the state of life, when you, as an individual, are living what you know to be true) . . .

are like the blossoms which the tree produces in the spring time; spiritual truths are like the petals of these flowers; the earliest productions of the spiritual marriage are like the beginnings of the fruit; spiritual goods, which are the goods of \* charity (\*living a life of love and service to others-loving the neighbor as oneself) are like the fruit . . . the procreations of wisdom from love are like the seeds, by which procreations the man becomes like a garden. Man is also described in the Word by 'a tree'; and his wisdom from love, by a 'garden.'" *Divine Providence #332 (3)*

The "birds of the air" are a correspondential symbol of our thoughts.

"Birds making nests" are (correspond to) our beliefs producing uses.

Out of sadness the Lord brings joy. There is a certain sadness when we have to let go of our proprium and let the Lord rule in our lives, but the new proprium He creates in us is connected to and filled with all the joy of heaven! It also can keep on growing and learning, and the Lord will be perfecting it and infilling it to all eternity!

"The heart corresponds to the affection which is of love, thus to the will . . . The things which become of the will are said to 'enter into his heart' and to 'go out thence'." *Matthew 15: 18,19. & Arcana Coelestia 8910 (2)* But the things which are only of the thought are said to 'enter into the mouth'.

"Gold corresponds to love to the Lord; especially celestial love to the Lord; or celestial good, which is the good of wisdom and love conjoined." *Arcana Coelestia 1171 (4); & 1552.*

Therefore, when the affection of your will is in the state of love to the Lord, you have a "heart of gold".

Now I would invite you to read the poem again, and all these ideas will shine through. "Gold like clear glass" corresponds to truths clearly understood from good. *A.C. 2336 (2)*

## **Dawson Creek Church Camp**

July 25, 26 & 27

Camp Emile – Moberly Lake, BC

Theme: ***Parables of the Word***

Classes for young kids, teens and adults

Games and Activities for mixed groups – lots of Personal Recreation time  
Easy access to the lake and boat dock

No need to book ahead, arrive any time after 4:00 pm

First come, first served for cabin or dormitory space, or  
Bring your own tent or RV

More information? Contact Mike at 250-782-3353

## New Archivist Named

We are pleased to announce that Gregory Jackson has been chosen to fill the position of Archivist at Swedenborg Library and Glencairn Museum.

Also, we want to express our deep appreciation to Cynthia H. Walker, who is retiring as Academy Archivist after 20 years.

Greg graduated *cum laude* with a BA in History from Bryn Athyn College in 2004, where he was an education intern and tour guide at Glencairn for three years. Later this year he expects to receive an MA in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester.

He is Historic Site Supervisor of Pottsgrove Manor, which is operated by Montgomery County, where he was previously in charge of educational programming. For the past 18 months he has served as archivist at the John and Gertrude Pitcairn Archives, a volunteer position, where he has used his skills and knowledge in such areas as preserving historic artefacts, protecting our collections from pests, and identifying and caring for photographs.

He has just been elected to the board of the Old York Road Historical Society. Prior to exploring his interest in history, Greg served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years in many capacities, specializing in engineering program management.

He and his wife Alison have six children and live in Bryn Athyn.

Cindy has served as Academy Archivist since 1988, while teaching full time in the Girls School. Her knowledge and love of the history of the Academy and the New Church made her invaluable in this role. She was always a strong advocate for the importance of preserving our history. Over the years she promoted the use of the archival collections through Academy classes, helping researchers, and assisting the Development Office with Charter Day exhibits and class reunions. She actively sought out historical material, traveling to Glenview and other church locations to photocopy or receive donations from families. We are very appreciative of all she accomplished in serving our Academy Archives during the past 20 years.

We must also convey our appreciation to all who have supported the quest to preserve our heritage. Your interest and enthusiasm has been infectious. We have received financial support from many quarters, from dozens of individuals and several foundations, making the hiring of a full-time archivist possible and furnishing both Archives, at the Library and at Glencairn, with some very fine equipment.

Rev. Eric Carswell, President  
Carroll Odhner, Swedenborg Library  
Stephen Morley, Glencairn Museum

### **CORRECTION:**

In the May issue of NCC, Melody Ferr was identified as a High School student living in Kitchener. We were wrong. Melody is currently attending College in Bryn Athyn, PA. She still lives in Kitchener. How time flies! The editors are chagrined.

## The Joseph Project

### ***A General Church system for supporting congregation development and growth***

**General Church Outreach** is pleased to announce the hiring of Theresa McQueen to the position of Joseph Project Manager. Theresa's background working with this office, working with congregations, and past business experience will be an asset to us as we move forward in an exciting new direction.

This past May, the General Church Board voted to fund a new, more coherent way of supporting the development of emerging New Church congregations world-wide. The Joseph Project is a system that will offer support, mentorship, and resources that are tailored to the specific needs of individual congregations helping them become healthy, growing, self sustaining General Church Societies. The Joseph Project will consist of a team that will help find workable solutions to **any** challenge that a congregation encounters in its various stages of development as it looks toward evangelization and growth. In the beginning we will focus on several pilot projects both in the US and Overseas. As the program matures, the Joseph Project will open its enrolment and offer its services to any congregation that desires its support.

We know you join us in welcoming Theresa to the General Church Outreach team.

Her contact information is:

Email: [Theresa.mcqueen@newchurch.org](mailto:Theresa.mcqueen@newchurch.org)

Phone: (267) 502-4906

## **NEW DIRECTOR FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

THE REV. DAVID LINDROOTH, DIRECTOR OF GENERAL CHURCH OUTREACH, HAPPILY ANNOUNCES THE HIRING OF **CATHY SCHNARR** AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE YOUNG ADULT CONNECTION.

CATHY BRINGS WITH HER A LONG-TIME PASSION FOR SERVING THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE. SHE HAS BEEN A KEY INFLUENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXUS PROJECT FOR TEENS AND NOW REFOCUSSES HER ENERGIES TO EMPOWER YOUNG ADULTS TO BECOME INTEGRATED INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

MANY HAVE COME TO KNOW CATHY IN HER LONG HISTORY OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH WITH HER HUSBAND, GRANT. TOGETHER THEY HAVE FOUR ADULT CHILDREN AND TWO GRANDCHILDREN.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT CATHY, HER E-MAIL IS [CATHY.SCHNARR@ANG-GC.ORG](mailto:CATHY.SCHNARR@ANG-GC.ORG). PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING CATHY ON BOARD WITH THE YOUNG ADULT CONNECTION!

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## Worship Services

### *Calgary*

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 11:00 am

### *Carmel New Church, Kitchener*

Sundays, 10:00 am

### *Dawson Creek Church*

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 11:00 am

### *Grande Prairie*

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, late afternoon

### *Olivet New Church, Toronto*

Sundays, 10:30 am

## GCIC Meetings

### **Proposed Board Meeting Dates**

Sept. 27, 2008	10:00 am	Toronto
Nov. 22, 2008	10:00 am	Kitchener
Feb. 21, 2009	10:00 am	Toronto
April 25, 2009	1:30 pm	Kitchener

### **Annual General Meeting**

April 25, 2009 7:30 PM Kitchener

Preceded by supper at 6:30 PM

## Editorial Deadline

*September Issue: August 15, 2008*

**Please send submissions to:  
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**\*\*\* Let the editors know if you  
would like to receive the  
“Canadian” via email \*\*\***