

# New Church Canadian

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of General Church in Canada

Issue 222

## THE LORD'S SECOND COMING

By Rev. Jon Lee

Are you good at keeping promises? We often make promises. The Word of the Lord is characterized as the Covenant and Prophecy. Covenant implies the Lord's promised blessings and protection upon the condition of performing duties on our side. The prophecy is the Lord's promise to make specific incidents happen as seen in His advent, resurrection, and sending of the Holy Spirit. He also promised He would come again, sitting at the right hand of power and on the clouds of heaven. The Christians understand this statement as the promise of "His Second Coming". Did the Lord come back to the world? He has come back in glory and power as He promised!

In the presence of the disciples and followers, the Lord was taken up through the cloud. While they looked toward heaven as He ascended, two angels in white clothes appeared and said, "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Did the Lord come again? Have you met Him? How did He come? Because of statements in the Gospel and Acts, Christians have believed that the Lord would come in Person, and Christian eschatology deals with the Lord's second coming as a central theme.



However, many statements (and words) in the Word cannot be taken literally. In Joel it is said that the Sun rises and goes down. This seems to talk about geocentrism: the Sun revolves around the earth. During the Last Supper with His disciples, the Lord spoke of mysterious words such as "Take it; this is My Body...Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Mt.26:26-28).

(Continued on page 2)

### In This Issue:

The Lord's Second Coming1
To Follow the Lord on a White Horse3
Notes from the Regional Pastor6
Maple Leaf Academy7
Living Waters Camp8
Jacob's Creek Family Retreat8
History Corner9
Cascadia Church Retreat10
Contacts11
Colouring Page12



#### (Continued from page 1)

It's needless to mention many other parables and mystical prophecies.

The biblical teachings regarding His advent were not intended to be taken literally, either. As we often see, His first coming was connected with the Last Judgment and was described as a dramatic event. In Joel, it is said, "I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord" (Joel 2:30-31). Contrary to the prophecy, the Lord was born quietly in the small town of Bethlehem. The Lord didn't mean these scary phenomena in the prophecy. We may ask what these dramatic and scary events were about if they were not meant to happen in the natural world. They symbolically mean our spiritual changes which will follow the Lord's coming.



The Lord has come as He promised. Have you ever met the returned Lord? We see Him, not as a Person but as Jesus of Nazareth. The Lord had come as a Human Divine at His first coming but He came as Revelation at His second coming. We often forget that the Word is the manifestation of Himself. We can see the Lord everywhere in the Word. We read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

The Word has three different meanings or senses. In the literal sense, we see Abraham, Moses, Joshua, etc. We see their heroic sagas; we see many prophecies in the Prophets. However, they talk about our spiritual journeys, struggles and conflicts, and also heaven in the spiritual sense. In the celestial

sense, the same teachings describe the Lord Himself, such as how He glorified His Human into Divine. The Lord presents Himself in some places very clearly and in other places more remotely; all these symbolize His people's regeneration, His kingdom on earth, the spiritual world and Himself.

Such spiritual and celestial meanings consist of the internal sense in the Old and New Testaments. They are the genuine meanings of those historical incidents, individuals' narratives and prophecies, written in figurative language. They are the immediate manifestation of the Lord and the true Himself taking off guises and layers. The literal sense is compared to a person clothed so only his face and hands are bare. We read, "[T]he Word is so to speak clothed, and so corresponds to the clothing of those parts. For in general, clothes mean truths, and really correspond to them. But there are still many things in the literal sense of the Word which are bare and, so to speak, unclothed; and they correspond to a person's face and his hands, which are the parts left uncovered" (De Verbo10:7).

The spiritual sense of the Word, as the revealed truth and much less clothed, removes a great deal of cloud and confusion from our understanding. It is the Lord's emerging out of confusion as the Sun comes out of the clouds. Power and glory reside in the revealed truth. This is what the Lord meant when He said that He will come again sitting at the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven. The Lord chose Emanuel Swedenborg as the revelator of the spiritual sense of the Word. When Swedenborg finished His last work of the series, *True Christian Religion*, the Lord called all His apostles and sent them throughout the spiritual world; and they declared the beginning of the New Church. The Lord came again not in Person but in Revelation—the internal sense of the Word.

And Jesus said, I ams and you shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

—Mark 14:62

The Lord cannot appear to any person unless one's spiritual eyes are opened. The Lord was glorified, and natural eyes cannot see His glorified Human. After the resurrection, the Lord opened His disciples' eyes so that they might see Him. Moreover, the Lord didn't have to come again in Person because He achieved what

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He needed to do in His assumed Humanity at the first advent. There was no need for Him to be born again as a person.

The Lord did come again as He promised without any dramatic wonders or natural disasters. Yet the Lord wants such dramatic changes in our hearts, minds, and lives, in our regeneration for heaven. His kingdom is not of this world but the spiritual world. For this purpose, the Lord came and manifested Himself as the writ-



ten Revelation, the Heavenly Doctrines of the New Church. The Word is the Lord Himself. Thus, His coming is not completed individually until we acknowledge the Heavenly Doctrines as the Word and Himself in His Second Coming. His coming cannot be accomplished personally until our hearts, minds and lives are transformed in accordance with His Threefold Word. We read,

> "BEHOLD HE IS COMING WITH CLOUDS, AND EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM, EVEN THEY WHO PIERCED HIM" (REV.1:7).

### TO FOLLOW THE LORD ON A WHITE HORSE Doctrine for the Young by the Rev. Frederick L. Schnarr

What we celebrate as the birthday of the New Church on June 19th is the time when the Lord, in the spiritual world, sent forth His twelve disciples to announce the Second Coming of the Lord. In the story that we read we have a vision given us, which was first given to the disciple John while he was on the Isle of Patmos. It's one of many visions in the last book of the Word, the book of Revelation, sometimes called the Apocalypse. Some of these visions give us a picture of the New Church—the New Church that John saw so early in prophecy and yet that wasn't to come into existence until the time when the Lord had prepared Emanuel Swedenborg. The Lord chose him to write down all of the new truths that were to constitute the Lord's second coming, which in turn were to form in the minds of men a New Church, in this world and in the other world.

You know and can remember many of the Apocalypse visions. You have studied them in school; or perhaps you've studied them in Religion Lessons. You remember the opening vision of the Apocalypse with the Lord standing amidst seven golden candlesticks. You remember the vision of the woman clothed with the sun, about to deliver a man-child, and how she had to flee from the dragon into the wilderness. And then after that, the next vision is the one we just read. John was told to look up into the heavens, and there against the clouds he saw this very beautiful white horse and the Lord riding upon him. And behind the Lord, as though going forth to war, came all of the angels of heaven, all riding on white horses.

It wasn't until John had seen that vision that a great war in the spiritual world took place. That war described the final conquest over evil spirits by the angels of heaven, and then the evil spirits were put back into the hells so that



they could no longer infest the heavens and cause the angels trouble, nor could they any longer take possession of men's minds on earth.

(Continued on page 4)

It is not until the story of the white horse and the great war is complete that there follows the final vision which you know so well -a beautiful woman is seen descending from heaven, a bride adorned for the Lord, and then at last, the holy city, New Jerusalem, is seen.

I want you to think today about that which happened right before the final vision: the story of the white horse. What did it mean? Why of all the animals, of all the living things that there are, should the Lord choose a white horse? And why was it that until they had seen the white horse there couldn't be final peace in the heavens and the final vision of the New Church?

We are taught in the Writings that the white horse means our understanding. Our understanding is the place where we learn knowledges and where we learn to think. It is the home of our thinking. It's the place where we form ideas. Now notice in this vision that the white horse—the understanding—is an understanding not invented by any person. It is an understanding to be formed immediately from the Lord. The truths that are to make that understanding, that you young people have many of in your minds, you've learned from the Word. You have those truths in your understanding. Some of you have thought about them a little; some have thought about them much. They are as a great, beautiful white horse. If in our thoughts we look to Him who is upon that white horse—the Lord—we have the means of coming into the most deep and beautiful truths that make up the kingdom of heaven.



The white horse was an ancient symbol. Some of you who remember the stories of mythology will remember the white horse Pegasus. The Writings tell us that the people of ancient times knew that if men learned truths that were pure from the Lord, it would cause their understanding to be lifted up. It would be like a horse that has wings, that can rise up and can look down upon all the other things of your life and tell you: what your work should be, what you should do with the desires you have from your will, and how you should act to be honest, sincere, and good. It will tell you all kinds of things. It is a wonderful vision from the Lord.

In reference to the birth of the New Church in your minds, there must be an understanding born, not from your own experiences but from the Lord. That means that it must be born from truths that are learned from the Word and from no place else. The Writings are very insistent on the fact that we cannot invent truth. We can go outside and we can look at a tree and take the tree apart, and can learn for years and years about a tree. We can learn how a tree grows, what kind of a tree it is, what kind of fruit it has, and how its seeds are formed. We can learn a hundred things about the tree, and yet if after many years of studying the tree someone asks us, "What do you know about heaven from having studied that tree? What do you know about the nature of the Lord from having studied the tree?" We would have to say, "We don't know anything." These things about the tree are natural knowledges. The same thing is true of all the sciences and all the other things that we study. They are all useful; they are all good servants when they have their proper place. But there must be in the understanding, way up at the top, things that are different, things that rule from the Lord. These things are called spiritual truths and they give us an interior understanding of the Word. That means that the highest things that must be in our understanding must be formed from the Lord's Word.

This is why when John saw the white horse, the Lord was riding on him—not some angel, not anyone else, just the Lord. So all special truths—whether we call them spiritual truths or heavenly doctrines—all come from the Lord. He has given them to us. He has invited men all over this world and all over the spiritual world to come to a feast of spiritual truths. That's why at the end of this story of the white horse—what does it say? —that He called everybody to the marriage supper. He said, "Come; gather yourselves to the marriage supper of the Lamb." That meant that the Lord had opened up the books of the Word, and on eve-

(Continued on page 5)

#### (Continued from page 4)

ry page He has given us the ability now to see what men through ancient times all the way through the ages could never see. Just think: this is what makes the New Church new.

This is what makes it exciting. There are on every page of the Word hundreds and hundreds of new things for us to see. And when we collect them together, they begin to be in our mind like a great white horse with the Lord riding upon it. And it has power—great power. What does it give us the ability to do that we could never learn from studying a tree? A tree doesn't tell us about evil spirits; a tree doesn't tell us that cheating is wrong; a tree doesn't tell us that lying is wrong. Nor does a fish nor does any animal tell us such things; nor does anything in the whole world except the Word. So those special truths from the Lord are the truths of the New Church. They give our understanding eyes.

They give it sight, so that it can see and look into the will that each of us has—all the things that form part of our life—and see what is from the Lord and what is from man—what is useful and good, and what is bad and should be rejected. This is what comes before you can really be a part of the New Church.

Young people and children that are being raised in the things of the New Church can only be at the doorway to the New Church, because the Lord has provided that no one shall ever come to love anything – good or bad – that he doesn't understand. In your understanding lies the means of the Lord giving you freedom. That's where you have your freedom of choice, and so the Lord tells us that a man can never love anything at all, good or bad, unless he first knows what it is, understands what it is, and says to himself, "That is what I want."

When we have studied long enough, a few little things year by year, the time will come when we are ready to say,

"Yes, now I see that all the things I have learned are true, not because someone has told me that I must believe them, but because the Lord has given me an understanding, and in that understanding I can see the highest truths that there are. I can even learn to think as the angels, because the Lord has opened the Word, and He has given the spiritual sense of the Word as a new gift to mankind."

And He has invited us to come and partake. And when we do, we not only go, as it were, to a great feast because there are so many things to learn and do, but we have the power to as it were ride on a white horse. So it says that all the angels followed the Lord on white horses. Certainly they did, because all the angels understand spiritual truths and do them. In this there is tremendous power power to chase away everything that is evil or false. When we learn the truths and do our best to use them, the evil spirits run away from our mind, and the loves that we may have, to lie and cheat and steal and all bad things, gradually begin to flee away and die.



And in time we can receive, and maybe even someday come into, that beautiful place which is called the holy city New Jerusalem.



### NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL PASTOR / GCIC EVP

by Rev. James Cooper

#### GENERAL CHURCH ASSEMBLY IN BRYN ATHYN IN JUNE

### There will be a General Assembly for the International New Church in Bryn Athyn, Pa June 27 – 30, 2024. For further information about the programs and other details, please see the website at <u>https://gcassembly2024.org/.</u>

#### GENERAL CHURCH IN CANADA ANNUAL MEETING

As sometimes happens when you pick the date for something more than a year in advance, adjustments have to be made to get around unforeseen and unforeseeable conflicts. In any event, after several false starts, we have scheduled the GCIC Annual meeting for May 25 @ 7:30 PM EDT. Since our membership is spread all the way across this very large country, the meeting will be by Zoom only. The link will be sent out with the Annual Report.

Speaking of the GCIC, if anyone reading this would like to join the incorporated body of the General Church in Canada, we'd be delighted to have you. Please contact the GCIC Secretary, Karen Cooper, at **karenanncooper@gmail.com** for the application form.

#### MINISTERIAL TRAVEL

Nothing much has changed from what was announced in the last issue about pastoral moves in Canada. What we're working on now is how to fit it all on the calendar so that we don't have one minister needing to be in three different places on the same Sunday, or long gaps between visits. Stay tuned.

### CALENDAR

Мау	5 12 19	Dawson Creek/Grande Prairie – MKC Vancouver/Cascadia – JPC Dawson Creek/Grande Prairie – MKC
June	16 27-30	Moonshine Lake – MKC General Church Assembly in Bryn Athyn, PA
July	21	Dawson Creek/Grande Prairie – MKC
August	18	Dawson Creek/Grande Prairie – MKC



**Rev. James Cooper** 

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## A New Church Camp for Teens Held at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario

# Save the Date for Maple!

We look forward to welcoming campers Friday, July 5 – Thursday, July 11, 2024.

This will be a week of friendship building, laughter, restorative relaxation, and spiritual growth for teens who will have just completed any year of high school.

Our theme this year is HOPE.

"You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Word."

Psalm 119:114



Want to register or get more information? Please visit the updated <u>maplecamp.com</u> or contact: Stephanie Kuhl, Camp Director, regarding any questions at <u>gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com</u>.

Maple has been serving New Church youth since 1969; it is sponsored by the General Church in Canada and staffed by experienced volunteers.

After GCIC contributions, regular camper fee is **\$300**, with discounts for early bird registration (before May 1) or for "junior staff" (returning campers finishing high school). A deposit of at least **\$50** (\$5 non-refundable) is required with registration and full payment is due by **June 16**.





10<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Waters Family Camp Thursday, July 11 - Sunday, July 14, 2024

This Year's Theme: "Charity"

Now is a great time to start a family tradition where Grandparents, Parents, and Children can all go to a summer camp and worship, learn, pray, and play together. These family camps provide a fantastic opportunity for the Lord to store up some cross-generational New Church "remains." Every good church camp has the Lord at the center of it, and the opportunity to learn about Him from His Word and to worship Him with thankful praise!

The theme for our camp this summer is "*Charity*." The Doctrine of Charity was something precious to the people who lived in ancient times. It taught them who the neighbour is and how the neighbour ought to be loved. Throughout the ages this doctrine was forgotten, but the Lord in His Second Coming has restored these teachings for the sake of the New Church. What can we learn about charity from what the Lord has revealed?

The camp is located near Paisley, Ontario on the Saugeen River, and is called Hidden Valley Christian Camp. You can explore it on the web at <u>hvccamp.ca.</u> It is only 194 kilometers from the Olivet New Church and just 154 kilometers from the Carmel New Church. It is also only 189 miles from Oak Arbor, Michigan so we are warmly welcoming any of our southern neighbors from the United States to attend as well! Canoeing and fishing are available and the camp is just 20 kilometers from the beach on Lake Huron.



The General Church in Canada has been very supportive of this venture and, there are scholarships available to ensure that the camp is affordable enough for most everyone to attend! For more information about **Living Waters Family Camp**, or if you would like to attend, please visit the website to register @ Living Waters Family Camp.

*Rev. Justin Schorran* – Assistant to the Pastor at Carmel New Church *livingwatersfamilycamp@gmail.com* 

"<u>Living waters</u>" are often mentioned in the Word, and by them are meant truths that come from the Lord and are received. These are living, because the Lord is Life itself, as He Himself teaches, and that which comes from Life itself is living." (Apocalypse Explained 483:1)



JACOB'S CREEK FAMILY RETREAT July 25 - 28, 2024

"Charity: The First of the Church"



(Continued on page 9)

Dear Friends,

This year's Jacob's Creek Family Retreat will be running from July 25 through 28 (Thursday to Sunday). Every year we have a theme that helps us focus on specific teachings from the Lord's Word and on how we can actively make them a part of our lives. Our theme for 2024 is: Charity: The First of the Church.

The Lord clearly teaches that, "Charity is the first of the church." (Arcana Coelestia 1091) When there is no charity, there is no church! (see Doctrine of Faith 69) Of course, when asked which commandment is the first of all, the Lord famously said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God from thy whole heart...and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Mark 12:29-31) In many ways this is a simple teaching. Yet we struggle as to what is the most charitable thing to do at times. There are various aspects to the doctrine of "Charity" that must be understood if we want to practice charity well and truly make charity the first of our church! This year at Jacob's Creek Family Retreat we will focus on teachings that help us better understand what genuine charity IS and HOW we can better practice genuine charity in our day-to-day lives.

This year's pastoral staff will include myself, Reverend Coleman Glenn and others to be announced soon. This year's retreat directors are Jamie and Julie Uber. (Note that Andrea and Bradley Cranch are taking a year off to focus on their sons' weddings!) With the help of MANY other dedicated volunteers as well, this promises to be another great year! We urge you to register early, because we are capping attendance at 150. If you know of friends who would enjoy Jacob's Creek, please invite them. We look forward to welcoming one and all!

Rev. Matthew Genzlinger (Jacob's Creek Family Retreat Pastor)jacobscreekfamilyretreat@gmail.comwww.jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org

### **History Corner:**

Describing just how the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Assembly came about.

By Robert C. Scott

Delivered at the Banquet of the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian National Assembly, held at the Carmel Church in Kitchener, ON, May 16 – 18, 1986

There once was a Bishop named King, Who thought Canada's weather's the thing. Yes, I'll take to the air and I'll travel up there, But first I'll give Chris Smith a ring.

Now Chris was stricken with fear. Oh no! My boss coming here? I'd better make plans for a meeting of clans, I'll call Geoffrey C., that old dear!

Now Geoffrey he said "Not a chance! I t's Kitchener's problem, that's my stance. I 'll bring down my flock for a wee bit of talk, But it's you who's on stage, you who'll dance." Now poor old Chris was on the spot. And he leaned on Denis Kuhl quite a lot. "You run the whole show or I'll send you below. I'm enlisting you – like it or not!"

So Denis, he gave it his best. He tried to get help from the rest. And people pitched in and saved Christopher's skin, But of him Denis has one request.

"What you asked me to do was bizarre. Your threat drove me into the Bar. So if ever again Louis B. boards a plane, Make all your demands on a Schnarr!"

As reported in the New Church Canadian, Issue #34, Fall, 1986



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

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Join us at the 2nd annual Cascadia Church Retreat to make connections, engage in spiritual development, spread joy and belong to a community.

Pastors: Rev. Ethan McCardell, Rev. Philip Schnarr

Where: Cornet Bay Retreat Center Deception Pass, WA

**Recommended Fee** (pay what you can): Fee helps cover the cost of 4 days of meals<sup>\*</sup>, lodging, and activities

> **\$180** USD/**\$240** CAD per adult (18-64) **\$150** USD/**\$200** CAD per senior (65+) **\$75** USD/**\$100** CAD per youth (3-17) Free for babies (0-2)

**On Site Lodging:** Group lodges, tenting, or RVs Bedding, RVs, and tenting gear are not provided Additional lodging available at local hotels and vacation rentals (costs not covered)

#### www.cascadianewchurch.org/retreat-2024

\*Menu includes options for dietary preferences/restrictions (i.e. vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free)





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General Church in Canada Worship Services

Carmel New Church Kitchener, ON



In Person and Online 11.00am Dawson Creek New Church Dawson Creek, BC



Olivet New Church Etobicoke, ON

10:30am In Person and Online





Editorial Deadline for the JULY—AUGUST ISSUE JUNE 28, 2024

We always welcome your comments, letters and articles!

Please send submissions to Sandy Kuhl, Editor NCC 8 Marshall Avenue, RR #1, Ayr, ON N0B 1E0 Phone: 519-696-2070 Email: <u>sandy.c.kuhl@gmail.com</u>



