

New Church Canadian

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the General
Church in Canada



THE FUTURE

By Rev. Todd Beiswenger

What keeps you up at night? Is it the anticipation of another great day?! Or is it the worry of impending doom? I suspect for most of us, it is more the latter than the former. What often gives me a restless night is the worry that I'm going to oversleep and miss my flight. Hasn't happened yet, mind you, but that doesn't keep me from worrying about it. Other times it can be a concern over what is happening or not happening at work. Do I have all my work done? Have I done a good enough job? Will people appreciate what I have done? Whatever the specific nature of the concern, they all have one thing in common: they are concerns about the future.

I'm comforted to know that it isn't just me. We all worry about the future, and so we do our best to predict it, and avoid unhappy outcomes (though studies suggest we're not actually very good at that). Prediction of the future is something we humans spend a lot of time on, this despite Jesus' teachings to not worry about it. He says, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own (Matthew 6:34)." But we do worry about tomorrow. A lot. We worry about having enough money for retirement, about what the weather is going to be, about our jobs, how our kids are going to turn out, whether the Terminator movies are Sci-Fi or prophecy and, of course, death. That's the big one. When are we going to die? Will our loved ones die? Similarly, we worry about whether death is going to come from something preventable.

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From the Editor



Now there are plenty of people out there who have developed a plan to cheat death. For some it is being frozen, others it is a diet and/or exercise program. One fellow who has caught my attention is betting on robots to ensure his eternity on earth. His name is Raymond Kurzweil. Ever heard of him? Kurzweil was born in 1948. In 1963, at age fifteen, he wrote his first computer program. He created a pattern-recognition software program that analyzed the works of classical composers, and then synthesized its own songs in similar styles. In 1965, he was invited to appear on the television program I've Got a Secret, where he performed a piano piece that was composed by a computer he also had built.

Since then, he's been a leading inventor and predictor of the technological future. His predictions aren't always right of course, but often they are. In 1983 he predicted the explosive growth and impact of the internet, as well as that a computer would be able to beat the best human chess players by the year 2000. It happened in 1997. These are just a couple highlights as we don't have space for more, but suffice it to say his predictions about technological advances and invention credentials make him worth listening to.

I mention these accurate predictions though as background to this view of the future which best summarized as such:

He claims to know that 20 to 25 years from now, we will have millions of blood-cell sized devices, known as nanobots, inside our bodies fighting against diseases, improving our memory, and cognitive abilities. Kurzweil claims ... that around 2045, "the pace of change will be so astonishingly quick that we won't be able to keep up, unless we enhance our own intelligence by merging with the intelligent machines we are creating". Shortly after, Kurzweil claims to know that humans will be a hybrid of biological and non-biological intelligence that becomes increasingly dominated by its non-biological component. He stresses that "AI is not an intelligent invasion from Mars. These are brain extenders that we have created to expand our own mental reach. They are part of our civilization. They are part of who we are. So over the next few decades our human-machine civilization will become increasingly dominated by its non-biological component.

Thank you Wikipedia.

This view of the future sure puts a different spin on this quote from True Christian Religion: "at the time of the Lord's coming the scientific, the rational and the spiritual will make one, and that the scientific will then serve the rational, and both the spiritual. (TCR 200)" Somehow I don't think having a life meshed with microscopic robots in our body is what Swedenborg envisioned when he wrote that the scientific would serve the spiritual.

But that this human hybrid future could become reality doesn't feel too far fetched to me. Kurzweil states that technology advances exponentially, not linearly, so as we look into the future we have to have a mind wide open to the possibilities. How do we see such a future? Are we afraid of it? Does this add to our spiritual growth or is it just another human attempt to overthrow God? More importantly, does it eliminate the fear of death? That's what Kurzweil is predicting and chasing: making death a choice. So much for the inevitability of death and taxes!

I'm all for freedom, but this feels like we're missing something here. The Lord does not want us

to fear death! He tells us that there is no need to fear death! Swedenborg writes:

[These spirits] instilled that calm and delight into me I felt it filling my chest and heart; at the same time those desires and anxious cares about things to come which lead to the absence of peace and joy, disturbing the mind and creating all kinds of turmoil there, were removed... Those spirits told me that their people have no fear of death, except for the little they have over the loss of husband or wife and of children. They have no fear of it because they know for certain that the death of the body is a continuation of life, and that subsequently they become all the happier... [D]ying is not called dying by them but being “heavenized.” (AC 8113, 8850)

Being “heavenized” puts a different spin on it, doesn't it? This seems to me to be the way that we are to live. Not in fear of death, but rather seeing this world for what it is - a school - and seeing our departure from it as a continuation or graduation into a new and happier place. But the trouble is that so many of us just don't believe in it anymore. We *hope* there is an afterlife, and many *believe* there is an afterlife, but really, we should know there is an afterlife.



Several of years ago, when I was promoting the church at a Mind, Body and Spirit show, I was talking to a fellow exhibitor and we were observing all the people who were in line to talk with the psychics to have their future told. “A lot of scared people over there.” he said. I'd never thought of it that way before, but I've come to think he's right. A lot of those people are probably eager to have a glimpse of their future are likely worried about it. Perhaps they're looking to reconnect with a heavenized loved one, or want to know if their current relationship will last... but no matter what it is they're looking for, aren't they looking because they're hoping or believing, but not knowing? Isn't this at the core of Kurzweil's hope for the future? That he won't have to go through the indignity of death, and that nobody will ever have to feel the pain of losing somebody dear to them.

It sounds good in a way, but ultimately it is another case of us thinking we know what is better for ourselves than the Lord does. Somewhere, the devil is laughing. Just as he tricked Esau into despising and giving away his inheritance (see Genesis 25), his birthright, for some stew, he's tricking us into forgoing our birthright – an eternity of peace and happiness beyond our comprehension – for an extended stay on this crummy rock.

Now, in once sense we can say, “No big deal” if people want to live forever on earth. Kurzweil assures that the problems of climate change, overpopulation, ability to produce food, etc., will also be addressed by technology, so we don't have to worry about them either. More importantly, there seems to be a real benefit to getting beyond the fear of death.

A man named Robert Monroe, who is known for being able to intentionally have out of body experiences, describes a potential future and the benefits for humanity if we actually can get past the fear of death. In one of his experiences he meets up with some beings that take him on a journey to see this potential future for the Earth, sometime beyond the year 3000. He says things will indeed be very different, and not in a human cyborg kind of way. In fact, instead of people having to remember that there is more to them than their physical bodies, people in the future have to remind themselves that there is more to them than their spiritual or energetic bodies. The changes he sees in this future as a result of this shift are dramatic.

*[D]ying is not called
dying by them but
being
“heavenized.”*

AC 8850

As he flies over various places around the world he notices that balance has returned to the ecosystem. There are no buildings, roads, cars, ships, or planes... not much of anything really. Everything looks pristine. There are beautiful gardens, and while he is told there are homes for the people, where ever these homes are he cannot find them. The people for the most part live outside their physical body. They still have one though. No need for microscopic robots to enhance it

either. They've figured out how to project what Monroe calls a “resonant energy balloon” that protects the body from anything: viruses, mosquitoes, bears, you name it. Not to mention we've learned how to consume such a small amount of food that the production of it is also a non-issue. The Earth is absolutely beautiful. He observes that humanity “finally got its act together.” Indeed.

So what kind of magic is this that we stop worrying about death and then all of a sudden become a bunch of peace 'n love tree hugging hippies? How does that work? The way he describes the Earth is that in our current time we have a lot of interference in our spiritual atmosphere that prevents God's energy from getting to us. Where does the interference come from? Us, of course. More specifically, it's from people who have passed on from their physical existence, but haven't moved on. They're people who are so focused on their life here, or have such a love of the world that they stay connected with Earth. Because they haven't moved on, they've basically gummed up the system. However, in this potential future these bands of interference no longer exist. Instead they are replaced with a beautiful crystal ring that would look like Saturn's rings. The energy of God now gets through cleanly and clearly.

This description of people sticking around the Earth longer than they're supposed to is a common observation with others who have had psychic experiences. George Ritchie describes people who are stuck here because they refuse to look up and see God and the angels trying to raise them higher. All they do is look down and keep their base thinking, and the worries of their life: what does this person think of me, this job has to get done, there's a lot of money to be made... you know, the kind of worries we all have that basically relate to the future.

The teachings for the New Church give us a similar message and warning about worrying about the future:

Those who have worried much about the future, and more so those who have as a consequence become grasping and avaricious, appear in the region where the

stomach is situated. Many have appeared to me there. The sphere of their life may be likened to a nauseating smell emitted from the stomach and also to an ache caused by indigestion. People like these remain in that region for a long time, for worries about the future, when these are compounded by the way such people act, seriously impair and slow down the inflow of spiritual life. This is because these people assign to themselves that which is the business of Divine Providence, and those who do this put a stop to that inflow and so cut themselves off from the life of goodness and truth. (AC 5177)

Do you see the similarities between this and Monroe's ideas? "People like these remain in that region for a long time," and that seems to be what Monroe sees too. But more importantly is the line

stating that worrying about the future compounded by the way they act "seriously impair[s] and slow[s] down the inflow of spiritual life." This feels like it is exactly what Monroe is talking about. Our worrying over the future is interfering with the Lord's love and wisdom reaching us. Because we are trying to do the work of Divine Providence we are cutting ourselves off from the life of goodness and truth.

Think about all the debates that rage over the environment, wars, money, politics... they all disappear when we make the choice to stop worrying about the future, when we stop chasing the fountain of physical youth. As we stop focusing on the troubles of our life, we are able to lift our thoughts and actually receive God's love and wisdom in a purer way. We'll regain the ability to see the spiritual realm while still here and people will no longer have to hope or believe in the next life, they will know! It will take some time for us to get there, but in the grand scheme of things another 1000 years or so really isn't that long. Unfortunately you and I won't get to see it... well, unless of course you become a cyborg first that is.

SINCERE GRATITUDE

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to GCIC for making it possible for our children, Scott, Serena, Savannah and Lucas to attend the Academy of the New Church. Your support has opened doors to brighter futures, and we are truly thankful for your generosity and commitment to New Church education.

Sincerely,
The Hasen family, Hill Family, and Tait Family



PROGRESSIVE NEWS

At the GCIC Board meeting on Sep 13th, the motion was passed to create a new, joint, **International HR Manager** position providing full time assistance for the General Church and the General Church in Canada.

Val Younan will take on this new mandate, adding much needed bandwidth to the GC International while also ensuring Canadian needs continue to be served – in fact with more capacity than before. Val previously assisted the GC on a variety of projects, but as a valued consultant. This move formalizes her growing involvement with both organizations and ensures we can continue to provide professional support for staff in Canada but also in other regions. The funding for this new position will be split between the General Church Intl. and the GCIC.

Support for local Congregations

There will be no operational change – Val will continue to be available for all local HR related matters as before. A significant benefit of this change for Carmel and Olivet will be budget relief as the GCIC will be covering all costs.

Please join Karen Stoeller and me in congratulating Val on taking on this exciting new role.

Sincerely,

Lee Horigan
GCIC Administrator

Karen Stoeller
GC Director of Human Resources

INTRODUCTION SERIES TO LOGOPRAXIS

Starting February 9, 2026

As the New Church, we have access to and teach an abundance of ideas. However, what we struggle to provide is guidance on exactly how to engage in reading the WORD in a practical way so that the Lord can challenge us, teach us, and help us make meaningful change. True learning is from the Lord alone. Logopraxis Life Groups goes a long way in filling this gap. In this introduction series of 8 Life Group meetings (run Bi-Weekly), you will learn all the basic ideas to help guide you in practicing the WORD in the life of your mind. No amount of mental strength can make the heart humble before the Lord; it is only through application and practice that the Lord can effect change. This program invites you to engage the WORD in a way



that you have never done before and discover the power of the Lord's WORD in deep and beautiful new ways.

Logopraxis is not a sharing group, but a working group. We have all been given freedom and the ability to compel ourselves. There is no higher purpose for these gifts than to use them in our personal spiritual work. You will be asked to commit to reading the WORD and to do your own inner work, and then to bring your work to the group. Logopraxis provides the structural foundation for inner spiritual work. It may not be for everyone. The Logopraxis Life Groups also facilitate the development of a deep spiritual community.

Across 8 bi-weekly sessions, you'll be guided through:

-  The Six Step Logopraxis Cycle: a structured rhythm of reading, reflection, and spiritual tasking.
-  Spiritual Literacy: learning to “read” your thoughts and affections in light of Divine truth.
-  Inner Observation: seeing the proprium (our selfish sense of self) at work in everyday life and experiencing the freeing power of insight into this (proprium) and its disconnection from Divine life.
-  Life Group Practice: participating in a collective spiritual body, mirroring the Divine Human form.
-  Regeneration in Action: discovering how failure becomes success, and how resistance reveals the path to transformation.

Each session combines readings from Swedenborg's book Heaven and Hell with personal task reflections and small group work, helping you embody the Word in your daily life. Whether you're new to spiritual practice or seeking deeper alignment, this course offers a living framework for awakening, healing, and Divine connection.

Readings will begin during the week of 9th February 2026, and the first Life Group meetings will be 2 weeks after the first reading post.

From Carmel, we will be hosting an Online Group on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm and an In-person Group on Friday evenings at 7:00pm. Interested persons can contact Pastor Mark Allais.

If the Carmel days and times do not suit, as a global community, various alternative days and times will be on offer to accommodate different schedule, send an email to logopraxis.institute@gmail.com.

To find out more about Logopraxis Visit: <https://logopraxis-institute.online/>

FROM THE REGIONAL PASTOR

By Rev. Jim Cooper

We should note the passing on October 18 of the Rev. William H. Clifford, former pastor of the Dawson Creek Society. He had been suffering from congestive heart failure for some time, and passed peacefully into the spiritual world at home in the presence of his family. Arriving in Dawson Creek, B.C., to serve as resident pastor in 1976, Bill also travelled widely providing pastoral services to the isolated in the Canadian West for the next ten years. Looking at his records in New Church Life, Bill officiated at an amazing number of baptisms and weddings during that period, touching many lives on the way. Messages can be sent to Marcia at marcia_clifford@comcast.net (note the underline character between “marcia” and “clifford”).

FROM THE EVP OF THE GCIC

By Rev. Jim Cooper

The Toronto Society recently hosted a very successful Young People’s Weekend which attracted young people from a number of congregations as far flung as Bryn Athyn and Glenview. The GCIC is de-lighted to be able to provide financial support to ensure these valuable experiences continue.

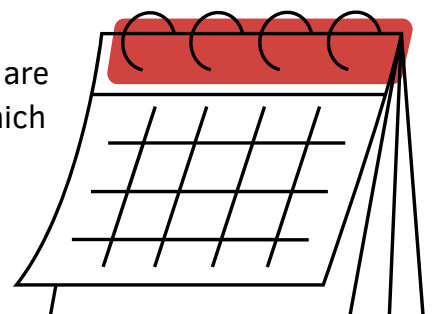
The next meeting of the GCIC Board will be on November 15 where, in addition to planning the budget for 2026, we’ll be considering some interesting proposals for outreach. At this point our major expenditures are primarily for ministerial services and travel, grants for outreach to Canadian congregations, and support for students who wish to attend the Academy Schools. Suggestions are welcome for other projects that would support the growth of the New Church in Canada.

Calendar items:

Bishop Lindrooth is the Assistant Bishop whose portfolio now includes Canada, so he wants to visit the various centers to meet people and get a feel for what’s happening here. Bishop David Lindrooth will be visiting Toronto on the weekend of October 25-26, and Carydale the weekend of Nov. 1-2. He will also be visiting Vancouver to conduct the Cascadia live service on Nov. 15-16. Finally, he is scheduled to visit Dawson Creek Jan. 10-11, 2026.

Bishop Buss will be visiting Toronto the weekend of Nov. 22-23 as part of his regular tour around the various church centres throughout the world.

Remember that you can find information about when church services are held in various places by consulting our website at NewChurch.ca. which has links to the various congregations calendars.



GCIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

By Karen Cooper, GCIC Secretary

Your representatives on the General Church in Canada board of directors realized that it might be useful to publish regular updates so that you, the members of GCIC, can see what sorts of things we actually talk about! The following is a summary of the meeting that we held recently, and you can expect regular summaries to be forthcoming in future issues. (And just fyi, all of our meetings are held on Zoom, which allows directors from all over Canada attend.)

We started with a reading from TCR 485, and Rev. Jim Cooper reminded us that the whole point of our existence on earth is to be in spiritual freedom so that we can purposefully choose Heaven. The church's job therefore, is to help people get the tools, knowledge and support to make wise choices to lead them towards Heaven.

We had a special guest at this meeting, Bishop David Lindrooth from Bryn Athyn. Brad Heinrichs was formerly the bishop for Canada, but he and Dave have now switched roles. Appropriately, Dave would like to get to know Canada, and the church in Canada, better! So he attended our meeting, and is making plans to visit the congregations and circles in person during the coming year. Bishop Lindrooth briefly talked about how the primary goal of Divine Providence is to unite love and wisdom, and the goal of our church truly being a place where love and wisdom are united in a visible way.

The GCIC management is in the process of reviewing our bylaws with an eye to modernization. One concept would be to change the title of the Bishop appointed Executive Vice President to become the President and convert the role of Administrator to EVP, presuming both roles would be held by Canadian residents. If any formal changes will be recommended, they must be approved by the membership.

Two years ago, the GCIC sponsored a visit from Rev. Mandla Stole from South Africa to visit both Maple and Living Waters camps. This gave him valuable experience to help him run similar camps back at home. In the summer of 2026 we are hoping to sponsor Rev. Kuro Etube-Metta from Nigeria for a similar visit, and possibly to preach in one of our churches as well.

In the years when there is not a full set of clergy meetings in Bryn Athyn, regional meetings are held. There is a good chance that Canada (southern Ontario) will once again host a regional meeting in the near future, and the GCIC helps to cover those expenses.

The board has started a discussion about how the various camps that we sponsor are paid for. Current processes are ad hoc and the Treasurer is looking to add better structure. The preference would be to grant a fixed sum and have camp organizers manage fees and expenses within a budget.

In other news:

- The New Church Canadian now has a new editor: Lindsay Hyatt. We are most grateful to Sandy (and Denis) for their years of capable guidance.
- The Board approved the creation of a new International HR Manager role, split 50-50 with the General Church. Val Younan has transitioned from her previous advisory role to take on this exciting mandate. Local congregations can continue to benefit from Val's expertise with the added benefit of no longer bearing any HR Costs.
- Inspired by the success that the Carmel Church and School has been having with their recruiter/marketing person (Pam Neath), Olivet Church and School asked the GCIC for similar financial assistance to create a parallel role. Lindsay Hyatt has been hired to fill this position.
- Michael Cowley gave us an update on his job as the travelling minister in Canada, something he very much enjoys doing.
- The GCIC Investment Committee would love to have some new members! So if any of you are interested in investing and finance and could help, please contact Lee Horigan or Frank Raymond.

FROM THE EDITOR

Lindsay Hyatt

Two quick notes from me:

If you'd like to switch from receiving a physical copy of the newsletter to an email version, please reach out to me at NCCEditor@outlook.com.

Also, if you feel inspired to submit an article, letter, comment, or picture — please do! Your contributions are what make this newsletter so special. Have you participated in a New Church program or event recently? I'd love to hear about your experience.

Our next newsletter deadline is **December 19, 2025**.





General Church In Canada

newchurch.ca

Administrative Office

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
Etobicoke, ON M9B 1Z6

Phone: 416-239-3054

Fax: 416-239-4935

Rev. James P. Cooper
Executive V.P.

rev.james.cooper@gmail.com

Lee Horigan, Administrator
Horigan@outlook.com

**Editorial Deadline for the
January-February 2026 Issue:
December 19, 2025**

Comments, letters and articles are welcome!

Please send submissions to Lindsay Hyatt

32 West Deane Park Drive,
Etobicoke ON M9B 2R8

Phone: 416-347-4414

email: NCCEditor@outlook.com

Carmel New Church and School

40 Chapel Hill Drive, Kitchener,
ON N2R 1N2

Phone: 519-748-5802

Rev. Mark B. Allais, Pastor
pastor@carmelnewchurch.org

Stephanie Kuhl, Principal
Grades K-8
principal@carmelnewchurchschool.org

Dawson Creek New Church

9013 - 8th Street, Dawson Creek,
BC V1G 3N3

Phone: 250-782-8035

www.facebook.com/DawsonCreekNewChurch
and

Grande Prairie & DeBolt Circle

Pastoral Contact: Rev. Michael Cowley
revmichaelcowley@gmail.com

Olivet New Church and School

279 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke,
ON M9B 1Z6

Phone: 416-239-3054

Fax: 416-239-4935

Rev. Todd J. Beiswenger, Pastor
pastor@olivetnewchurch.org

Emily Crampton, Principal
Grade K-5
principal@olivetnewchurch.org

General Church in Canada Worship Services



Carmel New Church
Kitchener, ON
11 AM Sunday
in person & online



Dawson Creek New Church
Dawson Creek, BC

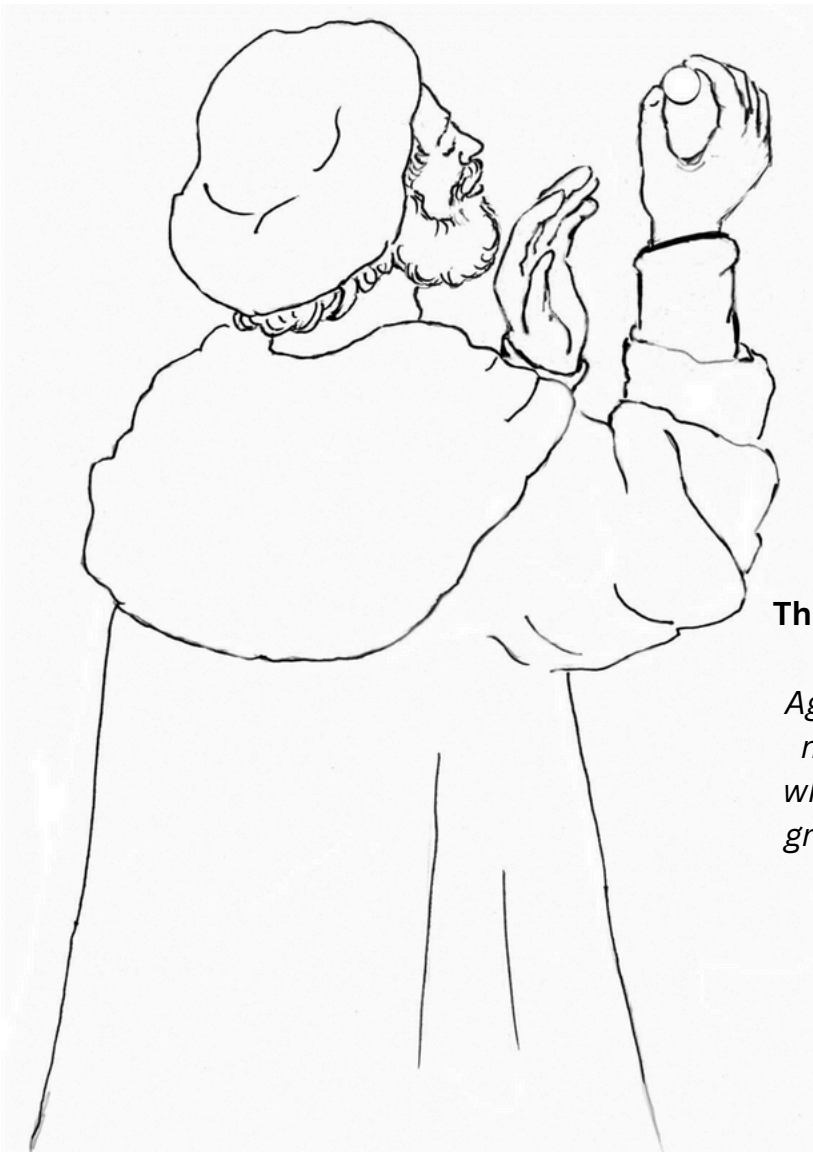


Olivet New Church
Etobicoke, ON
10:30 AM Sunday
in person & online



New Church Canadian

c/o 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
Etobicoke, ON, CANADA
M9B 1Z6



The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

Matthew 13:45-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Heaven Is Like a Pearl of Great Price
Coloring Page by Marguerite L. Acton