

New Church Canadian

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the General Church in Canada



THE RULE OF 30

By Rev. James Cooper

From time to time, I speak to a widow or widower who has been left behind in the natural world for a long time. I have sometimes heard from them that there is great sorrow when they reach the 30th year because, they believe, it means their spouse is no longer waiting for them in the world of spirits but has gone on to heaven without them. They believe this to be true because they've heard that "no one stays in the World of Spirits for more than 30 years." Since Heaven and Hell 426 says that in so many words, they have good reason to think so. But what does that teaching really mean in our world? Does it apply in the way we think it does?

People are fond of saying that there is "no time and space in heaven" which is another thing that needs to be understood in context. When Swedenborg says there is no time in space in heaven, it means as we experience time and space in the natural world. When he says that, he is getting ready to explain how time and space in the spiritual world are different from time and space in the natural world – not that they don't exist at all (See Heaven and Hell 162 ff). He describes how an angel's day is divided into morning, afternoon, and evening and how there are different activities for the different parts of the day. That's time. He also describes how angels have homes that are distinctly and uniquely their own, lovely homes that are perfect reflections of their own loves and character. Angels know where their homes are. They can go visit friends somewhere else and find their way home again. It's

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just where they left it. That's space. So, we can see that heaven really does have both time and space, it's just that they are measured by states of love and wisdom which are spiritual things rather than the relative positions of natural things like stars, planets, and their moons.

So, if Swedenborg knows that in the spiritual world the notions of time and space are quite different from how they are perceived in the world of nature, why does he say that no one stays in the World of Spirits for

more than 30 years, a measure of natural time that has no meaning in the spiritual world? My conclusion is that what he is trying to convey is how that process feels to the spirit that is passing through those states.

Imagine, if you will, that you were giving a spirit an exit interview as he was finishing up his work in the World of Spirits and getting ready to move on to his permanent home in heaven. You ask him, "so, how long did it take?" He responds, "You know, I was a very confused person when I first came here. I had so many different ideas about things that it was really hard to sort out what was true from what was false, what was right from what was wrong. But the teachers here are so patient. They wouldn't quit on me. They gently led me by showing me what was really in my own heart and helped me find the way. But I was a hard case. It seemed like it took 30 years! But now I'm truly ready for life in heaven."

If a spirit said that it felt like 30 years in spiritual time, how long would that be in natural time? Exactly. You really can't do the math. There's no fixed ratio between the natural and the spiritual. The important thing here is the other statements about spouses waiting to be reunited. For them it will be like Jacob working 7 years for Rachel, "So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed but a few days to him because of the love he had for her" (Genesis 29:20).

Although there are always exceptions, it seems that the thrust of Heaven and Hell 494 and Conjugal Love 45 ff is to reassure those of us still in the world that earthly relationships are preserved and do matter to spirits. When we ourselves arrive in the World of Spirits we will be greeted by family and friends, and the reunion with a beloved spouse that's gone before will be especially sweet. There's no statute of limitations on love.

"There is no fixed limit to our stay there. ... Some stay there for a few weeks, some for a number of years, though not more than thirty. The variations in length of stay occur because of the correspondence or lack of correspondence between our deeper and our more outward natures." (Heaven and Hell #426)



REMEMBERING ALL THE PEOPLE OF TUMBLER RIDGE

By Rev. James Cooper

This tragedy has left me with no words, so I share these few thoughts from the Lord's Word:

The Lord upholds all who fall, And raises up all those who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing" (Psalm 145:8-9, 14-16).

"But 'weeping' signifies the last farewell, and therefore it was customary to weep for the dead when they were buried, although it was known that only the dead body was rejected by burial, and that they who had been therein were alive in respect to their interiors" (AC 4565).

"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ... Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God..." (LUK 12:4-7).

"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ... Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" (MAT 18:10, 14).



THETA ALPHA LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

Eligibility: 15–16-year-old girls worldwide (Sophomores in HS in the US)

Prizes: 1st Place \$200 USD, 2nd Place \$150 USD, 3rd Place \$100 USD

Suggested Length: 500-600 words (two pages double-spaced)

Topic: Your Laws of Life.



"**Laws of Life**" are a set of rules, ideals, or principles by which a person chooses to live. What is important to you? What ideals do you hold deep in your heart? Think about the people and experiences that have helped you form these laws. Pick a topic to write about:

1. A personal experience/lesson learned that affects how you live/view your life now.
2. An aphorism or quote that inspires or guides you.
3. You can use an analogy, a quotation, a story, or a parable.
4. No personal romantic relationships

Form for Submission:

1. Essays are to be in English (Google Translate can be used for this purpose).
2. No name or identification can be on the paper itself to allow impartial judging.
3. Name and address need to be included in the envelope or email.

Submissions are to be sent to Theta Alpha International PO Box 154, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009, USA, or emailed to scholarships@thetaalphainternational.org. They must be received by March 27, 2026.

For examples view the Theta Alpha Journal May 2016 (Pages 18, 21, 24) from NewChurch.org



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

*We look forward to welcoming campers
Friday, June 26 – Wednesday, July 1, 2026.*

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 BLESSINGS.

"...I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing."

~ Genesis 12:2 ~

Want to register or get more information?

Please visit maplecamp.com or contact

Stephanie Kuhl, Camp Director, regarding any questions
at gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com

Facebook: @MapleLeafAcademy | Instagram: @MapleLeafCamp

Maple has been serving New Church youth since 1969; it is sponsored by the General Church in Canada and is 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 12**.



WOMEN'S WEEKENDS: INTERESTED?



To the ladies out there: gathering with other like-minded women, especially in a world where spirituality so often takes a back seat and so few have even heard of the New Church (let alone share the faith), can be really fulfilling. While living in Australia, I invited New Church-minded women from across the country to get together for women's weekends, to learn, do, eat, have fun and just be together. Does something like this appeal to you?

There are no plans, yet: at this point I'm just trying to gauge interest. No date has been set (probably a Friday dinner through Sunday lunch) and no location has been selected (probably in an Airbnb or Christian conference venue in Southern Ontario), but women – any New-Christian-minded woman aged mature teen & up – from across Canada would be welcome to participate, live or via zoom (presuming we gather somewhere that offers that capability!). The weekend would consist of relevant presentations, a charitable project, a meditation, games/down-time/other relaxing activities and food, either catered or self-catered depending on the venue. The cost would hopefully be less than \$300 for the weekend, and financial aid may be available. You'd only need to bring yourself, unless we select a self-catering option in which case we'd divvy up the meals and share the load.

Sound intriguing? Please drop me a line, if you're a woman who is remotely interested – this won't commit you to anything, but it'll give me an idea of whether there's actually enough interest to pursue it and where interested people are located. (Plus it'll get you the inside scoop, when the time comes!) Email Jenn Beiswenger at jenn@beiswenger.net to get on the list or ask any questions. Thanks!



A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

A friendly reminder from your Treasurer that financial support for the uses of the General Church in Canada is now easier than ever. Gifts can be sent via eTransfer directly to the Church from any Canadian bank or banking app.

Simply send an eTransfer to: GCICTreasury@Outlook.com

And the funds will be safely deposited to our account along with direct tracking of your contribution. That makes it easier for us to issue tax receipts and also makes our bookkeeper and auditor happier.

For all those who presently support the Church in volunteer time and financially, a heartfelt “Thank you”!

REPORT ON THE REGIONAL CLERGY MEETINGS

JANUARY 26-30, 2026 IN TORONTO

By Rev. James Cooper

The General Church has a tradition of having the clergy meeting annually. There are several reasons for this: One reason is just spending time with other people who know what the job entails. It's also a place where we can present ideas we've been working on that are not quite ready for prime time and get feedback or just hear what others have been doing that might work well in your home congregation. The full meetings in Bryn Athyn are useful but can be intimidating, so we regularly break up into smaller groups where everyone can present a topic or study and participate in the discussion. We usually meet by region, but we often bring someone in from far afield to get to know them and hear some new ideas. The first of the several Regional meetings for 2026 was held in Toronto, hosted by Rt. Rev. David Lindrooth, Assistant Bishop responsible for Canada.

We met at an airport hotel with a conference centre. Being close to a major airport meant that there were lots of flights to choose from for people coming from places like California and Sweden, and there was a shuttle bus that made frequent runs, so no one needed to rent a car. We needed to be in the middle of the week so that everyone could preach the Sunday before and the Sunday after, and the group was large enough that neither Olivet nor Carmel would be able to host it without severe disruption to the school day. Also, a conference centre provided hi-tech support, meals, and snacks – and nobody had to leave the building and deal with snow we had in Toronto the day before the meetings.

A total of seventeen ministers were invited to the meetings. From Sweden, Erik Sjodin (Stockholm). From the US West, David Roth (Boulder), Ethan McCardell (Tucson), Jean Atta (Phoenix), and Mark Perry (San Diego), Glenn Alden (Retired), and Phil Schnarr (Retired). From the US Midwest, Erik Buss (Detroit), TJ Jackson (Detroit), Mark Pendleton (Glenview), and Elmo Acton (Glenview). From Canada Todd Beiswenger (Toronto), Mark Allais (Kitchener), Michael Cowley (Dawson Creek & Grande Prairie), and Jim Cooper (GCIC). And from the General Church, Bishop Brad Heinrichs and Bishop David Lindrooth.

Those wives who were free to travel with their husbands were treated to a variety of activities, such as a visit to the McMichael collection of Canadian art and a tour of downtown Toronto, led by Jenn Beiswenger and Karen Cooper, and the social events in the evenings.

The Sunday before the meetings happened to have the highest one-day snowfall in Toronto since they started recording such things 150 years ago. However, since Canadian airports actually expect that it will snow fairly regularly and have plans and equipment to deal with it, only two participants experienced a delay, and everyone was there by the first coffee break on Tuesday morning.

We decided ahead of time that we would not attempt to have a theme for this meeting, but everyone was invited to bring something that they thought would be fun, interesting, and valuable to their colleagues. Subjects ranged from an introduction to the plans for the Church in Scandinavia, the new lay/clergy effort in the US northwest and Vancouver called "Cascadia,"

the “Healthy Church” project. There were teasers like “The Number Three” and “Aliens” (a new take on Earths in the Universe) with lots of good doctrinal stuff like “Gratitude”, “Prayer for Others,” “New Church Education,” “the Second Coming,” “How to View the Word.” There were discussions about “Medical Assistance in Death” and “Spiritual and Mental Health.”

We closed on Thursday afternoon by taking a small fleet of taxis over to Olivet Church where Bishop Lindrooth led us in worship and Holy Supper. Afterwards, we went downstairs to the church hall where a large number of members and friends of Olivet and Carmel churches were waiting for a meet and greet and sit down supper provided by Olivet and the GCIC. It just happened that we were gathered on Swedenborg’s Birthday, so Bishop Lindrooth (who had been pastor in Stockholm), and Erik Sjodin taught us all how to sing the Swedish version of “Happy Birthday,” and all joined in with enthusiasm.

Another fleet of taxis took everyone back to the hotel and since I haven’t seen any of them since then, I assume they got home safely.

A few words of thanks: First to the General Church In Canada for funding the stay at the conference centre, and the meal for the Thursday evening open house. Secondly to the General Church for sending two Assistant Bishops and covering the transportation expense for all attendees. And finally, to the Olivet Society for allowing us to use the chapel for the Holy Supper service, and especially Naomi Reid for setting up the hall for the open house and organizing the meal.



GCIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY:

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

By Karen Cooper, GCIC Secretary

Our meeting began with several very timely readings from *Divine Providence* from Bishop Lindrooth about how the Lord’s mercy is always extending towards all of us, no matter what state the world is in. We also took several moments to remember those lost and affected by the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge. Jim reminded us that the Lord especially loves children, and even though human bodies are only temporal, and not meant to last to eternity, the Lord never wishes that they should pass before their time.

The GCIC funded a set of Regional Clergy meetings that were held in Toronto in late January. Seventeen ministers from three different countries (Canada, USA and Sweden) met at a hotel near the airport for three days of successful meetings. It is always valuable for the clergy to get together to not only share doctrinal ideas and discussion, but also to appreciate the camaraderie of colleagues who *get* the unique intricacies of being a New Church pastor. Some of the men’s wives were able to come as well, and the host wives shared some fun (albeit chilly) aspects of the Toronto area. It wasn’t just social: being a minister’s wife is a unique role where

the wife is truly her husband's partner in the work of spreading the Lord's love and truth, and being able to connect with other women who are doing the same thing is invaluable. The GCIC received many kind words of thanks for making this event happen.

The GCIC Scholarship Fund cheerfully and generously supports young people who live in Canada and want to attend the Academy of the New Church Secondary Schools or the Bryn Athyn College. Lately there has been a huge upsurge of students (from 2-3/year to 10/year) interested in going to school in Bryn Athyn, and there was some discussion of how this might affect our ability to continue subsidizing costs at the 95% level if enrolments continue to grow. A committee was established to discuss this further. Financially it has an impact, however the board remains committed to encouraging and supporting young people who are interested in New Church education.

The GCIC is paying for several translation projects—books of the Writing into Korean and Spanish, for example. The process that we have been using is unstructured, and we realize that the procedures need to be formalized and better coordinated with the GC central office.

Lee presented the 2025 financial report. We came in slightly under budget and things are going well. In terms of our investments, it didn't do quite as well as we might have wished this year, but our income was still greater than our expenses, so our endowment remains healthy.

Denis deChazal from Montreal wants to head up a new Outreach Committee that will work towards placing Swedenborgian literature in local bookstores and libraries. Not only that, but he also recommends that people ask about New Church books to possibly spark some interest. This committee is looking for people to help in the effort (we currently have individuals from Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver who are willing to help—but we can always use more!). The board allocated some funds to help this initiative up and running.

Michael Cowley reported on his travels (primarily to Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie) and the work he continues to do. He was especially moved to try to help mitigate the pain and sadness around the Tumbler Ridge shooting, as these are his people.

Our next meeting will be held on the afternoon of May 23rd, just preceding the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be a hybrid meeting, with the in-person component taking place at the Olivet Church. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm, with the meeting to start at 7:30. If you'd like to attend the dinner, please let me know at least a week ahead of time (karenanncooper@gmail.com). Further details about the meeting (including the Annual Report and a Zoom link) will be coming when we get closer to the date.



to karenanncooper@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Have you participated in a Journey Series? I would love to hear from anyone who has taken part in any of the recent Journey Series offerings. If you feel inspired to write an article reflecting on your experience, please don't hesitate to send it my way!

Have you attended Living Waters Family Camp or Maple Leaf Academy? Your experiences may be just the encouragement a hesitant camper needs to take the leap and try it out. I would love to share your stories.

As always, you are very welcome to write in and share your thoughts or experiences about your life as a New Church Canadian.

To be included in the next issue, all articles must be submitted to me by April 20, 2026. You can email them to me at NCCEditor@outlook.com.

Also, please note: if you were receiving the newsletter by email before the change in editor and are no longer seeing it in your inbox, it may be landing in your spam folder. (If you know someone who has mentioned this, please point them toward me—or toward their spam folder.)

Many thanks,
Lindsay Hyatt



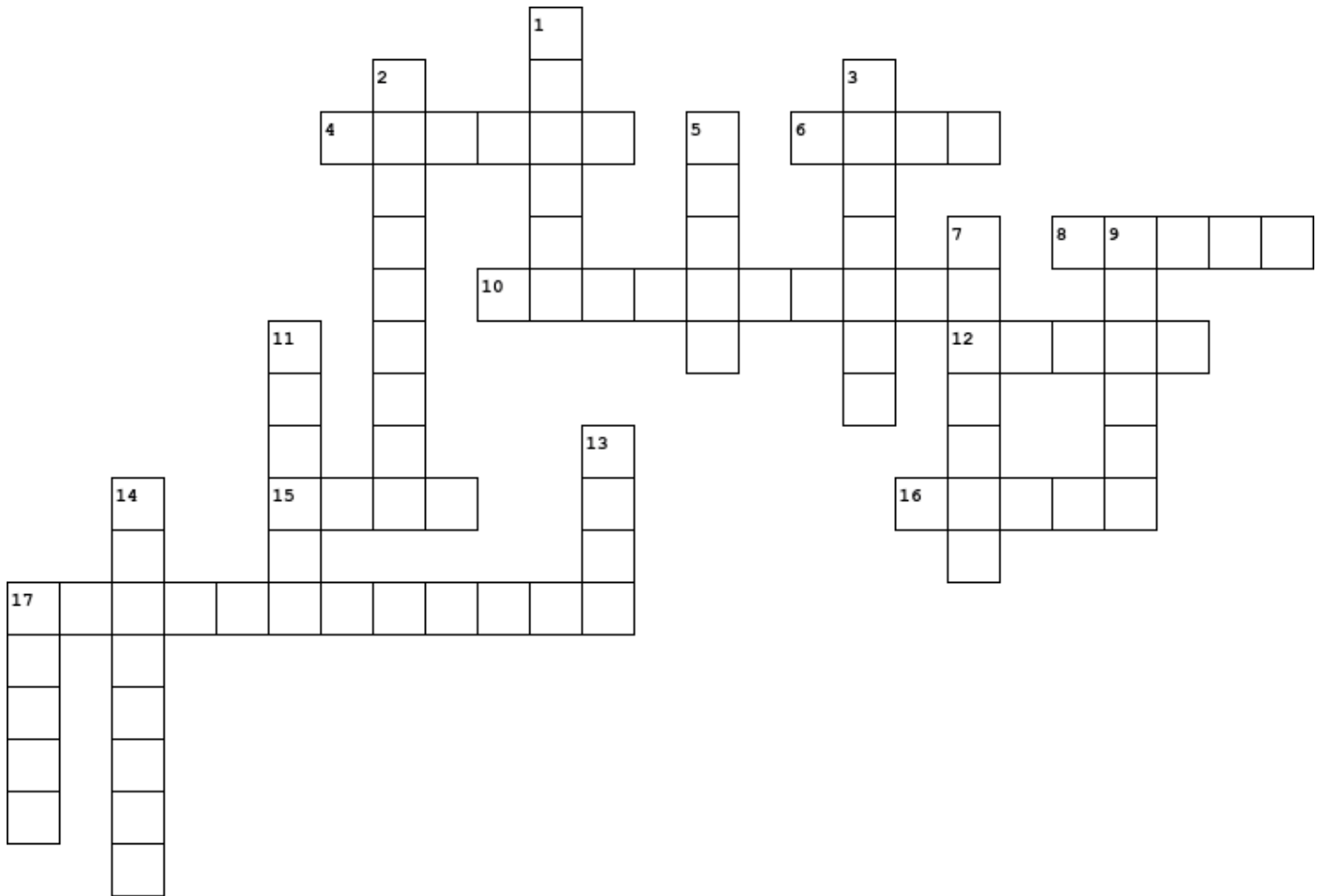
The Ascension of Jesus
(image by Josephine Ellis)

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

(Luke 24: 50-53)

EASTER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

A digital version of this puzzle can be found here: <https://crosswordlabs.com/view/easter-5002>



Across

- 4. The curtain of this place was torn in two
- 6. First name of the woman who discovered the empty tomb
- 8. The large rock rolled away from the tomb entrance
- 10. Garden where Jesus prayed before arrest
- 12. Judas Iscariot's father
- 15. The place where Jesus' body was laid
- 16. Pierced Jesus' hands and feet
- 17. The rising of Jesus from the dead

Down

- 1. Roman governor who sentenced Jesus
- 2. City where the resurrection occurred
- 3. Another name for Golgotha
- 5. The wooden instrument of crucifixion
- 7. Title meaning "Anointed One"
- 9. Placed on Jesus' head before crucifixion
- 11. Christian celebration of the resurrection
- 13. Gospel writer who described the empty tomb
- 14. The Jewish celebration Jesus partook in before being betrayed.
- 17. What the angel declared: "He is ____!"

Answers available on the back page.



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newchurch.ca

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**Editorial Deadline for the
May - June 2026 Issue:
April 20, 2026**

Comments, letters and articles are welcome!

Please send submissions to Lindsay Hyatt

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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

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