

Candela



Newsletter of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc.

Organisational Details are provided on the next page

September 2020

ISSUE 101

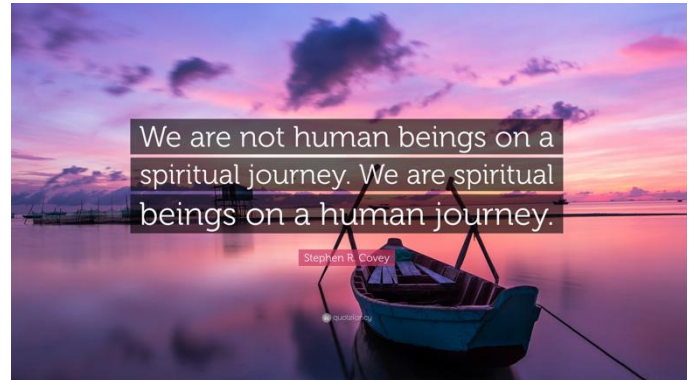
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope that you enjoy this new issue of the 'Candela' and its various items to help you see more of your way on your spiritual path. Talking of which we're told, in the present situation, not to forget to exercise, and most categories include allowances for taking exercise. Many of us have some form of steps-reckoning (do they still make Fitbits?) and it's helpful to know that we've done our 10,000 today or we still have 4,386 to go.

And for reasons I don't need to tell you we are encouraged, told, commanded or sometimes ordered to social distance at all times, although I would like more guidance at exactly who it is to be between.



A third category of things about our place or space is the understandable decision at times to shut borders or refuse to accept people from overseas. This has resulted in Australia having a peculiar appearance of eight separate countries, rather than a federal state, and a relative of mine overseas remarked that Europe has handled all of this on a country by country basis and the European Union (of much 2019 fame) hasn't really taken a single decision.



Well, enough of all this because it can be overwhelming at times. Let's think now about journeys and distances on a more personal level. **Continued on page 2**

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Please note: The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributor and do not necessarily reflect any particular position of the S.A.A. or its committee.

Next Issue – December 2020

Our next issue will be in December, so if you could write something about the incarnation or the meaning of Christmas would be interesting. Or any other spiritual thoughts that you feel able to write about.

The deadline is **15th November 2020**

Email to ruth@duckworth.me or post to the registered office.

Ruth



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Membership of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. is open to anyone who wishes to pursue an interest in Swedenborg, the man, his science and his spiritual teachings.

For details on how to join, call (02) 9416 2812 or browse <http://www.swedenborg.com.au/membership>

* * continued from page 1 * *

Notice immediately that spaces and kilometres no longer apply. Social media, which has been a real godsend (literally?) during lockdowns, school closures and yoga classes, has kept us close together, contactable, and probably sane, even though it doesn't quite substitute for actual physically meeting up.

One of the intriguing spiritual teaching points of Swedenborg is that on the spirit level (excuse the pun) there are no set measurable spaces, gaps or distances. We just gravitate towards others with whom we have an affinity and away from those with whom we have no affinity or even have animosity. This fact shows itself to some degree while we are here in this world, and this will be the main determiner of all our relationships in the spiritual world.

It has to be like this, doesn't it? Our neighbour told me yesterday, after telling

us that they would soon be moving, that at the end of the day life and contentment is really all about personalities. I am sure he was saying that where people get on or are straight with each other, it's great (we might say 'it's heaven'). We are happy when we're with others who make us feel we are an important part of the group and they are important for us too.

This doesn't mean that eternity is going to be spent with people who are almost identical to ourselves. Surely that would inevitably become tedious! Differences are great and we enrich each other as a result. "Opposition is true friendship." (William Blake). But the essential underlying affinity must be present, that of similar beliefs, values, purposes.

So, as the current situation continues, keep your sense of spiritual closeness and hold people near to you in your heart as well as on WhatsApp. Here to reinforce this idea is a great passage from Swedenborg, Arcana Caelestia 1277, part of it: *"...people who are distant from each other some hundreds or thousands of miles, when they appear in a more interior way they can be so near each other that some of them may touch, according to their state. So if there were people on earth whose spiritual eyes were opened, they might be together even though one was in India and another in Europe."*

I wish you well in everything

Julian

Welcome to our new members

We hope that our new members enjoy being a part of our association. Welcome to Mr Alan J Milne from Victoria.



VOICES FROM THE OPEN DOOR

By Christopher V. A. Hasler

Editor's Note

My father wrote this article in 2014 after he was told that he did not have long left to live. He was also struggling with dementia but felt he really needed to write this article. I thought you might enjoy reading it and the link to the book it describes still works so you may be interested to read that too. The subject of death has been more prominent in this year of a pandemic.

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Recently I discovered in my library a book with the title: VOICES FROM THE OPEN DOOR, as recorded by Margaret Scott Houts, an American lady. Published at the Christopher Publishing House, North Quincy, Massachusetts in 1912 it has a Copyright at 1972.

The author was a reader of Swedenborg and she quotes passages from his Writings. The main value of the book is that it deals with the death of any individual—which is followed by the immediate resurrection in the spiritual world in an entirely new spiritual body which we shall have for ever. This gives a good clear account of what happens when we die, which is easy to read. Anyone familiar with the book Heaven and Hell will know about the teachings about the afterlife but may not have read with care the section on The World of Spirits (No. 421-535) where every step we have to go through is carefully explained. Even just reading through the headings for each section will be reassuring about this most important step in our life.....in fact the final step, when we enter our eternal home.

Swedenborg was chosen to describe fully, every detail of the spiritual life which awaits us. He also wrote in some of his other books meticulous details of our eternal life. These are in **Arcana Caelestia** 1880-1884, in **True Christian Religion** 731-752 and 779-812 and through parts of **Conjugal Love**.

The orthodox churches have, of course, three divine persons to deal with and have taught that the physical body has to wait for the Day of Last Judgment when soul and body will be re-united. In this old theology of Father, Son and Holy Spirit it does look as if the Father is prepared to condemn most people, but God the Son can intercede for some and save them. However, in the New Church we have an entirely new theology and worship the One God of heaven and earth—and this is the Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ. He clearly said, *"Who has seen me, has seen the Father."* John 14:9. Moreover he said to the dying man on the cross who asked Jesus to remember him, *"Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."* Luke 23:43.



I

am sure my father will be very happy when my mother joins him in the spiritual world, after 63 years together in this life.

Margaret Houts describes several cases of those who had died, and woken in a spiritual body and simply refused to believe that they had died. They were alive and had a body, so in their minds they were still part of the "old system". I am sure that we all sympathise with the reaction they had. Even after meeting family and friends who they knew had died in the past the new situation was very hard to accept right away.



The conversations they had with their former relatives are quite fascinating. All our former relatives are available to talk to. Sometimes they come of their own accord, others may be called. But just to be able to be re-united must be a very encouraging experience.

However, we also learn about many people who have been selfish and worldly and what is to be done with them? Recall that we are in a very new theology in which the Lord is no longer a punishing God. Far from it! The Lord loves every person He created, so every opportunity is provided for the "newcomer".



Every person receives new clothes and all their needs are provided for in a house. If the person is selfish, or evil, a long process allows the person to change and adopt a new way of life. They are given religious training—in fact everything possible is offered to enable a person to change their former way of life. In short, we should always bear in mind, "God is on my side! He will try everything possible to bring me into heaven.

"If a person's mind and heart is set for selfishness and evil—the Lord will not stop him by force. Somehow this makes us more mature. We, each one of us, is responsible for our life.

Here is an extract from one of the examples of what people meet and see and which leads them to a prolonged time of study and education.

A Vision

When I awoke I fell on my knees and there stood before me a radiant

person that I knew must be the Lord Jesus. He told me not to be afraid, that He had the keys of death and hell, and would deliver his faithful servants who trusted in Him from all their enemies; that He had come to assure me of His love and care and that He has all power in heaven and in earth. This filled me with unspeakable joy and peace and I said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do." He told me to follow a light that would lead me to a place where I should receive instruction and be shown the path that would lead me to heaven. When I looked up again, for I had covered my face from the brightness, I saw no one, and going to the door a light, as of a torch appeared at a little distance, and, as I approached moved before me. I followed and soon entered the grounds about some large buildings, like those of a college or university. As I hesitated about entering, a man of dignified bearing came towards me and asked if I had not been led by a light to this entrance and when I said I had, he grasped my hand and bade me welcome to all the privileges of this school of instruction.

I said, "I did not expect to have to go to school again; I have been a close student of the Bible for many years, especially of the prophecies of both the Old and New Testaments and feel myself prepared to give instruction to the ignorant." "You have come to where there is a different order of things than those to which you have been accustomed and will need to unlearn many things about which you felt sure and then to begin as a little child to learn the foundation truths upon which all right thought of the Lord and His government depends."

I really feel that it will benefit us all to read this book as it shows the encompassing love of the Lord for us all. Some exact reproduction copies are available on Amazon or you can read the book online at the following:-

<https://archive.org/details/voicesfromopend00houtgoog/page/n24/mode/2up>



26 Laws of Spiritual Life

We found this list of 26 Laws of Spiritual Life and thought it would be interesting to look at them in the light of what Swedenborg writes. Quotes are given which comment on the topic of each law.

1. The Law of Allowing: There is freedom in allowing what is to be what it is. This is not disinterest.



Whatever we have done from our freedom in accord with our thinking becomes a permanent part of us. This is because our sense of who we are and our freedom are integral to each other. Our sense of who we are is part of our life, and whatever we do from our life we do freely. Then again, our sense of who we are includes everything that comes from our love, because our love is our life; and whatever we do because of our life's love, we do freely.

Divine Providence 78

2. The Law of Action: It is finally only action that brings anything into true reality.



Within the affection of every angel's will is a latent vein which draws the mind on to the doing of something.

By this, the mind renders itself tranquil and satisfied. This satisfaction and tranquillity induce a state of mind receptive of the love of use from the Lord. From receiving this comes that heavenly happiness which is the life of all joys. In its essence heavenly food is nothing else than love, wisdom and use together, or use coming from love through wisdom.

Conjugal Love 6

3. The Law of Balance: For every action there is a reaction. Life is always striving for balance and equilibrium.



Wassily Kandinsky Yellow-Red-Blue [1925]

When the spiritual mind has been opened, the state of the natural mind changes and becomes obedient to the spiritual mind. This is because the spiritual mind acts upon the natural mind from above and within, and removes the things there which react, and adapts those things which are alike to it, so that excessive reaction is gradually taken away. For in everything that is, there is action and reaction, and so there is an equilibrium of all things.

Divine Love and Wisdom 263

4. The Law of Manifesting: As above, so below.

The light in which angels are comes from Divine wisdom and it is in the same degree as angels'



intelligence and wisdom. Because the light of heaven is Divine wisdom it means that the true character of everyone is recognised in that light. The interiors of anyone lie open to view in their face, just as they are, with not the least thing hidden. Interior angels also love all things to do with them to lie revealed, since they desire and will nothing but good.

Heaven and Hell 131



5. The Law of Spiritual Practice: Practice (in the sense of doing) leads to a deepening of understanding it.



Truth, like everything else which is implanted in someone from childhood, does not become someone's own until they live it and act according to it. This also needs to be done from affection for it and then their will becomes infilled with it. Then it is no longer acted on or done from just knowing it or from some teaching, but from a kind of delight which is unknown. Everyone gets such a disposition for themselves by frequent doing or by making a habit of it.

Arcana Caelestia 3843

6. The Law of Increase: In loving without thought of reward there is the reward of greater love.

Those who do good only with the thought of getting a reward can't possibly know that in doing good without expecting a reward there is happiness so great as to be heavenly happiness itself. The reason they can't know is because they can only think of happiness being in the delight of loving themselves. When such people are told how it really is they are astounded that such happiness exists and they don't believe it and they deny it and they don't want it.

Arcana Caelestia 6391

7. The Law of Awareness: Awareness can and is meant to observe what is illusory (how it seems to us), but not be caught up in it.

A wise person should come to know his intentions. Sometimes it can seem as if these are selfish when in fact they are not. This is partly because it is in our nature to reflect about ourselves in everything. But if anyone wants to know the ends that are there in them, let them

simply pay attention to the delight they feel in themselves when they are praised and made much of and to the delight they feel when doing something without thinking of themselves.



Arcana Caelestia 3796

8. The Law of Respect: Everything and every person is commanded to be given absolute respect.



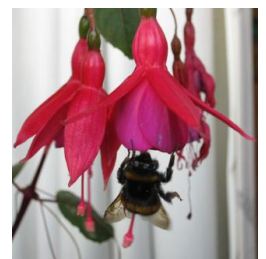
Photo by Chris Kendrick 'Ellery Creek Big Hole'

The nature of Divine influx can be seen from a comparison with similar things that inflow in nature, like the influx of heat from the sun into all the things of the earth from which comes the life of plants. It can be seen from the influx of light into all the things of the earth which is the source of all the beautiful colours; and from the influx of heat onto our bodies, light into our eyes, sound into our ears. From all this it can be known what the universal influx of life from the Lord is.

Arcana Caelestia 6128

9. The Law of Equal Equality: Nothing in the created universe is above or below full equality to anything else.

The Divine is in each and every thing of the created universe so that the created universe is the work of "Jehovah's hands" as it says in the Word, the work of Divine Love and of Divine Wisdom. Yet although the Divine is in each and every





thing of the created universe, there is nothing of the Divine in itself in creation, for the universe is not God but is from God, and because it is from God there is in it an image of God like the image of a man in a mirror.

Divine Love and Wisdom 59

10.The Law of Karma: What goes around comes around.



Whatever a person has done in the life of their body inevitably returns in the next life and so does all that they have even thought. When all these return, the people against whom this person has held hatred or has plotted things becomes immediately present

to him or her. Such is how it is in the next life; harboured thoughts become visible, but it is not like this with those who are in good. With them, all their love and friendships return, and their happiness.

Arcana Caelestia 823

11.The Law of Attraction: We are attracted and inevitably drawn to what we love, and we become so.



Truths that are there with someone get arranged and put in order. Those that are most in agreement to what this person loves are right in the middle, those that are not so much in agreement are put to the sides, and those that don't agree at all with what is loved get thrust away to the outermost circumferences. Those that are right in the middle are called blood-relations which are formed from love, and those which are further away are called connections.

Arcana Caelestia 5530

12.The Law of Cause and Effect: One gets back what one puts out.



Art work Laura Callaghan

Every evil carries its own punishment with it, the evil and the punishment being connected. Whoever is in evil is also in the punishment from evil. Yet no one in the other world suffers punishment because of evils they did in this world, but only on account of evils that they then do. Yet it amounts to the same thing because everyone after death returns into their own life and continues to be the same as they were internally while they lived in the world.

13.The Law of Nourishment: Whatever emotion you feed, you strengthen.



When a person from consent, then intent, and then delight, casts themselves into evil, a hell opens which is like this evil, and it clings to the person and has delight in doing this, and it

presses in until it becomes something which reigns universally with the person. It is the opposite with those who turn themselves towards heaven, except that the process of experiencing heaven increasingly until it reigns universally with them is exactly the same.

Arcana Caelestia 6203 and 6388

14.The Law of Participation: Every thing, person and belief has some aspect of what is true within it.



Everyone in every religion knows the evils and false beliefs that must be shunned, and the goods that must be done and the truths that must be believed, it is clear that this is provided by the Lord as the

universal means of salvation with every nation that has any religion. A Christian sees this from the Word, a Mohammedan from the Koran, and a Gentile from his religious principle. While different from each other, all have the ability to be saved.

Apocalypse Explained 1180



15.The Law of Desire: Whatever are one's goals in life, one must desire them.



Those who are moved by good not only have the ability to understand truth but also the ability to accept it, and this is according to the amount and kind of good that moves them. Those who are moved by evil don't have any ability to accept truth. The ability of the one and the inability of the other are the outcome of each one's pleasure and subsequent desire. The pleasure of those in good lies in doing what is good by means of truth, from which they desire truth.

Arcana Caelestia 5623

16.The Law of Divine Flow: By living within the moment we consciously become part of the divine flow.



The Lord's foresight and providence are in the minutest things that go on in a person's life. This is because every fraction of a moment of someone's life involves a series of consequences that extend to eternity, each moment being like a new beginning to those which follow. It is the same with each and all of the moments of a person's life in both the things he understands and the things he desires and intends.

Arcana Caelestia 3854

17.The Law of Cycles: 'This too shall pass'. Everything begins, is, and then ends, to lead into another beginning.

The Lord turns angels towards himself by flowing into their life's love and through that love the Lord enters into what they perceive and think. In this way he turns them towards himself; they do



this circle of love going to thoughts and from thoughts going to love because it is love and this is a circular progression which can be called the circle of life.

Divine Providence 29

18.The Law of Healing: All things and beings can heal by drawing on and transferring the Source of perfect divine life.

In order for people to be given a heavenly sense of themselves, they should do what is good as if it is them who is doing it, and they should think what is true as if it is themselves thinking it, but still they should believe that all good and all truth are from the Lord, even the smallest portion. They should do this because it is true, but the reason why it is given to people to suppose that good and truth come from themselves is that they may become as their own.

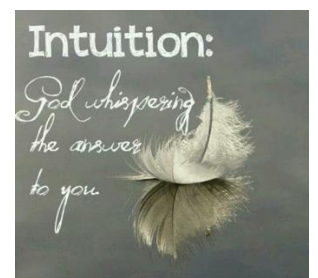


Arcana Caelestia 2883

19.The Law of Intuition: We become more intuitive when we no longer depend upon anyone else's statements of truth.

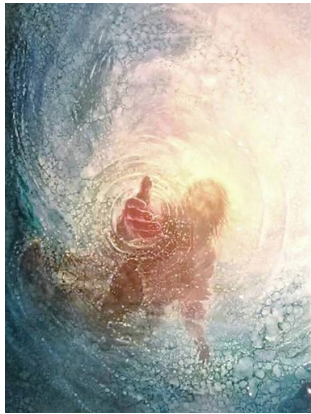
People who say what they believe not from their heart but only from their memory and on their lips don't believe these truths are true, because they have got them from others and not made them their own. Those, however, who have affection for what is true for the sake of life, believe what is taught but they still search the Word to confirm what is true from which their own faith and their conscience are formed.

Arcana Caelestia 5432





20.The Law of Magnetism: Our whole being becomes attracted to and arranged around what we seek to be.



In actual fact there is a kind of field that constantly emanates from the Lord, which pulls all people toward heaven. It fills the entire spiritual and physical worlds. It is like a strong current in the ocean that secretly carries ships along. All people who believe in the Lord and live by his commandments

come into that field or current and are lifted up. Those who do not believe, though, are not willing to enter it but turn aside and become caught in a flow that leads down into hell.

True Christian Religion 652

21.The Law of Speech: There is power in the spoken word and a forming of a reality from thought into utterance.



Our speech flows from our thoughts because we have thinking which speaks and thinking which does not speak. The thinking which speaks makes one with speech but the thinking which doesn't speak,

at least with those who are sincere and upright, makes one with the spoken thought and what is said. This is because this unspoken thought is higher and comes from our very will, which has been fashioned into an image of heaven, and all proceeds from it.

Arcana Caelestia 9283

22.The Law of Permanence: Something attains permanence when it becomes integrated without the vessel that holds it.

In the civil and economic affairs of life what is useful and good can't be seen unless various rules and statutes exist or unless laws are known, and science understood. But in things to do with moral and spiritual life, truths are apparent in their own light, provided that people have become moral and spiritual to some degree. This is because every person as to his

spirit is in the spiritual world as one among those there, and is in spiritual light which enlightens the understanding.

Divine Providence 317



23.The Law of Non-Resistance: When we are in non-resistance we tend to shorten the time of reaching our goal.



When retaliation is done, it is done by those in evil and never by the good. That is, it comes from the hells and never from

the heavens. This is because the evil of hell have the consuming lust to do evil to others because this is their delight. As soon as it is possible they do evil, not caring to whom, whether evil or good, friend or enemy, and this in due course recoils on them. But those in heaven only wish to do good to others, both to foes and friends. They do not resist evil because it is the laws of order which defend and protect what is good and true.

Arcana Caelestia 8223

24.The Law of Repulsion: Juxtaposed coherent aggregates vibrating in discord are mutually repelled.

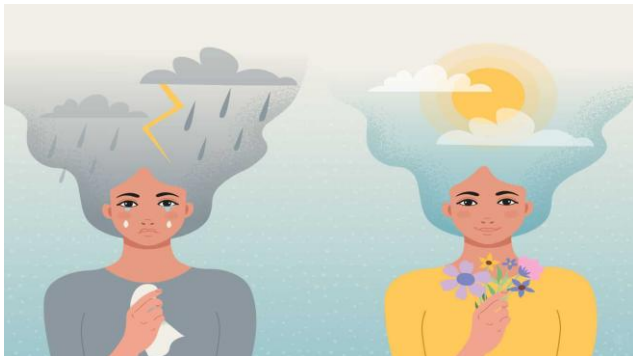


While a person is being reformed he is kept by the Lord in good and truth internally, but let into his own evils and falsities externally and is among hellish spirits. These hover, seeking to harm him, but the good and truth that flow in keep him safe because they have the greater power. So good can be among evil and falsity and yet be in safety. But it needs to be known that while good can be mixed with evil, it cannot be conjoined with them because each shuns the other, and by the laws of order each separates itself from the other, being heaven and hell.

Arcana Caelestia 6724



25.The Law of Release: You are bound to that which you do not release.



A dead-minded person almost always yields in combat, and evil and falsity dominates him and he is a slave. His bonds are external, such as fear of the law and loss of position. A spiritual person is in combat but he is always victorious, because the bonds by which he is restrained are internal and are the bonds of conscience. The celestial person is not in combat and is apparently unrestrained by any bonds, but he is free. His bonds, which are not visible, are perceptions of good and truth.

Arcana Caelestia 81

26.The Law of Reconciliation: This is that which finds unifying similarities in differing qualities which allows these differences to be brought together.

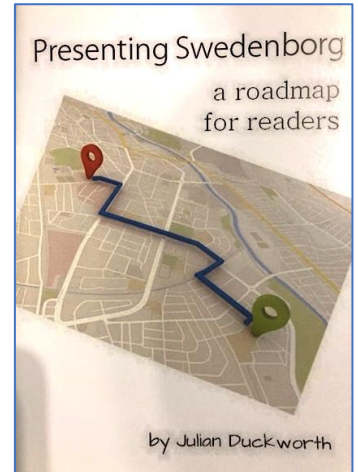


The doctrine of Charity in the ancient church joined all beliefs and made one out of many. For they acknowledged as men of the church all those who lived in the good of charity and called them 'brothers', however else they might differ as to those truths which later were called the truths of faith. One instructed another in these truths, from charity, nor did they become indignant if one did not give way to the opinion of another, for they knew that everyone receives as much of truth as he is in good.

New Jerusalem 9

The Swedenborg Roadmap Part 2 by Julian Duckworth

In 1994, I produced a booklet called 'Presenting Swedenborg, A Roadmap' which aimed to introduce the writings of Swedenborg and help people find their way around the contents of these numerous volumes. Lists of contents were



given and short paragraphs about most of the books' focuses. Other things like a short Glossary of Swedenborg's terms and a set of the underlying teachings (i.e. non-book titles) running through the writings were given. The booklet served a purpose and was reprinted twice.

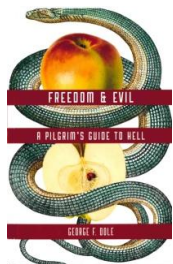
In 2018 I felt that something needed adding, which was a detailed set of the composite teachings along with references back to the writings. I used two excellent books by earlier 'distillers' of Swedenborg, John Ager and Julian Smyth, who both did an excellent job with 'The Path of Life' and 'The Gist of Swedenborg'. The collation I did got finished early this year. It has now been worked on and brought to print and is an inclusion in a reprint of the original Roadmap, therefore it is The Swedenborg Roadmap part 2. The two go together.

Enormous thanks go to Elizabeth Kemmis and Joe Vandermeer for bringing this to an attractive conclusion. It is available by 'print on demand' from the Swedenborg Centre (info@swedenborg.com.au) or phone (02) 9416 2812. I believe it is priced at \$10.



Quarterly Book Discounts

Candela readers who order the following titles during the next quarter will receive the discounts listed below, **while stocks last**. Complete the Order Form below and send to the Swedenborg Centre or phone on 02 9416 2812 and mention this page.



Freedom and Evil by **George Dole**

190 pages, paperback, **\$20** (includes postage)

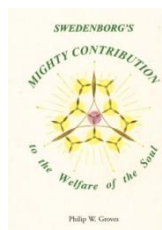
Divine Love, our freedom, and witnessing evils in and around us are core subjects in understanding the world and our spiritual life. Are we motivated to do good as a strategy to avoid punishment in the afterlife? Dole guides us through Swedenborg's encounters with the hells and explores how we are unconscious residents of the spiritual world while we are inhabiting the material world. The hells which Swedenborg visited are mirrored in our daily life. Exploring this fact is very helpful in finding a stable spiritual direction.



Temptations, by **Basil Lazer** (illustrations and typesetting: **Donna Heldon**)

1996, paperback, 154 pages, **\$5** (includes postage)

This is one of the best collations of Swedenborg quotes, arranged by topic into twelve chapters, which cover his primary practical material relating to spiritual growth. It gets to the heart of why we need temptation for a certain time if we are to reach a certain stage of spiritual growth. Explores the cause, meaning and purpose of temptations. Lazer has a keen eye for that which is useful.



Swedenborg's Mighty Contribution by **Dr Philip Groves**

150 pages, paperback, **\$15** (includes postage)

Australian scientist, psychotherapist and spiritual teacher, Dr Philip Groves, spent his life pursuing a fuller understanding of spiritual realities. He shares his wisdom in this book of deep insights for living a more abundant life. The book is a compilation of his public talks for which the audio files are also freely available on <http://www.swedenborg.com.au> (go to Free Stuff... → Free Audio... → Talking Books... → Dr Groves)

Send orders to the Swedenborg Centre, 4 Shirley Rd, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069 or phone (02) 9416 2812, or email orders@swedenborg.com.au and mention this Candela.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

If you are not yet a member of the Swedenborg Association of Australia you might like to consider it. Feel free to contact the Centre for further **info on how you can become an SAA member** as a way to support this valuable work. Check the website at www.swedenborg.com.au (click "Members" in the top menu) which contains more details on benefits, membership rates and an application form.

Details of **group events** which are either held online or physically at various locations around Australia are advertised on the website at www.swedenborg.com.au home page, plus on the events page which also lists location and contact info of your nearest group convener. Our website is continually being updated with special offers, new free study material and latest news and information.

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A Positive Life by Elizabeth and Stan Deuscher

The divine links earth and heaven.

We rise to the challenge to remain positive midst covid restriction. We look forward to again experiencing freedoms we once enjoyed. Holidays in the Grampian Mountains with walks by the creek and in the bush for us are now prevented. How we miss our retreats to nature. We miss our regular visits with grandchildren. We long to see and hug them again.



In Genesis the world is created good.

By means of parables, religious and human truths are revealed and clarified. Stories, fables, parables, fairy tales can be seen as mind and soul 'hearing aids' or 'eye-glasses'. These remind us that difficult times pass. They help us to regain our uplifting connection to eternal truth.

Believers are lifted by the message of Jesus. Inspiration from many sources illumine and elevate earthly life.

Bible stories use parables. Jesus hints that few are able to grasp divine truth without the aid of parable.

Through many means we are led by correspondence, story and metaphors to enliven heart and mind.

Stories in fairy tales and scripture, are the inspirational threads of life's tapestry. Our imagination, ignited by the Lord, lifts us to the magic of divine reality. Positive

imagination in fairy tales help us reach a greater awareness. Stories with happy endings remind us of our heavenly destination.

Many people find enjoying nature refreshes their spirits. Others gaze at stars, look at clouds, walk through fields. Some meditate on mountain tops, laze by streams, swim in pools, rivers or lakes.

Some find their expression of positive living by working to maintain wetlands, nature reserves, striving to keep earths' ecosystem healthy. Life needs clean air and water.

Some find mantras or prayers such as 'Omm', 'Alleluia', 'Praise the Lord!', 'Come Lord Jesus, Come', uplift the spirit. So many ways for us to enjoy positive life. Many find inspiration, satisfaction and meaning in sport, music, art, fine dining.

Each positive step, by each person and every positive gain, lead toward 'heaven on earth'.

May we see that the Lord of life continues to shower us with blessings. As we respond and give thanks, we progress in positive life.

Though these times be difficult may we continue to embrace the positive.

Seek to enjoy life. Seek the Lord in life. Live a positive life.

Shalom