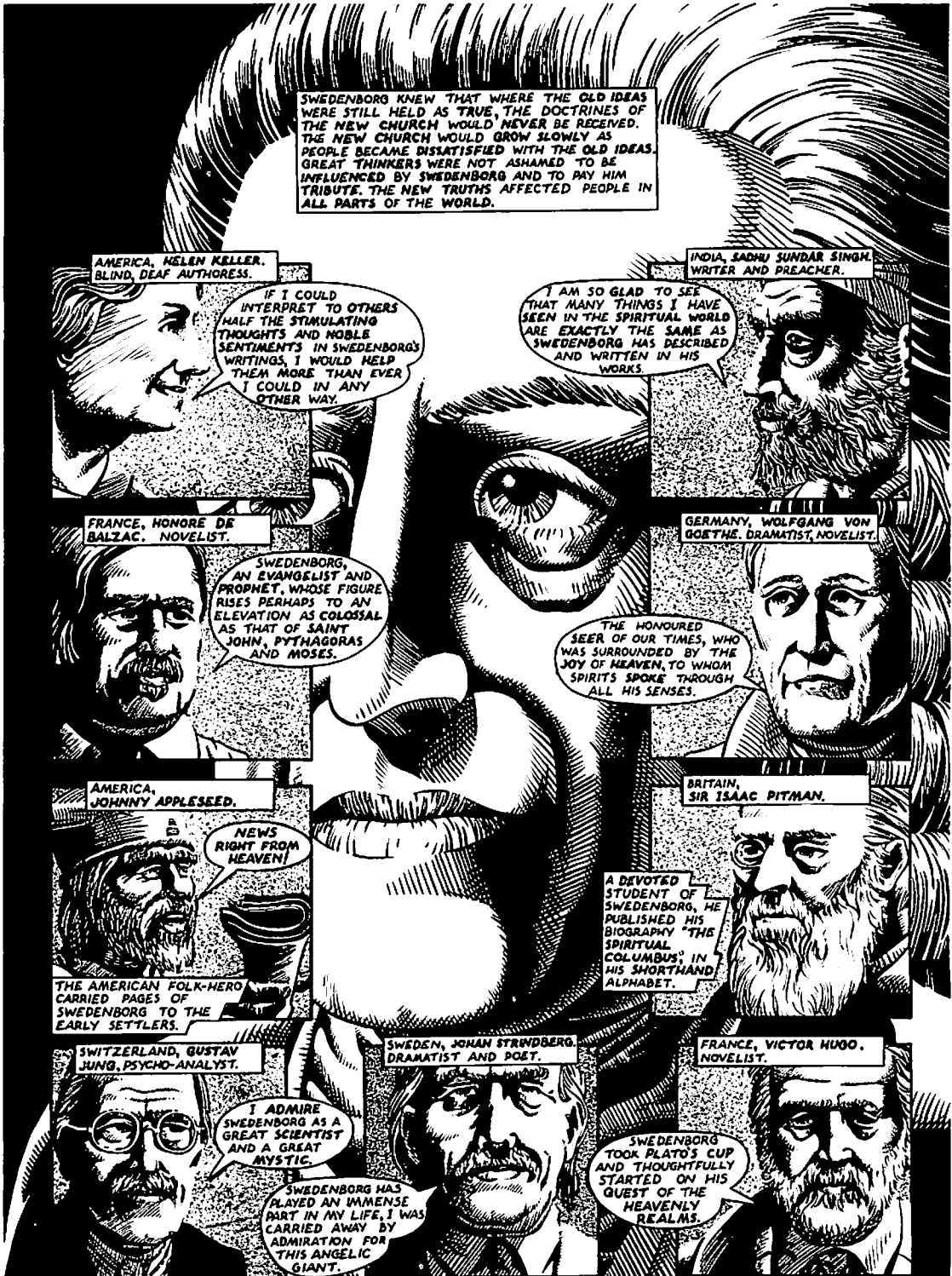


# The Messenger

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH

JUNE 1982



# ODDS 'N ENDS

Several days ago Karen Conger called with the latest news regarding Convention '82. Convention goers, please take note!

For information concerning rates and reservations for transportation from Los Angeles International Airport to the Irvine Campus, call (toll free) 800-423-4647.

Parents with young children, up to the age of four, who will require child care at Convention '82, are asked to contact Karen Conger immediately. Write to: Karen Conger, 8512 Remmet Ave., Canoga Park, Calif. 91304.

The Los Angeles New Church will host an Open House following lunch on Sunday, July 4th, and all Convention goers are most warmly invited to this final round of good fellowship.

\* \* \* \*

This month's cover is taken from a new and unusual publication from our New Church friends in the British Conference. This is a 32-page illustrated life of Swedenborg, with text by the Rev. Christopher Hasler and drawings by John Kaczmarczyk. This large (8½ x 11½") soft cover book is striking in appearance and contains a surprising amount of information, most of it dealing with Swedenborg's spiritual world experiences. This is in harmony with the wording on the front cover, "the only living man to walk in the world of spirits, the angels called him THE STRANGE ONE."

This is an interesting concept, that is to depict Swedenborg's life entirely by cartoon drawings with detailed captions, and this is a commendable first effort. I should think it would be suitable for teen-agers and some adults. "The Strange One" contains a wealth of material on Swedenborg's life, with far-ranging examples of correspondences, and many graphic accounts of his excursions into the realm of the spirit.

My main criticism of "The Strange One" is that many of the pages are too dark, too crowded and too depressing looking. In several instances it is difficult to follow the captions and the pages are jammed full with a lot of heavy pictures. My concept of the spiritual world is more airy, with more room for grace and the joy of living. This pictorial effort seems overly foreboding to me. However I did like the last page very much and have taken the liberty of using it for this month's cover.

"The Strange One" sells for 75 pence, about \$1.50, and should soon be available in New Church book stores in North America.

\* \* \* \*

The next issue of the *Messenger* will be the double July-August Convention issue, which should be ready for mailing by about August 1st. Hope to see you at Convention!

P.Z.

## CONTENTS

Odds 'n Ends	Paul Zacharias	110
Marriage in Creation	Wilson Van Dusen	111
Our Guyana Connection	Richard Tafel	112
Convention '82 Schedule	Ethel Rice	114
The Peace Page	Quaker Life	115
News from the Grass Roots		116
Urbana College Update		118
Report from India		119
Dept. of Publication Meets		120
Worship Committee Report		121
Rollo K. Billings Memorial	Calvin Turley	124
We Get Letters		125
From Church Records		126
The Upper Room	Leon LeVan	127

## THE MESSENGER

JUNE 1982

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# MARRIAGE IN CREATION

by Wilson Van Dusen

If one were given a volume titled *Conjugal Love* said to have been written in the 1700's late in the life of an unmarried scientist turned theologian, one might be skeptical that it would contain much. Add the note that it was for a time banned in Boston and interest would grow.

As a clinical psychologist responsible for the care and treatment of people I have read that theologian, Emanuel Swedenborg, for many years for *the depth of understanding he brings to the human situation*. In this instance Swedenborg is speaking of marriage. Yet, in the dynamics of the marriage relationship Swedenborg finds an example of a design that runs through the whole of creation. We are most accustomed to considering marriage in limited ways in its family, legal or sexual aspects. Swedenborg comes to it from a larger view of the nature of the Divine Itself, through heaven and hell, to the innermost aspects of man and outward to man's physical life. The depth of spiritual meaning he found in marriage conditioned the meaning of its sexual or natural aspects, so he felt no need to repress or gloss over them. There was no need to ban the book in Boston.

As a psychologist I have been impressed by the range of meanings Swedenborg gives to life experiences. As in the analytic psychology of Carl Jung, he finds male and female attributes in persons of either sex. In effect, the female embodies in her softer, rounder and more nurturant form the loving, caring, supportive aspects of creation. The male embodies more of the active, building, making, creating aspect. The male has a female side as an underlying quality or more unconscious aspect, and the female carries the male attributes as her unconscious aspect. What the man wishes to reach in himself he can find in her. She realizes the more man-like attributes in herself through him. The man is attracted to the woman who embodies in her total life and even her form the elements of love which are latent in him. The powerful root of that attraction is a necessity, in the order of things, for completion and fulfillment. In the union of their lives each can realize their inner tendency in the other person. The union is both between the two and within each to hidden tendencies in themselves.

It was a work by Jungerich which first suggested to me the immense scope of

*Conjugal Love* as a fundamental aspect of creation. Real marriage, in an inner sense, is the uniting of the creating (male) and sustaining (female) aspects in the Divine. Out of the soft, warm, loving and quietly sustaining will of God issues the differentiation of truth, understanding, form, substance and uses of all kinds. God or love, the fundamental sustaining essence of creation, seeks to realize what it is as truth, understanding, form, or the male-like aspect. Truth, or the male aspect, seeks to find and unite with its heart, life and warmth in the love of good. Love and good find their meaning in truth or use which it seeks out as its home or embodiment. The marriage of a man and woman corresponds to this fundamental dynamism which runs through all creation from God to earth. The seeking, needing play between these two aspects and their union is creative in every possible sense. Marriage produces not only children, but it has even greater uses in heaven. By this means Swedenborg sets marriage in the largest possible context, and one which throws light on all its lesser aspects.

Some of the warmth and impressiveness of Swedenborg comes through in unexpected ways. I recall Swedenborg's answer why Eve should be made out of the rib of Adam. The answer revealed to him, and hence to the reader, stuck with me. The man's rib that curves around his heart represents the firm substantiality of his heart's desire. Of course the wife is the embodiment of this firm heart's desire. Of course Eve should be formed of that rib. For me the ancient symbolism sprang into life. In another instance Swedenborg was reporting in a fairly matter-of-fact way on what he had personally known of marriages in heaven. A married pair of celestial angels were shown to him. It was a while before he could see that they were two separate persons because they seemed one. Even in their actions they functioned as one. And so the ultimate oneness of marriage was casually illustrated. The intense radiance of their glance and appearance added further to the reader's feeling for this aspect of marriage.

In case the reader feels marriage is not so ideal as this, Swedenborg also goes into the dynamics of marital difficulty.

While seeming to speak of theology and doctrine Swedenborg is always illustrating the

innermost nature of the human. In his hands the spiritual does not seem abstract or other-worldly, but rather gives greater meaning to the natural aspects of people as ordinary persons. His psychology of persons is founded on awareness of the Divine, journeys in heaven and hell, and a knowledge of the total situation down to the simple physical man. Our author introduces us to the work of this man who saw

marriage in such a broad and lovely perspective.

*In 1968 the Swedenborg Foundation published the booklet **Sex, Eros, Marital Love** by Gerhard Gollwitzer. Wilson Van Dusen wrote the Forward. Our thanks to the Swedenborg Foundation for permission to reprint this excellent study of the masculine-feminine relationship throughout all of creation. Editor*

## **OUR GUYANA CONNECTION**

# **A PLEASANT SURPRISE**

*Richard and Corinne Tafel  
Philadelphia, Pa.*

At the direction of President Turley, we were commissioned to visit Guyana, South America, to inspect our Church in Georgetown and to ascertain its present condition as well as its future needs. We spent three weeks in that sunny, green and balmy country, glad indeed to escape the miserable cold of the past January and February. We were delighted with everything we found, more especially so because we had no way of knowing what to expect.

We found a beautiful country, young and vigorous, in its fifteenth year of freedom, drawing its political ideals largely from our country and yet beset by the economic problems of the rest of the Third World. We had ample opportunity to learn first hand the economic, political and social situation, as meetings had been arranged for us with the Prime Minister and with many of his cabinet ministers, with the British High Commissioner and with the American Charge d'Affaires. Visits to schools and centers for the blind and handicapped had also been set up, as well as visits to factories and businesses.

We were especially impressed with the educational system. Under the new regime education is free to all from nursery school to college. To us it might seem to be weighted too much on the practical side, but right now Guyana needs technological expertise. Literacy is at the rate of 90%, and their aim is to make it 100%. But the country's greatest asset is its people, friendly, warm and out-going. Everywhere we found a ready welcome—on the streets, in the government offices and in factories, and in the churches.

But as invaluable as all this background data was, it was in our own Society of Georgetown that we were most interested. First we saw a well maintained church building set in a low-

walled compound, seating perhaps a hundred and twenty-five people. This is Convention's property, and I assure you that our interests are well guarded. The interior has been lovingly tended, everything from floor to pews being newly varnished. The congregation? One hundred confirmed members, thirty unconfirmed members, ten honorary members and a Sunday School of sixty. But members alone do not tell the whole story; dedication and commitment are even more important. That is what we found here. I wish you could have sat with us at one of their Church Council meetings, to see well qualified New Church men and women at work and to hear their plans and visions! As a minister I would be delighted to have that calibre of people on my Church Board.

As to the worship which we experienced, I shall try to give you some of our impressions. It is what we have heard about our Church in South Africa all over again. These people do not begrudge the time they spend in the Lord's Holy Temple; they glory in it. One hour is certainly too short, two hours not long enough. Three hymns would be far too few, six would be more like it—with verses repeated if the hymn were going well! We heard our liturgical music beautifully and expertly sung by these people, seeming to come spontaneously from their hearts and minds. They feel that the prayers in our Book of Worship are particularly adapted to their needs and aspirations. This does not mean two or three prayers said by the minister, but five or six prayers recited by the congregation and led by the secretary, a woman.

In Guyana the minister opens the Service, sings the Lord's Prayer (after each phrase of which the congregation sings "Hallowed Be

Thy Name"), preaches the sermon and pronounces the Benediction. There the congregation conducts most of the worship. The secretary announces the hymns, conducts the Responsive Service or the Psalter, and leads the unison reciting of the prayers. Two teenage girls read the lessons from the Holy Word, and two young boys have charge of the Offertory. This makes for a beautiful worship experience, especially as we remember that the word "liturgy" literally means "the people's work." This practice grew out of their recent history. When their minister died the congregation was reduced to five or six women. But these were determined and dedicated women. In 1971 they invited the Rev. Llewellyn Fraser to preach for them, and subsequently to provide them with spiritual leadership. This he did, freely and without cost to Convention, until last June when the Board of Missions extended him a small monthly grant. Out of its experience our society in Georgetown determined that the life of their church, even as to its worship, should be the concern of the laity, which is as it should be.



Richard and Corinne Tafel, and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Georgetown Society, had just presented a Swedenborgian book to Guyana Prime Minister P. A. Reid.

As I have indicated, the literacy rate in Guyana is exceedingly high, which means that they put a premium upon the printed word. For the church in Guyana this means the writings of Swedenborg and the collateral works of the Church. As we arrived, a quantity of such books had just been received from the Swedenborg Foundation; it was our distinct privilege to see the use to which these were put. Every audience with a government or other official, every visit to a school or other institution, every meeting with ministers of other churches closed with a ceremonial presentation of a book by Swedenborg or a church collateral, always graciously received. I have never witnessed such judicious and effective

distribution of our material.

One particular occasion stands out in my mind. I had been asked to give a lecture on "Life after Death," which I assumed would take place in the church. But no; a platform had been erected on the front porch of the church, so I was practically on the street where, with the aid of a microphone and loud speakers, I had the whole neighborhood for my audience. Passers-by stopped to listen, people were hanging out of the windows of the neighboring houses, while those who had purposely come to hear the lecture clogged the side-walk and the church-yard. Of the latter group, the first thirty-five to arrive had been given cards entitling them to receive a book. So following the lecture the customary presentation was made by Corinne as the fortunate individuals came forward to claim their prize. When the last volume had been presented, Mr. Fraser announced that there was one book left, and that it would be awarded to the first woman to reach the platform. I don't know how many started forward, but the race narrowed down to two ladies who came puffing up, one winning by a nose. Grinning broadly, she returned in triumph clutching her prize. I saw the minister talking to the loser who, also with a big smile, returned to her place, but without a book. I learned afterwards that he had promised to find a book for her if she would call in at the church the following day. The giving of our books can be quite a ceremony; it can also be made an exciting event! Anyway, that's how it is done in Guyana.



Corinne Tafel breaking ground for a new church at Yarrowcabra, Guyana.

But I must not stop with telling about the "success story" of our church in Georgetown. I must tell also about its even more concrete missionary efforts and outreach. One Sunday morning, after meeting at the Georgetown Church, we piled into a bus for a trip to Yarrowcabra, thirty miles away in the bush, where a small society had been formed. Yarrowcabra is a new settlement, but already has some five hundred residents. To induce a church to locate there, the government has granted the society an acre of ground for a church building, to be held by it in perpetuity at a charge of twenty-five dollars a year. After a unique Service in the school house we marched to the spot for the turning of the first spade of earth. Corinne was extended this honor, only here this was done by planting a cherry tree

where the church will be built—a lovely bit of symbolism. It does not take much imagination to envision in Yarrowcabra another strong and vigorous Swedenborgian centre.

Then off on the other side of Georgetown, in a small town, a man has given a piece of ground for a future New Church. And from New Amsterdam there has come the call to the Georgetown Society to "bring the doctrine"—their beautiful way of inviting our New Church to locate there. One senses in Guyana the New Church struggling to be born, and that here it is excitingly true what our Lord Jesus said to his disciples of another age, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest!"

## PROPOSED AGENDA FOR BUSINESS SESSIONS OF CONVENTION

In response to requests made at recent convention sessions, General Council has decided that its Executive Committee should prepare and publish a proposed agenda for the business sessions of Convention. It is hoped that by this means all members of Convention may be informed of the matters to be discussed and voted upon; and, further, that the time devoted to Convention's business may be used most productively.

Please note that at any convention session items of New Business can be, and often are presented to the assembly without prior notice. Written notice of all such items should be presented to the President or the Secretary prior to the Thursday afternoon session.

### PROPOSED AGENDA

**Thursday, July 1st 9:00—10:30 a.m.**

Welcome Service—Worship and Song  
President's Address  
Reading of By-laws by Secretary  
Introduction of Guests  
Appointment of Credentials Committee  
Reading of Greetings

**Thursday, July 1st 1:30—4:00 p.m.**

Approval of Advance Reports  
Treasurer's Report  
Report of the Nominating Committee  
Nominations from the floor  
Announcement of New Business items to be discussed and acted upon at Friday's business session

Report of and presentation by the Ad Hoc Committee

Report of the Council of Ministers

**Friday, July 2nd 1:00—2:30 p.m.**

Report of the Credentials Committee  
Vote of Proposed Amendments  
Items of New Business

**Saturday, July 3rd 10:00—**

Elections

Children's Program

General Council's Report and Recommendations

Reports from:

Sunday School Association

American New Church League

Report of the Women's Alliance and

Presentation of Mite Box

Further Action on New Business (if needed)

Miscellaneous

\* \* \* \*

### PULPIT VACANCY

The Melbourne, Australia Society wishes it to be known that it does not at the present time have the services of a resident Minister.

The Society is aware that the vacancy may not be able to be filled for some little time. It would therefore welcome applications/enquiries from Ministers even though they may not be available in the immediate future.

An initial appointment of at least three years is envisaged.

On behalf of the Society,

I. A. ROBINSON,  
Secretary.

82 Middlesex Rd.,  
Surrey Hills,  
Victoria,  
AUSTRALIA, 3127.

## THE PEACE PAGE



### **WORLD PEACE MARCH**

**In Support of the United Nations  
Special Session on Disarmament II  
June 1982**

**NEW YORK, N.Y.**—On October 24, 1981, the World Peace March began leaving from Los Angeles and San Francisco bound for New York and the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament II. Additional walks left from New Orleans and San Diego on January 1, 1982, and from Montreal and Bangor, Maine, on April 1, 1982. All of the walks will arrive in New York City on June 7, 1982, the opening day of the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament II.

The purpose of the walks is to offer a prayer each step of the way and to meet with as many people as possible in every town and major city along the route, and to educate and organize the American public about the ever-increasing threat of nuclear war, and to increase national support and attention for the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament II.

In these last weeks of the walk we are trying to make a special effort in getting people to join the World Peace March so when we arrive in New York City there will be hundreds if not thousands of people crying out to the world for an end to the arms race.

#### **This Is How We Can Use Your Help:**

We want to put a national call out for people to join the last three weeks of the walk—either from Washington, D.C. to New York or from Groton, Connecticut, to New York City. For more information write c/o International Liaison Office, 490 Riverside Dr., 19th floor, New York, N.Y. 10027; (212) 864-2030.

## Seeking Security Deterrence by Fear or by Friendship?

**WASHINGTON D.C.**—There is no effective defence against a nuclear weapons attack. U.S. policy therefore relies on a massive U.S. military arsenal to deter it. The experience of the last 30 years suggests that deterrence based on weaponry, fear, and threats—while it may have a temporary restraining effect—is making war more, rather than less, likely. The psychology of fear created by deterrence through weaponry has led inexorably to a war-fighting strategy and the increasing probability of “limited” nuclear war.

The alternative is to develop a policy in which a nuclear weapons attack is deterred by friendship—not friendship based on uncritical acceptance, but friendship founded on the harsh necessity for mutual survival, on common interests, on growing interdependence, on mutual efforts to perceive the world from the other's viewpoint, on frank disagreement on matters of principle, and on hard bargaining for agreements to reduce arms and build international institutions. The risks and difficulties are immense. But they must be accepted, given the nuclear catastrophe which waits at the end of our present course.

A nuclear attack by the United States, Great Britain, or France on each other is unthinkable. Each is deterred by this kind of friendship. The challenge is to build a comparable web of mutuality between the Soviet Union and the United States. A basic framework for such a relationship exists with the USSR. It was initiated by Dwight Eisenhower; it reached its height under Richard Nixon; it is being rapidly dismantled by Ronald Reagan as his administration gives priority to confrontation with the Soviet Union.

Reprinted from the *FCNL Washington Newsletter*, March 1982.

*Quaker Life.*

# *News From Grass Roots* ---

Sunday, June 13 will be a "Celebration of Meaning and Purpose" for the members and friends of the CHURCH OF THE HOLY CITY in DETROIT, MICHIGAN. What has begun as a clarifying of our identity with discussions after church, phone conversations, a doctrinal class and sermons will be celebrated in worship, word and song on that Sunday. Affirmation Sunday has grown out of a need to understand "Why Is Involvement With The Church of the Holy City (Swedenborgian) Important To Its Members And Friends?" That question was asked and very specific, personal answers were given. Some of the answers included: closeness to the Lord during worship; expression of self through music; a need for guidance and inspiration from the sermons; a need to learn more about the inner sense of the Bible as revealed by Emanuel Swedenborg; a need to learn more about one's own deeper nature, and that of others through personal sharing; and a need for the close bond of friends and family that is found in the church. All these, and other, meanings and purposes will be celebrated on Affirmation Sunday.

\* \* \* \*

*The Western Canada Conference of the Church of the New Jerusalem* celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year. The Annual Meeting will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, hosted by the Saskatchewan New Church Societies July 10th and 11th.

\* \* \* \*

The students of the MONTEZUMA, KANSAS Sunday School contributed \$50.00 toward Convention's Annual Appeal. Our Church will be stronger in the future with the support of our upcoming generations and the Montezuma Sunday School children are leaders already. Congratulations!

\* \* \* \*

A flyer from the Johnny Appleseed, Inc., a California non-profit religious corporation, announces that a thirty minute weekly radio program "The Man Who Saw God and His Kingdom" is presented over KMJC radio at 2:00 p.m. every Sunday, which is 910 on the AM dial in SAN DIEGO. Those who have heard it are pleased with the story.

\* \* \* \*

Here are some of the names of recent visitors and guests at SWEDENBORG HOUSE, DELAND, FLORIDA: Gunnar and Nell Nilson, St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.; Howard

and Barbara Holmes, Bath, Maine; Hildegard Katzsch, Goslar, West Germany; Ted LeVan, Swedenborg School of Religion, Newton, Mass.; Bob and Dot Abbott, Arlington, Virginia; Ralph and Linda Klein, Bryn Athyn, Pa.; Lucile Flagg, Elmwood, Mass.; Cassius and Margaret Ball, Ventura, Ca.

\* \* \* \*

THE REV. WILFRED RICE was honored by the FRYEBURG, MAINE Society on Sunday, May 23rd with the unveiling of his portrait, the work of Virginia Chase Earle, prominent portraitist. Mr. Rice served the Fryeburg Society from 1937 to 1951. His portrait will join those of the Rev. Louis Dole and the Rev. Horace Briggs, other former pastors.

\* \* \* \*

A number of visitors attended services on "Bring A Friend Sunday" in the EDMONTON, ALBERTA Society. All those present enjoyed a luncheon after the worship. Rev. Hank Korsten and Rev. John Bennett have designated the third Sunday of each month as "Bring A Friend Sunday".

The Executive Committee of ALMONT SUMMER SCHOOL met at Almont. President Marjory Shelley and Superintendent Ron Brugler led a good planning session: the dates are August 1 - 15; the theme is "Our Scottish Heritage"; and the lectures will stem from the "Prophets".

\* \* \* \*

THE BRIDGEWATER SOCIETY OF THE NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH leaguers held a retreat at BLAIRHAVEN in May. There will be two sessions of Camp Blairhaven this year in June and July.

\* \* \* \*

GENERAL CONVENTION has formally accepted KEMPER ROAD CENTER'S invitation to host the 1983 National Swedenborgian Convention. Wilmington College, Ohio will be the center of activity. All KRC members are anticipating meeting Swedenborgians from around the country.

\* \* \* \*

## *A Sunday At The Los Angeles Church*

It was a beautiful Sunday on April 18th, full of sunshine and surprises. The Los Angeles Society was privileged and delighted to have Rev. and Mrs. Ed Capon with us. Rev. Andre



Diaconoff always holds a study class at ten. We were absorbed in our study of "faith and charity" when the telephone in the study rang. Andre was called to answer and learned of the passing of an old and dear friend from Portland, Mr. Glen Blevins. Our study was ended but several of us continued to discuss our theme.

Many family members and friends gathered in church for services to begin—but they did not begin. Andre made an announcement from the pulpit. In his sixty years of ministry this was the first time ever that the organist had overslept. Andre apologized for him; his lateness was due to holding a night job. We were invited to visit and wait.

Another kind of friend was present and I cannot recall ever having a feathered friend in the sanctuary with us. A pigeon had found retreat and during the service which did begin, flew back and forth not even trying to find an exit. The day was so lovely the door was wide open. We fully enjoyed having Rev. Ed Capon speak and, lo and behold, he announced his sermon topic would be "Patience". How appropriate!

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## College Honors Swedenborg

Swedenborgians and their friends Wednesday celebrated the 294th birthday of the founder of their religion, 17th century scientist Emanuel Swedenborg.

In the College Community Center lounge at Urbana College, colored balloons were hung on the walls and a large birthday cake with candles was prepared for birthday party guests.

Subjects of the day were the insights of Swedenborg, a Swedish mystical philosopher whose voluminous writings are rather difficult to summarize.

To demonstrate Swedenborg's emphasis on the inwardness of religious experience, about 50 participants in a workshop under the direction of Drs. Perry Martin and Alice Skinner worked on drawing trees.

Participants were first asked to draw a tree, then to think their way into the essence of a tree, then draw another one. They were then asked how the second tree differed from the first.

One possibly homesick Malaysian student said, "On my second tree, I got lost. I went to the beach. In Malaysia there are a lot of coconut trees, so I drew one of them."

Another participant explained that in thinking of his second tree, he felt the sensations of a walk through the woods.

Another artist said her second tree was a Christmas tree from her childhood.

Skinner summarized the various interpretations, "I think what we've been hearing here is . . . when you feel into the tree and become the tree, drawing it becomes something that's possible to accomplish because it's your own."

When asked why they had chosen trees as the subject of a drawing, Martin responded, "Trees grow, trees need roots, trees need sun and rain; they reach up into the infinite sky." To this very Swedenborgian explanation the Rev. Dorothea Harvey added, "They grow toward the light."

Before they blew out the candles on the cake, Harvey, Swedenborgian Chaplain at the college, asked everyone to make a "positive wish for the future of Urbana College."

The fifty or so audience members then sang "Happy Birthday" while the guest speakers blew out the candles (but not 294 of them) and the bust of Emanuel Swedenborg looked amiably on.

In addition to presenting the workshop, Martin discussed what the Swedenborgian philosophy means to interpersonal relationships, while Skinner spoke on how the philosophy affects an educational institution.

Urbana College was founded in 1850 by members of the Swedenborgian Church and has a continuing affiliation with the Swedenborgian General Convention.

*Urbana Daily Citizen*  
April 15, 1982

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## New Reprint

NOW AVAILABLE—A NEW REPRINT OF SWEDENBORG'S *CHARITY* translated by William F. Wunsch, 124 pages, paper, \$2.70 postpaid—bookdealer's discount 40% on orders over 5 copies.

The usual definition of "charity" restricts its meaning to acts of benevolence and liberality bestowed upon the needy and unfortunate. In this volume the concept of charity is enlarged to embrace the whole range of human activity. Step by step, Swedenborg builds in the reader's mind a new application of the potential depths of human relationships and responsibilities, and a vision of what our world would be like if this appreciation were more widely shared.

This new issue will be a valuable addition to any library and a fine gift.

Swedenborg Foundation

## URBANA COLLEGE UPDATE

Urbana College today announced its fees for the 1982 - 83 academic year, which begins with the Summer Quarter, 1982. Costs for '82 - 83 will increase 10%. This 10% includes an increase in tuition and in board (food service); room (housing) and all other related fees will remain unchanged.

The total yearly cost for an Urbana College student who lives, and takes meals, on the main campus will increase from \$4,950 per year to \$5,500.

Dr. A. Perry Whitmore, President of Urbana College, in announcing the new rates, states: "In developing our budget for the 1982 - 83 academic year, we found it necessary that certain charges be increased to help defray the increasing cost of operations that the College will face next year.

"At the same time, we were determined that any increases would be minimal as we could possibly make them. We are well aware that everyone is feeling the effects of rising costs and shrinking pocketbooks. With this in mind, we feel the 10% increase is a reasonable and highly competitive rate."

President Whitmore notes that the 10% increase is modest compared to the increases of many other colleges and universities throughout the country. "In Ohio," he points out, "a number of institutions are announcing increases that far surpass the modest increase we have established. We feel confident that students entering the college ranks for the first time, as well as those returning to college, will find Urbana College even more financially competitive in 1982 - 83 than it has been in the past." The average cost for all private colleges in Ohio for 1982 - 83 will be \$7,000 per year, considerably above the \$5,500 cost at Urbana College.

Dr. Whitmore also states that Urbana College will continue to award financial aid to students who qualify and will assist students in their application for grants, loans, and other forms of financial aid. He notes: "Urbana College does not expect major federal or state cutbacks in financial aid for 1982 - 83. We are confident that we will be able to assist most students who have need of financial assistance to attend college."

\* \* \* \*

Spring quarter enrollment figures for Urbana College were announced today by Kathy Mason, Registrar.

To date, 306 (Full-Time Equivalent 301) students have registered for courses on the main campus in Urbana. Off campus enrollment now stands at 289 (FTE 234). Total enrollment for the Spring Quarter is 595 (FTE 535).

Mason states: "These Spring Quarter figures are very encouraging and very significant to the College. Spring enrollment has traditionally been the lowest of our three basic quarters—Fall, Winter, and Spring. This year, we have managed to maintain a steady enrollment pattern throughout the three quarters, especially on the main campus. This means we have met or surpassed our projected and budgeted figures on the main campus for the entire year, a very healthy sign for Urbana College!"

There was an anticipated decrease in off campus enrollment this Spring, primarily as the result of the forthcoming closing of two off campus centers (Cincinnati and Mansfield) at the end of the Spring Quarter. However, this decrease in enrollment was less than expected and the budget has been adjusted to reflect any lessening in student revenues.

Another positive sign for the Spring is the stronger showing in the main campus Evening School Program (E.S.P.). This quarter, 27 students have enrolled in E.S.P., a significant increase over the previous two quarters' enrollment. The main campus Evening School Program was re-instituted in the Fall of '81 and student enrollment has steadily increased over this three-quarter period.

Dr. A. Perry Whitmore, President of Urbana College, notes: "Although enrollment is only one indicator of the growth and success of an institution, it is a very significant indicator. While many colleges and universities are facing decreasing enrollment, we have been heartened—and encouraged—by the steady enrollment figures at our College over the past three years. This steady-state pattern has continued throughout the current year.

"Our enrollment for the 1981 - 82 academic year is especially significant. We felt that if we could meet or surpass our enrollment projections for the three-quarter period, and if we could continue to maintain a tight control on our finances, we would end the year on a positive note. We have now accomplished both goals. All in all, this has been a year of planning, of development, of control, of hope. It now appears that all of our efforts have been rewarded. This has been a very good year at Urbana College!"

## REPORT FROM INDIA

Rev. Eric J. Zacharias, Exec.  
Secretary for the Board of Missions.

Dear Sir:

I received your kind letter. I regret for my delay in replying to it, which do kindly excuse me. We convey our sincere gratitude through our organization, for all your generosity.

Perhaps you remember that we conduct an anniversary for Swedenborg Publications and for the Social Welfare Centre. Through your kind help, we are able to serve the poor and the aged. We earnestly pray that God should bless us all to help us continue our humble services to such unfortunate souls.

I am pleased to send with this a few snaps of our anniversary celebrations conducted. We hope this will help you fill up the gap in the *Messenger Magazine*, you had asked for.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
D. Arul  
Madras, India.

**JOIN THE BIGGEST  
COMMITTEE EVER  
ON JULY 1 AT 2:30 P.M.  
Irvine Campus, California  
THE AD HOC COMMITTEE  
ON GOALS AND PRIORITIES  
FOR THE EIGHTIES**

First, we'll bring you up to date on the work we've been doing. Then we'll ask for your help before doing more. Join us.

**JOIN THE BIGGEST  
COMMITTEE EVER  
ON JULY 1 AT  
2:30 P.M.**

**Irvine Campus, California**



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATION MEETS

Convention's Department of Publication met in Kitchener, Ontario on April 15 - 17, 1982. In attendance were Virginia Branston, Cecile Werben, Richard and Corinne Tafel, Ray Guiu, Roger Paulson and Paul Zacharias. A number of reports and decisions will be of interest to *Messenger* readers.

The Swedenborg Foundation report included the following items:

The 15 minute film "Images of Knowing", which is a free-flowing study of correspondences written by George Dole and narrated by Anne Baxter, will be completed by mid-summer, in time for Convention '82.

The large print *Heaven and Hell* is expected to be off the press by June. It will be cloth-bound, 800 pages, and retail at \$8.25.

The latest Foundation reprints are Wunsch's *Charity* and King's *Allegories of Genesis*.

A Swedenborg Medallion is being designed by Carolyn Judson and will be awarded at the discretion of the Foundation Board.

Swedenborg Foundation films have now reached an estimated audience of 18.2 million people. The Swedenborg and Keller films are currently being distributed in England, Australia and Canada.

Richard Tafel reported that our new Book of Worship is nearing completion, with sample copies being available at Convention '82. Copies may be ordered at that time for \$12.00; the price later on will be \$15.00 per copy.

Our Baptism, Marriage and Confirmation Certificates are in process of revision.

Virginia Branston reported that 2700 copies of *Celebrate Life* have been reprinted, featuring an attractive new cover and upgrading of format. This book of meditations by Paul Zacharias sells for \$1.95.

Visitor Pew Cards are presently being prepared for use in local churches and should be ready by early fall.

A series of 52 New Age posters for display on wayside pulpits is nearly completed. These eye-catching posters will be sent free of charge to all Convention churches for local use.

The Department made plans for a Writer's Workshop with professional leadership to be held at Blairhaven, near Duxbury, Massachusetts from August 26 - 31, 1983. All aspiring writers—take note! More detailed information will be available this fall.

A series of eight page pamphlets is currently being developed by the Department under the

general title: "Swedenborgians See It This Way". Prospective themes include: The Best Is Yet To Be, Burnout, Wholistic Approach to Living, Healing Through the Arts, Guidelines for Meditation, and These Things We Believe. We expect these publications to be available within 18 months.

The Department recognizes the need for an updated, brief biography of Swedenborg, and Richard H. Tafel agreed to undertake this challenging project. He will also explore the feasibility of re-writing Bruce's *Commentary on Matthew*, condensing and modernizing this excellent Bible aid, possibly incorporating insights from other New Church commentaries on Matthew.

Our Convention Camp Slide Presentation is being updated and improved with the addition of recent pictures from S.N.A.P. and other Convention camps. This audio slide presentation is available for showing in local Societies.

Corinne Tafel reported that 100 copies of the Sunday School *Hosanna* have been shipped to our flourishing New Church Society in Georgetown, Guyana.

The next meeting of the Department of Publications will be held in Philadelphia from September 23 - 26, 1982.

P. Z.

### *An Indian Prayer*

O' GREAT SPIRIT,

*Whose voice I hear in the winds,  
And whose breath gives life to all the world,  
hear me! I am small and weak, I need your  
strength and wisdom.*

Let Me Walk In Beauty, and make my eyes  
ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make My Hands respect the things you have  
made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make Me Wise so that I may understand the  
things you have taught my people.

Let Me Learn the lessons you have hidden  
in every leaf and rock.

I Seek Strength, not to be greater than my  
brother, but to fight my greatest  
enemy — myself.

Make Me Always Ready to come to you with  
clean hands and straight eyes.

So When Life Fades, *as the fading sunset,  
my spirit may come to you  
without shame.*

## GOOD NEWS!

### Our New Book of Worship

The Committee on Worship is pleased to announce that the new Book of Worship will be unveiled at the coming session of the Convention. You are invited to inspect it at that time and to place your orders.

The General Council has directed us to send one copy of the book to each society and group in Convention to insure that everyone will have the opportunity to see it. It has set the price of the new book at \$15, with an introductory offer of \$12 if ordered before October 31.

The investment in the new Book of Worship is a long time one because its format is such that it will never become out of date or have to be reprinted in toto. Contained in a looseleaf binder, it can grow and change as our worship needs as a church grow and change, and it can also be responsive to the particular demands of any of our local churches.

The Committee on Worship is proud to offer the fruits of its labor, and trusts that this book will long continue to fill the worship needs of the Church, even as we on our part pledge to do our best to keep a growing edge on our worship experience.

Richard H. Tafel, Chairman  
Committee on Worship

## WHAT IS MATURITY?

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction.

Maturity is the patience, the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure in favor of the long-term gain.

Maturity is perseverance, the ability to sweat out a project or a situation in spite of opposition and discouraging setbacks.

Maturity is unselfishness—responding to the needs of others, often at the expense of one's own desires or wishes.

Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat, without complaint or collapse.

Maturity is humility. It is being big enough to say, "I was wrong." And, when right, the mature person need not say, "I told you so."

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. The immature spend their lives exploring endless possibilities, then do nothing.

Maturity means dependability, keeping one's word, coming through in the crisis. The immature are masters of alibi—confused and disorganized. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions which cannot change. —Ralph Waldo Emerson

## POST CONVENTION ANCL— SNAP RETREAT

There will be a POST-CONVENTION ANCL - SNAP RETREAT this summer for all young people age 13 and up. **THIS IS NOT IN PLACE OF THE REGULAR SNAP PROGRAM!** The SNAP PROGRAM WILL BE JULY 9 - 18 ON THE SAME GROUNDS.

**WHEN:** July 5 - 8, 1982

**WHERE:** The Church property in Santa Cruz, California

**THEME:** "Preparing for your Career in Heaven"

**STAFF:** Rev. William "Pop" Woofenden, League Chaplain; Louise Woofenden, Rev. Horand Gutfeldt, Rev. Eric Allison.

**COST:** \$10.00 — a real bargain!

This joint ANCL - SNAP retreat will present you with a blend of different perspectives within our Church on the important topic of living a life which will prepare you for your eternal life, occupation, and home in heaven. Lectures and experimental methods will be the styles of presentation.

We will camp out the whole time in a redwood grove on a secluded mountainside. Bring your sleeping bag, because we'll be sleeping out on the forest floor!

If you are going to the retreat from Convention, we will provide transportation to the retreat site, as well as a place to stay on the night of July 4th. We're even planning to go and see some fireworks!

If you are travelling by air, plan to depart from the Oakland, CA airport on the afternoon of Thursday, July 8th.

The reason this retreat is so cheap and that we're able to provide transportation from Convention is that it's being generously subsidized by Convention's Board of Education.

Please send your registration and money as soon as possible to:

Lee S. Woofenden  
699 West Shore Dr.  
Guemes Island, WA 98221

Let us know your travel plans, and whether you will want a ride from Convention to the retreat site. "See you there!"

Lee S. Woofenden  
West Coast & Western Canada  
Regional Officer, ANCL

## Message From Mareta

Dear Alliance Members:

"Hurrah for Spring"! Hope everything is looking up for you to come to Convention. It has been a short year and I am sure that "keeping in touch" has helped in that respect.

Enjoyed hearing from so many of you and learning about all the on-going projects. Want to thank Mary and Jean again for all the communications on the "Silent Tea", Perry Martin's interesting pages in the *Messenger*, Marge Ball's inspiration invitation to the Mite Box and for all the reports that have been sent in. Then Doris Tafel's call was icing on the cake. It was good to talk with Annella at the Los Angeles Church last Sunday. Many thanks to each and everyone—a great staff.

To all Alliances—a specific request—please send to us via any representative attending—a list of your present or new officers, so we can compile a new list for next year. Please include the Secretary's address.

As I mentioned before to the Board, I have designated a time for our Board meetings which are really important, so to reiterate—there will be one on Thursday, July 1st at 4 p.m. for the present Board and the other on Saturday, July 3rd, at 1 p.m. for the new Board.

Please take orders for pins for your Alliance prior to Convention. Pins for ladies and for men, also a new tie tack, will be on sale and Doris Tafel, Treasurer will be on hand to see that you get your orders filled.

Have a good trip to California—it will be another happy reunion and I feel sure if there are other spots to fill when the time comes, I can call on you to help me through my first annual meeting.

See you soon,  
Mareta P. Saul, President.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF N.C.T.S. CORPORATION

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Corporation of the New Church Theological School to elect officers and to transact such other business as may properly come before it will be held at the University of California at Irvine, California on Thursday, July 1st, 1982, at 4:00 p.m. This notice serves as an official call to that meeting.

Harvey M. Johnson, Clerk  
Corporation of the New Church  
Theological School.

## Film Premier At Convention '82

A special event at the forthcoming Convention will be the first showing of the Swedenborg Foundation's latest film, *Images of Knowing*. Filmed by Global Concepts Inc., from a script by George Dole, with Anne Baxter as narrator, the film is a 12-minute presentation of natural images of mental processes. It represents a new venture in the Foundation's efforts to spread the word, and has generated considerable enthusiasm among those who have worked on it.

## THANK YOU

In the past month the following readers have sent financial contributions to the *Messenger* and we are deeply grateful for this continuing support. Frequently words of appreciation for the editor are included with these gifts, and this is icing on the cake. Merci beaucoup! Agnes and Josephine Cowern, Minnesota; Marilyn Humphries, Maryland; Neil Zacharias, British Columbia; Karen Hardstedt, Sweden; Ruth Brandau, Michigan; Charles Rhoads, Virginia; Mary Warrender, North Carolina; John Carlquist, Idaho; Gertrude Chaplin, Maine; Velma Shepherd, Colorado; Katharine Swiger, W. Virginia; and Marjorie Grattan, Texas. Mrs. Grattan wrote: "I believe it is time to renew my subscription to the *Messenger*, therefore I am enclosing a check for \$15.00 as I know your costs have risen so high. The *Messenger* is the only magazine I receive that I read from cover to cover."

## PAUL GIUNTA MEMORIAL

A new solo stop has been installed on the organ at the Cambridge Chapel as a memorial to Paul David Giunta. The stop is an 8' Krumhorn and has been completed by Philip Beaudry, who had done much to restore the organ just a few years ago.

Because completion of the restoration was a project very dear to Paul's heart, his family have set up a memorial fund in his name for this purpose. To date more than \$2600 has been contributed, and the fund is still growing.

# ADVANCE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

## “Swedenborgians Living the Life”

### University of California, Irvine Campus

### June 30 — July 4, 1982

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanied by:

Children

Name	Relationship	Age of Children
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Mode of transportation \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival time \_\_\_\_\_

Give date, hour and name of airline, bus or train information if applicable.

Our site for Convention this June has been found. It will be held at the beautiful University of California, Irvine Campus in Orange County. The campus is located 40 miles southeast of Los Angeles, 80 miles north of San Diego, and 5 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Mt. Baldy (10,064 feet), is about a 90 minute drive from the campus (50 miles).

The campus was designed around a large central park, which can be used for recreation, picnic lunches, or even small outdoor group meetings. There are twelve tennis courts, six indoor handball / racquetball courts, basketball courts and many other athletic facilities available for us, including a swimming pool.

The residence halls are located within easy walking distance of the meeting rooms and the dining hall. Each complex accommodates a maximum of 48 persons in 24 rooms. The rooms are arranged in groups of four (12 upstairs and 12 downstairs), with each group of four rooms sharing a bathroom and a small living room. There is a larger game room and balcony on the second floor, and a formal lounge and patio on the first floor. There is one laundry room on the second floor, with a small sitting room next to it.

We recommend that people flying to Convention arrive at Los Angeles airport (LAX). Door to door transportation is available between LAX and Irvine Campus. Make arrangements with your local travel agent.

Bus and train service is available, but it is not as convenient. Trains arriving from the east stop in Los Angeles, first, and then travel back to Santa Ana (about 11 - 12 miles from the campus). Greyhound bus service is also through Los Angeles to Santa Ana. After arrival in Santa Ana, it would be necessary to transfer to a local bus line or make other transportation arrangements. Taxi fare would be expensive.

Karen and Stan Conger  
Local Arrangements Chairmen

## RATES

Convention rates have been set as follows:

\$27.00 per person per day — double occupancy

\$33.00 per person per day — single occupancy

\$36.00 per person per day — single bedroom with sitting room

Children 5 and under — no charge

A registration fee of \$15.00 is due at the time you register up to May 1st when the registration fee becomes \$25.00. No registration fee will be required from League members or children. Please fill out registration form above, enclose registration fee, and forward to Roger Paulson, Convention Central Office, 48 Sargent St., Newton, Mass. 02158. Make registration fee checks payable to "1982 General Convention."

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## MEMORIAL ROLLO K. BILLINGS

### 1902—1982

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Rollo K. Billings quietly entered the spiritual dimension of consciousness on January 20, 1982. A family memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Owen T. Turley on January 30, 1982 in Brookings, Oregon. Rollo is lovingly remembered by many throughout Convention.

Ordained into the Christian ministry in 1935 while serving our church in La Porte, Indiana, Rollo remained in the parish ministry throughout his active career. In addition to La Porte, he served our congregation in Baltimore, Maryland; Lancaster, Penn.; Wilmington, Delaware; Humboldt Park and Sheridan Road parishes in Chicago, Illinois; was the building pastor for a new work in Des Plaines, Illinois; served St. Paul, Minn.; and completed his active ministry establishing a new work in Colorado Springs, Colorado for our Board of Missions. In addition, he served as a member of the Board of Missions for many years, being head of the home division of the Board.

Rollo was a creative pastor and a pioneer in the field of religious radio. While in Lancaster, he was one of the first in the field with a most successful, weekly radio broadcast in cooperation with the local Council of Churches. Further, his work was ever characterized by a sensitive concern for the needs of children. For example, under Rollo's ministry at Sheridan Road, the church operated a full time nursery school and while at St. Paul, he initiated a widely serving program known as "Saturday's Children." In addition, his parish work was always characterized by a strong and effective Sunday School program. In this, he had the dedicated and effective working companionship of his wife, "Guiny."

It is in response to this dimension of his work that the "Saturday's Children Memorial Fund" has been established. Opened as a living memorial by Convention, memorials may be established in the Fund for all persons of the Church, lay and clerical alike. A memorial for Rollo has been established as the first under the Fund. Income from the Fund will be used to assist children and their families to attend sessions of General Convention, Church camps and Church sponsored workshops.

Born in Sidney, Australia to the Rev. and Mrs. Percy Billings, Rollo is survived by his

wife; their five children, Marjorie, Patricia, Andrew, David Billings, Ph.D., and the Rev. John Billings, and nine grandchildren.

A final, personal note of remembrance. After marrying my sister, Rollo was not only my pastor and my brother-in-law, he was also my friend. It is not just coincidence that, years later, I was a live-in student guest in their home when I made the decision to begin preparation for the ministry.

Rollo will long be affectionately remembered by many as pastor and friend.

Rev. Calvin E. Turley, D.Min.

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## SUMMER CAMP DATES

Almont, Michigan— August 1 - 15

Fryeburg, Maine— August 7 - 22

Kemper Road, Ohio- July 11 - 16 (teens)

July 18 - 23 (9 - 12  
year olds)

Paulhaven, Alberta— July 18 - 25

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## WE GET LETTERS

### Prophetic Power

Dear Paul:

What could be more timely than Dorothea Harvey's presentation of Hosea's call!

I am glad you printed that just now when reliance is being placed on military power, security where there is none.

Hosea calls to the very heart of power—to the knowledge of God—to actually knowing His love—which is the basis of "justice and fruitfulness in the earth."

Dr. Harvey says that knowing love like this means a new kind of life, and reminds us that Hosea felt that Israel was not ready for such a new birth. Are we?

Our only hope!

Margaret Briggs,  
Intervale, N.H.

### We've Come A Long Way

Dear Paul:

Evelyn Buck's "Easter Reverie" is beautiful. In the times that I knew her, I felt she was a creative, hopeful and intelligent person who was denied and stifled by our old taboos against self esteem, wifely "place", etc. I'm sure in heaven she is free.



When I was at the Convention Program Planning meeting and heard people talking about Ruben Nelson's "Transformation Conference" I was green with envy" wishing I could go too. Perhaps the most important effect of such a gathering is to strengthen the "sensitive, open, growing people" who attend and to let others know that there are people out there who share the same ideas and hopes. I meet New Age people every week. I meet them in education courses and conferences. I Ching has taught me about the cyclic nature of life and the value of gentle persistence, with order, and the value of emulating the "superior person."

We've come a long way in our Swedenborgian circles toward being more honest, open, respecting, loving and sharing with each other. The trend is certainly positive. I hear very little of the back-biting any more. If there is, someone else adds the understanding or forgiving word which keeps ire from growing. I'm excited about new understandings of the Divine Human which touch on all levels from physical sex (the freedom for it or to be free of it) to the importance of our spiritual states and their effects on our physical and mental health, etc.

Marge Ball  
Ventura, California

### Inner Restraint Needed

Dear Sir:

"Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand." Matthew 12: 25

"How can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, *unless he first binds the strong man*? Then indeed he may plunder his house." Matthew 12: 29

Is that what you want to do to the U.S.A.?

M. E.  
San Diego  
California

*We feel that a nation's top priority should be building up spiritual and moral strength. It is also prudent and necessary to have adequate weapons for self-defense. But to have an over-supply of nuclear weapons is an offense to God and humanity. In explaining this verse Bruce's Commentary on Matthew tells us: "The house here mentioned is the mind, especially the will. The strong man is self-love, and his goods are evils, which are the objects of that love. But how can love to God enter into the will as its habitation, and remove the evils that are there, unless self-love be brought under subjection, bound by those truths which are the laws of*

*order, and thus deprived of the dominion which it has hitherto exercised?"* Editor

### Appreciation from Urbana

Dear Mr. Zacharias:

I would like to express my thanks to the Convention for their support in helping Urbana College through its year of extreme financial crisis. Without the Church's support and flexibility, we could not have survived.

The College is about to complete another year under new leadership with a pared-administration and an audit committee controlling the financial activities of the institution. We will finish the current year within our operating budget. Our projected income is on target and will provide an opportunity to add strength to our current fragile state.

Dr. Perry Whitmore, our President, is now confident that he will be able to use much of his time and effort in soliciting major donors, foundations, and leading the major fund drive. Whitmore's former experience qualifies him for this task and his enthusiasm suits him for it! These funds will be used to build fiscal as well as academic strength. Thanks Dr. Whitmore!

The academic strength of the College is reflected in the success of our students in the "outside world" and in graduate schools for those who have chosen to further their education. This success is due to the efforts of the faculty, who have supported the College with great loyalty, and a high level of performance. We respect their efforts and their professionalism.

Again, in regard to our financial condition, the College is current on all "outside" debt obligations, the accounts payable are within acceptable limits and accounts receivable are current. This would not have been possible except for the Church's great generosity last year when little or no other support could be found. We at the College, again sincerely thank you for your continuing support.

Very best regards,  
M. J. Eaton,  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
Urbana College.

### On Positive Thinking

Dear Paul:

"In a society of positive thinking, mental illness is a downer, so we shrink from the thought and from those caught in its quicksand."

(Cont'd on page 126)

## FROM CHURCH RECORDS

### BAPTISMS

**BANEGAS**—Ethan Lawrence and Brandon Eliah, were baptized in the New Church in Riverside, California, the children's grandfather, Rev. Kenneth W. Knox, officiating, on Easter Sunday, April 11, 1982.

**DAVIS**—Christine Marie, daughter of Clyde and Edith Davis, was baptized in the New Church, San Francisco, California, on Palm Sunday, April 4, 1982, the Rev. Edwin Capon officiating.

**MORRIS**—Sean Michael, son of Steven and Gayle Morris, was baptized in the San Francisco New Church on Palm Sunday, April 4, 1982, the Rev. Edwin Capon officiating.

**RIDLON**—Michael Paul, son of Russel and Lilla Ridlon, was baptized in the Fryeburg New Church, Fryeburg, Maine, on April 18, 1982, the Rev. David L. Reinstra officiating.

**HOUGH**—Benjamin Carl, son of Glenn and Karen Hough, grandson of Carl and Doris Sjostedt, was baptized into the Christian faith in the San Francisco New Church on April 25th, the Rev. Edwin Capon officiating.

**RICCI, WILLIAMS**—Kristine Aimee, daughter of Susan and James Williams, and Beverly Ricci were baptized into the Christian faith in the Bridgewater New Church on April 11, 1982, the Rev. William Woofenden officiating.

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

**COLES**—Nancy, was received into membership of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, on April 25, 1982.

**MCGAVIN**—Joan, was received into membership at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, on April 25, 1982.

**MOORE**—Ruth, was received into membership of the San Francisco New Church, on Sunday, March 28, 1982.

**THOMLINSON**—L. Scott, was received into membership of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, on April 25, 1982.

### CONFIRMATIONS

**WEINS**—Peter John, was confirmed in the faith of life of the New Church at a service in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Milligan, at Peachland, British Columbia. The Rev. Erwin D. Reddekopp officiated, April 4, 1982.

**DOLE, LOVELL, PALLESCHI, RICCI**—Andrew Dole, Greg Lovell, Persis Palleschi, and Beverly Ricci were confirmed into the faith and life of the New Church in the Bridgewater New Church on April 11, 1982, the Rev. William Woofenden officiating.

**DREW**—Magdalena and Dennis Drew were confirmed into the New Church faith and life in San Diego on March 21st, 1982, the Rev. Ivan Franklin officiating.

### MARRIAGE

**BARKER—WIEBE**—Kevin Dale Barker and Gayle Janine Wiebe were united in marriage on Saturday, April 10, 1982, in the United Church in Acme, Alberta. The Rev. Erwin D. Reddekopp, great uncle of the bride officiated. The Rev. Stan Bessey, of the United Church participated in the service.

### DEATHS

**SKEEM**—Mrs. Irma, died on April 15, in San Francisco, California. The resurrection service was held on April 20, with Rev. Edwin Capon officiating.

**ZACHRISON**—Richard Norman, beloved member of the Chicago Society of the New Jerusalem, was called into the higher life suddenly and unexpectedly on Thursday, March 11, 1982. A resurrection-memorial service was conducted in his memory on Sunday, March 14, 1982, the Rev. Thornton O. Smallwood officiating.

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### On Positive Thinking (cont'd from pg. 125)

That sentence appeared in a book review in the Los Angeles *Times* recently.

I do *not* think our church should be involved in social action. But I do think it should be inspiring our members, particularly our young, to have compassion and caring for the powerless in our society, the neglected or abused, and to do whatever we can to help, no matter how little or large that may be.

Positive thinking is hiding one's head in the sand. I went through that 30 years ago when I was a member of a Divine Science church before I found Swedenborg. Divine Science is even *more* "power of positive thinking" than Norman Vincent Peale or Dr. Schuller.

I cannot "think positive", and ignore those who suffer, so that I can be comfortable.

When the Lord walked on our earth, he did not shun the sick or the sinners or try to avoid negative situations.

Betty Jane Lundberg  
Los Angeles, Calif.

# *The Upper Room* **CLEANSING THE TEMPLE**

*Leon C. LeVan*  
*St. Petersburg, Florida*

Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem is one of the briefest narratives in the four gospels. Not one of the four gospels describes it in more than six verses, and *Luke* tells the story in only two. Despite this brevity, the "cleansing of the Temple" stands as one of the profound events of the Lord's earthly life.

The "Temple" represents in its several aspects the Lord, the Word, the Church, and the individual. Thus, the Lord's cleansing of the Temple takes on significance as high as God, as wide as Heaven and the Church, yet as near as the individual human life. Christ's cleansing of the Temple represents a spiritual purgation which restores the Temple as the "house of prayer."

The Lord had taken human nature upon Himself at birth. He was the Divine "dweller" in the inherited humanity which was (and is) saturated with tendencies to sin and evil. Like the outer court of the Temple, mankind had become filled by heredity with all manner of unspiritual buying, selling, traffic, corruption, and excess. The "house of prayer" had become a "den of thieves."

First think of the "Temple" of the Lord's Human Life. When Jesus entered into the Temple and "looked roundabout on all things" (as one of the gospels declares), He saw the courts, the stones, the sacred chambers, the holy furnishings as images and reflections of the Divine things in Himself. He perceived the Temple as the outward image of God in man. Jesus standing in the Temple and "looking round about on all things" represents how He examined all things of His life from inmost to outmost and saw that the outmost (represented by the outer court) was filled with tendencies to evil that must be put away.

This does not mean the Lord's human life had been of such character, for His was a *sinless* life. But the inherited human nature which He took upon Himself from the mother Mary and the human race was filled with such teeming tendencies to evil as to be called a "den of thieves" rather than a "house of prayer." This then is the highest meaning of the "cleansing of the Temple"—that the Lord cast out of His hereditary human nature every tendency to sin and self, and made His human

life "one with the Father," thus he Glorified it and made it Divine.

Now there follows a detail in this Divine drama in the Temple which readers of the letter alone almost completely overlook. After Jesus had driven out the traders and money changers, *Mark* adds that Jesus "did not suffer that any man should carry a vessel through the Temple." Bible scholars take this to mean only that the Lord forbade the use of the Temple to all who would use it as a short-cut while carrying any vessel.

But Scriptural "vessels" correspond to spiritual truths or falsities. Vessels consecrated to the Temple were permitted to be carried through; but no "strange vessel" (no false idea) was thereafter to be permitted. At other times, and in other states of the Lord's life, it had been permitted that "strange vessels" might pass through the "Temple" of His mind—to the end that Jesus could be tempted even as all men are tempted. But now in the arcane state of His Glorification represented by the "cleansing" no "strange vessel" (no false idea) was hereafter to be permitted.

Any attempt by Christian men and women today to suppose that the Lord's Human is not Divine, or that He is not the Infinite and Eternal God, is an attempt to carry a "strange vessel" through the Temple courts, and this must never be.

A temple or church is a place of worship. It is dedicated and set apart for that use. There we go at stated times, especially on the Lord's day, to lift our minds above the things of the transitory world. We pray the Lord for help in our daily efforts to fight against our evils. We offer praise and thanksgiving to Him for His merciful protection. We learn from His word the truths of Eternal life. Everything in the church building is designed to help us put aside the thoughts into which evil spirits may enter; and that is why we normally begin our worship with the Divine words: "The Lord is in His Holy Temple." No "strange vessel" should be carried through.

The Temple in Jerusalem is gone. It had no further use nor significance after the Lord glorified His Human, and Himself became the "Temple of God in Man." Still He is cleansing the "temple of life" in you and me. In our lives there still continue the false thoughts and evil inclinations signified by the wrong things that were in the Great Temple in Jerusalem. May the Lord cast out the "traders," "money changers," and all other evils from our characters. Then shall our "house of life" truly become a "house of prayer," to increase in beauty and strength for ever.

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