

THE MESSENGER

Official Organ of the Swedenborgian Church

OCTOBER 1974

WANTED!

Our Messenger editor has chosen to step down next summer. To guide his successor, the Department of Publication is asking you, our readers, what you want in the only church publication to reach all of our members. We earnestly invite your responses. They will be held completely anonymous unless you wish to be identified.

Two copies of a questionnaire are in the centerfold of this issue. (Ask for extra copies if they're needed.) Please fill out one copy per reader and return it in the pre-addressed envelope. By each of you supplying one 10¢ stamp, you'll collectively save Convention many dollars.

If we are to establish meaningful guidelines for the new editor, we need your input. So that you'll know the sentiments of all the readers, the results of this survey will be printed in a future issue.

Thank you in advance for your thought and care in telling us what you want in The Messenger.

Department of Publication
Edward W. Bohlander, Jr.,
Chairman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHNNY APPLESEED

As harvest time approaches, the grandeur, vastness, and inexhaustibility of nature again reaffirms itself. Nowhere is it more breathtaking than in the bountiful mid-western apple orchards. Few of us realize that we owe a great debt to the legendary figure John Chapman—better known as “Johnny Appleseed,” for these magnificent orchards which color our landscape.

Born in Leominster, Mass., on September 26, 1774, this year marks the 200th Anniversary of Johnny Appleseed. His legend continues to live although most people think of him as a folk hero rather than a man of character and purpose. Struggling with stubborn soil and faced with endless lonely lamp-lit hours, the midwestern settlers welcomed this benevolent wanderer who excited them with his plantings of apple seedlings and inspired them with portions of spiritual reading matter.

Described in the diaries and letters of his contemporaries as “small and wiry with face bronzed and lined by wind and sun,” it appears that his eyes were his most memorable feature. Many people remarked on his piercingly brilliant dark eyes that could “read the thoughts in a man’s soul; and if those thoughts were bad, could ferret them out with a word of faith and hope.” Kentuckians still tell tales of Johnny Appleseed giving a bag of seeds and a brightly polished apple to a gangling youngster named Abe Lincoln whom he met on his way home from borrowing a book from a neighbor.

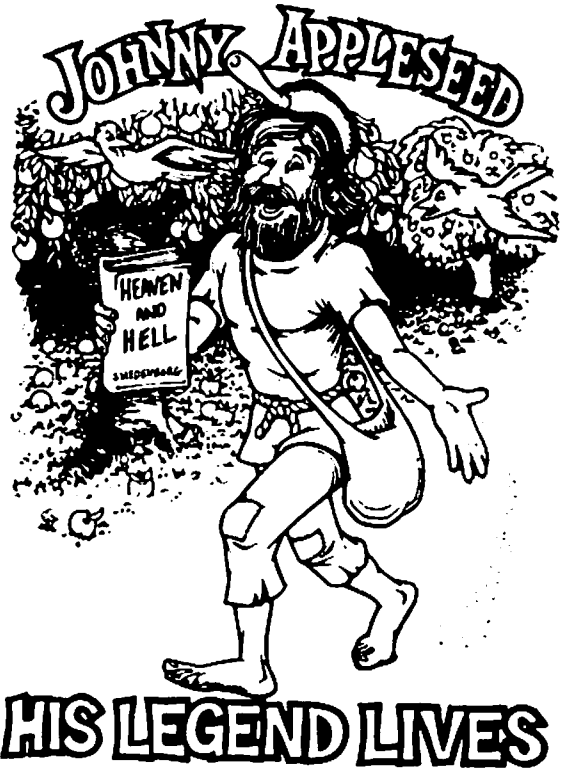
Friend of settler and Indian alike, Johnny Appleseed never neglected a needy family nor shunned the faithless. He possessed an unusual eloquence and could hold a group of settlers spellbound with a discourse on the merits, beauty, importance, and delight of an apple!

Deeply religious, he became interested in the books of the 18th century scientist, inventor, philosopher, and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg. Johnny acted as a revolving librarian with the settlers, leaving chapters of Swedenborg’s *Heaven and Hell* with them on one trip and exchanging them for others on his return trip. He called these chapters “Good News—Fresh From Heaven.” *Heaven and Hell* has remained in demand these 200 years and has been steadily reprinted by the Swedenborg Foundation in New York City, and is available at the Swedenborg Library, 175 Newbury St., Boston, Mass. Everywhere Johnny travelled he gently preached Swedenborg’s basic philosophy that “all religion has relation to life, and the religious life is one of doing good.” So besides leaving in his wake vast expanses of lush apple orchards, he also left “spiritual” seeds—both lasting legacies for mankind.

Even though the travels of Johnny Appleseed have become a romantic legend, they were based upon gruelling toil, endless journeys on foot, and a man's determination to bring to fruition the bounty of the Creator. Thousands of acres now bloom and bear beautiful apples which are a living tribute to this man's efforts. Two famous apple species, the "Jonathan" and the "Chapman" were named for him. And in 1966 the United States Post Office formally recognized him with a commemorative stamp. These, plus the many parks and clubs named in his honor are testimony that Johnny Appleseed gave freely and honestly of his work to those who could repay him with little.

There is still some uncertainty as to the time of his death, but the accepted date is March 18, 1845. His place of burial is Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where an enclosed marker is placed.

There is no question about the lasting contribution this man left to the nation. He was a man who believed that barren ground could bear rich fruit and that godless men could be imbued with faith. Truly, in this troubled world, this is a man whose good works we sorely need. Johnny Appleseed—his legend lives!



HIS LEGEND LIVES

THE APPLE-BARREL OF
JOHNNY APPLESEED

by Vachel Lindsay

On the mountain peak, called "Going-To-The-Sun,"
I saw gray Johnny Appleseed at prayer
Just as the sunset made the old earth fair.
Then darkness came; in an instant, like great smoke,
The sun fell down as though its great hoops broke
And dark rich apples, poured from the dim flame
Where the sun set, came rolling toward the peak,
A storm of fruit, a mighty cider-reek,
The perfume of the orchards of the world,
From apple-shadows: red and russet domes
That turned to clouds of glory and strange homes
Above the mountain tops for cloud-born souls:—
Reproofs for men who build the world like moles,
Models for men, if they would build the world
As Johnny Appleseed would have it done—
Praying, and reading the books of Swedenborg
On the mountain top called "Going-To-The-Sun."

From *Modern American Poetry and Modern British Poetry—A Critical Anthology*, edited by Louis Untermeyer. Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1942.

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 1974

Vol. 194, No. 9

Whole Number 4976

Published monthly, except for the one double issue in July-August, by the Swedenborgian Church (founded 1817, incorporated 1861 as the General Convention of the New Jerusalem in the United States of America).

Robert H. Kirven, Editor

Madelyn Johnson, Lay-out Assistant

The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Department of Publication, or represent the position of the church.

EDITORIAL, BUSINESS, & SUBSCRIPTION ADDRESS:

THE MESSENGER
48 Sargent St.
Newton, Mass. 02158

Subscription free to members of the Swedenborgian Church, non-members, \$3.00 a year (foreign postage .25 extra, gift subscriptions from a member, \$1.50, single copies, .25).

MAUDE SEWALL ORGAN FUND

*By John H. Harms, Pres.
Wash. Society of the New Jerusalem*

This is a request for contributions to the Maude Sewall Organ Fund approved by the General Council of the General Convention. We know that there are other great causes that tug at your purse-strings, and we wouldn't ask unless this also was a great cause. Please consider this:

For New Church people of America, the Church of the Holy City in Washington, D. C. is "our window to the world." So said President-elect Eric Zacharias when he opened our Church "season" this fall.

Many denominations do not have a church in the heart of the Capitol City—even some with much greater memberships than the General Convention. And of those that do, most are not the original building as is the Church of the Holy City. It will celebrate its 80th anniversary on December 8, 1974 with President Ernest O. Martin presiding—and you all are invited.

Probably you know how centrally located your church is here—the White House is smack at the foot of our street, just 12 blocks down 16th Street across Lafayette Park at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. And just think: This jewel belongs to all of us Swedenborgians of Convention. You can be as proud of your Church of the Holy City in Washington in the eastern U. S. as you are of your beautiful Wayfarers' Chapel at Rancho Palos Verdes on the West Coast.

This Church is becoming famous in this city of famous churches and famous preachers and famous musicians. It began moving into the world of larger religious affairs here in the early 1960s. And our influence is growing even more rapidly in the 1970s. Of late we have added a series of visiting preachers—even reaching outside our denomination in true ecumenical fashion. And we are nearing our third year of the well-known Sunday Morning Forum which meets at 9:30 A.M.—where 30-60

people of all beliefs gather to share thoughts on the wonders of the Lord as taught by Swedenborg.

Our music has made us famous—in the tradition of earlier days when the great Maude Sewall was organist and choir director and the center of Washington's religious music was the Church of the Holy City. Our series of organ recitals and other musical events last year were well attended and have made this city's music lovers sit up and take notice.

We have seen how superb religious music in the sanctuary opens the door to people totally unfamiliar with Emanuel Swedenborg. They pick up our literature, talk to our friendly parishioners at the receptions after the performances, and often come back for services. Clearly this is a ministry of high order.

But as things in this world go, the great instrument upon which so many great artists have played is simply wearing out and needs a fresh lease on life. As you know only too well, that costs money. We are stepping up our recitals and launching other programs to raise the necessary funds, but obviously it's too big a job for us alone. Nobody likes to ask for money, but we have no alternative. So we have started a national fund-raising campaign.

You ought to know some of the history of this organ so that you may weigh the proposition on its merits. Our own gifted organist, James Trabert, has written this brief history for you:

The Hook & Hastings Organ Co. of Boston was asked to build an organ for the National New Church in Washington, D. C. in 1895 and completed installation in 1896. The formal dedication of the Church of the Holy City in Washington and the organ was held in May 1896 during the opening of the General Convention—with Miss Maude Sewall as organist. The instrument was a fine tracker (mechanical action) organ of two manuals, 24 ranks.

In 1920 the tracker organ was electrified by the primitive means of attaching electrified pull-down action to the underside of the tracker (mechanical action) chest. This proved highly unsatisfactory mainly due to the excessive noise made by the add-on action.

Finally in 1960, funds were asked of General Convention and friends of the General Convention then donated the Paul Sperry Organ. The local firm of Lewis & Hitchcock was awarded the contract to do an entire rebuilding job. At completion of the work, the organ stood at two manuals, 17 ranks. Most of the original pipework was needlessly discarded and thus the original design was destroyed. The rebuild carried a one year guarantee.

After ten years the organ console and relays began to become undependable. The materials used in this rebuild were inferior products of an inexpensive nature. Mrs. Pauline Houser of the Washington Society then made a gift for the repairs that were immediately necessary—although these turned out to be temporary as other new problems have come about.

Repairs to the present console cost more than a new one. The relays are in need of replacing. Leathering problems have existed and half the organ is now redone with perflex (a polyurethane substance used instead of leather because of its durability). This was done out of proceeds of our popular recital series. And during the past winter, the fuel crisis took its toll—Church temperature had to be cut too low to be good for the organ. The remaining leather valves have been damaged and now cause many dead notes.

At this stage, bids have been called for and were received from three reputable organ builders. The firm of Gress-Miles of Princeton, N. J. has been selected as the most reasonable and most guaranteed. The cost was quoted at \$42,300. Two months later, the cost went up to \$49,000. As of this fall, the cost stood at \$53,200, and further cost increases are projected before year's end.

Now we stand at a decision point as our National Church is to be used for 5 to 7 music programs of the Bicentennial Celebration of America in 1976.

Gress-Miles offers a guarantee of 5 to 10 years on different parts of their organ which is more than any other organ builder in the U. S. The Board of Trustees of the National Church met in Urbana at the annual convention and made the suggestion that a national campaign for funds be launched for the organ. The General Council endorsed the campaign.

Now we appeal to your generosity for contributions for the Maude Sewall Memorial Organ Fund for the National Church. We plan to rebuild the organ in memory of Miss Sewall who served as organist of the National Church for 59 years continuous service (ed: 59 years is correct).

A distinguished and respected woman of the Washington area—Maude Sewall was awarded the first honorary Doctorate (FAGO) by the American Guild of Organists. She also helped found many of the Washington Music Societies. We believe such service should be remembered and thus chose the organ as a suitable memorial. And of course, the Paul Sperry plaque will continue its prominent place on the organ case.

All contributions will be gratefully received, and no contribution is too small to help. All gifts will be acknowledged with a letter of thanks, and for tax deduction purposes. Also, a book of remembrances will list all contributors' names and be encased at the National Church for public display—and for your own viewing when you come to visit your National Church and hear the beautiful organ.

The fund we are trying to build may seem like a lot, but note these statistics—see the inflation since the original organ was put in:

1896—\$2,725. Original organ purchased by the youth of the New Church (YNCL).
 1920—\$15,000. Electrification paid by the Church.
 1961—\$28,000. Paul Sperry Memorial Organ installed by funds of friends of the General Convention and matched by church funds.
 1974—\$53,000. Maude Sewall Memorial Funds to be raised.

Check should be made out to "Church of the Holy City" and designated for "Maude Sewall Organ Fund." Remember, the gift you give is tax deductible.

EIGHT STUDENTS AT SSR WORKING TOWARD ORDINATION

Nine students are enrolled at the Swedenborg School of Religion this fall, and a tenth—now on leave of absence—is expected to return for the second semester. The total includes seven students in the course of preparation for full ordination, one whose ordination as a Missionary Minister in Guyana after the first of next year was authorized at the last convention, and two special students.

Of the seven students in the regular program, four are continuing their studies, and working toward an approved plan of ministry and finalized curriculum covenant. These include Richard Baxter, former organist in the Washington Church; Dave Rienstra, a life-long Swedenborgian from Grand Rapids, Michigan; Barbara Scholz and Erik Allison, both graduates of Urbana College who first encountered Swedenborg in classes there. Eric is presently on leave of absence, but is expected to resume studies next semester.

New this year are Ron Brugler, another Urbana graduate who joined the church while in college; Diana Kirven and Sue Turley, both daughters of SSR faculty members. Diana is a graduate of Drew University and spent last year in Germany as a Fulbright exchange teacher. Sue was graduated last spring from Urbana. Although ministers' sons are commonplace in the history of SSR students, Sue and Diana are the first ministers' daughters to enroll in ordination program, and may be the first faculty children to be regularly enrolled.

Robert Murray, Polly Baxter, and Valery Brugler are enrolled in special programs. Bob will complete his studies at the end of this semester in December, and move to Guyana with his wife Rose, where he will be ordained as a Missionary Minister. Polly is taking courses with an aim toward possible future candidacy for ordination, and Val is taking courses at SSR for credit at Urbana College, where she hopes to receive her degree next spring. Although not formally enrolled, Rose Murray has audited most of the courses that her husband has taken.

AMERICAN NEW CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The publishing of a memorial edition of the Sunday School Notes prepared by the late Mrs. Anita S. Dole was the main item of interest at the Sunday School Association meeting at Convention this year.

Disappointment was expressed at the meeting that the Board of Education had turned down financial aid for the proposed reissuing of the "Dole Notes," but the Sunday School Association feels that the project is so worthwhile that a special committee was appointed to seek ways of financing the printing. A fund-raising drive, which will seek support from churches throughout Convention, will begin shortly. Actually, the first contribution was made the evening of June 21, the day the Association met, by a man who had not been at the meeting but who values the Sunday School Notes highly. When he heard that money was needed to reprint them, he immediately gave \$10.

New officers of the Association, elected at the annual meeting, are: Rev. Walter Orthwein, president; Rev. Horand Gutfeldt, vice-president; Mrs. Louise Woofenden, secretary; Daniel Nielsen, treasurer; Mrs. Margaret Briggs, in charge of teacher training; Mrs. Marian Kirven, visual aids; Mrs. Naomi Walton, extension; Rev. Franklin Blackmer, lesson committee; and Rev. Leon LeVan, elected to nominating committee.



Retiring President Marian Kirven (r.) conducts meeting of the Sunday School Association.

MEMBERSHIP READER SURVEY

Please provide the following information:

Age:	Under 13	(0)	Please do not write in this space	
	13-15	(1)		
	16-18	(2)		
	19-25	(3)		
	26-35	(4)		
	36-45	(5)		
	46-55	(6)		
	56-65	(7)		
	66-75)	(8)		Col.
	76 or over	(9)		(20)
Sex:	Female	(1)		
	Male	(2)	(21)	
Church Member:	Yes	(1)		
	No	(2)	(22)	
Occupation (If retired please provide previous occupation)	_____		(23)	

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

MESSENGER READERSHIP SURVEY

Please respond by checking one of the choices provided for each item. If you have additional comments or suggestions please indicate these in the space provided at the end of the questionnaire.

	coverage has been insufficient	coverage has been satisfactory	has been covered too much	ought not to be included	
Devotional Material					Col. (1)
Doctrinal Study Topics					(2)
Educational Writings (Sunday School Aids)					(3)
Philosophical Articles					(4)
Reprints of Articles from Outside the Church					(5)
Poetry					(6)
Abridged Sermons					(7)
Book Reviews					(8)
Film Reviews					(9)
Cartoons					(10)
News from Worldwide New Church Organizations					(11)
League News					(12)
Vital Statistics: Births, Deaths, Marriages					(13)
Reports of Meeting of Convention Boards and Departments					(14)
New Items from Local Churches					(15)
Controversial Social Issues					(16)
Controversial Religious Issues					(17)
Notices of Available Literature					(18)
Photographs					(19)

Please do not write in this space

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Controversial Social Issues					(16)
Controversial Religious Issues					(17)
Notices of Available Literature					(18)
Photographs					(19)

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MEMBERSHIP READER SURVEY

Page 2

Please provide the following information:

Age:	Under 13	(0)	Please do not write in this space	
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	16-18	(2)		
	19-25	(3)		
	26-35	(4)		
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	Male	(2)	(21)	
Church Member:	Yes	(1)		
	No	(2)	(22)	
Occupation (If retired please provide previous occupation)				
	_____		(23)	

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

A JOURNEY of LOVE

By Margit Tobisch

I have entitled this article a Journey of Love, because from the beginning until its completion I have felt deeply the sphere of love surrounding me. Its initial impetus was given in 1970 in Derby, England at the time of the World Assembly, when Isabel and Bill Hall invited me to visit them in Sydney, Australia, and stay as long as I wished. Since then, feeling a deep desire in my heart to honor this cordial invitation, I prayed to the Lord for guidance, knowing that if it is His will, He also provides the means. He did, by moving the generous heart of a friend who sent a cashier's check for \$1000 with an unsigned typewritten note for me to use this money for travel or anything that gives me joy. The sender desired to remain anonymous.

So preparations began for a Pacific Circle Tour, taking in all our New Churches within this circle. The San Francisco Church's farewell party started me off on this Journey of Love in September 1973.

My first stop was in Guam with Mr. and Mrs. Allan Deal and their children. Othmar married this fine couple and baptized their two children. Before they moved from San Francisco they both sang in our Church Choir. I enjoyed their warm-hearted hospitality for eight days. Allan took me to the last day's Pacific Island Tourism Conference that was held in Agana at the Hilton Hotel. Many Pacific Islands and races were represented and I had difficulty in identifying a Guamanian from a Marshall Islander, or one from Fiji or the Solomons or Truk. These diverse races got together to develop tourism in the Pacific Basin. Their main concern was LOVE. Can love and profit go together?

This new ingredient of LOVE was introduced by Mr. Wimberly, the President of an architectural firm from Hawaii. He said, "Love is not spoiling your islands; does not mar views or destroy environment. Put love into a building and you will do a good job. Love brings long-run profits if tourism is kept in harmony with the local residents,

their culture and environment." To me it was thrilling to hear these hard-headed businessmen, politicians, travel agents, men and women, consider Love to the neighbor as an important and vital part of their planning.

From Guam I flew to Japan where Fuji and Yonezo Doi and their families were waiting for me. It was a heartwarming Wiedersehen with these dear old friends. After an hour's visit Takashi, their son-in-law, whisked Fuji and Yonezo and me to Nasu Hot Springs in the mountains north of Tokyo. Before I left Berkeley I wrote to Fuji that while I am in Japan I would like to live like the Japanese: sleep on the floor on tatami mats, eat their food, sing their songs, pray and play with them. And so we did. Sleeping on the floor was very comfortable; Japanese food, most of it, was delectable, and one quickly learns to use chopsticks to some degree.

Early in the morning we left for Nikko where Takashi, a tireless and excellent guide, took us to see some of Japan's art treasures: centuries-old temples and palaces, delicately carved and beautifully executed statues and paintings. We had long trips through scenic mountains and rice fields. These latter made me feel like clapping my hands, laughing and singing and thanking God for all this beauty. I remember feeling this way travelling through Austria's unbelievably beautiful countryside.

After two days we returned to Tokyo where I was housed at the Japanese Asian Center as guest of the Tokyo Church and the Doi families. Travelers from all over the world, it seems, stop here for short or long terms. These contacts were most interesting and stimulating. Fuji and Yonezo guided me through Tokyo; and Takashi and his wife, Mutuko, took me on several more trips to Kyoto, Nara, Hakone, until Sunday rolled along and I finally had the joy of meeting many of the New Church members of Tokyo. Two familiar objects

in the church caught my eyes right away; first, the lovely stained-glass window, done by the same artist, Bruce Porter, who did the windows in the San Francisco Church. This window was given to the Tokyo Church by Mr. Wayne Collins (recently deceased), and I remember when Othmar and I went to see the window being repaired and cleaned in readiness for shipment. Then the portrait of Swedenborg that the San Francisco Church gave to Mr. Collins and he in turn presented to the Tokyo Church. There were memories associated with that portrait, too. It was good to see it again.

The Church Service led by the Rev. Doi, enveloped me in a happy sphere. Some of the hymns I could sing with them in English. Rev. Doi translated his sermon for me. Some 28 or 30 people were present, most of them young people. Then followed a luncheon in my honor at which time Yonezo introduced me and, with many a catch in his throat, gave a resume of his friendship with Othmar since their student days together at the Theological School in Cambridge, Mass. He also mentioned Othmar's achievement in bringing about the 1970 World Assembly.

My next stop was Korea. This phase of my trip was suggested by Rev. Chungsun Lee of our Los Angeles Church. I was reluctant to go as I knew only Rev. En Bo Chung who was our houseguest a long time ago on his way to the Theological School and I did not think I would recognize him after all these years. But Mr. Lee said not to worry, he would arrange things for me, and it would mean a great deal to the New Church in Korea to have someone from a U. S. Church visit them. I received a letter from Rev. En Bo Chung saying he would wait for me in Seoul at the airport with a banner held high with my name on it. And so it was; I spied the banner in an instant and recognized Mr. Chung in spite of all those years. Waiting for me were some thirty New Church folks led by Rev. and Mrs. Young E. Lee (pastor of the Seoul Church, and his wife), as well as two Berkeley friends. I was overwhelmed. I saw the joy in their eyes and the welcoming smiles on their lips. Bouquets of flowers were handed to me, cameras clicked, a babel of voices bade me welcome. My heart leaped in response and there and then we became friends.

I spent eight wonderful days in Korea and the highlight was the Church Service conducted by Rev. Young K. Lee. Some 50 people attended, not a gray head amongst them that I could see. In the congregational singing the male voices predominated, and I could sing several hymns in English with them while they sang in Korean. There was enthusiasm amongst these folk for the teachings of the New Church—an eagerness to learn as much as they could, that I have not encountered in any other of our Churches, and I have visited many on four continents. A number of young men told me that they wanted to study for the ministry. When later I asked Mr. Chung where would these men serve if they all became ministers, there being only two Korean societies to my knowledge, he said that they would form their own. My Berkeley friend, Peter Michael, who has been working for two years in Seoul in the Population Council, told me that Korea is much more receptive to Christian teachings than Japan.

The next day Mr. Chung escorted me by plane to Kwangju, about 500 or 600 km. south of Seoul, to meet his wife and members of the Kwangju Church. A group of some fourteen and Mrs. Chung awaited our arrival. There were more flowers and more picture takings. I was ensconced in a western-style hotel and, after lunch with some of the members, was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Chung on a long taxi ride into the country to visit an orphanage. The directress, Mrs. Cho, (who had come to Seoul to meet me,) when we had tea in her apartment showed me in her cupboard a set of Swedenborg's books in English as well as the few that are translated into Korean. Although she is not a New Church member, she seems to be an avid reader of Swedenborg. This was quite an adventuresome part of my trip as, due to a previous heavy rainstorm, the roads were washed out; we lost our way several times and had to ford two rivers. The water penetrated the car and we hugged our knees while the driver sopped up the water with rags.

Upon returning to Kwangju I attended a banquet in a restaurant for about 30—sitting on cushions around low tables. This group also was a lively, enthusiastic young one. Mr. Chung was the translator, and a few spoke some English. I told them about our San Francisco Church and brought greetings to them, even as I did in Seoul and in Japan.

They wanted to hear all I could tell them. Then they presented me with a lovely Korean dress and promptly asked me to step into another room where three women proceeded to dress me in the Korean fashion. Together with the beautiful beaded purse which the Seoul friends gave me. I felt sort of like a real Korean. They then led me to the neighboring YMCA and we enjoyed a delightful and interesting program of music from an ancient Korean instrument, a Korean drummer dance and some singing.

The following morning Mr. Chung brought me to his home for a delicious luncheon prepared by Mrs. Chung. Until that year, Mrs. Chung was teaching in a college, but for health reasons had to give it up. She is a delightful warm-hearted person. Mr. Chung told me about his work, showing the room on his premises fixed up for a chapel in which the members worship and hold classes in New Church teachings. It is a room with an earthen floor and a cement platform raised about 15" on which stands a pulpit, two chairs, and a table for an altar. There are benches for the congregation. I ached when I thought how much we in the U. S. demand this and that in order to worship our Lord, and here how truly simple it was and yet they could and did worship Him. I wish we could help these Korean churches to be more fully equipped for the work they do.

Mr. Chung instructs a few serious students of the Writings in Kwangju as well as in Seoul. Mr. Young Lee does the same in Seoul. Mr. Chung lectures once a month in a Buddhist Monastery about the Writings. Mr. Lee works during the week for IBM, giving his time to the church on weekends and evenings, instructing those who are eager to learn of our teachings. These two men deserve our attention and support. They could teach more as there is no lack of inquirers, if only they had a centrally located room in Seoul. The one-room building the Seoul group acquired recently (they still owe money on it) is located on the outskirts of the city. It took me nearly an hour to reach it by car, and our church people do not own autos.

Mr. and Mrs. Chung escorted me back to Seoul, but could not join me for dinner at the gracious home of Colonel and Mrs. Song (Mrs. Song is the sister of Po Young, wife of the Rev. Chungsun Lee

of Los Angeles) because the night before, word had reached Mr. Chung that his mother passed away. He did not tell me then, in order not to mar the festivities. Now he was returning to Kwangju to attend to funeral arrangements. I was deeply humble in the presence of such thoughtfulness and self-discipline.

The next four days I spent with my Berkeley friends: Peter, Sahn and Shanti Michael. They took me to the airport to continue my journey to Hong Kong. At the airport were my new Korean friends gathered to say farewell. I was truly sad not to stay longer and get to know them better. I left with a heart overflowing with love and affection for them, and we kept waving to each other until I boarded the plane. I am truly grateful to Mr. Chungsun Lee through whose initiative I have had this privilege of meeting his countrymen and my co-religionists.

I hope that those of our churches who have the opportunity will visit these warmhearted Swedenborgians in far off Korea. You will enter a sphere of love that will remain with you for a long time.

My next stop was in Hong Kong, followed by visits with New Church friends in Australia—Sydney, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra—and in Auckland, New Zealand. To tell of these adventures in Love would require several more pages!



Margit Tobisch speaking at the 1970 World Assembly in London. Eulalia Mooki is in the background.

SWEDENBORG LIBRARY

The Presence of Other Worlds: The Findings of Emanuel Swedenborg by *Wilson Van Dusen* (Harper & Row, 1974) 240 pp., \$6.95 hardcover.

"Emerson said of (Swedenborg), 'A colossal soul lies vast abroad on his times, uncomprehended by them, and requires a long focal distance to be seen.' Van Dusen not only provides that distance by comparing Swedenborg's testimony with his own findings as a clinical psychologist, but teaches the reader how to investigate further on his own the vast field of reality which Swedenborg opened.

"Swedenborg revealed the real science of psychology, the motions of spirit. The account, as summarized by Van Dusen, is . . . filled with excitement, . . . (and) encourages us to change our own lives."

Sherman Goldman, *the East West Journal*

"For Heaven's Sake!" by *Brian Kingslake* (The Christopher Publishing House, 1974) 321 pp., \$2.00 paperback.

This book is a collection of 46 essays in which Rev. Kingslake shares with the reader "the cream of his forty years' experience as pastor, missionary, councillor and group leader, in England, Africa and the United States." Each essay can be read as a separate unit or as a part of the whole. The collection is organized around the theme of reacting to conditions of life on earth, so as to prepare oneself for the spiritual life, and is organized with the object of "strengthening and enriching the spiritual life of the reader."

E.S. and E.S.P. by *Gwynne Dresser Mack* (Mass. New Church Union, 1974) 47 pp. \$.50 paperback.

In this little book Mrs. Mack discusses psychic phenomena in general, as well as Swedenborg's studies in the field. She explores the various areas of extra-sensory perception both in terms of Swedenborg's writings and other accounts and theories of manifestations.

Order from Swedenborg Library, 175 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass. or your nearest Swedenborg book outlet.

NOTES ON POST CONVENTION CONFERENCE

By Emilie Bateman

"Those folks are more than guesses about what they are like inside!"

I am talking about the Post Convention Conference last June, 1974, in Urbana. We related creatively to each other, sharing our convictions, goals, struggles and felicities.

I am a person who sort of enjoys some of the new activities developed by psychology-oriented pioneers. But also, I have always responded interestedly to straight Swedenborgian fare.

Each of these approaches to life has an incompleteness to it. The dry doctrinal discourse needs creative life-relatedness built from its bases. The flesh and sinew of the therapy approach fails to really live because of the lack of living breath from the Lord.

The Post Convention leaders found ways to feel into significances of doctrine while using some psychological techniques. The overall spirit of the group was flowing with a more than casual concern for each other person.

The emphasis was upon personal growth. There was a combination of cognizing, of feeling, and of sharing growth as we experienced it right then and there.

One of the most moving activities for me was a group experience symbolizing regeneration. We broke into groups of six each, five standing in a circle around the sixth who scrunched in the center of the floor. The five held hands over and above the center unregenerated embryo, raising hands as the center figure slowly rose. Then the five lay their hands on the standing center person. This desire to lift another up into new spiritual life became fulfilled in hugs of rejoicing.

With this joining of New Church truths shared with goodness of relationships, I feel that we are at the beginning of a new era—the New Church burst into full bloom!

Plan now to attend next year's conference—immediately following Convention, at Urbana College.

PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE AND THE CHURCH'S FUTURE

Five day conference in January at DeLand, Florida, for those who are 55 or over and are planning toward the retirement years and those who are already retired and wish to continue their usefulness to the church and the community.

Tentative Dates: January 13-17.

The following list contains items that are under consideration for study and discussion at the conference.

If interested, please

Cut off and return to the Adult Work Committee of the Board of Education, c/o the Rev. Randy Laakko, 227 Greenbank Road, Apt. C. 5, Wilmington, Del. 19808.

- () How do you look upon retirement?
- () The uses of experience and wisdom in retirement.
- () Caring and sharing in the future years.
- () What does it mean to be of use? (Ministering to others, including the younger generations, from your present experience.)
- () The qualities of leisure.
- () How to cope with the death of friends or family.
- () Life with a partner and life without a partner.
- () The essence of life and death.
- () How to cope with sickness or illness.
- () What is age?
- () How to be happy and active even with physical disabilities.

Please indicate your preferences and list them in order in the boxes () 1, 2 and 3, etc.

If you have any comments or other subjects which may be of general interest, kindly list them here. If there is insufficient space, an extra sheet may be enclosed.

Fees: Tuition, \$30.00 for the five days. Room and meals at Swedenborg House, \$11.00 per day. Swedenborg House has accommodation for 15 people, others will be housed at nearby motels at slight additional cost. Campers or trailers can be accommodated at Swedenborg House and reduce your cost for housing.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

NUMBER IN PARTY _____

Reservations should be in by November 30th.

