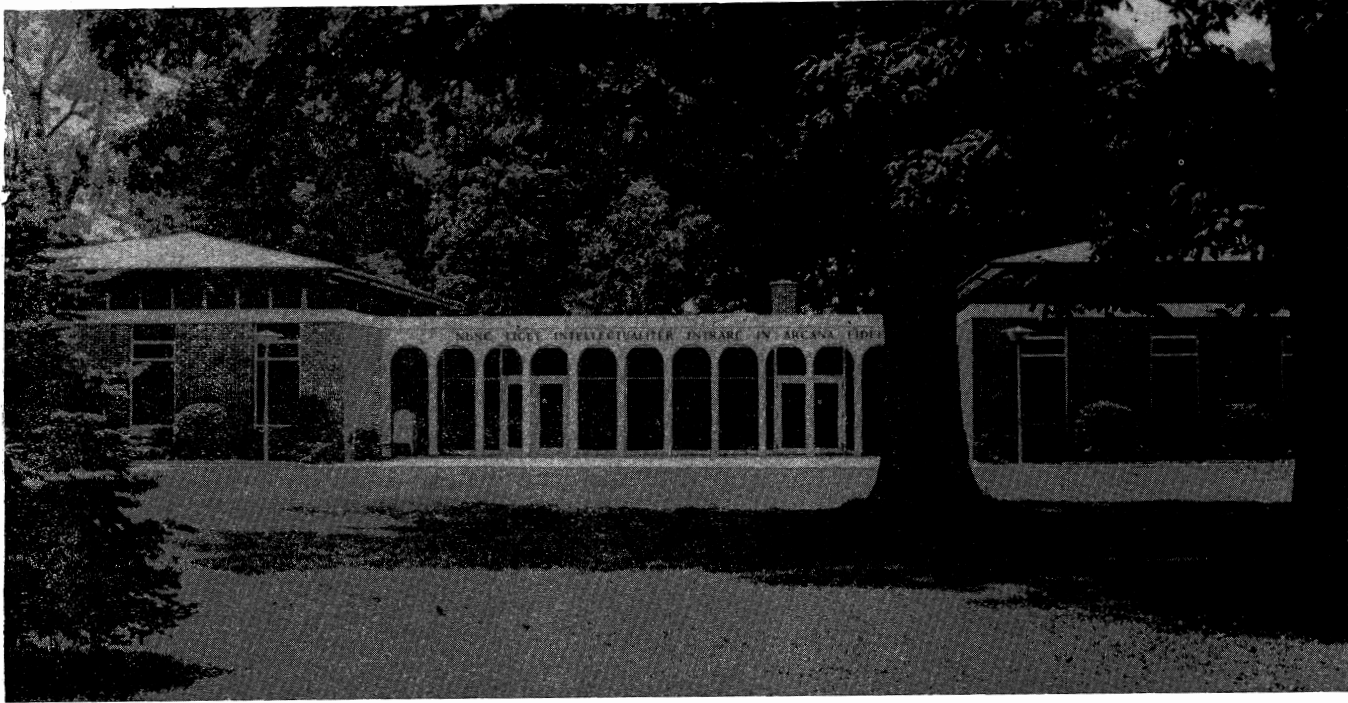


The Messenger

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH

JUNE 1977



Urbana College Library



The Urbana College Story

President Roland Patzer

The Starting Line by Eric Zacharias

Is this the time of a gathering spiritual momentum? Is this a time when a growing number of people are being prepared for an "interior" reception of truth? Is there taking place today, within all related bodies of the New Church, a movement that will see us reaching out to those who are open to new insights into the world within themselves and the inter-relatedness of life at all levels? Has the time come when we will witness the Church growing more and more into the image and likeness envisioned in the Book of Revelation?

In the Lord's providence every moment offers its opportunity. The reality of the "New Jerusalem" is here. Can we now respond to it in a free and open partnership?

I invite the reader to sit at my side as I open this morning's mail.

First, a letter from England. In it the Rev. John Booth, President of the British Conference writes, "In this country, our big problem is how to present our teachings to the growing number of people who are looking for a faith. Orthodox Christian teaching is becoming more and more discredited and people are losing their Christian vocabulary. As I read the various journals of our Church I ask myself, 'What would that mean to the man in the street?' In the New Church, we certainly need to put our *wine* into new bottles. Has George Dole done this with his new translation of *Heaven and Hell*? And has Mr. Van Dusen made a breakthrough with his publications? Only time will tell but we must continue our task in a spirit of tolerance and compassion for all the problems of our frail humanity."

Next, we open a packet of material sent by the General Church Extension Committee and prepared for those who serve as missionaries for the New Church. Included are such pamphlets as "The New Church" by J. H. Doering, and "How Shall We Answer Those Who Ask: What Is The New Church?" by Mrs. Anita Dole. In recognition of the problem many of us experience in "Presenting" the Church to someone unfamiliar with its concepts, there is also a pamphlet titled, "25 Suggestions For Missionary Work". In this, for instance, it is suggested that the individual "presenting" the New Church know and feed the needs of the seeker. There will be some who are keenly doctrinal and will be intellectually hungry. Others will be more affectional and practical.

There is more mail to open. This is a well-wrapped package sent by the Rev. Ernest O. Martin, one of our ministers serving the Wayfarers' Chapel in southern California. This contains both the slides and the filmstrip with the cassette tape which tell the thrilling story of the message portrayed by the "Glass Church by the Sea."

Listen to a brief portion of that story.

"In the Wayfarers' Chapel, religion is related to the world around us. Emanuel Swedenborg heralded the coming of a New Age in the life of mankind, when our feelings and thoughts would find expression in a life of usefulness and joy. . . Swedenborg taught us that love is the ultimate reality. When we reach out to one another in love, we experience the presence of God."

This film and voice story of the Chapel will now be placed in public libraries and made available throughout the Church. We commend the Chapel Board of Managers, the ministers and all those who contributed to this project.

There is a letter, too, from the Rev. Paul Zacharias. It is only a few days now before the opening of the Lay Training session to be held at Almont, Michigan, under the sponsorship of Convention's Board of Education. Paul, in a letter of welcome to all participants states the

(con't next page)

The next *Messenger* will be our special July - August CONVENTION issue, which, if all goes well, should appear about August 25.

THE MESSENGER JUNE 1977

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Paul B. Zacharias, Editor

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Urbana College:

An Individual Opportunity

Urbana College was founded in 1850 on the principle that true knowledge evolves through a broad framework of intellectual growth. Based on a respect for individual differences, as reflected by the New Church teachings, the College offers students an opportunity to explore all areas of human experience in their search for truth.

Although New Church related, the College welcomes students of all faiths. It is committed to the right of free inquiry into religion, as well as other dimensions of life. The Urbana campus provides an atmosphere that fosters independent thought, through a close student - faculty rapport.

Within this framework of freedom and responsibility, the faculty has dedicated itself to a teaching process that motivates, rather than dictates, enabling each Urbana College student to discover his own essential values.

HISTORY:

In the middle of the 19th Century, a dedicated group of New Churchmen obtained a charter for the establishment of a college that would "embrace the whole range of education on a co - educational basis". The location in Urbana, Ohio, was determined by a gift of land by Col. John H. James, who stipulated that the buildings should be "substantial, plain, and of

handsome proportions without ambitious display." A prominent architect was retained to design the first building, subsequently named for the first American New Churchman, Francis Bailey of Philadelphia. Bailey was a neighbor of Benjamin Franklin and a close friend of French General Lafayette.

It was fitting that Bailey Hall, nucleus of the first college of its kind in the world, should be named after the man who published the first American editions of the works of Emanuel Swedenborg.

Bricks were made on the grounds for the building described at the time as "combining great beauty with convenience and economy." Bailey Hall, still in use, remains an architectural expression of an educational view considered by the founders to be "something different from the effete system prevailing."

Ornamental trees were planted on the grounds. These combined with the native oak and hickory made the campus "a beautiful and commanding prospect." Other buildings, Barclay and Oak, were added later.

Today, the arches joining Bailey and Barclay Halls stand as memorable symbols to generations of students. Because of its lasting beauty, this arch style of architecture continues to be the structural theme for expansion.

(THE STARTING LINE con't)

essential purpose of this program — "To strengthen our Swedenborgian heritage . . . to learn new ways of out - reach . . . some aspects of group leadership . . . conducting worship services . . . Bible study . . . making and renewing friendship among Swedenborgians in the Great Lakes region."

Yes, indeed, "put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem the holy city . . . Shake thyself from the dust." We have attempted to catch something of the spirit which pervades, or at least which is stirring, within the British Conference, the General Church and the General Convention. It is my hope that you, the reader of my morning mail, have also been moved by this experience.

Here we are at this point in time. Are we prepared to give welcome to this New Age?

We are separate in our organization; separated, too, in some measure, in what each of us cherishes as the fulness of the Lord's Church as it rises out of our tradition, the Lord's promises and our hopes and dreams.

But we are also drawn closely together by our worship and love of the Lord and his love for all humanity as this New Age struggles to be born. "The essentials of the church, which conjoin themselves with faith in one God, are charity, good works, repentance, and a life according to the Divine law; and as these together with faith, affect and move the will and thought of man, they conjoin man to the Lord, and the Lord to man." (*Doctrine of the New Jerusalem.*)

For the Nineteenth of June: the Sending of the Apostles —

"O Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ, who hast set thy glory above the heavens and whose name is excellent in all the earth: We thank thee that on this day thou didst send forth thine Apostles to preach throughout the whole spiritual world the Gospel of thine everlasting kingdom."

We look forward now to sharing a few days together with many of the *Messenger* readers as the General Convention meets in San Francisco June 29 — July 3rd.

WOMEN REACH OUT

(The Urbana College Program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women)

In September of 1975 Urbana College began offering courses leading to the Associate Arts degree in Liberal Studies at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, Marysville. Several women finished degree requirements in March of 1977, and still others will complete the course this June when the college will confer its first degrees upon women in the program.

ORW is the only women's prison in the State of Ohio and houses in excess of 500 inmates, of which 30 to 50 enrolled in the college program. They are of diverse age and ethnic groups — several are grandmothers and many are in their early twenties. They are incarcerated for crimes ranging from theft to manslaughter.

All U.C. students at Marysville are high school graduates or have been awarded the high school equivalency certificate.

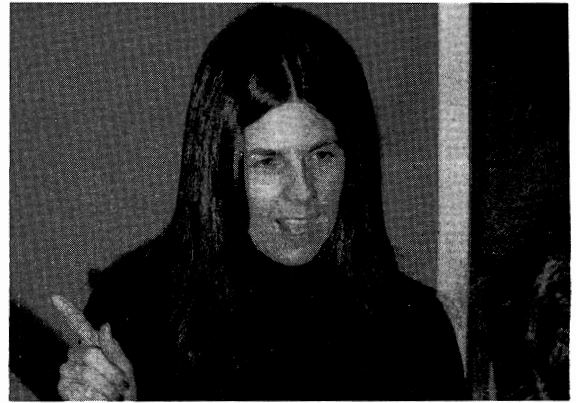
Funding for tuition is supplied by the Ohio Instructional Grant and Basic Equal Opportunity Grant programs; and except for vacation periods, students pursue their college work on a full - time basis.

The instructors are both full - time and part - time Urbana College faculty members who have demonstrated expertise in working with prison inmates.

As an instructor embarking on my third quarter of teaching at Marysville and as the advisor to the women in the program, I would like to communicate something of what I have discovered about myself and the women whom I have taught.

Teaching is highly taxing at Marysville, not because of the prison atmosphere — I've never seen an armed guard; there are no high fences — but because the women are good students. On the whole, they come prepared for class and they are receptive to all the instructors can give them, intellectually as well as emotionally. They crave contact with the outside world, contact that will assure them they are not forgotten outcasts; that they can function upon re - entry. And the faculty serve as that contact, that sounding board.

As a creative - expository writing teacher at the Reformatory, I have been in a position to know the women relatively well and quickly.



Dr. Vivian Blevins talks to Marysville Students

After my first week of working with the women, I urged them to explore — and express — themselves through the written word:

Woman leaves her prints in soil,
in pottery,
in wood;

She leaves traces of herself, fragments:
burned,
torn,
bleeding.

Let your words make you whole . . .
I want to understand.

The poems, essays, and short stories they wrote convey a profound understanding of these women and their concerns. Most wrote freely, openly, expressing their loves, concerns, loneliness, aspirations, convictions:

I think about,
how nice it would be,
Alone together
just you and me.
It's only me
your lonely mother
Cherishing dreams
of a lovely daughter . . .

. . Remember, Society, I was one of you,
So you know I'm hip to the things you do . .

I saw a rainbow today,
I hadn't seen one since I was a little girl.
I knew it wasn't going to last,
so I watched it,
Knowing I might never have another chance.
I felt sad:
I knew I had missed something;
It had gone so soon;
I watched it fade (hoping it would come back),

As I watched love fade,
 once,
 (hoping it would come back).

. . . Or you dream of the golden day you
 will be free.

That is my name.

"Free"

That is my name.

I am far away from my home
 Nothing is familiar here.
 The look of nature is strange to my eyes;
 Even the cry of nature is strange to my ears,
 I am lonely for my home
 I am lonely for myself.

The bird leaves the ground
 But comes to land on earth,
 We shall only leave once.

The smell of flowers
 or the distant sound of birds
 Makes my day mellow.

"I am getting old
 Set in my own awkward ways,
 come and go with me."
 "If I go away with you.
 Will we both be young again?"

I discovered very quickly in my teaching at Marysville that the women there are women — nothing more, nothing less; women with shortcomings, women with special qualities, insights, and abilities. And equipped with that special knowledge, I anticipate the course called "Biographies of Contemporary American Women" which I will teach Spring Quarter of this year. As we explore the lives of Shirley Chisholm, Maya Angelou, Sylvia Plath, Shirley MacLaine, Caril Fugate, Jill Kinmont, Loretta Lynn, Mountain Wolf Woman, and then write our own autobiographies, I feel that we will all grow as human beings as we grapple with our own questions of identity and the choices involved in our searching.

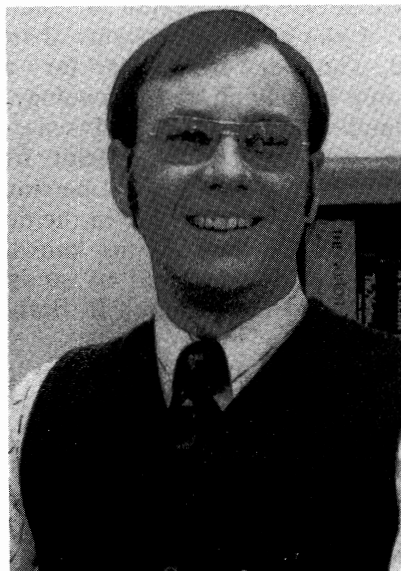
I feel privileged to make this quest with the women at Marysville.

Dr. Vivian Bowling Blevins
 Associate Professor of English
 and English Education, Urbana College

DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION AT URBANA COLLEGE

Urbana College is offering a series of developmental education courses to students who need assistance in reading, writing, mathematics, speech, science, study skills, and general college adjustment. Offered under the Federal auspices of Title III, the courses are designed to provide the educationally - frustrated student with an experience that has been developed to harness the student's inherent self - motivation and to encourage its development. These courses comprise the core of a project known on campus as the Curriculum Innovation Program (C.I.P.) which is now in its third full year.

The first year of the program was mainly a planning year when instructors were chosen and commissioned to design a competency - based, modular teaching curriculum. The courses that were designed included a series of self - paced, audio - tutorial modules and extensive individualized tutorial sessions. In addition, the program was designed to provide considerable testing and non - academic counseling services to the students. Toward the end of the planning year, each instructor's modules were tested on willing, work - study students. The students evaluated the modules and made suggestions for improvement.



Gary Crist, Ass't. Professor of English

During the second year, the program was fully implemented. An Academic Development Center, designed to function as a learning laboratory and a classroom, was prepared in the library. Each course contained forty different modules, and a student had to pass each module at an 80 percent competency level before he/she could proceed to the next module. In each course, the instructor's role was that of a tutor, and the classes were student - centered rather than teacher - centered. During the year, fifty - seven students participated in the program.

During this year of the program, the faculty and staff are evaluating the project and

planning needed changes for the future. Dr. Richard Zeller, a consultant from Bowling Green State University, has prepared a formal evaluation of the program. In his report, Zeller notes that C.I.P. students are achieving success at Urbana College. To quote Zeller, "The students have reversed a G.E. (grade equivalent) loss that has been accruing all during their elementary and secondary school years. They have had their first taste of sweet success, and it should be cherished for it comes on the heels of disappointment after disappointment and failure after failure."

Gary K. Crist
Assistant Professor of English
Urbana College

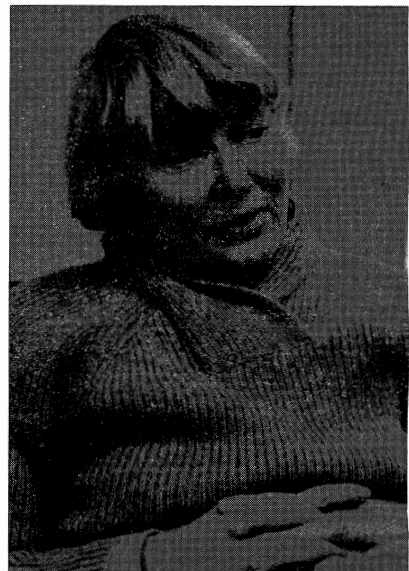
TEACHING SWEDENBORG AT URBANA COLLEGE

One of the great pleasures for me at Urbana College has been the teaching of Religion 401 — Swedenborg's Religious Thought. Three things stand out for me as I think about the courses: the thinking and learning together with other Swedenborgians on the faculty, the challenge of studying the teachings of my church with an intelligent, adult, and almost entirely new audience, and the honest, thoughtful sharing of religious concern and life that has happened in the class.

From the beginning we have used team teaching in the course. So, as I think of the seven times we have taught it, each spring quarter, I think of the insights shared with Horand Gutfeldt from his far - reaching scholarship in religion and psychology and his understanding of the spiritual sense of the writings, with Elizabeth Gutfeldt from her background in psychology and her immediate awareness of the spiritual life in the doctrines, and with Ted Klein from his knowledge of philosophy and background of study at the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, Pa.

We have scheduled the course for one evening a week to allow time for extended discussion, and to enable us to invite students from off campus. The course has drawn varying numbers, from four to twenty - four regularly enrolled Urbana College students. But we have found ourselves teaching many other students too: a mathematics professor from the college and her engineer husband, philosophy

professors, from Urbana and Ohio Dominican College, a professor of Japanese, undergraduate and graduate students from Wittenberg and Antioch, and always a variety of informal students from the community. Some have already taken the course and are coming back for a second or third time. The chance to talk seriously with many students who have not studied Swedenborg before, is both important and exciting.



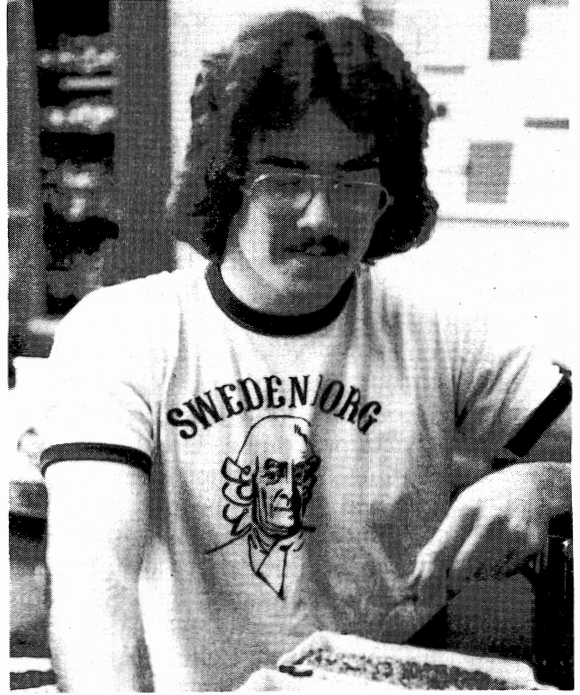
Dr. Dorothea Harvey

In this setting of open exchange, with honest questions coming from such a variety of searching students, with a growing awareness that every teaching of our church speaks intimately to the experience of living, we have always felt a common respect for, and sensitivity to, the spiritual growth of each other in the class.

Other study of Swedenborg is also available at Urbana College each quarter through Religion 480 — Independent Study. This quarter I have thoroughly enjoyed a weekly session with two students as we have joined in a beginning study of the first part of *Marital Love*. This study was initiated by Marty Klein from our Philadelphia Church. The option is there for any student, at his/her level or need, through this independent study provision.

The potential and the reality of the study of Swedenborg is alive at Urbana College. Of students in the Swedenborg course, three (all previously not members of the church) have gone on to study at the Swedenborg School of Religion. Two more are currently considering this possibility. We hope that more students will help us develop this potential for real growth in our church.

Dr. Dorothea Harvey
Professor of Religion
Urbana College



Marty Klein, a sophomore social service major from Philadelphia, Pa. A New Church member for the last ten years, Marty plans to become a minister and hopes to go on to the Swedenborg School of Religion in Boston.



Participating in a group discussion at the Urbana College Interfaith Center is Joseph Agbaje (center), a Swedenborgian minister from Owo, Nigeria. Joseph is currently studying education and religion, and will graduate from Urbana College in June.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

by Gary Crow
Assistant Professor of Social Work

"I don't know exactly what I want to spend the rest of my life doing, but I hope a big part of it includes helping people." This admirable goal has been expressed in one way or another by each student presently involved in the community work or "practicum" portion of the social services program at Urbana College. The exciting thing is that these energetic and socially concerned young people have not "waited until tomorrow" to achieve their goal of helping others. Danny Palmer is an exciting example of a student doing good for his community. In the final evaluation, his supervisor at the Urbana Police Department made special note of Danny's maturity, responsible attitude, willingness to help, and real interest in the "people side" of police work. Eltrisha Shinholster's community experience was with the Planned Parenthood Agency. Her agency supervisor also made special mention of her sincerity, genuine interest in people, ability to relate to clients and staff, and the capacity to help people with immediate problems.

Students are placed in Juvenile Courts, Alcoholism Treatment and Education Agencies, Drug Information and Education Agencies, General Hospitals, Children's Service Agencies, Student Personnel Departments of Colleges, Residential Treatment Centers for Troubled Youth, and various other social agencies. Without exception, the supervisors have indicated that Urbana students come to them with a good initial understanding of social agencies, the psychological makeup and functioning of people, and the sociological patterns related to the problems experienced by their clients. The academic background of the students is tested in the reality of functioning agencies and is judged to be quite sound. The same positive judgment is made for the students' sincerity, enthusiasm, ability to relate to others, general manner of conducting themselves within the agency, and their future professional potential.

April Lockett is an outstanding example of how our students become actively involved in the community. April had her practicum experience with the Champaign County Ohio Lung Association. On the surface, one might wonder what social service opportunities are available at a lung association. One stops wondering, though, with April's ingenuity. During her ten - week experience, she created a "comic book" for young children, related to the cigarette problem. In addition to this, she developed a presentation for elementary school classes that she delivered in several schools. The story does not end there. Somehow, people in the northern part of Ohio learned of April's service with the lung association, her comic book, and school presentations. They invited her to their agency to discuss her work with a view toward including her material and experience into their program.



Because the Urbana City Schools were closed during February due to the gas shortage, Urbana College students started a laboratory school for first through fifth graders. Pictured here is student teacher Patty Worthington with a group of young pupils.

In conjunction with their field work experience, all practicum students participate concurrently in a structured academic (seminar) situation. I received my first pleasant glimpse of how they are willing to reach out and deal with the world when, after I had delivered a very professorial monologue on the nature of man, one of the students in the seminar calmly disagreed. She then proceeded in a very articulate and competent way to express her viewpoint, supporting her ideas from her own experience and reading. She and I still haven't come to any mutual agreement; but we both have taken time to listen to each other's ideas. Does "education" ever get any better than that?

If I may have a short paragraph to use as my own soapbox, let me mention the potential and real ability of our students. They have demonstrated both in the community and in the seminar setting that they have the ability to help people through the important social services as well as the intellectual and personal capacity to perform on a solid academic level. Do the helping and academic performance come spontaneously? Not always. Our students need to be challenged with clear expectations and standards. They even need to be "pushed" a little from time to time; but so did we when we were in their place.

Do students help? Are they doing anything that makes a difference? They certainly are; and we are very proud of them.



The Urbana College Choir

(Our thanks to Vicki Staveacre, Virginia Branston and Darrell Ruhl, for assistance in assembling and editing the Urbana College Story material.)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS — CONSIDER URBANA COLLEGE

Founded by followers of Emanuel Swedenborg in 1850, Urbana College has grown from a single building on a few, tree-covered acres to a 128-acre campus housing 21 buildings. Yet despite its growth, Urbana still maintains an informal, educational atmosphere.

Unlike the city-sized university, Urbana is a small and personal college, where students, faculty and administrators work as a unit to deal with questions relating to the purpose and objectives of themselves and the college.

The college's philosophy of education is based on two assumptions:

- (1) that man is an active being capable of self-direction, and
- (2) that man's search for meaning is not futile.

Because man is an active being capable of self-direction, he has the potential to think for himself, and to make his choices freely and responsibly in his relations with other human beings. This potential is developed not so much through a process of molding or conditioning, but more through a process of freeing the mind so that persons can interpret, integrate and find meaning in their curricular and extra-curricular activities.

The curriculum at Urbana College is designed to reflect the dual goals of career education and human development. While the entire curriculum is directly related to the institution's historic commitment to liberal education, the resources of three academic areas — business, social service and education — are directed toward acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to effectiveness in a specific career. The liberal studies area provides coursework in the humanities, natural and social sciences which contribute to the human development goal, while providing an intellectual foundation for personal development.

Urbana College offers four-year degree programs in all four academic areas, and additionally offers two-year Associate of Arts degrees in business and liberal studies.

The business AA degree is tightly structured to enable a student to concentrate on career preparation while still completing a minimum of thirty hours of work in the natural and social sciences and humanities. The liberal studies AA degree is more loosely structured to encourage students to experiment in a variety of disciplines, while examining the general theme of "Contemporary American Life: A Search For Meaning."

In addition, in the liberal arts area, students have the opportunity to design their own major program, combining work from each department to develop a personalized program of study best suited to their individual needs.

To ensure that every student has the opportunity to relate classwork theory to practical work experience, Urbana College requires each student to undertake one ten-week field experience related to their major area, prior to graduation. This also ensures that the student has exposure to his proposed career field, and can relate academic knowledge to practical work experience.

Because of its close relationship with the Swedenborgian Church, Urbana College offers total tuition remission to the sons and daughters of Convention ministers who enroll as students. In addition, the church has a special "Pausch Fund" which provides scholarships of up to \$500 per year to church members who are students at the college and who need scholarship assistance.

For an application and/or further information on matriculation please write:

Don Reynolds, Director of Admissions
Urbana College, Urbana, Ohio 43078



Invest in Convention's Future by Stewart Poole

All of us own something. Some may own a lot and others very little, but great or small we cannot take it with us. Because we do own something, we have the right to decide where it shall go at our death and to whom. This is best accomplished by having a will whereby you designate where your property shall go and to whom. Your banker or lawyer can help you to make your will.

Some of us have children, a close relative or a favorite charity to which we would like our property or a part of it to go. Others do not have anyone very close to designate as their heir. Whether we have heirs or not, *have you ever thought of Convention as a recipient of your estate or a portion of it?*

All through its history, Convention has received gifts from Church members, either direct from their estate, or by trust. We must continue to receive bequests and gifts to Convention's endowment or Common Fund if we are going to increase our income in the coming years. All expenses are increasing and unless we can increase our funds, we will find ourselves in a most undesirable financial condition.

Now, there are a number of ways all of us with some property can help in this situation.

Appreciated Securities

First, if you should have appreciated securities or those which have gone up in value since you bought them, this would be the easiest way to make a gift to Convention.

A gift of "long - term" appreciated securities would entitle you to a tax deduction at the full market value. You are, of course, limited to gifts that do not exceed thirty percent of your taxable income. However, if you give more than thirty percent of your taxable income in any given year, you can carry it forward as a deduction for the next five years. You would pay no capital gains tax if Convention should sell the securities.

Gifts of securities that have declined in value would not be advantageous to you. These securities should be sold so that you can take a tax loss and then you could contribute the cash to Convention.

Annuity Trust

The second way you could help Convention and at the same time possibly increase your own income is by setting up an Annuity Trust. The creation of an Annuity Trust can provide you

with income during your lifetime and even provide income for your family members thereafter. After the last recipient dies, the remainder of the trust would pass to Convention.

With an Annuity Trust you, or a survivor, are guaranteed a fixed dollar amount of income based on the original market value.

Trusts offer substantial tax advantages including a deduction when the trust is created and a favorable treatment of annual income. In many cases, there are gift tax savings, estate tax benefits and the avoidance of capital gains.

Life Insurance

The third way you might assist Convention is through life insurance. You could make Convention the beneficiary of a policy that you or your family no longer need to provide security. Other options exist for the purchase of a new policy or the transfer of an existing policy to the Convention. Your insurance advisor can assist you in determining the best way to assist Convention in this matter.

Bequest by Will

The fourth way and probably the one more people would use is by making a bequest to Convention in your will.

As with other plans, State and Federal governments encourage bequests to charitable institutions so that every dollar that passes to Convention completely escapes estate taxes. You could express your support with a specific bequest or a percentage of your estate.

The key, of course, is a will. For only with such a decision can your loved ones be properly cared for and your "will be done". You can take care of this with a codicil to your existing will which can easily and inexpensively be handled by your lawyer.

I hope that the above will be of special interest to those persons who are not sure where their estate might go. Without a will, the estate might go to a very distant relative or to the State. Our Central Office is prepared to provide you and your advisors with definite information about making gifts to Convention. Any inquiries will be held in strict confidence and will not imply any obligation on your part.

(Stewart Poole, still active in retirement, is a member of the Wilmington, Del., Society, and a former Vice - President of Convention.)

NOMINATIONS for Elections at Convention 1977

PRESIDENT: Rev. Eric Zacharias
Pretty Prairie, Kansas

VICE - PRESIDENT: Mr. Adolph Liebert
Havertown, Pa.

SECRETARY: Mrs. Wilfred (Ethel) Rice
Medford, Mass.

TREASURER: Capt. August Ebel
Washington, D.C.

GENERAL COUNCIL (four year terms)
Minister: Rev. Edwin Capon
Detroit, Mich.
Lay Members: Mrs. Lorraine Sando
Bellevue, Wash.
Mr. Marvin Wood
Kemper Road, Ohio

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(one three year term)
Mrs. Margaret Kraus
Kansas

BOARD OF PUBLICATION
(One four year term)
Rev. William Woofenden
Sharon, Mass.

BOARD OF MISSIONS
(Two four year terms)
Minister: Rev. Paul Zacharias
Layperson: Mrs. Dorothy Farnham

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Two to be nominated, one to be
elected for a five year term)

Ms. Cecile Werben
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Mrs. Pat Zacharias
Kitchener, Ont.

AUGMENTATION FUND COMMITTEE

(One five year term)

Mr. John Keller
Columbus, Ohio

COMMITTEE ON ADMISSION TO THE MINISTRY

(Two one year terms)

Minister: Rev. Ernest O. Martin
Palos Verdes, Cal.
Layperson: Mrs. Margaret Briggs
Fryeburg, Maine

BOARD OF MANAGERS FOR S.S.R.

(Three three year terms)

Rev. Richard Tafel Jr.
Kemper Road, Ohio
Rev. Jerome Poole
Wilmington, Del.
Miss Agnes Cowern
St. Paul, Minn.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Galen Unruh, Ch.
Mrs. Jan Siebert
Mr. H. Page Conant
Rev. Randall Laakko
Mr. James Zehner

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BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

REV. ERIC ZACHARIAS *President*

Born and raised in Western Canada. Following graduation from Urbana College, Boston University and the New Church Theological School in 1950, I began my ministry in Kansas where I have served continuously except for four years with the El Cerrito, California, parish.

In my first three year term as Convention President I have attended meetings of virtually all Convention Committees and Boards; I have visited most Associations at least once; I have been actively involved in the work of the S.S.R. Board of Managers and the Urbana College Board of Trustees; and in these three years I have been in touch with hundreds of Convention members by mail and phone. In these many relationships I have tried to express the spirit of the New Church to the best of my ability, and I would deem it a great privilege to serve another term as Convention President.

ADOLPH LIEBERT *(Vice President)*

Mr. Adolph T. Liebert is a retired Research Engineer from the United Engineering and Foundry Company. His association with the Swedenborgian Church and its activities includes the office of Vice - President for the past three years, membership of the General Council, Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion, Past President of the Swedenborgian Church in Pittsburgh, and member of the Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Foundation.

ETHEL RICE *Convention Secretary*

Mrs. Rice is a third - generation New - Churchman, being the granddaughter of a New - Church minister. As the wife of a New - Church minister she has worked with her husband in six pastorates. Before her marriage she was secretary of the Humboldt Park Parish and secretary to the Rev. Hiram Vrooman, who did radio broadcasting in the thirties.

As a secretary, executive secretary and administrative assistant Mrs. Rice has worked for Planned Parenthood and Jewish Family Service of St. Paul while in Minnesota, and the Massachusetts New - Church Union and the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. She was elected to the post of Recording Secretary of Convention in 1968 in Windsor, Ontario.

AUGUST A. EBEL *Treasurer*

Incumbant treasurer completing third one - year term.
Retired from U.S. Navy with rank of Captain.
Member Washington Society.
Completing eighth year on General Council.
Treasurer of Swedenborg School of Religion.
Member of Board of Trustees of Urbana College.
Age 56 and in good health.

EDWIN G. CAPON *General Council*

After serving as President of Swedenborg School of Religion for 21 years I am looking forward with enthusiasm and excitement to being the full - time minister of the Detroit Society, the church of the Holy City, in September. In leaving SSR I also leave ex officio service on the Board of Education and the Advisory Placement Committee. I would welcome the opportunity to continue service to the larger Church through election to General Council. My qualifications include education at Harvard and SSR and full time or interim pastorates in Bridgewater, Elmwood, Brockton, Boston, and Manchester.

LORRAINE SANDO *General Council*

I am an artist, art therapist, a wife, and a mother of three teenage sons. In my work, I strive to be an instrument in the hands of God, communicating love and understanding and meaning. This is my most important purpose in life.

Currently, I am Program Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Bellevue, with which I've been involved for 13 years. I have led Art Growth programs at the past 3 Post Convention Conferences and am on the planning committee for this years PCC.

I am deeply committed to the life of the Church and would welcome the opportunity to serve on General Council.

PAUL ZACHARIAS *Board of Missions*

Since my ordination in 1956 I have served New Church Societies in Elmwood, Mass., Portland, Oregon, and Kitchener, Ont., my present parish. During those years I have served on most Convention Boards and Committees, including a six year term as Chairman of the Council of Ministers. I have served one term on the Board of Missions and would like to continue in this capacity. I have a keen interest in Church extension, and a good working knowledge of our Mission Fields, at home and abroad.

DOROTHY FARNHAM *Board of Missions*

Born in 1916 in Bath, Maine, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Gould Brown. Presently I am secretary of Carol's Care Center, a nursing home near DeLand, Florida, where I live.

My present Church offices include: Secretary of the Miami - DeLand Society, Executive Board member of the Southeast Ass'n, 1st Vice - President of the National Women's Alliance, and Secretary of the Board of Missions. In previous years I have held numerous church offices in the Massachusetts Association, the Brockton Society, and I have served one 5 year term on Convention's Nominating Committee. Outside interests include: bird watching, gardening, photography, knitting, crocheting, sewing and travel, when I can afford it.

PAT ZACHARIAS *Nominating Committee*

Since becoming a member of the New Church in Cambridge back in 1953, I have worked with my husband, Paul, in our church societies in Elmwood, Massachusetts, in Portland, Oregon, and in Kitchener, Ontario, where we now live. During this time I have attended most yearly Conventions and have come to know many of our church members and their various talents and abilities.

Because of these experiences I feel qualified to serve on the Nominating Committee and will be glad to serve the church in this capacity, if elected.

Few photographs accompanied biographies this year, thus, in the interest of fair play, we decided to omit all pictures of nominees.

CECILE WERBEN*Nominating Committee*

I came to work for the New Church Board of Publications in February, 1928, and I am still very active in the Department of Publication. For 40 years I managed a retail Book Shop for the Board and in March of 1968 I retired. I am still active as manager of the Swedenborg Press on a voluntary basis. I give two days a week and have an office in The Swedenborg Foundation building.

I have been in charge of 48 Book Exhibits at Conventions, wherever they are held.

I feel that I will be most helpful as a member of the Nominating Committee as I personally know practically every one who attends Convention and a great many who do not.

MARGARET WORCESTER BRIGGS*Committee on Admission to the Ministry*

Margaret Worcester Briggs — 76 years in ministerial homes; such varied Societies as Philadelphia, Cambridge, Lakewood, O., Washington, D.C., Newtonville and Fryeburg, as well as historical and actual exposure to others, have given insight into differing needs and changing ministries.

These insights together with native enthusiasm for bringing the New Church into fullness of life are what color my convictions on such committees as CAM — always led by truth straight from heaven.

ERNEST O. MARTIN*Committee on Admission to the Ministry*

Rev. Ernest O. Martin — Minister at the Wayfarers' Chapel. President of Convention and Director of the Central Office from 1968 to 1975. Served pastorates in Wilmington, Delaware, and Washington, D.C., from 1952 to 1968. My visits to nearly all of Convention's churches during my presidency, and my close acquaintance with the theological school over the years gives me a perspective by which I can counsel and evaluate candidates for ministry. It is important that we attract well - qualified men and women to the ministry, screen candidates carefully, and keep them in close touch with the challenges and needs of the church.

AGNES G. COWERN*Board of Managers*

Lifelong resident of the Midwest.

BS University of Minnesota; MALS Rosary College. Before retirement, a hospital/medical librarian with the Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery, stationed in seven states.

Active member of the St. Paul Society, the Illinois Association, the St. Paul Council of Churches, AAUW. Hobbies include volunteer work, reading, and weaving.

Presently completing partial term on Board of Managers.

JEROME POOLE*S.S.R. Board of Managers*

An active member of the Wilmington, Delaware Church of the Holy City and a past two term member of the Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion. I am involved in my community as chairman of a housing committee seeking to rehabilitate salvageable portions of a slum neighborhood, as a part time staff member and new building fund raiser for a nearly completed day care center for the same neighborhood and as a board member and active program worker of our inner city YMCA.

I well recognize the need and value of the Swedenborgian parish ministry and see many other ways in which a graduate of S.S.R. can take his/her Swedenborgian understanding, professional training and care for people into the world to minister.

REV. RICHARD TAFEL Jr.*S.S.R. Board of Managers*

I have served the Swedenborgian Church in Cincinnati as minister since my ordination in 1962. I have led our church through its forced relocation, sojourn in the wilderness, and new church home at Kemper Road.

Interested in all phases of education, I have worked for more lay training as well as continuing education for our clergy.

I was a prime mover for the Mid - West Lay Training Institute held in the Cincinnati area several years ago. This was held in cooperation with the Swedenborg School of Religion.

I am also interested in promoting our teachings in the areas of marriage enrichment, life after death, and religious education by workshops and weekends open to the public.

The continuing education of our clergy is one of my strong interests and a pressing need for our church today.

JOHN KELLER*Augmentation Fund*

I attended Urbana Jr. College in 1941 — 43. Following service in the Army Air Corps, returned to U.J.C., graduating with A.A. degree in 1947. Received B.Sc. from O.S.U. in 1949. Taught for eight years, then returned for Air Force duty, retiring with total of 26 years military service. Presently teaching physics in Columbus, Ohio. Joined the Urbana New Church in 1941, serving as an officer of the Society several times. Have been a member of the Urbana College Bd. of Trustees for 7 years, and currently Vice - Chairman of the Board.

MARVIN WOOD*General Council*

I have been an active member of Kemper Road Center for Religious Development since 1972. It is the only church in the area that I have found that agrees with my general philosophy of the worth of the individual. I have been on the Board of Directors of Kemper Road Center for the past four years.

I graduated from the Ohio State University with a degree in Animal Science, and have owned my own business (Wood Florist) in the Cincinnati area for almost 20 years. My wife and daughter are also very active in Church activities.

C. COREY MILLS*General Council*

C. Corey Mills, lifelong New Churchman and architect, born in 1909.

Mr. Mills was baptized in the Brooklyn New Church by Rev. Arthur Mercer and confirmed there in 1923 by Rev. E.M.L. Gould. He was President of the Brooklyn New Church League for three terms. Over the years he served on all the various committees of church government culminating in fifteen years as Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

In 1931 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York Association and served as secretary of that board until 1946 when he was elected President of the Association. He has served as President of Association since that time. Mr. Mills has represented the Association and the denomination on the Board of Directors of the Council of Churches in New York City for over twenty years. During that time he was responsible for the inclusion of the New Church booth in the Council's Protestant Pavilion in the New York World's Fair of 1964 - 65.

(The name of Mr. Corey Mills has been submitted by the New York Association.)

CONVENTION MINI COURSES

(Choose One)

Decision Making at Mid - Life

Staff: Eric Allison, Ron Brugler, Tom Zehner

A mini - course designed to offer participants an opportunity to share the unique experiences and opportunities for personal growth that mid - life brings. Such areas as career changes, retirement preparation, church involvement, familial changes, and physiological metamorphosis will be explored.

This course has the goals of: introduction of the available resources within our culture that offer creative alternatives for mid - life changes; sharing of the mid - life crises and triumphs that participants have encountered; discussion of the present and future role of the church concerning mid - life issues.

Applying the Churches Resources to Death and Dying

Rev. Randy Laakko

In this course we will identify the churches resources that can help the individual cope with death and dying. We shall attempt to integrate the intellectual understanding of death with the emotional acceptance of death. In coming to terms with death — that of our own and others — we can then be free to live.

Building on Our Strengths — Human Resources and needs in the Church

*Alice Blackmer Skinner, Ph.D. (Psychology)
Member staff of the Ecumenical Parish
Training Program in Eastern Massachusetts.*

People change in their skills, their interests, and their questions, making it possible and necessary to make changes from time to time in what they do together in churches. The course will introduce techniques for finding out about peoples current concerns and for discovering the resources they bring to the church.

Church Organizational Ethics

Leaders: Eric Zacharias, Gus Ebel

The church is essentially a fellowship — a fellowship of those who are committed to the Lord's leading. Within this fellowship, as we participate in our parishes and Associations, as

we serve on Boards and Committees, we draw close to one another. Our lives touch and have an impact one upon the other. It is in these inter - relationships that we become partners in one another's regenerative experiences.

In this mini course, we will do a bit of exploring of those ethical principles at work in our effective participation in the organizations of the church. What are some of the ethical values given demonstration by the Lord in his relationship to the organized church? What is there in the teaching of our Church that can help us to decide the ethics of such issues as:

1. The church as a very human organization
2. The church as a Divine institution
3. The dynamics involved in making decisions which effect the life of the individual within the church organization
4. Fundamental guidelines which may help us to serve the church more effectively both as lay people and as ministers

Marriage Enrichment

Rev. Richard H. Tafel, Jr., Mrs. Gloria Toot

How can we make the most of the uniqueness which each partner brings to the marriage relationship? How do we develop our trust, friendship and openness to its fullest?

This workshop is designed to help participants explore their marriage potential as they work toward strengthening their intimate relationship.

Dick Tafel and Gloria Toot have led numerous workshops, groups, and weekends on marriage enrichment, personal growth and human sexuality.

Church Music

Rev. Richard Baxter, Muff Worden

This course will involve singing and studying hymns and songs that reflect a Swedenborgian point of view, their relation to passages in the Word or writings, and their use as individual or corporate devotional material. A *subject index* and a *scripture index* of hymns in the Book of Worship will be distributed.

Doctrinal Issues of Feminity and Masculinity

This course is planned to include:

- 1) A review of Swedenborg's personal experience as it prepared him for presenting these doctrines. Led by Wilson Van Dusen.
- 2) An outline of the major doctrinal concepts found in *Conjugal Love* and other volumes. Led by Gertrude Tremblay.
- 3) The contribution of clinical psychology to our understanding of these doctrines. Led by Wilson Van Dusen.
- 4) Suggestions for inclusion of these doctrines in the religious education program of our Churches and homes. Led by Gertrude Tremblay.

Sunday School Teachers' Workshop

(Coordinated by Martha Richardson and Louise Woofenden)

Brief opening session on the distinctive philosophy of education found in the teachings of the church.

Help in presenting material creatively, using a number of media. Emphasis on the problems of small school.

Ideas on how to start and maintain a Sunday School.

Practice teaching a sample lesson.

New Church Literature — Getting to Know the Good Stuff

(Led by Dr. Wm. R. Woofenden)

In addition to the many volumes of Swedenborg's own writings — scientific, philosophical, and theological — available to the reader, there are at least two hundred collateral works ranging in size from pamphlets to multivolume sets *currently* offered for sale; not to mention the hundreds and hundreds of out - of - print titles of New Church literature.

This minicourse will briefly survey the field and then try to steer the serious student toward the real treasures, past and present.

Bible Study for Modern Living

Dorothea Harvey and Horand Gutfeldt

Finding the word in the Bible a source of life for daily living.

CALIFORNIA RETREAT FOR A.N.C.L.

Attention: All Leaguers

WHERE: 26 wilderness acres one hundred miles north of San Francisco, belonging to Mrs. C. "Marg" Ball.

WHEN: Sunday evening, July 3 to Thursday morning, July 7, 1977.

STAFF: League Chaplain, Rev. W. "Pop" Woofenden, Louise "Mom" Woofenden, Rev. Joseph Agbaje, Eric Allison, Donna Barnhill, Marg Ball.

THEME: Divine Providence and Human Freedom.

COST: Food and Transportation.

Some financial assistance is available to help defray transportation expenses. Apply to the League Chaplain.

REGISTRATION: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO:

Rev. William Woofenden
48 Sargent St., Newton, Mass. 02158

NEW CHURCH CAMP DATES

Almont, Mich.	July 17 — 31
Blairhaven, Mass. (ages 8 - 10)	July 3 — 16
(ages 11 - 13)	July 17 — 30
Fryeburg, Maine	Aug. 7 — 28
Kemper Road, Ohio	July 18 — 29
Paulhaven, Alta.	July 17 — 24
Split Mt., Calif.	Aug. 23 — 28

Representation at Convention 1977

ASSOCIATIONS	SOCIETIES		MINISTERS		MEMBERSHIP		TOTAL
	ACT.	INACT.	ORD.	LAY	ACT.	INACT.	
Canada	1		1		138	25	163
Connecticut					9		9
Illinois	5		2	1	186	25	211
Kansas	3		2		157		157
Maine	3		1	2			317
Massachussetts	8		8		309	158	467
Michigan	1				58	23	81
Middle Atlantic	INCOMPLETE		(LAST FIGURE GIVEN)				295
New York	2		1	1	68	39	107
Ohio	5	1	1	1	139		139
Pacific Coast	8		7	1	270		270
Southeast	2		2		142		142
Western Canada	NO RESPONSE		(LAST FIGURE GIVEN)				285
Conference							
Gulfport Society	1				23	2	25

NO TOTALS ARE POSSIBLE

DOLE NOTES REPRINTING PROJECT

By the time this article appears in the *Messenger* the books will have been closed on the Annual Convention Appeal. We have purposely refrained from appealing to our friends for this reason. Much progress has been made to date, but we have a long way to go before all six volumes are finished. Volume I has been available since last November. Volume II may be available at Convention in late June. The type has been set for Volumes III, IV, and V. We have had gifts from many churches, Associations, individuals, a large non - interest, long term loan from one of the societies and assistance from the Rotch and Gray Funds. Following the printing of Volume II we will skip to Volume IV in order to make available Old and New Testament Notes as soon as possible.

Even though our progress has been great we have **A LONG PROJECT AHEAD AND THE NEED FOR MUCH HELP FROM EVERYONE** — help in the way of gifts, loans, and sales of books.

GIFTS AND LOANS SHOULD BE SENT TO — Thomas B. Zehner, 439 E. Burgess St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15214 or handed to him at Convention. **ORDERS FOR VOLUMES I & II** should be sent to Swedenborg Library, 79 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass. 02116. (\$6.75 plus 75 cents postage per volume. Perhaps purchase of Volume II at the same time will save postage.)

“WOMEN’S CONFERENCE BRINGS A LARGER VIEW OF GOD”

This was the headline of an article on a Women’s Conference sponsored by the Board of Education and held in our church last year.

Would you like to hold a Conference for Women in *your* Church?

You can!

Leadership is available!

Contact: Pat Zacharias
215 Union Blvd.
Kitchener, Ontario
N2M 2S7



GROWING IN THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

The Board of Education invites you to:

POST CONVENTION CONFERENCE... JULY 3-8, 1977

At the Ralston L. White Retreat Center,
Mill Valley, California
in the redwood forest on the slope of Mt. Tamalpais,
an hour's drive from San Francisco.

From Sunday evening, July 3 to Friday morning, July 8

Cost: \$100.00



STAFF:
David Garrett
Priscilla Garrett
Horand Gutfeldt
Elizabeth Gutfeldt
Dorothea Harvey
David Johnson
Norma Johnson
Lorraine Sando

REGISTER NOW — attendance will be limited by available space.

POST CONVENTION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Mail to: Nancy Perry, Executive Secretary
Board of Education
48 Sargent Street
Newton, Mass. 02158

July 3 - 8, 1977

Name _____

Address _____

Will you need transportation to and from San Francisco? _____

Please enclose \$20.00 registration fee, non refundable.
\$80.00 balance payable at the conference.

Make checks payable to -- The Swedenborgian Church

SHOWERS OF BLESSING FALL ON ALMONT

by *Betty Drummond Kitchener, Ont.*

Although the rain drops kept falling on our heads, the sunshine of love, and the joy of being with our extended family, banished the clouds from our spiritual sky.

Everyone agreed that the Lay Conference at Almont was an unqualified success.

Friday, April 22nd, thirty - six dedicated lay people from eight New Church Societies, trickled into Almont camp, some having spent nearly nine hours on the road. There was a warm fire in the fireplace and a warmer welcome from Helen Keith.

After a delicious chili - supper, we all gathered in Heritage Hall. When Paul Zacharias had charted our course, Dorothea Harvey helped us to center down with an inspiring presentation on the devotional life. She then asked us to break into four groups and share some moments in our lives when we had been particularly aware of the Lord's presence, and to try to identify the circumstances leading up to the experience. Finally we were to choose some ways of expressing this in the closing devotion for the evening.

Imagine our excitement and elation when we discovered that 3 out of the 4 groups had chosen the same hymn — *Morning has Broken* (Bow 372)! A very moving devotional unfolded with everyone joining in heart and soul. On this high note, our weekend was launched.

Saturday a.m. and still the rains came down. (Maybe we should build an ark!) Tom and Henrietta Zehner conducted a brief devotional using the Almont Bible that dates back to 1907.

The first morning session was on Personal Growth and got off to a lively start with some 'neat' magic performed by Dick Tafel Jr. Things aren't always what they seem. The hand IS quicker than the eye!

Dick and Gloria Toot shared with us some great ideas on learning to know ourselves and others through communication and listening skills. Back in the group situation, an interesting exercise was conducted which involved ranking the various activities of the church in order of their importance. Pity the poor church budget! We found that logic works for things but not always for people, and that we must define our terms before making assumptions.

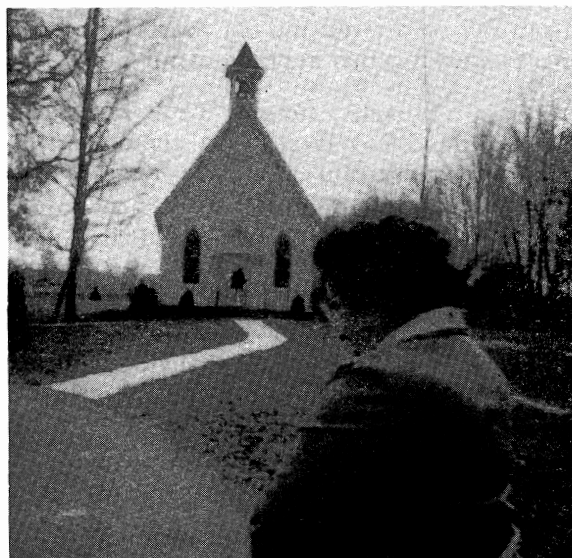
After a coffee break, we considered the topic of Leadership. A hilarious exercise in futility saw one of the chesterfields travelling back and forth in Heritage Hall like a Yo - Yo!

When the laughter died down we found we had learned something about getting jobs done around the church. This learning experience must have stuck for it kept popping up as the weekend progressed. Did I hear you say, "If you love the church you'll do it"?

Another interesting learning device turned out to be a simulated Church Board meeting. I think we may have uncovered a star in Joan (Alice) Middleton.

Time out for some of that famous Almont good food while nurturing new friendships.

The weather didn't ground George Dole, and he arrived in time to give us a condensed course in the use of scripture in the order of service. Because of his genius for putting a lot of information into a concise form, our heads were bulging with learning as he led us with subtle humour through the complexities of this subject. The afternoon ended with his demonstration of how to use the writings in reference to modern day problems such as capital punishment, abortion, pollution, etc.



Winnie Reeves, Cleveland, Ohio, Chapel bound.

By 7:30 all our needs for food, fresh air and rest had been met, and we were treated to an interesting panel presentation by Elizabeth Munger, Mary Crenshaw, Norman Bestor and Pete Toot with Paul Zacharias at the helm. The topic "The Church reaches out"!

You could not help but be impressed with the many things our churches have tried and are doing to reach out to the community. This prepared us for some profitable and lively discussion back in our smaller groups. Many serious and some not so serious ideas came up. If you have heard of the "I've found it" group, we've got an answer: "We never lost it!"

As the evening drew to a close, in the beauty of candlelight and dancing flames, our hearts responded to a poignant ballad about our Lord sung and played on the guitar by Peter Toot. The breaking of bread and the drinking of the cup was never more meaningful to me.

And it was the morning of the third day. Halleluia, the sun came out! With spirits soaring we moved into our final session. George and Paul led a group of lay people who wanted to work on conducting worship services.

Meanwhile Dorothea, Dick and Glo guided a sharing of ideas and programs already operative in different churches. New ideas for family worship, children's workshops, and study groups were shared with do - it - yourself directions, and much was stored away to take home.

As the chapel bell rang out, our feet turned joyfully in that direction. Additional friends from Detroit arrived and our hearts and voices were joined together in praise to our God.

Linda Miracle sang "The Impossible Dream", and Roy Trombley at the organ with David Fekete's trumpet added yet another paen of praise.

Rev. Paul Zacharias inspired and challenged us to dream dreams for our beloved Church and dare to believe they can come true. 'Surely the Lord was in this place'.

After a delightful luncheon shared with our Detroit friends, we took time to fill out brief evaluation reports for future reference.

It was time to leave but parting is the hardest part. With many kisses and some tears, we said our good - byes and headed each to our own little corner of the world, determined to take a little of that light home to brighten our own church communities.

ATTENTION — Convention Goers

Our annual sessions serve many useful purposes, including the transaction of business, good fellowship and spiritual renewal. Our Conventions also provide an ideal opportunity for useful dialogue between laity and clergy. Building bridges of understanding and trust is an essential part of our Church life. Members of the Council of Ministers would like to strengthen these lay - clergy relationships within Convention. *If you would like to talk with any minister at Convention regarding a specific issue or concern, seek him/her out — set an appointed time and place — and let the Spirit work.* We're approachable!

SECOND FLORIDA CONFERENCE

It is said that East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet. But they did meet and from North and South, too. About 18 of us gathered together at Swedenborg House for the Second Florida Conference held February 19 — 23 at DeLand, Florida. The leaders were Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Turley, assisted by Mr. Carl Yenetchi who is studying at the Swedenborg School of Religion.

Most of us had never met before when we joined for our first get together after supper Saturday evening. After participating in the hilarious game of "Who Am I" we were soon well acquainted! Delicious meals were served at two long tables by the ladies of the Women's Service Club. Meetings and discussions were scheduled at regular times during the ensuing days and evening. There were periods of quiet meditation, small group get togethers, and walks through the orange groves to the lake.

Focus was on truly finding ourselves and opportunities available for the third career, sometime called retirement, with new freedoms to choose and make changes in life style and of caring and sharing with others. Under Dr. Turley's humorous loving guidance and marvelous persuasion we were able to delve deeper and deeper into ourselves and the topics of immediate concern — "The Process of Retirement is Directed from Within", "Helps are External", "How can we free ourselves from things that are obsolete". Meals were eaten amidst animated and lively discussions about who we were and why we had come. This was overheard:

"My primary reason for attending this conference was to escape the rigors of the Washington, D.C. winter to the pleasant warm environment of Swedenborg House. My experience was a wonderful, beautiful surprise. I met new friends whom I hope will become close friends for the rest of my life. I had a chance to share my church with a group of like minded people."

"The trust level developed very quickly in the group."

"I felt more of an individual than at other conferences."

"This conference retreat has been an inspiration and a source of deeper insight into the meaning of life. The fellowship with all these people is a very big part of the success. Different backgrounds and circumstances, but with one common interest — a search and seeking for a closer walk with God. The sharing was almost total and contributed to each other's progress on the 'path'. I surely hope it will be an annual event."

"Life After Life" Author Speaks in the Boston New Church

On February 11th, the Northern Area Council of the Massachusetts Association sponsored Dr. Raymond Moody as the speaker at the Swedenborg Birthday Dinner in the Boston New Church.

He is the author of the best seller *Life after Life* and his coming was widely advertised by posters in the greater Boston area and announced through many College Centers by the staff of the Swedenborg Library. An overflow crowd of about 450 people came, mostly young adults.

In his talk, which recapitulated the book, Dr. Moody described his growing interest, as medical student, in the experiences of people who had been close to death through accident and illness and/or been believed clinically dead and resuscitated.

He interviewed many hundreds of people, yet the thing that surprised him most, after publishing his book, was the deluge of letters from people claiming similar experiences but who had thought their experiences unique.

Dr. Moody found a great similarity of experiences despite differences in age, sex, or religious denominations. Often these people felt drawn through a tunnel enclosure, felt a

"A highlight of fellowship and warmth, sharing and inspiration. We are travelling the road together. Word most often heard was *sharing* — an openness not often experienced with strangers and most of us had never met before. All this enhanced by our common background or interest 'in the writings' which was, of course, what drew us together at Swedenborg House. The loving concern for our natural as well as spiritual hunger was amply demonstrated by our hosts, the Fredericks and their helpers."

Tuesday began the windup with a meditation outside on the terrace led by Dr. Turley. This quiet period preceded the service held later on in the family room filled with beautiful flowers and plants. Special Bible readings and the observance of Holy Communion given to each other brought this conference to a close. Next morning breakfast was as usual and "good-byes" were said as we made our various departures to North, East, South and West.

David and Anna Jean King
Oklahoma

floating sensation and sometimes looked down on their physical bodies, moving through walls and people.

They were able to witness things from a distance which later checked out as really happening. Often departed relatives and friends helped — their presence being sensed and thoughts directly transferred. Many related an encounter with a loving warm being, who questioned the persons about their lives. Loving service to others seemed to be the criteria.

Dr. Moody told of several examples of people with these experiences. He also gave historical vignettes of resuscitation from Bible times (Elisha) on. There followed a generous question and answer period which demonstrated the intense interest of the audience.

I was extremely interested in the presentation and felt it was a splendid attraction for interesting non - New Church people, especially the young. Some New Church people were disappointed that Dr. Moody did not mention Swedenborg or *Heaven and Hell*, however there was a display sales table from the Swedenborg Library with Swedenborg's writings as well as *Life after Life* and many books were sold. There is a chapter in his book of about 13 pages from Emanuel Swedenborg mainly based on material obtained from Warren's Compendium. Dr. Moody had a sincere and honest approach to the religious experiences he described.

Betty Guiru

KEMPER ROAD CENTER SUMMER CAMP

Kemper Road Center for Religious Development announces the Third Annual Summer Camp Program.

4 — 7 year olds	July 18 — 20	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
8 — 12 year olds	July 25 — 29	9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
12 — 16 year olds	July 21 — 24	overnight

Through a blend of Bible stories, creative movement, sharing times, music, films, craft and play, our children will learn to live our theme for this year, "I Am Somebody".

This year's program is being expanded to include a four day camping experience at nearby Rocky Fork Lake. We will use some of the ideas from L.E.I. and WEYS in this unique opportunity for junior and senior highs to share with one another what our church means to us in a lake setting with fishing, skiing, hiking, etc., included. The theme for this overnight camp experience is "Freedom With Responsibility".

Through the interest and cooperation of Convention's Board of Education, Ron and Val Brugler will serve as religious education facilitators. The rest of the staff is from Kemper Road Center: Linda Coleman, Sue Harvie, Mary Lou Koenig, Linda Miracle, Dick Tafel, Tina Toney, Gloria Toot, Pete Toot and Susan Wood.

Registration, costs and further information may be obtained by writing:

Kemper Road Center
9035 E. Kemper Road
Montgomery, Ohio 45242

(or call Gloria Toot or Dick Tafel — (513) 891 - 7090)

SPLIT MOUNTAIN CAMP August 23 — 28

The motto of Split Mountain Camp is "One for all and all for one." For over forty years young people have been attending SMC to learn more about the Lord, other people, and themselves. We offer a wilderness camping experience complete with a mountain meadow for a floor, stream water to drink and the Milky Way for a roof. A New Church staff leads campers in activities ranging from study classes, worship services, and discussion groups, to volleyball games, swimming parties, and night hikes.

Each camper needs a sleeping bag and warm clothing, as well as other essential gear for a semi - primitive camping experience. If one is willing to "rough it" a little, there are wonderful experiences in store. Of all the different New Church camps around the country, we feel ours is unique.

Karen Conger

Fryeburg League Retreat

The Fryeburg Senior League recently sponsored a youth retreat at Intervale, N.H. The staff consisted of Eric Allison, Ruth Martin and Margaret Briggs. The general theme of the retreat was "Correspondences."

With the natural surroundings, Eric and Ruth found it easy to explain some of the basic correspondences (trees, mountains, rocks, etc.). We learned how to recognize the correspondences that can be missed so easily when reading on the natural level.

We all liked the retreat because everyone participated in each learning activity. Instead of looking up correspondences out of a *Concordance*, we first tried to figure out the meaning for ourselves by the characteristics and uses of the objects — even how they made us feel. Most of the people participated in a worship service that wrapped up the retreat. Gregorian chants and modern music helped set the mood for the service.

Most of the Leaguers were from the Fryeburg area, though two came from Sharon, Mass., Lee and Todd Woofenden. We are all anxious to hold another retreat in the future and hope we can share what we learned.

Kevin Antonucci, Michael and Jeffrey Chaplin (P.S. Though our three boys wrote these comments, the five girls were equally enthusiastic and one adult observer, yours truly. I was amazed how five boys and five girls of quite different ages, backgrounds and insights could so quickly be drawn into a unit with active participation and live interest — whether it was collecting objects of nature in the rain, sharing insights or searching the books. Private conferences with leaders were also freely sought. The closing service was truly impressive and candles carried around quietly for nearly an hour afterwards. We are most grateful to Eric and Ruth. They are skillful and consecrated leaders. M.W. Briggs)

A NEW CASSETTE

The Board of Missions is issuing a condensation of the first chapter of *Arcana Coelestia* for all those who are ear - minded rather than eye - minded. This is contained on two sides of a C - 90 cassette, that is, each side runs for forty five minutes. The program opens with an organ prelude and the reading is separated into sections by organ interludes. The organ concludes the program and is followed by brief instructions.

We have chosen this format for two reasons. First, for those who are listening alone, a long stretch of voice becomes tiring and the content of the text is not absorbed. The brief periods of soft organ music allow the listener to pause and consider what has just been heard. It also marks a spot where the cassette can be turned off for a longer period of time without interrupting the train of thought, and then turned on again without disturbing the cassette.

The second consideration involves group activity. When several people are listening together questions will naturally arise which one would like to discuss.

These organ interludes give an opportunity to stop the cassette and allow free conversation. The group may wish to rewind and hear a section again in order to clarify some point, and the interlude leaves no question as to where to pick up again without losing continuity. We think that this is a very flexible approach and we hope it may stimulate some to read the full text in the *Arcana*.

We would like very much to have our listener's reactions to the cassette and any suggestions you might make. The text was prepared by Margaret Sampson with advice from the Rev. Richard H. Tafel, Sr., and was read by Robert W. Tafel. The organist of the Philadelphia Church was kind enough to provide the music, which we greatly appreciate.

A second cassette covering chapter 2 of the *Arcana Coelestia* is in preparation and can be ordered now for future delivery. These cassettes are offered under the same conditions as previous ones, \$3.00 per cassette with a refund of \$1.00 if it is returned in good condition within six weeks. They may be ordered from:

Miss Margaret S. Sampson
330 East 84th Street,
New York, N.Y. 10028

A CHURCH FOR THE BIRDS

A group of birds got together and decided they would establish a church. A meeting was called to decide what kind of church they would have. The parrot stood up and said, "If we are going to have a church, we've got to have organization. We need committees sub-committees, commissions, task forces and officers, because organization is the most important thing in the church."

The pheasant jumped up and said, "I disagree! Organization is not the most important thing. We have to have lots of social events. We all have beautiful feathers and surely God meant us to show them off."

Just then the sparrow chimed in and said, "We need a popular minister. It doesn't matter what he says or does as long as everybody likes him and he doesn't make anybody mad. A popular minister — that's the most important thing in our church."

The starling said, "I think you are all wrong. A beautiful building is the most important thing."

Just then the cardinal who had just flown in from St. Louis said, "No, what we need is a good athletic program. We need to have a lot of trophies out in the foyer to impress people and then they will want to be a part of our church."

Then the wise old owl slowly stood and all grew quiet as he prepared to speak his words of wisdom. "Despair not, my friends, for we can have all these things." And all the birds chimed, "Yes! All these things!"

Thus they formed their church and do you know what they had? Are you ready for this? They had a church for the birds!

It was a church for the birds because of what they left out. A church for the birds because there was no good news there — no message of God's grace. Indeed no regard for God at all. It was a church for the birds because there was no sense of a mission there; no thought of sharing the Saviour, no notion of living for Christ; no understanding of service of self - givingness. Yes, theirs was a church for the birds.

Source Unknown

THE UPPER ROOM

Get Rid of False Riches

*by Leon LeVan
St. Petersburg, Fla.*

When we read about the Rich Young Ruler who came to Jesus and asked, "Good Master, what good thing must I do that I may inherit eternal life?" we feel compassion for him. He wanted to do the greatest thing that Jesus could ask; and he may well have thought that no challenge could exceed his strength. But when Jesus said: "One thing thou lackest. Sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven — and come, follow Me," — that requirement was too great for the rich young man. He was unable to measure up to it. He turned "and went sorrowfully away, for he was very rich". He obviously feared if he disposed of his riches and gave all to the poor he would himself become only one of Jesus' barefoot followers — leaving his family, his friends, his office, his responsibilities to others.

A man's "riches" (Scripturally speaking) are his knowledges, his opinions, his self-intelligent worldly ideas. Thus, everyone at some time has "great possessions", for everyone at some time has been full of natural opinions and worldly-wise conceits. That is no disgrace in the early periods of life. We know that such is the nature of man. But as we mature, we must see our "intellectual riches" (our opinions and ideas) for what they are before we can "sell" them; that is, before we can relinquish them and trust in the Lord and His Word. Until we learn differently, each of us is a "rich young ruler" standing in life's dusty road before the Lord Jesus Christ asking: "What good thing must I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

The things we need to "sell" are the false ideas we have about so many things in life. We may have faulty ideas concerning the nature of the Lord . . . or we have doubts and fears about the nature of the Future Life . . . or we are lukewarm in our acceptance of New Church teachings. We are called upon to look within, to cast off all opinions and purposes that are not in harmony with the Lord's will, and then follow the Lord into the light of His new revelation.

To "sell" all that we have, and "give to the poor" means to reject — to give up — to surrender all teachings that becloud our minds; and we must increasingly desire genuine truths from the Lord and His Word. The "poor" to

whom we are to minister are actually our own souls. Our souls remain "poor" so long as we cling to untrue teachings and false religious beliefs. That is one great reason why the Lord has given a New Church on earth — so that the Lord may use it as a lantern or lamp in the spiritual darkness of the world. In the Holy City New Jerusalem, "they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light." "The Lamb is the light thereof."

The Lord has come to our age with a Great New Revelation. He calls us to higher truths. Some will come, and some will not. But He calls everyone. "I, Jesus, have sent mine angel (my Revelation) to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and Morning Star." May we never fail to heed that call. May we never fail to follow that "Morning Star."

But how many are like the Rich Young Ruler today? They read best sellers. They are rich in ideas gathered from movies, newspapers, and magazines. They fill their minds with all manner of worldly opinions. They store their mental banks with self-intelligent notions and psychological chaff which the slightest wind of truth would blow away. They store their minds as the rich man stored the barns which he pulled down and could not rebuild. Such are the counterfeit "riches" derived from self and the world; and such are the "kingdoms of the mind" over which men rule if they do not seek first the "kingdom of God and His righteousness."

The Rich Young Ruler is the ruler of a mind that cannot (or will not) yield itself to the Lord's Divine Truths. May we follow the Lord in the light of His New Church. May we follow Him in the deeper revealings of His Word. Come, enter into the light of the Holy City New Jerusalem "whose light is like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone clear as crystal."

As Jesus said to the Rich Young Ruler so He says to you and me today: "Sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven; and come, and follow Me."

From Church Records

BAPTISMS

DAVIS — Edgar L. Davis of Port Oxford, Oregon, was baptized into the Christian faith on April 14, 1977, the Rev. Andre Diaconoff officiating.

RICE — Matthew Moutford Rice, son of Mr. & Mrs. Dennison G. Rice, grandson of Rev. & Mrs. Wilfred Rice, was baptized into the Christian faith at Cambridge, Mass., on January 23, 1977, the Rev. Wilfred G. Rice officiating.

TALBOT — Faith Agnes, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Henry J. Talbot, was baptized into the Christian faith at Elmwood, Mass., on March 20, 1977, the Rev. Arvid L. Anderson officiating.

WOOD — Joshua Norton, son of Mr. & Mrs. Willis E. Wood, was baptized into the Christian faith at Cambridge, Mass., on June 13, 1976, the Rev. Wilfred G. Rice officiating.

VanROOIJEN, MOWAT, TEEL, SWARE — Lori Anne VanRooijen, Patricia Lynn VanRooijen, Theresa Marie VanRooijen, Debra Lee VanRooijen, William VanRooijen, Jacqueline Amber Mowat, Ginene Allison Mowat, Jolene Alissa Mowat, Linda Elsie Teel, Camille Sean Teel and Peter Anton Sware were baptized into the Christian faith at Edmonton, Alberta, on Palm Sunday, April 3, 1977, the Rev. Paul Tremblay and the Rev. Hank Korsten officiating.

PECK — John Cameron Peck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Peck, was baptized into the Christian faith on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1977, the Rev. George McCurdy officiating.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

DZERYK, SWARE, TEEL, ALMOND, REED — Glenn Dzeryk, Myrna and Peter Sware, Linda Teel were confirmed into the New Church at Edmonton, Alberta, on Palm Sunday, April 3, 1977. Mrs. Anne Almond, and Barry Reed were received into membership of the Church of the Holy City, Edmonton, Alta., on April 3, 1977, the Rev. Paul Tremblay and the Rev. Hank Korsten officiating.

ALDRIDGE, CHURCHILL, HANSON, LITTLE, MURPHY, NELSON — Lisa Jane Aldridge, Jaye Churchill, Jennifer Ann Hanson, Audrey Ruth Little, Kimberly Jane Murphy, Holly Marie Nelson, were confirmed into the faith of the New Church at Elmwood, on Maundy Thursday, April 7, 1977, the Rev. Arvid L. Anderson officiating.

WESTBY — Mr. Rang O. Westby of Tacoma, Wash., was confirmed into the New Church at Portland, Oregon, the Rev. Andre Diaconoff officiating.

BOWMAN, BRIGHT — Gay Beth Bowman and Tonya Bright were confirmed into the faith of the New Church on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1977, in Pawnee Rock, Kansas, the Rev. Galen Unruh officiating.

MARRIAGE

MARSHALL - ROBBINS — William C. Marshall and Debra Lynn Robbins were married in Portland, Oregon, on April 17, 1977, the Rev. Andre Diaconoff officiating.

DEATHS

SPAMER — Martha H. Spamer of Baltimore, Md., died on March 22, 1977. The Rev. Clayton Priestnal officiated at the resurrection service.

WEEMS — Gertrude Isabel Weems, 89, widow of the late Rev. Samuel O. Weems, died on February 18, 1977. A memorial service was held in Cambridge, Mass., on February 24, 1977, the Rev. Wilfred G. Rice officiating.

HALL — Samuel E. Hall, member of the Baltimore Md., Society, died on April 15, 1977. The resurrection service was conducted by the Rev. Leonard Hicks.

KOEHN — Amelia (Millie) Unruh Koehn, 90, a member of the New Jerusalem Church in Pawnee Rock, Kansas, died April 19, 1977. The memorial service on April 22, was conducted by the Rev. Galen Unruh.

A DREAM COMING TRUE

Dear Mr. Editor:

Re: Carolyn Blackmer's 'Setting For A Dream'

I see it as a good sign that some are seeing the dream as practical, because it is the only real way to live. I see the communities described in her article as coming to be. They are made up of people who can work and think together for the good of the group. Some are church centered, some aren't. But they are all God-centered, and revolve around His love.

I see these communities springing up (there are quite a few now, though many are hidden from popular view) as a direct correlation to God's Divine Plan for His world. How else can we live in harmony unless we are all responsible for our own lives?

I see God's life style making itself known in older people as well. Tom Zehner's useful retirement series could well be titled, "Living A

Useful Life". Again, the new life discovered in Palos Verdes (Perry Martin's article in the March issue) is the way for us all to live. The time of the New Age is drawing near. It shows up most everywhere we look. The Universal Church IS coming to be.

Your Friend,
Matthew Zacharias
Bella Coola, B.C.

People, Places and Events

After serving as President of the Swedenborg School of Religion (formerly the New Church Theological School) for 21 years, the Rev. Edwin Capon is returning to the full time parish ministry this summer. The Capons have accepted a call to the Church of the Holy City in Detroit, Michigan, and will move to the Motor City sometime in August. A Dinner and Reception honoring Edwin Capon's outstanding contribution to the Church was held in Newton on May 19.

The Rev. Peter Weaver, pastor of the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New York City, recently spent 3½ days at S.S.R. doing research in the library and attending classes, in preparation for an address which he gave to the annual meeting of the Swedenborg Foundation on May 9th.

At a special meeting of the San Francisco Society on March 20, it was voted to send a grant of \$8000 to the New Church Society in Tokyo, to assist them in paying off a mortgage. A further \$3000 will be contributed, if matched in like amount by the Tokyo Church.

A recent letter from Per - Axel Atterbom in Sweden concludes with these words: "We are busy re - introducing Swedenborg here in Sweden. We recently had our fourth lecture in the present series. We will print Swedish versions of Helen Keller's *My Religion* and Brian Kingslake's *For Heaven's Sake* this year. Dr. Moody's *Life After Life* is coming out in

the Autumn, and so does W. Van Dusen's *The Presence of Other Worlds* (translated by us)." Encouraging signs from the land of Swedenborg's birth.

From the *Harbinger*, the Pacific Coast Association newsletter, we glean the following news items. The TEMPLE CITY group has disbanded, with the few remaining members joining the Association, where their talents will be put to good use . . . The WAYFARERS' CHAPEL has completed a filmstrip portraying the message of the Chapel through pictures, music and narration, which will be previewed at Convention time. And a counseling program for individuals, families and groups has begun at the Chapel under the leadership of Perry Martin . . . The BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON Fellowship continues its counseling program; and recently a local College Religion class met with the Rev. David Johnson for a discussion on Swedenborg's life and teachings . . . EL CERRITO'S HILLSIDE Church holds a traditional service on Sunday morning and an experiential service in the evening . . . The SAN DIEGO Church has its active Theatre Group, the Alpha Omega Players; and a public Concert was recently presented in the Church . . . RIVERSIDE Church has the largest Sunday School of all on the West Coast, with an active young people's group, and an enthusiastic young adult fellowship . . .

A RETRACTION — Our Mission Stamp operation in Florida has terminated. The present owner of this stamp outlet has no connection with convention.

The Last Word

“New Church Day”!

My Dear Fellow New Church Friends:

The Book *The True Christian Religion* was the last major work which Emanuel Swedenborg wrote. He wrote it in Latin, and got it published in Amsterdam, Holland, in the year 1771. It was later translated into English and other European languages.

The book contains the universal theology of the New Church. As you know, the New Church is not a sect, started by any individual, but it is a CHURCH for all mankind, and was raised by the LORD Himself. It was foretold in the book of Daniel, chapter 7, verses 13 and 14, in these words:

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed”.

It was also foretold in the Book of the Revelation, chapter 21: 1 and 2:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”.

This book, *The True Christian Religion*, explains fully what the New Church stands for, and explains very simply and very clearly our

main teachings about God as the Creator, and how the same God became our Redeemer and Saviour in the PERSON of the Lord Jesus Christ; it explains how with His outflowing Power is also the Holy Spirit. It shows that God is NOT divided into three Persons, for that would make Him three gods! It shows that God is ONE, in Person and in Essence, and that He is none other than the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This teaching is supported by numerous quotations from the Bible.

Other chapters explain other teachings of the New Church, such as the Sacred Scripture, Faith, Repentance, Baptism and the Holy Supper, and also what is meant by the end of the world and the Second Coming of the Lord.

Toward the end of this book, No. 791, we find these words:

“After this work was finished the Lord called together His Disciples who followed Him in the world; and the next day He sent them all forth throughout the whole spiritual world to preach the Gospel that the LORD GOD JESUS CHRIST REIGNS, whose kingdom shall be for ages and ages, according to the prediction in Daniel 7: 13, 14, . . . This took place on the NINETEENTH DAY OF JUNE, 1770. This is what is meant by these words of the Lord: — ‘He shall send His angels and they shall gather together His elect, from the end of the heavens to the end thereof’”
Matthew 24: 31.

Please remember this great EVENT on June 19th, and pray for the New Church on that day, not only in Southern Africa, but throughout the world.

Obed Mooki

THE MESSENGER

Box 2642 Stn. B

Kitchener, Ont. N2H 6N2

RETURN POSTAGE

GUARANTEED



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