

# Isaac and Rebecca

*Kenneth Turley*

Things in the Bible, like things in life, occur in cycles. The one big cycle that occurs, re-occurs within itself many times over. The 'beginning, growth and fulfillment' cycle is portrayed in the creation story, in the lives of the Israelites, in the life of Jesus, in many miniature scenarios, and in the Bible as a whole. Today I would like to look at that process as it occurs in the life of Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah.

With Abraham we have the beginning of something new. We have the first contact with God and the beginning of the Israelites, the first acknowledgement, praise and worship of God. And we have a mutually agreed upon contract, which is more than a contract: it is a promise from God to be fulfilled by Abraham.

Abraham responds with faith and love. One could almost say, 'blind faith,' (and a reasonable response to a personal visit from God), and this is coupled with unfailing love. Abraham is a personality of intuition and emotional commitment.

Abraham and Sarah pick up, change locale and settle into a new life, giving birth to Isaac. This represents the emergence of a new way of understanding. But as Isaac grows up, his beloved mother dies and he is left without comfort. This is both a sad thing and a blessing. To lose the source and object of one's deepest childhood love is a tragic thing. Yet when anything is removed, there is then room—and need—for something else.

So Abraham sends his servant back to his own people to search for a wife for Isaac. And as we heard in the story, because of what happens at the well, he finds Rebecca and she and Isaac are happily united.

The story of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the story of 'beginning, growth, and fulfillment.' The life of Abraham por-

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## THE MESSENGER EXPRESS

March  
1988

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Swedenborgian Churches*

trays the beginning; Isaac and into the life of Jacob portray the growth process; the end of Jacob's life and the appearance of his twelve sons portray the fulfillment. Yet these three stages are present in each of the three individual lives.

If we use the Biblical narrative to portray the human spiritual growth process, we can see in Abraham a person, most likely as a child, coming into first conscious awareness of the presence of God. It is met with accepting faith—in other words, the intuitive affirmation of childhood innocence. And this is accompanied by deep and uncomplicated love. But at some point, a new understanding develops, a new way of thinking about things begins to take precedence. This is portrayed by the birth and growth of Isaac. As children we begin to mature in our ideas about God. And as this happens, the source and strength of the way we feel changes as well. But it is our thinking, our way of conception, that changes first and out-grows and out-lives the love and feelings that were once appropriate.

This first crisis in our religious life is accompanied by sadness and loss, an emptiness that was once filled with the simple, satisfying love and belief of small childhood. As the mind grows and matures and develops a new kind of independence, so must the feelings. A new source and object of love and comfort must be found. This is represented by the quest of Abraham's servant in searching for a wife for Isaac. This quest is suggestive of a new, more appropriate belief system to replace the simplistic conception of, and relation to, God, which has passed away.

It is important to acknowledge the appropriateness of this process in the growing relationship to God, for it will help us guide our young people through what can be a difficult transition for them; it is also a process that can and should repeat itself many times over during our own lives. The emergence of a new way of seeing and understanding life, which is accompanied by the death of our old ways of feeling and caring, our source of motivation and belief, is a common and recurring process.

Many of the young couples, in moving from independent young adults to parents with careers and homes, have made a major shift in

their lives. There is a new understanding of life's purpose and priorities. There are new intellectual tools to work with: an adult's mind with training and experience.

But the kinds of feelings, desires, and loves that motivated our old way of life, have faded with time. And until they are replaced with a new source, and a new kind of love that is alive and fulfilling, there will be a sense of incompleteness, a lack of desire and motivation. To match the new and mature way of understanding life, we must find a new source of love and belief that is less self-centered and indulgent and more challenging, rewarding and reciprocal.

A new source of power and purpose must be found to complement a new way of viewing and understanding life. Love is the source of motivation, the desire, the will power, the passion with which we approach life. All the knowledge in the world is useless without the desire and will to apply it. On the other hand, many have accomplished great things, for the world and for themselves, even with average skills, because they have had above average desire.

So, how to find this source of love, how to know it when we do encounter it, that is the next question. We turn to the example of Abraham, who sent his servant with explicit instructions. We, too, send out a servant; we employ our external minds with the instructions of our inner feelings; we send our outer awareness to do our heart's bidding. And if we are wise we would do well to put ourselves in the proximity of 'the well' and see if what comes will help us to the contents of the well, or drive us away from the well. In other words, in our search, if something or someone confirms and brings us God's love and truth in a natural and unselfconscious way, we can be assured that there is God's presence at work. If on the other hand, this something or someone, turns us away from love and wisdom, from the Word of God, from the people who share that spirit, then we can expect that in leading us away from God, it is something or someone we had best avoid.

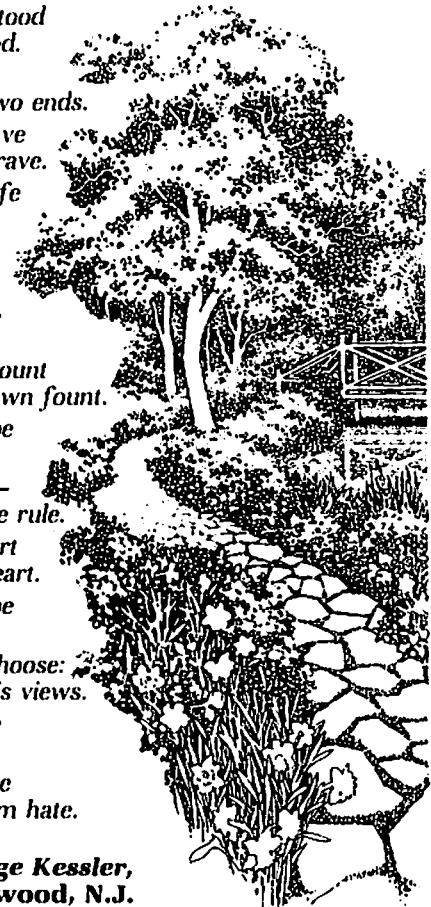
The same test that Abraham's servant gave Rebecca, can be applied by our rational mind to the things involved in making a marriage, in choosing a career, in developing purpose and priorities for living. In evaluating the worth or appropriateness of a choice we must make, we must ask with our minds and observe with our senses, if this brings us more of God's truth or whether it turns us away. And in our search we might do well to rest our questing minds at the well and draw for ourselves some of that water which so refreshingly gives us life.

*The Rev. Kenneth Turley  
is the pastor of the  
Elmwood New  
Church, Elmwood,  
Massachusetts*

## Christian Couplets

*THE WORD is understood  
According to one's good.  
The parable extends  
Between the Word's two ends.  
The life Our Father gave  
Endures beyond the grave.  
The man without a wife  
is only half a life.  
A true religion should  
Express itself in good.  
As God is kind to you,  
So be to all men too.  
The Sermon on the Mount  
Is truth from Love's own fount.  
But faith in God can be  
Our true security.  
Contrariwise the fool—  
But wise men heed the rule.  
Repentance cannot start  
Until we search the heart.  
A marriage ought to be  
For all eternity.  
A man must always choose:  
God does not force His views.  
The inner man will be  
Alive eternally.  
Tomorrow may be late  
To turn our heart from hate.*

**George Kessler,  
Maywood, N.J.**



## Question

*Do you need be told their plight  
to hear their crying in the night,  
to feel their cold, to taste their tears,  
to quake with their primordial fears?  
Do you need to be told the toll  
gaunt hunger takes upon their soul?  
Keeper of your brother, bear  
in mind he's left within your care.*

**Merry Browne,  
Louisville**

## The Other Cheek

*I turned my cheek of argument;  
You struck down every word!  
I turned my other cheek of  
love;  
Enchantingly you heard!*

**Emilie Bateman**

### THE MESSENGER EXPRESS

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## The Upper Room Signs of the Kingdom

Leon C. LeVan

*"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)*

The Bible contains many promises of a coming Golden Age. We find those promises in the *Prophets*, the *Gospels*, and in the *Book of Revelation*. So far-reaching are those promises that they have become part of the language of the whole Christian Church. Wherever the Gospel has gone, it has carried with it the hope of the coming of a Golden Age or Kingdom of God. Daily we pray "Thy Kingdom Come." Daily we have the Scriptural assurances of a regenerated world. Among the greatest prophecies of the new Golden Age is that which is found in the 11th chapter of Isaiah. That chapter indeed makes such astonishing statements about the expected Kingdom or Golden Age, that for many they pass belief. Christians say: "Yes, I believe that God will somehow be able to establish His Kingdom, and I believe that His Kingdom will bring a Golden Age or Kingdom of Peace. But I don't see how anyone can suppose that the wolf will dwell with the lamb; how the leopard can be induced to lie down with the kid; how the lion can be made to eat straw like the ox; and finally, how a little child can lead them all."

These are the amazing prophecies. But that does not mean that we are justified in saying they are not true. In the deepest sense everything in the Scriptures is true, but we must study to understand truly the things we read. In this 11th chapter of Isaiah the coming of the Kingdom of God is designated by three events which we should examine as follows: First, we are told, the Lord will "smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and slay the wicked with the breath of his lips." Secondly, the wild beasts of the earth will become so

tame that "a little child shall lead them." Thirdly, the remnants of Israel and Judah shall return from captivity; "and Israel and Judah shall reign in the earth."

The new church teaches that a happy, useful better world *will* come and crown the planet with Heavenly perfections; but it further teaches that such a state or condition of the world can come only in divine order through the regeneration of nations, religions, and individual men and women. The new church teaches that God does not act by Divine fiat, but by (and through) the cooperation and collaboration of those that constitute the church.

With this background, let us now ask if we have any indications that any or all of the Scriptural signs of the coming of the Kingdom are being fulfilled at this day. First, then, does God "smite the earth with the rod of His mouth and slay the wicked with the breath of His lips?" If we understand Scriptural language in its deeper meanings, our answer must be in the affirmative. The "rod of God's mouth" is the power of His Word, and the wickedness is slain by the "breath of his lips"—namely by divine truths. The "rod of the Almighty" smites the "earth" of a man or woman when the power of His Word moves or compels us to change our ways from worldly to Heavenly. He "slays the wicked" when His love conquers and eliminates the wicked designs and intentions of our earthly natures.

The second way in which God's Kingdom comes to us is by taming of the wild beasts described in *Isaiah*. What more deadly creatures can we name than the wolf, the leopard, the bear, the lion, the adder, and the cockatrice? Yet, these destructive and deadly beasts are the very ones to be rendered harmless in the Kingdom Age. What then is the power by which they are tamed, and who is the "little child" of whom it is said

that a "little child shall lead them?"

On this latter point you will say at once, "The little Child is the Bethlehem Babe." That is true. But it is further true that the Lord puts something in you and in me that is *like* the Bethlehem Babe in our daily lives. That something is goodness. That something is charity. That something is the innocence of the regenerating soul. The gift of God's goodness is more than once represented in the Scriptures as a little child; and this "Child" in *Isaiah* that plays on the hole of the asp, that puts his hand on the cockatrice's den,—this child by which the wild beasts of unregenerate human nature are tamed and subdued—this little child is the holy gift of God's saving goodness.

Thus we have three ways in which the Kingdom of God comes to people. It comes first when the "earth" of our natural life is smitten by the "rod of God's mouth" (the power of His Word) and when our evils are subdued by the spirit of His lips (the operators of His truth). It comes secondly when the wolf is said to lie down with the lamb—when our evil or wolf-like or lion-like feelings are rendered harmless, and the "little child" of the Lord's goodness leads us in the paths of gentleness, peace, and goodwill. The Kingdom comes, thirdly, when "Judah" and "Israel" (your heart and your mind) free themselves from the oppressive powers of the hells and return to their rightful dominion in our daily lives. God grant that this new season may be for us a new preparation in heart and mind for the deeper and fuller approach of the Lord to our lives, and that His kingdom may abide more deeply and more truly among us. ◀

*The Rev. Leon C. LeVan is a retired Swedenborgian minister living in St. Petersburg, Florida.*

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## OPINION

### Not Trash

Dear Editor,

In the interest of providing balance: I read the letter in the *Opinion* column of the January *Messenger Express*, regarding the article by the Rev. Carl Yenetchi, entitled, "The Door." The letter writer said the article was trash and didn't belong in the literature of our church.

I immediately went to get the October issue, read the article, and was very moved by it. Perhaps Mr. Heddaeus is just too concerned with the literal translation of this incident. This story, to me, works on many levels and I, personally, don't have trouble with any of these. Plus, I thought it was a loving and thoughtful handling of the incident on Mr. Yenetchi's part.

I want these kinds of articles in *The Messenger*, and I also want *trashers* in the *Opinion* column, because it spurs lazy people like me a) to read *The Messenger* when it comes, and b) to make contact with you all and express my opinion.

**Judith Guest**  
Minneapolis

*(Judith Guest is the author of the acclaimed bestselling novel, Ordinary People; she was raised in the Swedenborgian Church in Detroit.—Editor)*

### The Actual Scientific Proof

Dear Editor,

You can see by the enclosed that my article has also been published in England at the same time as the U.S.A. *Messenger* (see December, '87 issue, "Scientific Proof of Survival After Death"). I am getting a staggering response from both articles. However, there seems to be a breakdown in communications between us. I know you will put the record straight. The actual scientific proof of survival after death is when people from the etheric dimensions physically materialize on earth. This is the vital passage that you deleted from my article! The recent revolutionary discoveries in nuclear physics only give a rational explanation for what has been incorrectly called "psychic phenomena."

**Michael Roll**  
Bristol, England

### Appreciations

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your helpful editorial on the symbolic interpretation of scripture (December, '87 issue). It has helped me with a pamphlet I am currently writing on mental sickness as an imbalance in the human per-

sonality. I have begun to believe, from your clarification of the Trinity as three aspects of God, that we, too, are "trinitarian." If one of our aspects is neglected, we suffer emotional deterioration.

Thank you, also, for publishing Carl Yenetchi's article, "The Door," which presents one of his experiences with New Age para-psychology.

**Margherita Faulkner**  
West Lafayette, Ind.

Dear Editor,

I look forward every month to *The Messenger*. It means very much to me. I like the changes you have made—it is a handsome magazine. Also, the newsletters on alternating months seems to be an excellent idea. I eagerly read your editorials on the first page!

Although I haven't lived near to a New Church since 1930, I have kept in touch with the church through *Our Daily Bread* and *The Messenger*, as well as by reading Swedenborg's writings.

**Jeannette Ryan**  
Rutherfordton, N.C.

Dear Editor,

I appreciate *The Messenger*. It keeps me in touch with our church. My father was a New Church minister, and my husband spent his entire working life teaching at Urbana College, so I met lots of people in our church over the years. I enjoy keeping track of some of them in *The Messenger*. Thanks!

**Alice (Vrooman) Memmott**  
Wilmette, Ill.

Dear Editor,

The December issue was so very interesting. I always appreciate the Rev. Leon LeVan's column, *The Upper Room*. Keep up the good work!

**Forrest Dristy**  
Oswego, N.Y.

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## POSITION AVAILABLE

The Blairhaven Committee is now accepting applications for *Director of Blairhaven Camp and Conference Center* at Duxbury, MA, to begin September 1, 1988. For details write to: Blairhaven Committee, c/o Swedenborg Library, 79 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116. Or call: (617) 262-5918.

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## WANTED: ANGELS

To help Third-World Swedenborgian Representatives come to the International  
**SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY**

August 24-27, 1988  
Tarrytown, New York

Please write to John R. Seekamp, President/The Swedenborg Foundation/139 East 23rd Street/New York, NY/(212) 673-7310.

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the December issue. I will say that the older ministers write articles more easy to understand. The Rev. Leon LeVan's *Upper Room* column is always so interesting, and the average person can understand it.

**Catherine Hoffman**  
Detroit

Dear Editor,

The Sydney Lending Library has kindly given me some back issues of *The Messenger*. They are a joy to read: Swedenborg in today's language and for today! I especially enjoyed the article by Dr. Woofenden in the May, '85 issue.

**Dara Goretzki**  
Australia

Dear Editor,

I greatly appreciate your editorial *Between the Lines* in the December issue; it is very timely. You seem to write the right words, in the right way, and at the right time.

However, you say: "God's Word is eternal: let us do our part to enable it to speak more forcefully to our age." I wonder about our certainty about "God's Word." How can we claim that the words of human beings are God's Word? We do not even have the original manuscripts. There are not only many contradictions in the literal level of the scriptures, but also in esoteric interpretations, in which we Swedenborgians are only one voice among many.

Nevertheless, I disagree with the Eloists, who say, "Let others be free as you would always want to be free; don't try to influence them with your way of thinking and living. They will find out for themselves if they are on the wrong pathway." We must always strive to present the truth, or the multitudes will remain in the same ignorance that has prevailed for most people for the past 2,000 years.

**Bessie Behrendt**  
Great Bend, Kan.

## Notice

During the week of Convention '88, the Education Support Unit will be sponsoring a visit to Blairhaven, the Swedenborgian camp and conference center on the beach near Cape Cod. On Tuesday June 28, people will have the opportunity to tour the facilities, have lunch, enjoy good fellowship and in general "experience Blairhaven." Watch for more details in upcoming *Messengers*.

After convention, the Education Support Unit will be sponsoring a beautiful way to wind down from the bustle of convention, while still basking in the glow of Swedenborgian fellowship. Starting with supper on July 3rd and ending with breakfast on July 6th, people will be able to "experience Fryeburg"—a Swedenborgian family camp on the banks of the Saco River in Western Maine. Transportation to and from Boston will be available. The focus will be on Family. There will be nature walks, a presentation on social concerns, a chance to watch grand 4th of July fireworks nearby, and lots and lots of relaxation. Watch for more details in upcoming *Messengers*. ◀

## Thank You!

We wish to thank heartily the following people who have sent in a contribution to help defray the costs of producing *The Messenger*:

Bessie Behrendt, Great Bend, Kan.; Janice M. Beougher, Pratt, Kan.; Frances Boyle, Mansfield, Mass.; Karen and Stan Conger, Canoga Park, Calif.; Forrest Dristy, Oswego, N.Y.; Margherita Faulkner, West Lafayette, Ind.; Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif.; Julia Haid, Clemson, S.C.; Catherine Hoffman, Detroit; Harvey and Jeff Johnson, Warwick, R.I.; George Kessler, Maywood, N.J.; Olive Larson, Philadelphia; Lamont Lee, Palmdale, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Light, Abbotsford, B.C.; Alice Memmott, Wilmette, Ill.; C.E. Morgan, New Zealand; Tatsuya Nagashima, Tokyo; New York Association of the New Church; William Orr; Pacific Coast Association of the New Church; Jimmy Parham, Asheville, N.C.; Lydia Schrader, St. Paul; Jane Singles, Newark, Del.; Shirley Ann Stitt, Hinsdale, Ill. ◀

## ARTWORK, ANYONE?

Over the months, we [*The Messenger* staff] receive many compliments and suggestions. In response to one frequent suggestion, we would like to encourage our talented and creative readership to send us drawings, photographs, and general artwork.

Please send clear copies (or permanently donate originals) with your name and your relationship to the church.

To: *Messenger Artwork*  
c/o Carol Lawson  
West Farm, Rte. 1, Box 184,  
Dillwyn, VA 23936

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## WOMEN COMMUNICATING

### From the Alliance Treasurer

Dear Members and Friends:

Thank you for all your help in making the 1987 annual appeal of the Alliance of New Church Women another successful drive. The contributions totalled \$2,490.00.

We made contributions again this year to the following activities:

*Urbana University Library*  
*Church Women United*  
*Convention Baby Sitting*  
*Church Camps (5)*  
*The Messenger*  
*New Church Youth League*  
*Travel Assistance for*  
*Convention President's Wife*

In addition we were able to add contributions to the Meditation Chapel on the Urbana University campus and to the S.S.R. library for microfilming books. We are also continuing to help Kei Torita in her ministry in Japan.

A tenth of the money coming from Sustaining Memberships and General Contributions (\$150.00) was sent to Church World Service Crop Fund to help alleviate world hunger.

Again I want to thank all of you who have made this such a successful year for your Alliance.

**Mary C. Ebel, Treasurer**

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## THE EDUCATION SUPPORT UNIT IS ALIVE AND WORKING FOR YOU

Our personnel and activities include:

**Human Relations Consultant, Dr. Perry Martin**  
692 Spruce Drive, W. Chester, PA 19380  
(215) 696-8145

**Children and Family Ministry & Sunday School Consultant**  
*Rev. Dr. J. Theodore Klein*  
273 Perham Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
(617) 325-1214

**Youth Ministry, Rev. Stephen J. Puls**  
4307 Cooper Avenue, Royal Oak, MI 48073  
(313) 546-7853

- 54 We are in the process of working through two dreams. Our Convention '88 activities include a pre-convention day of relaxation at Blairhaven, a post-convention conference at Fryeburg, Mini-Courses, and a networking reception. Also, we are supporting the Growth Centers Conference for those people managing growth centers and camps.

### Education Support Unit

*Chair: Martha Richardson; Nina Tafel; Betsy Young; Ex-officio: Dr. Mary Kay Klein.*

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## CHILD CARE AT CONVENTION '88

Child care workers are needed to care for children aged 1-5 at Convention this year. Morning, afternoon and evening hours needed from Sunday, June 26 to Sunday, July 3. Salary and meals provided.

***Please apply in writing before April 1, to***

Laurie Turley  
P.O. Box 1414  
Duxbury, MA 02331

*Please include your age, a brief resume of your experience with young children and hours you may be available.*

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## CONVENTION'S CHILDREN'S PROGRAM '88

### Good news for kids!

Popular Teachers from Seattle will return to Convention this year!

This year's Convention children's program, for ages five through twelve, will begin with the pre-convention sessions and run through the Saturday of Convention. Yvonne Rittenhouse and two associates, who were involved in last year's very successful program, have agreed to come from Seattle to the Boston area for this year's program. They wish to welcome back the children from last year's program and invite others to join.

### FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING CONVENTION

Some limited funds are available to help with costs for children attending Convention. If you have not used this assistance twice in previous years for the same child or children, and if you are not able to have your needs met through a local church and/or association, you are eligible for consideration. Requests for assistance should be submitted by May 16.

For more information about either the Children's Program  
or Family Assistance Funding you can contact

Rev. Dr. Ted Klein  
Children's and Family Ministry Programs  
273 Perham Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
(617-325-1214)

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## COMMENCEMENTS

### Baptisms and Confirmations

**Milligan**—Nathan Christopher, infant son of Philip and Nella Milligan, was baptized into the Christian faith at a private home in Kelowna, B.C. on Dec. 27, 1987, the Rev. Erwin D. Reddekopp officiating.

On December 6, 1987 the following people were confirmed into the life and faith of the General Convention at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Kitchener, Ontario, the Rev. Eric Allison officiating: Irene Brock, John and Barbara Cullen, Bob and Mary Forrester, Cathy Gregory, Louise Lenucha, Ron and Mary Jane Meloche, Marketa Vladar, and Mary Frances Weber.

Also, the following children were baptized into the Christian faith at the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Rev. Eric Allison officiating: Lise and Tricia Cullen, on Nov. 29, 1987; Jessica Edwards, on May 10, 1987; Kyle Meloche, on Dec. 13, 1987; Jason Osborne, on Oct. 18, 1987; and Michael Schneider, on Nov. 22, 1987.

On December 13, 1987 the following people were baptized into the Christian faith and confirmed into the life of the General Convention in Brookings, Oregon, the Rev. John Billings officiating: Dorothy Lynn Beard, Anna Maria Billings, Renee Elizabeth Billings, Rhett Barclay Billings, John Allen Bradley, and Tracy Alan Morris. At the same ceremony, Marcella Kay Beard was baptized into the Christian faith, and Mary Kerr Carper, David Martin Carper, and Quint Matthew Billings were confirmed into the life and faith of the General Convention.

On January 17, the following people were confirmed into the life and faith of the General Convention at the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church with the Revs. Edwin G. Capon and James F. Lawrence officiating: Lorene Bodenstedt, Joanne Jaffe, Joseph Lederer and Alex and Kathy Rudis. At the same

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ceremony, the following people were received as Associate Members to the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church: James Battles, Kathryn Hudson, Elizabeth Millard, Paul Reynolds, and Bill Reilly.

### Marriages

**Allison-Gregory**—The Rev. Eric Allison and Cathy Gregory were united in Christian marriage at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, on Dec. 23, 1987, the Rev. Paul Zacharias officiating.

**Reinhold-Kroelinger**—David W. Reinhold, son of Herman and Irma Reinhold were united in Christian marriage on September 12, 1987 at the Church of the Holy City, Wilmington, DE., the Rev. Randall E. Laakko officiating.

**Tafel-Tafel**—The Rev. Harvey Tafel and Mareta (Saul) Tafel were united in Christian marriage on February 20, 1988 at the Wayfarers Chapel in Palos Verdes, California, the Rev. Richard H. Tafel, Jr., the groom's brother, officiating.

**Watt-Holland**—Constance A. Holland and Andrew F. Watt, son of Warren and Audrey Watt were united in Christian marriage on March 6, 1987 at the Church of the Holy City, Wilmington, DE., the Rev. Randall E. Laakko officiating.

**Watt-Roser**—Mary C. Roser and Jeffrey W. Watt, son of Warren and Audrey Watt were united in Christian marriage on November 14, 1987 at the Church of the Holy City, Wilmington, DE., the Rev. Randall E. Laakko officiating.

### Deaths

**Anderson**—Charles Keith Anderson, 68, longtime member of the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church, entered the spiritual world on January 25, 1988 in San Francisco. Memorial services were held at the

Golden Gate National Cemetery chapel on January 29, 1988, the Rev. James F. Lawrence officiating.

**Carroll**—Augusta Carroll, longtime member of the Bridgewater, Massachusetts Swedenborgian Church, entered the spiritual world on October 31, 1987 in Tampa, Florida. Memorial services were held at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church.

**Dienesch**—Katharina Dienesch, 81, longtime member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, entered the spiritual world in Scarborough, Ontario. Memorial services were held on Nov. 25, 1987, the Rev. Eric Allison officiating.

**Gottlieb**—Howard Gottlieb, 54, member of the New York New Church, entered the spiritual world on October 27, 1987. Memorial services were held at the New York Church on Nov. 8, 1987, the Rev. Paul Zacharias officiating.

**Leach**—Gladys M. Leach, member of the Church of the New Jerusalem, Fryeburg, Maine, entered the spiritual world on December 16, 1987 in Fryeburg. Memorial services were held on December 19, 1987, the Rev. Richard Beebe, of the Congregational Church in Fryeburg, officiating.

**Leffering**—Shirley-Ann Leffering, longtime member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, entered the spiritual world in Kitchener. Memorial services were held on December 30, 1987 at the Kitchener Church, the Rev. Paul Zacharias officiating.

**Reddekopp**—Kenneth Reddekopp, 39, entered the spiritual world on Dec. 4, 1987 in Kitimat, B.C. Memorial services were held in Kitimat on Dec. 10, 1987, the Rev. Robert Schwab, of the United Church of Canada, officiating.

**Reddekopp**—Tilly Reddekopp, 77, entered the spiritual world on Nov. 26, 1987 in Peace River, Alberta. Memorial services were held on Dec. 1, 1987 at the Bethel Evangelical Church, the Revs. Erwin D. Reddekopp and H. Hunter officiating.

**Schneider**—Pearl Schneider, 89, longtime member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, entered the spiritual world in Kitchener. Memorial services were held on Dec. 5, 1987, the Rev. Eric Allison officiating.

**Strauss**—John Strauss, 84, entered the spiritual world in Saskatoon, Sask. on Nov. 22, 1987. Memorial services were held on Nov. 26, 1987, the Rev. David L. Sonmor officiating.

**Wright**—Florence Wright, 89, lifelong member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, entered the spiritual world in Kitchener. Memorial services were held on Nov. 25, 1987, the Rev. Eric Allison officiating.

### New Address

The Rev. Eric Allison and his new wife, Cathy Gregory, will be residing at: 180 Highland Crescent, #12, Kitchener, Ontario N2M 5K5.

### CONVENTION, 1988

This year's Convention Planning Committee has met to set the basic program for the June 29—July 3 convention at Lasell Junior College in Newton, Massachusetts. Once again it will include minicourses on a variety of subjects, a full children's program, and the special 1988 celebration with the premiere of the oratorio, "Revelation," as well as business sessions, elections, and worship services. The outing for Saturday afternoon will include a tour of Plymouth, Mass. and Plimouth Plantation, to catch the "Pilgrim landing and history" flavor of Massachusetts' first settlement, and a fun dinner and evening at Blairhaven, New Church center on Kingston Bay. Plan now to join us for a great week!

Forwarding Address Correction Requested

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## SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS—Spring/Summer 1988

### March

- 4- 6 SSR Managers & Directors, at SSR
- 6- 9 Committee on Admission to the Ministry, at SSR
- 11-13 EDSU (Education S.U.) at SSR  
PMSU and GOSU at Beside-the-Point, Ohio
- 14 Swedenborg Foundation Board, New York
- 27 Palm Sunday

### April

- 4 Central Office closed (Easter Monday)
- 7- 9 COM Overseas Ministry Committee, at SSR
- 9-10 IMSU (Information Management SU), Portland, ME
- 10-12 Great Lakes Peer Supervision, Beside-the-Point
- 14 Swedenborg Foundation Board, New York
- 18-20 East Coast Peer Supervision
- 18-22 SSR Spring Break, Newton, MA
- 21-23 Wayfarers Chapel Board, Palos Verdes, CA
- 24-26 COM Executive Committee, at SSR

### May

- 9 Swedenborg Foundation Board, New York
- 13-15 CSU (Communication SU) in Chicago
- 20 SSR Spring term ends

### May (Continued)

- 21-24 Gathering of Christians (NCCC-sponsored), Arlington, TX.
- 24 Qualifying Exams, SSR
- 25-27 National Council of Churches Governing Board, Arlington, TX

### June

- 3- 4 Temenos Board of Managers, at Temenos, PA
- 7 SSR Faculty Retreat, Newton, MA
- 13 Swedenborg Foundation Board, New York
- 19 New Church Day
- 24 Central Office staff sets up at Lasell Jr. College
- 25-29 Pre-Convention meetings, Lasell Junior College, Newton, MA (Council of Ministers/Spouses)
- 29-July 3 Convention 1988 at Lasell Junior College, Newton, MA

### July

- 3 Convention Sunday
- 3- 6 Post-Convention Conference at Fryeburg New Church Assembly, Fryeburg, Maine
- 23 Almont New Church Assembly opens, Almont, MI