

New Christian Church Newsletter

July-September 2021



South African New Church Appeal

The New Church of Southern Africa is the largest New Church in the world. Its headquarters are on a 7 acre block of land in the heart of Soweto Township. It is home not only to a Church building but also the Mooki Memorial College where ministers are trained for the large number of South African congregations. The plot is open to the public and the buildings are prone to fly tipping, vandalism and burglary. With the support of the Revd. Lee Woofenden from America they are building a border fence around the whole plot. Because of the economic situation they are not wealthy and Lee has made a world wide appeal to help them complete this fence. His fund appeal is

found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/build-a-new-church-wall> He has made a video to show how much they have built. You can access it with this link, <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/build-a-new-church-wall/update/27952211/gallery/0>



Or on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5986KGUVuM&t=17s>

Lee's wife Annette has written about life in South Africa. I highly recommend it as it puts our life here in a very different light.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=4c396dac21&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msgf:1703944749699458631&th=17a5a0b8d2ba6647&view=att&disp=inline> Lee and Annette have their own website called "Spiritual Insights for Everyday Life"

If you want to forward your donations on to me I will send them on to Lee.

If you want to donate you are welcome to send it to me and I will forward it to Lee.

A NEW HOME. We are delighted to hear that Ray and Barbara Streeter have found a lovely house to rent. It is at the bottom of a cul-de-sac and overlooks the Manukau Harbour. We hope that Ray recovers well after breaking his femur and needing another hip operation. And that he and Barbara enjoy life in their new home.

Spiritual aids for Mental Health

We might be doing well in containing Covid 19 but we seem to be losing ground with mental illness. With the one we are dealing with a tangible virus, with the other, an unseen state of mind. Mental illness often arises when external events create an internal feeling of loss of control, which leads to despair. Perhaps part of our difficulty is that the mind is generally seen as a one dimensional organ measured by brain activity. With this view we are only working with the outermost part of the human mind. We are at a similar disadvantage to the physicians of the 15th-16th century, who knew nothing of the functions of the inner organs of the body.

The Lord in the Heavenly Doctrine has revealed in detail the structure and functions of the human mind. In the book “The Relationship (Intercourse) of Soul and Body”, by Swedenborg, It states that life from the Lord forms and sustains the mind. It is a spiritual organ and has several levels. It acts on the brain through correspondence. This means that the spiritual is able to move the physical plane even though they are different substances. Just as our inner joy is felt in our heart and seen in our face.

Mental Life begins from our Creator. It flows into the highest level of the mind. It is highest because its love is closest to God’s love. This love, loves others for their sakes, wants a mutual relationship with them and wants their eternal

happiness. This love is the basis of all spiritual and therefore mental health. It is the joy of life. The way to access this life is to be of use others with no thought of praise or reward.

A Supportive Relationship. It's not all up to us.

Mental health depends on healthy relationships. By birth we are all in a relationship with the Lord. Our life flows in from an all loving, all wise, all powerful, all present God. He has each of us in His hands whether we acknowledge it or not. He is someone who loves us no matter what we, or others, think of us. He is totally forgiving and wants to lead each of us to discover the happiness of His life.

In mental health such a relationship can be a rock to stand on when our world is shaken, and a refuge when things get tough. It is the belief which many people cling to when reduced to helplessness. Just thinking of such a God opens the mind above our present situation, and gives us the glimmer of hope that someone greater than us is involved. Reading Psalm 23 or a heartfelt prayer lets light in from our higher mind.

Life consists of innumerable choices. Another powerful tool for mental well-being is the teaching that **all** thoughts and feelings flow in from **either heaven or hell**. One is positive and loving the other is dominated by negativity, self-centeredness and condemnation. **Neither of these attitudes is ours**. We are just the receivers. They only become ours when we choose to use them. Jesus illustrates this when He says, "It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person but what comes out the mouth that defiles them." Matthew 15:10.

The gifts of reflection and reason. The light of truth flowing from the Lord brings us two other powerful tools.

His light shows us the choice we have between the two opposing influences mentioned above. However He leaves us in freedom to choose the one we want to live from. It's like our ability to reflect on the email's promises of wealth, see they are a scam, and choose to reject them despite our need for money. Such ideas may not remove the challenge of mental ill health, but they can help us see it in the context of a much bigger picture of our life, and offer us resources to find a way through.

With all good wishes,

John.

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| July 4th | Zoom Service at 10am. Smorgasbord on the theme of 'Joy' |
| 12th | Zoom Committee Meeting 2pm. All Committee meetings will be on the second Monday of each month at 2pm |
| 18th | Catch up and Coffee at Café Melba Lunn Ave 10.30am. Please let John or Lis know so that we can book sufficient tables. |
| August 1st | Zoom Service at 10 am. Smorgasbord on the theme of 'Forgiveness' |
| 15th | Face to face Service at 10 am. (Holy Supper)Venue to be announced. |
| Sept 5th | Zoom Service at 10 am. Smorgasbord on the theme of 'The Lord as a shepherd' |
| 19th | Catch up and Coffee at Café Melba Lunn Ave. 10.30am. Please let John or Lis know so that we can book sufficient tables. |
| October 3rd | Zoom Service at 10 am. Smorgasbord on the theme of healing the lepers. Luke 17:11-19 |

The New Christian Church in New Zealand.

(Auckland Society of the New Church)

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Contacts

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