

# MORNING STAR VOICE

## SEPTEMBER 2010

“I AM THE ROOT AND OFFSPRING OF DAVID, AND THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR” REV. 22:16

### GOING HOME

It would be a mistake to think that heaven as a huge gathering together of millions of angels. Heaven is not like that at all. We are taught in *Heaven & Hell* that, "the angels of any one heaven are not together in one place, but are divided into larger and smaller societies in accordance with the differences of the good of love and faith in which they are, those who are in like good forming one society" (HH 41). Heaven, then, is not somewhere where all good people are together in the same spiritual place. They do not all live together. In fact, even though we speak of *heaven* in the singular, the Writings also speak of the heavens. There are many different heavens that make up heaven. The word for *heaven* in Hebrew, *shamayim*, is plural. The *Psalms* speak of the heavens of heavens (Ps. 68:33; cf. HH 51e.). And, in the Gospels, that Lord teaches that in His Father's house are "many mansions" (AC 644e).

This is one of the most wonderful things we need to know and remember about heaven. We may talk about going to heaven. We may pray to the Lord to lead us to heaven. But the Lord is not

simply leading us to heaven. He is, you might say, leading each of us to our very own heaven. The very inmost design of the Lord's Providence is, we are told, "that a person may be in this or that place in heaven" (DP 67).

When we go to our heaven, our society, our home in the other world, we will be amongst our own. In the heavens there are relationships just as there are here on earth. In the other world, though, relationships are not based upon blood, upon birth, but, rather, upon our deepest loves, spiritual loves, that come from

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*Pastor & Editor.* Patrick A. Rose. (770) 516-5846. [patrick@patrickrose.org](mailto:patrick@patrickrose.org)

*Distribution of printed versions:* Jayne Burke. (770) 564-1445.

rebirth, or regeneration. We will be living there with our extended spiritual family, a family where all share a similar way of loving the Lord and of serving the neighbor. This is what a society in heaven is. It is a spiritual family. And all who are there are at home.

Even in this world, we feel relaxed, comfortable, when we are with people who think and feel as we do. It is the same in the heavens. Swedenborg

**They are  
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home.**

relates that when he came amongst those who were spiritually similar to himself, he said it felt as if he had known these people from childhood (HH 46). In this way,

people in the spiritual world who are spiritually similar are drawn to one another. As we read in *Heaven & Hell*, "like are drawn spontaneously as it were to their like, for with their like they are as if with their own and at home, but with others they are as if with strangers and abroad" (HH 44).

This is one of the reason why it is going to feel so very good to go to heaven, to go to your heaven, that is, to your society in heaven. You will be with people you feel at home with – at home in the deepest way possible. You will feel as if those in your society are your brothers and sisters, and indeed they are, for they are your spiritual brothers and sisters. You will feel as if you have known them always. People in the same society of heaven even look similar to one another, just as do relatives here on earth (HH 47).

Societies in heaven vary in size. The smaller societies may consist of just a few hundred people (HH 50). The larger ones can have as many several hundred thousand (HH 213). The individual houses of the angels are near each other, arranged along streets, making up a village, a town or a city, with public areas, and public squares, just as it is here on earth. These societies, these angelic towns, are beautiful, for the houses are more beautiful than those here on earth. And of course the people in these towns love one another, are close to one another, far more so than could ever be the case here on earth.

The angels of a society, a heavenly community, are so much at home there, that, we are told, few of them travel outside their own society, because it feels to them as if they are leaving behind their own lives (HH 49).

An angelic society, though, is not inward looking. What brings these angels together is a similar love, a heavenly love, a love of use. Each society of heaven has its own shared use. Some societies take care of little children. Some teach those from the Christian world who are in simple good. Some watch over those in temptations. There are societies who watch over those in hell, preventing them from tormenting one another beyond prescribed limits (HH 391). Each society in heaven contributes to the overall good of the spiritual world. Heaven is in the human form, in a form to which the human body corresponds. And just as each part of the human body serves the whole body in its own way, so too, each society of heaven serves what is called the Grand or Greatest Man of heaven, that is, the whole of the Lord's kingdom. So it is

that even though few angels will travel outside their own societies, all the societies are connected and make one through what might be called a spiritual network of uses and functions.

It is in this way that each angel, in whichever society he or she might be, shares something in common with every other angel in the heavens. Each society serves the Lord in its own way. But then the Lord draws all these many different societies, countless societies composed of countless angels, into one united heaven of heavens. All are united in the service of the one King of heaven (cf. HH 51).

This wonderful teaching about heaven, the teaching that there are many societies, many mansions, in heaven, helps us understand how so many human beings, who are so very different in so many ways, can all have a place in the Lord's kingdom. People don't all have to be the same to go to heaven. In fact, on the contrary, there is unlimited variety within the heavens. No society of heaven, and indeed, no angel, is quite the same as another (HH 70). It also helps us understand why it is that when people die and go to heaven, they really and truly are *going home*. Death is described in many different ways. We speak of someone being called to the spiritual world. We speak of someone passing over. And then, sometimes, a person is said to be called home. And home, for each one of us, is not heaven. Home is our own place in heaven, a place where we belong, a place where we will be with those like ourselves.

This teaching about the societies of heaven can also help us understand something fundamental about life here on earth. If dying can be described as going home, life here on earth can be

likened to a journey. We are on a journey home. And the way we live, the decisions we make, actually determine what society in the other world will become our home.

Here on earth we mostly imagine of ourselves that what we think and feel within our own heads is a completely private affair. What we don't realize is that there are spirits with us all the time, spirits who are drawn to us and connected to us. These spirits themselves are connected with specific societies in heaven, or, in the case of evil spirits, with societies in hell. We are not alone (AC 8794). And what we feel and think and do associates us with first one society and then another. It is as if we were traveling from one society to another, looking for that place we will choose to make our home. Indeed, this is precisely what we are doing. By means of that journey we call life, we are choosing a home for ourselves.

This is why it is that when a person dies and is eventually led to heaven, it is experienced as a completely natural and spontaneous experience. We will be going to that home we have already chosen for ourselves.

One day, after you have left this world, and after you have been prepared, during a stay in the world of spirits, for life in heaven, you will see a path. These paths that people see are, we are told, paths "leading to societies of people like themselves, with whom they will remain to eternity" (CL 10). When people see these paths they walk along them filled with a feeling of delight, for the simple reason that these paths "lead in the direction of their love" (*ibid.*). You will feel led by your heart to walk along the path that you see before you.

And at the end of that path you will come across a society, a community, a town, where the people look and feel and think very much the way you do. You will recognize the people there to be your people, and you will feel as if you have always known them. And as you approach them, they in turn will recognize you immediately as one of their own, and will welcome you with joy (HH 519). They will welcome you home.

There is also space on the site to post questions and comments.

I listened to some of this material when I was on vacation in Colorado, and thoroughly enjoyed it – so much so in fact that I am considering asking permission to burn audio CD versions for any of you who might enjoy listening to this on your CD player.

Let me know if interested!

Patrick.

## **NOT NECESSARILY FRIDAY CLASS**

A POSITIVELY TERRIFIC online resource was launched recently. Lovers of the Heavenly Doctrine, this a project for you!

If you go to <http://notfridayclass.com> you will be able to listen to podcasts on a variety of doctrinal topics, released weekly. As of Aug. 27 the latest topic is "Why Won't God Heal Amputees?"

These are solid, interesting and fascinating talks of about half an hour or so, presented by someone who really knows what he is talking about. They will help you grow!

You can access previous topics as well on the site, and listen to them right on your computer. You can also subscribe to the weekly topics on the site, or download talks and listen at another time. Burn to a CD and listen during rush hour even! Listen with some friends and have a great discussion!

## **ELDERGARTEN 2011**

REGISTRATION FORMS for Eldergarten 2011 have been emailed to all those we have on our list. If you have not received one please contact us, and we will send you a registration form and housing form (if needed) immediately. Our email address is [Eldergarten@aol.com](mailto:Eldergarten@aol.com).

Eldergarten is from January 16 to 20 for 2011. Please note we have changed the invitation to included those fifty years of age and older rather than the former age of sixty.

*We'd love to see you in Boynton Beach in January, 2011.*

Bob Brickman  
Director

## QUIZ OF THE MONTH



Our questions this month are taken from the second chapter of Exodus and concern the birth of Samuel.

1. Which tribe was Moses' father from?
2. Which tribe was Moses' mother from?
3. For how long did his mother hide Moses before putting him in the ark of bulrushes?
4. Who kept an eye on Moses in the ark to see what would happen?
5. Why did the daughter of Pharaoh come down to the river?
6. Who did the daughter of Pharaoh pay to nurse Moses?

*Answers below.*

All answers are found in Exodus, chapter 2.

1. Levi. (verse 1)
2. Levi. (verse 1)
3. Three months. (verse 2)
4. Moses' sister. (verse 4)
5. To bathe. (verse 5)
6. His own mother (verses 7-9)

*Your score:* Between three and four correct – good. One or two correct – fair. Five or six correct – excellent; consider volunteering to help with teaching Sunday School. None correct – consider volunteering to help with teaching Sunday School; it will help you learn the stories.

## SEPTEMBER 2010 CALENDAR



- Sun. Sep. 5 NO SERVICE AT MORNING STAR CHAPEL  
Camp Magnolia in progress.
- Fri. Sep. 10 8:00pm Reading Discussion Group. Meeting via Skype.  
*Doctrine of the Lord* 62-65. Concluding book.  
See pastor for contact details.
- Sun. Sep. 12 11:00am Church Service.  
Pastor's Council.
- Mon Sep. 13 6:30pm Swedenborg-Atlanta in Marietta/Smyrna.  
DP 100-110. Presented by Patrick Rose.
- Sun. Sep. 19 11:00am church Service.  
Potluck and doctrinal workshop. Part 1 of Teachings about Outreach.
- Fri. Sep. 24 8:00pm Reading Discussion by Phone.  
DLW 40-54. Contact pastor for phone-in details.
- Sun. Sep. 26 11:00am Church Service.  
Outreach committee.

Go to [www.morningstarchapel.org/calendar.html](http://www.morningstarchapel.org/calendar.html) to get the latest calendar information. Information on Swedenborg-Atlanta events can be found at [www.swedenborg-atlanta.org](http://www.swedenborg-atlanta.org).

# September

# 2010

## Morning Star Chapel


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>AUGUST</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>			1	2	3 Magnolia Leaf Camp	4 Magnolia Leaf Camp
5 Magnolia Leaf Camp NO SERVICE AT MORNING STAR CHAPEL	6 Magnolia Leaf Camp Labor Day	7	8	9	10 08:00pm Reading Group. Via Skype	11
12 11:00am Service 12:30pm Pastor's Council	13 06:30pm Swedenborg- Atlanta at Vittles	14	15	16	17	18
19 11:00am Service 12:30pm Pot Luck/Doct Discussion	20	21	22  10:09pm Autumn Begins	23	24 08:00pm Reading Discussion by Phone	25
26 11:00am Service 12:30pm Outreach Committee	27	28	29	30		<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>

For updated information visit <http://www.morningstarchapel.org/calendar.html>

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Magnolia Leaf Camp NO SERVICE AT MORNING STAR CHAPEL	Magnolia Leaf Camp Labor Day				Magnolia Leaf Camp 08:00pm Reading Group. Via Skype	Magnolia Leaf Camp
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OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Patrick Rose — Chair, ex officio.  
Wayne Wadsworth—Vice chairman  
Eli Echols — Secretary  
Drew Ludwick — Treasurer  
Cedric Lumsden  
Bronwyn Robinson

**PASTOR'S COUNCIL:**

Stuart & Jayne Burke  
Tom Kimble  
Linda Carr  
Jon Widerstrom  
Patrick & Dinah Rose

**CHURCH LIBRARY**

Corinne Echols — Librarian  
Keith Roloson — Assistant

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Patrick Rose (Chair)  
Terry Warley (Secretary/Treasurer)  
Bill Burke  
Eleanor Burke  
Jayne Burke  
Stuart Burke  
Corinne Echols  
Eli Echols  
Keith Roloson  
Anne Warley

**OUTREACH SUB-COMMITTEES**

*Reconnection*

Bill Burke  
Eleanor Burke  
Anne Warley  
Terry Warley

*Advertising/Publicity*

Stuart Burke  
Eli Echols  
Keith Roloson  
Patrick Rose

*Literature/Books*

Bill Burke  
Corinne Echols  
Keith Roloson

*Welcoming*

Jayne Burke  
Eli Echols  
Keith Roloson

**OTHER DUTIES:**

Pen Robinson — Mail Collector  
Henry Wadsworth —  
Electronics Advisor

## DIRECTIONS TO OUR CHURCH

From downtown Atlanta, take GA 400 north to exit #11, (Windward Parkway). At the bottom of the exit ramp make a left on Windward Parkway. Proceed through the sets of traffic lights, and cross Hwy. 9 (Alpharetta Hwy). Continue on the new extension of Windward past the Kroger. This new extension to Windward bends gently into Cogburn Rd. Take Cogburn about 1.5 miles to the traffic light on Bethany Bend. Make a left on Bethany Bend. Our church, *Morning Star Chapel*, is the second property on the right. The address is 2780 Bethany Bend.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**JESUS CHRIST (THE LORD)** is our one loving God in perfect Human form. Within Him there is a trinity of soul (Father), mind and body (Son) and influence (Holy Spirit).

His Word (the Bible) is a parable with a spiritual meaning throughout.

Faith and charity cannot be separated. The life of religion is to do what is good.

Life continues immediately after death. In the other world what we are really like inside ourselves becomes evident.

Marriage is holy. All joy, happiness, and delight from the Lord are gathered into the love of marriage. A husband and wife who truly love each other and approach the Lord in their marriage will live together as married partners after death. True love really is forever.

The Second Coming of the Lord is not a coming in person but in the Word. The Lord has come again by revealing the internal sense of His Word for His New Church. The Lord used a servant (Emanuel Swedenborg) to reveal these deeper things, just as he used servants to write down the Old and New Testaments.

Our **Lord God Jesus Christ** is the Ruler of Heaven and Earth.