



Sunrise Chapel

TERRITORIAL

February 2013

“Helping People Experience Heavenly Joy through Spiritual Growth”

8421 E. Wrightstown Road • Tucson, AZ 85715 • 520-298-1245 • SunriseChapel.org

THE POWER OF LOVE AND ATTRACTION

By Nathan Gladish

What are your thoughts on love and attraction? Does Valentine’s Day bring certain feelings to mind? On the internet there are many esoteric and pseudo-spiritual theories about “the law of attraction.” I think Swedenborg gets to the heart, so to speak, of the matter with the emphasis on love as the main attractive force.

What makes someone attractive? The world lists beauty, magnetic personality or sense of leadership, stylish clothing, wealth, social status, and other gripping but external things. We are taught from the Word that attraction comes from love. In fact, the teachings of our church are that mutual love constitutes heaven, and all love holds a power of attraction because of its desire to be connected with others. Haven’t we all experienced this heavenly power? Infants are attractive because of the love of innocence we receive from them and for them with a resulting connection. People are attracted to belong to a certain group because of similar loves and delights that motivate them. Couples are attractive to each other especially because of a unique marriage love which has the desire to become one with each other. In a union of one they have the promise of an eternal love on earth and in heaven.

This rule especially applies to groups formed in a more spiritual bond of charity toward the neighbor, but you can see its more limited application with groups involved with worldly loves of dominion or exclusive power over others.

Two or two million people might be attracted to each other for a cause that is-interest groups are everywhere; social, political, and military. Worldly loves are often the underlying attraction. And such loves have a lot of power to manipulate, coerce, and draw people to their cause. The problem is that the result of the attraction is a short-lived and often disorderly pleasure which does not leave us in freedom.

The Lord wants more happiness for us than that! This is why good-neighbor loves have much more potential to attract inwardly, in orderly ways, and for the long haul. Ultimately, the Lord’s will is for us to be attracted to Him more than all others. This is the first and greatest commandment – to love the Lord. When a person is governed by good loves taught by the Lord from His truths spoken in the Bible, she or he is drawn by the Lord to Himself and joined to Him. Then through our connection with the Lord, the good loves in us, combined with His truths, will be the means of finding deep, meaningful, happy and lasting connections with others. This is the result of the second greatest commandment – to love others more than oneself.

My vision for our church is that it be attractive to people who are looking for connections with the Lord and with others who love Him the way He reveals Himself through the Bible and its spiritual meaning. How will we experience this vision? By continually striving individually and collectively to be governed by good loves from the Lord, to be guided by His truths, and to be drawn into to a closer relationship with Him.



THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH CORNER: Fairness

By Jeremy Rose

“No one ever said life was fair!” If you’ve heard someone say that, it may have occurred to you that it’s simply not true. Perhaps no one explicitly said the words “Life is fair,” but it ignores all the ways that parents and teachers say it to children every day. Most of them go to great lengths to try to ensure that their children receive equal treatment, and if one child said, “No fair, Lucy got a bigger piece of pie than I did,” they would do their best to correct that error instead of saying, “So what?” So children do hear that message, and it continues into adulthood, where both the U.S. Constitution and anti-discrimination laws do their best to make sure that everyone receives equal treatment.

At the same time, you would be blind to not recognize that the world is not an inherently fair place--advantages are never evenly distributed. Some are born rich, others gifted with rare talents. Some authors, musicians, or artists achieve enormous success for mediocre work while their brilliant counterparts never receive adequate recognition. Some people literally get away with murder; others are unjustly imprisoned. If you dwell incessantly on the concept of fairness, three things will happen to you, in this order: 1) frustration, 2) cynicism, 3) madness.

Joseph’s brothers went through that progression quickly after Jacob gave his “favorite son” the coat of many colors. Even if Jacob hadn’t shown blatant favoritism, Joseph’s brothers may have gotten upset just by the fact that Joseph was given the gift of interpreting dreams – a gift that got him farther in life than any of them. The lesson is the same: the more you focus your attention on injustices in society, the more it will drive you crazy. And it will also make others not want to be around you: people who constantly complain about how unfair life is are simply no fun to be around.

I believe that the *only* way to escape the frustration/cynicism/madness that results from obsessing about unfairness is to raise your attention to the spiritual plane. In the other world, everything really is fair, liars do not get away with it, and the beauty and comfort of your home are the result of your spiritual state, not an accident of birth.

This leads to a paradox: if I want to be a good person, an important element of that is to strive to be fair in my dealings with others. At the same time, it does not do my soul good to dwell on unfairness against me. I have met people who could have said that life dealt them an unfair hand, yet they never complain. Not only do I love being around such people, but I have to believe that they are going to heaven.

New Church
Journey.org
ADVANCING YOUR SPIRITUAL PATH

The Sunrise Chapel is taking a journey – on a path of integrity – to advance our spiritual growth as individuals and as a congregation. There will be seven Sundays dedicated to the topic based on the Biblical story of Joseph in Genesis. We have five groups meeting weekly starting Sunday, February 3. Here are the times and leaders:

- Sunday Morning 9:15 AM @ Sunrise Chapel, led by Michael Brown
- Wednesday Evening 6:00 PM @ Steve and Betsy Gladish’s home, led by Kelly Woofenden
- Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM @ Sunrise Chapel and ONLINE group, led by Nathan Gladish
- Thursday Afternoon 1:00 PM @ Sunrise Chapel, led by Élise Gladish
- Thursday Evening 7:00 PM @ Art and Carol Watson’s home, led by Mike Villeburn



NEWS NOTES

By Billie Baty

Congratulations!

To Jack and Billie Baty on the birth of their first grandson Conor James Baty born on January 23, 2013 and weighed 9 lbs 4 oz and 21" long. So exciting!

Also congratulations to Michael and Gwenda Cowley on the birth of their grandson, also born on January 23.

To Mary Alden on getting accepted for the Brisbane Chorale. What an honor. It is recognized at the premier choir in Brisbane. Way to go Mary!

To Dawn Graffam who completed a 13.1 mile (half marathon) run in Phoenix. Way to go Dawn!

It is also great to see Betsy Gladish able to get around so well after her knee surgery a few weeks ago. Way to go Betsy! Both of you ladies are awesome and great inspirations!

Visits

Mickey and Sharon Zoyetz were the envy of many when they told us they were going to spend 6 weeks in Hawaii! We are excited to hear about their awesome time there.

Bob and Pat Maginel enjoyed a nice visit from Bob's mother who was here from New Mexico.

It was also nice to see Jeremy Rose, who came here from Minnesota for a visit with his parents Frank and Louise. Louise tells us that it won't be long before she is able to travel again. Her recovery from heart bypass surgery is going very well, and she is right on track with her healing. I think she has been a model patient. :-)

Hospital

As of this writing we learned that our dear friend Dottie Ridlon is hospitalized, and hopefully, she will recover soon and be able to go home. We love you Dottie!!

THANKS TO ALL

Dear Friends,
What an amazing experience it was to be recovering from open-heart surgery during the Thanksgiving - Christmas holiday season. I was almost overwhelmed with all the cards, loving wishes, gifts, and most incredible of all – the delicious meals that were delivered to our home on a regular basis. It was such an important element of my recovery, that wonderful feeling of being loved and cared for, thought of and missed. It did my heart good!

A big THANK YOU to everyone involved. I will never forget your kindness. I did make it to church on Christmas Day and was delighted to be greeted as a "gift" to the congregation. I also came to the beautiful celebration of the life of Sylvia Lehne after church one Sunday. Now I feel ready to start returning on a more regular basis. It will feel good to be back.

If you ever need to have an operation, I would recommend recovering from it in the warm healing sphere of Sunrise Chapel. This is a congregation that really cares.

With love and gratitude, Louise Rose



ANNUAL WESTERN CLERGY MEETINGS

February 25-28, 2013

Nathan will join colleagues from Arizona, California, Texas, Colorado, Washington state and Pennsylvania for these professional meetings in Seattle.

PROOF OF HEAVEN – BOOK REVIEW

Over ten million people have had Near Death Experiences (NDE). Have you ever read about them, had one yourself, or known someone who did? Do you wonder where the person "goes" when their body lies helplessly in a coma? What happens to the mind of one of these patients? How can it be explained scientifically? What can we learn from their experience? How does it fit with New Church teachings?

The fascinating book "Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife" by Eben Alexander, MD answers many of these questions. Its beautiful message of love and acceptance weaves its way through each page. In this short review below, Karin and Jon Childs do an excellent job of revealing the significance of this amazing book. ~Betsy Gladish

“Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon’s Journey into the Afterlife” by Eben Alexander, MD

A book review by Karin and Jon Childs, Rochester, MI

Dr. Eben Alexander used to be completely skeptical about near-death experiences. Being a neurosurgeon, he had many instances of being in contact with patients who had “died” briefly during surgery. For those who had near-death experience stories to tell, Dr. Alexander would listen politely, all the while feeling sure that their experiences were nothing more than brain-induced hallucinations.

Then Dr. Alexander himself had an experience that, to him, absolutely proves the existence of an afterlife.

Dr. Alexander came down with an extremely rare form of meningitis that began to eat away at his brain’s cortex. The illness was frighteningly aggressive, and soon Dr. Alexander was in a coma. Meningitis had completely engulfed and shut down his cortex, which is that part of the brain that is capable of creating hallucinations. And yet, with no physical ability in his body to create hallucinations, Dr. Alexander embarked on a fascinating and beautiful journey into the afterlife.



Dr. Alexander spent seven days in a coma, and doctors lost all hope of him surviving. Even if by some tiny chance he did survive, they thought, it seemed impossible that his brain could ever function well again.

After seven days, Dr. Eben Alexander’s eyes popped open. Not only did he survive, but he also ended up regaining full brain capacity.

Dr. Alexander believes he came back with a mission, to talk to the world, as a scientist, about the reality of the afterlife and the spiritual realm. He tells his fascinating story of coming down with

an illness, lapsing into a coma, and then traveling to a beautiful world filled with brilliant light and tangible love. He came to understand love not as an abstract concept but rather as a scientific substance that makes up all things. He tells us, among many other things, that living with kindness and compassion actually makes us compatible with the substance that is God, and thus makes it possible

for us to draw closer to God.

This book gets pretty scientifically technical at times, but that is part of the beauty of it. Here’s a guy who really knows science, and doesn’t see a journey into a beautiful spiritual realm to be unscientific! “Proof of Heaven” is a wonderful and important story, and even for those who already believe in an afterlife, the author gives us new ways of thinking about it.

WELCOME TO SUNRISE CHAPEL LIBRARY

At Sunrise Chapel we have a pleasant Library next to Friendship Hall. You can come and read or borrow books. I love sitting in the Library. It is a sunny, cozy spot, and in the cooler months it is the warmest room in the building – the perfect place to grab a book and read. Did you know that we get new books in all the time? Some of these books are just off the press from Swedenborg Foundation Press, and Fountain Publishing. We get fiction, personal stories, self-help books for spiritual growth, philosophical treatises, and religious commentary, to name a few. Here is a list of some of our most recent acquisitions:

Paradise Misplaced, by Sylvia Montgomery Shaw

Ghost Brother Angel, by Grant Schnarr

The History of New Thought, by John S. Haller Jr.

Patterns (Make 'Em and Break 'Em), edited by Robert F. and Carol S. Lawson

We also have books for sale, especially books written by Emanuel Swedenborg and books by those who have been influenced by his works. I invite you to stop in to the Sunrise Chapel Library and see what we have. If you want to borrow a book we have an honor system sign out. If you want to buy a book, check in at the office or contact us at sunrisechapel.org or 520-298-1245.

I think you will find a very good variety of reading. I know I have! ~Elise Gladish

Planning for Easter

Easter is coming up early this year – on March 31, the last Sunday of the month. That means Palm Sunday will be the week before, on March 24.

For the Palm Sunday service, we will welcome Bishop Tom Kline to conduct the service. This will be Bishop Kline's final visit to Sunrise Chapel as the Executive Bishop, since he is retiring at the end of June this year. His wife, Nina, also plans to be here.



Planning for Arizona Mountain Camp

You can put this on your calendar! We will be holding our beloved annual summer camp on top of Mt. Lemmon again over the July 4th weekend. You can plan to arrive the afternoon of Wednesday, July 3rd. We will once again participate in the Summerhaven 4th of July parade on Thursday. Camp will conclude after cleanup on Sunday, early afternoon. If you are interested in helping with any aspect of the preparations, our first planning meeting will be during lunch on February 10 at Sunrise Chapel.

Sunrise Chapel Facebook Page

Are you a Facebook friend of Sunrise Chapel? If not, please join the fun. Just do a search for Sunrise Chapel and “like” us. This is another means we are using to connect with a variety of folks about things of interest. If you would like to help post information and keep the page active, contact me about the possibility of being a page administrator. It's easy and fun and you can do it on your own time. You can help to keep the page fresh and lively. ~Nathan Gladish



ministering to the missing generation

Sunrise Chapel is planning to send a team of 3 members to this year's Outreach Training Seminar, hosted at the Glenview New Church in suburban Chicago. This seminar is being run by the General Church Office of Outreach. If you would like to contribute toward the cost of sending our team, please speak to me or our treasurer, Art Watson, or simply submit a donation with a note on the memo line of your check designating the purpose of your gift. Here is an overview of the seminar. ~Nathan Gladish

Impact 365 – Ministering to the Missing Generation

APRIL 18-19 AT THE GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH

RECHARGE AND RENEW THE VISION AND ENTHUSIASM OF YOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM At IMPACT 365 you will find a nurturing and challenging environment in which to examine your current church outreach practices, and assess your growing edges. You'll hear keynotes by thought-provoking speakers, and have time to share your ideas and discuss challenges within a small group setting. Your entire experience will be bathed in inspiration from a New Christian (Swedenborgian) perspective.

Explore the challenges faced by church leaders trying to cultivate an inter-generational congregation. Author, Carol Howard Merritt will speak to her experience in intergenerational outreach and ministry. She will paint a picture of possibility and share practical strategies on how we can move forward as a denomination based on her works 'Reframing Hope' and 'Tribal Church'.

FEATURED TOPICS INCLUDE:

Theology and Vision for Outreach, Ministering To The Missing Generation, Voices of Young Adults-exploring their passion, challenges, and experiences in the church, Preaching and Effective Communication, Addressing Barriers in Your Local Church & Problem Solving, Brokenhearted-a session for those discouraged in their leadership/ ministry, Sharing Your Faith-theological roadblocks, Social Media Workshop, Blogging and Video blogging Workshops.

Visit our website to learn more about the Impact 365 Event schedule and logistics.

<http://www.newchurch.org/materials/programs/leaders/impact365>



February 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9am-1pm "Care for Our Church Day"
3 9:15am Journey Group 9:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship Service 12:45pm Women's Guild	4 6pm Meditation	5 6:30pm Bereavement Support Group	6 6pm Journey Group 7pm Journey Group	7 1pm Journey Group 7pm Journey Group	8	9
10 9:15am Journey Group 9:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship Service 12:15pm AMC plan mtg	11 5:30pm Stewardship Com mtg 6pm Meditation	12 6:30pm Bereavement Support Group	13 6pm Journey Group 7pm Journey Group	14 <i>Valentines' Day</i> 1pm Journey Group 7pm Journey Group	15	16
17 9:15am Journey Group 9:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship Service 12:45pm Board mtg	18 <i>Presidents' Day</i> 6pm Meditation	19 6:30pm Bereavement Support Group	20 6pm Journey Group 7pm Journey Group	21 1pm Journey Group 7pm Journey Group	22	23
24 9:15am Journey Group 9:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship Service - Holy Supper AMC Luncheon	25 6pm Meditation	26 6:30pm Bereavement Support Group	27 6pm Journey Group 7pm Journey Group	28 1pm Journey Group 7pm Journey Group	March 1	March 2

Feb. 25 - March 1: Pastor attending professional meetings in Seattle, WA

AA & AL-ANON

Monday AA 6pm

Tuesday AA 11am

Wednesday AL-ANON 9:30am, AA 7:30pm

Thursday AA 6am

Saturday Men's AA 8am, Women's AA 11am

Sunday AA Meditation 7p

Other Regular Events

Monday & Thursday 9am - Yoga

Tuesday 5:30pm - Self Defense

1st & 3rd Thursday - Global Chant



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A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD

By Kitty Aughey and Jean Ross

The annual Patio Sale is scheduled for April 12 & 13! It has always been a "BIG" event for the Women's Guild and the church. With lots of hard work, it has become the fundraiser for projects such as 2 new stoves, 2 new microwaves, redoing the Bride's room, purchasing and installing the flag pole, painting the kitchen and Friendship Hall, gifts for children at Christmas and on it goes.

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This year we need volunteers (men & women) starting in January, to keep the donation sheds organized. The time commitment is approximately 3 hours per week or whatever you can give.

Please call Jean Ross at 429-6045. She will explain the tasks and provide training. Believe it - this entire project is work, but we really do have fun and the church benefits from it!

