Hurstville 1905
New Church



The New Church Newsletter

Hurstville Society November 2026

We Go through Ups and Downs

Rev. HyunJin Yang

"*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease*." (Genesis 8:22)

Truths that Speak of the Process

It is comforting and highly practical to know that we, in the New Church, have a wonderful set of teachings that not only speak of our spiritual end in view but of how it is brought about. We can think of the former as the **'vision'** and the latter the **'process.'** We say it is especially useful to study and reflect on teachings about the process because they help us understand how we move along and what we may expect as we do so. When we pessimistically view challenges as dead ends that permanently derail us, these teachings help us identify them as the essential steps towards the end in view, and as signs that the Lord's vision for us is gradually being achieved in the work and faith we put in, in His providence.

In a word, we experience ups and downs. For the 'downs' moments, we can look to Peter, who started sinking into the sea when his faith gave way to doubt. There were also other critical moments of his doubts and disbelief. And yet, we also know that eventually Peter became a leading apostle especially following the Lord's resurrection. For another example, we can also look to the children of Israel, who sojourned for forty-year through the wilderness. We take a classical lesson that it was their time in the wilderness that prepared them before they entered the Promised Land.

Likewise, numerous stories in the Word, each in its own unique way, illustrate what we go through as we are being regenerated from being merely natural to spiritual, and as we enter and live by a covenant with the Lord's vision for us.

Our Spiritual Rebirth

Yes. It would be smoother if things were just like driving on an open highway, and if we experienced our life of faith to be steadily accelerating upward? Wouldn't it? It would even feel liberating if

all it took was a single confession of faith, with the rest of our lifelong journey being reduced to simply being carried forward by an irresistible stream of grace once we stepped on board.

As many of us are aware, teachings for the New Church consistently remind us, however, that our spiritual rebirth is a gradual progression. *True Christianity* 586 puts it this way:

> We can be regenerated only gradually. Each and every thing that exists in the physical world serves as an illustration of this fact. A seeding does not grow up into a mature tree in a single day. First there is a seed, then a root, then a shoot, which develops into a trunk; then branches come out of that and develop leaves and finally flowers and fruit. Wheat and barley do not spring up ready for harvest in a single day. A home is not built in a single day. We do not become full grown in a single day; reaching wisdom takes us even longer. The church is not established — let alone perfected — in a single day.

"Alternation of States"

Another teaching further points out that our spiritual regeneration is not only gradual but also is marked by ups and downs—the so-called 'alternations of states.' That is, we experience periods of spiritual warmth alternating with periods of coldness in our faith and charity [spiritual love for the neighbour].

Regarding this, we read,

> There is only one really good way to see that when we are [being regenerated] we go through these phases of cold and heat, or of faith and charity absent and present. … When we are being reborn, we receive life from the Lord, since up till then we cannot be said to have been alive. A life focused on

> the world and the body is not really life; only a life that is heavenly and spiritual is real. We receive real life from the Lord through regeneration, and since before that time we lack any life, we alternate between no life and true life — that is, between no faith or charity and some faith and charity. Here, cold symbolizes a lack of faith and charity, and heat, the presence of some faith and charity.

It is useful to bear in mind that our regeneration essentially means our transforming from being merely natural and worldly to loving the neighbour, heaven, and the Lord (See Arcana Coelestia 9278:2). We continue to read,

> [3] This is the situation: Whenever we are caught up in bodily and worldly concerns, we experience a lack of faith and charity, or coldness. At such times our bodily and worldly interests — and so our self-interest — are active. As long as we are wrapped up in them, we are devoid of or distant from belief and neighborly love, so that we do not even think about heavenly and spiritual matters. (Secrets of Heaven 933:2-3 – New Century Edition)

We are also told that such an alternation serves as a contrast of experiences that yield perception for knowing what is good and what not (See Arcana Coelestia 37, 2694).

Conclusion: Learn and See How Helpful Those Teachings Are

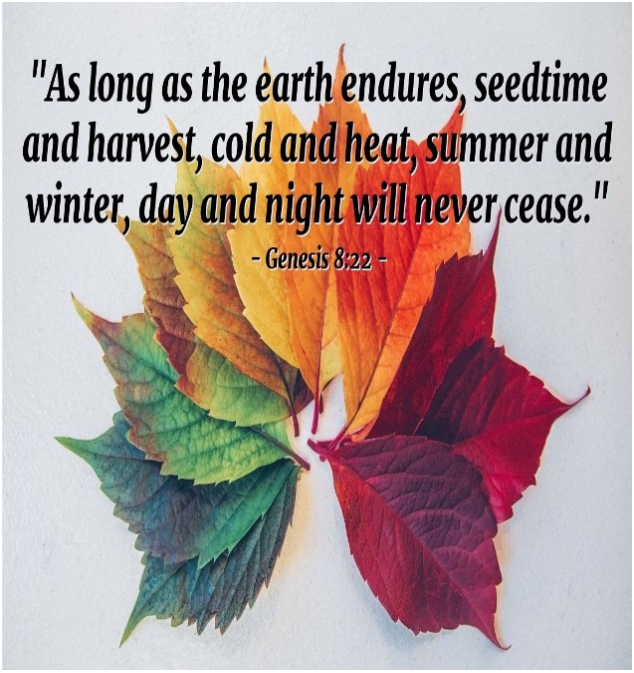
While more passages could be quoted to support the teaching, the key takeaway at hand is that there are seasons when we are enlivened and inspired by our faith and love that are from the Lord, and seasons when we are not.

In those colder moments, it can feel like we have just backtracked. However, fluctuating between heat and cold, or experiencing these

inevitable ups and downs, is found in the natural pathway of how we progress, just as there are different seasons. So, we read,

> "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22)

This is a comforting truth for anyone who is seeking and endeavoring to follow the Lord and His teachings. It reminds us that apparent setbacks are not signs of permanent failure, but that we are still making a way forward. We just need to stay true and live a life of our faith.



What Happened?

Brian and Claudia Horner's Visit

It was their first visit in Sydney since their last time in 2023. During a month-long visit, they travelled around and visited their family and friends. They joined our Sunday services, which was a gift of its own just by their presence.

Work Party (Oct 25)

Following the service on the 25th, seven of us stayed behind to work around the church grounds. It was a hot, sunny spring day, , with temperatures reaching 32 degrees.

Everyone took on their part: Weeding, clearing up the side train of the tennis court, cleaning the blinds in the Richard Morse Room, and others. We didn't take photos of the work itself, but we did get one of everyone enjoying some well-deserved pizza after all the hard work! (Ralph is missing, but you can see he is there with his hand!)



What's Coming Up?

A Three-Week Series on King David + A Movie Night

Pastor HyunJin is trying to shift back on 'biblical stories after covering heavy topics such as 'sin', 'Scripture', 'disorder', 'human freedom,' and 'cultural influences' in the past few months.

His pick will be the stories of King David — one of the stories that is exciting, encouraging and that never grows old! HyunJin is excited to lead a three-week series on David, beginning on October 25 through November 1, 8.

Also note that there will be a **Movie Day** as part of this series to watch *David*, a remarkable 2025 animated film. We've scheduled **November 6, Friday, at 6:00 p.m**. As it is around dinner time, we will provide refreshments, nibbles, and drinks.

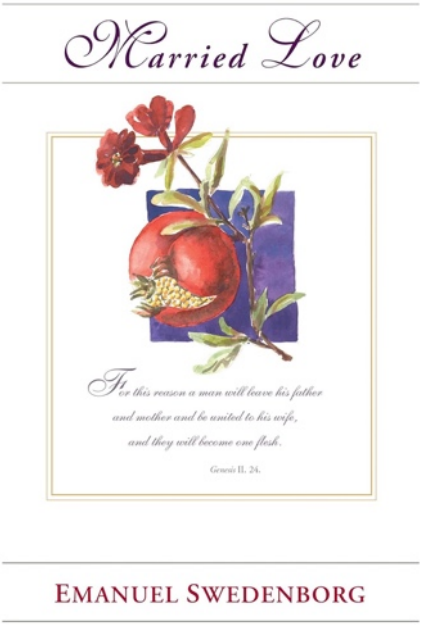


The hope is that the series and the movie will leave us with a good, lasting message in us. We hope to see you all! And please let HyunJin know if you are planning to join. ☺

Monthly Reading/Discussion Group on *Married Love*

Our readings for November will be from Chapter 5, "Origin of Married Love: Good and Truth" (Paragraphs 83-115, about 21 pages).

For our discussion meet-up, we will meet on November 25 (Last Wednesday of each month), at 2:00 p.m., at Baringa. This slot in the early afternoon still works for our regular attendees. We may decide to move it to another day and time if others want to join but have different availabilities.



It is not too late at all for you! If you are considering joining the reading and discussion group, feel free to contact HyunJin at pastor@hurstvillenewchurch.com for your interest and any enquiries.

Pastor Visits Perth (Nov 26-29)

Pastor HyunJin is excited to make his third visit to Perth this year, looking forward to connecting with the church people there. While his visits usually run from Friday through Sunday, this time he has extended his stay by an extra day, feeling the need to spend more time with the people. Along with visits, he will be leading a couple of classes for different occasions, as well as a Holy Supper Sunday service on the 29th at Earthwise Community. Immediately after, he will fly back to Sydney and will share a write-up of his visit in the December issue of the newsletter.

Society News

The 2026 Glencairn Awards

We have really exciting news to share! Murray Heldon was named as one of the 2026 Glencairn Awards recipients. This was announced on October 9, at the Glencairn Museum, in Bryn Athyn (PA, United States). The Glencairn Award is to honour members of the New Church community for outstanding achievements and community contributions.

By way of background, the award was originally established in1955 with a fund given by Raymond and Mildred Pitcairn. The awards were put on hold for two decades before resuming in 2023. This year is the third year since their return.

Murray was awarded in recognition of his dedicated service to the Hurstville Society as the Treasurer for more than forty years, as well as other services. During the award event, Bishop Peter Buss delivered the following remarks:

> "Under his stewardship, the Society's finances have been a model of integrity, decades of clean, flawless audits without a single incident. This kind of consistency isn't an accident. It's quiet, daily discipline that sustained across working lifetime."

Many, many congratulations!

HyunJin Reunions with His Twin Brother

Around the middle of the month, YoungHee and I flew out to Tokyo, Japan, to meet with my family. You heard it right—not to South Korea, but to Japan. To celebrate my mother's 70th birthday, seven of us decided to meet at an unusual place.

For me, one of the joys was to reconnect with my twin brother! We have not seen each other for longer than 2 years and a half, so it was joyous! I can fill the pages to talk about how everything went, but as this is not my personal diary, I would rather reveal the most interesting piece for you—a most recent photo of my brother and myself!

Some in the Society are yet unaware that I have a twin brother. And even those who know it, including myself, are not sure whether my brother and I are identical twins or not. So, I've decided to share the photo, leaving you to decide how much we two look alike or not. What would you say?



After returning from the trip, I showed the photo around. And everyone who saw pointed who was me in the picture. A good catch.

And now, I am being a bit mischievous by giving a 'next level' challenge: I am sharing a couple of photos from when we were young. I won't tell who is who, because where is the fun then? For

whatever it's worth, now you have proof that I do have a twin brother. ☺





HyunJin

Birthdays!

Cliff Adamou (2nd), Jesse Horner (3rd), Brian Heldon (8th), Cathy Kermond (11th), Skye Horner (11th), Lori Heldon (30th)

Editor - Rev HyunJin Yang
22-24 Dudley St., off Hillcrest Ave. in Penshurst
0490 412 692, 02 9580 1589
pastor@hurstvillenewchurch.com
http://www.hurstvillenewchurch.com/
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