

SWEDENBORG PUBLISHERS INTERNATIONAL



Volume XXV, Spring 2015

EDITORIAL REMARKS

There are a lot of good updates in this issue: about newly published other-than-English translations; about new books; and about web-based broadcasting of ideas and information in new digital formats. All else I can say is “thank you” to our writers who have provided reports of this wonderful work.

PUBLISHER REPORTS

Fountain Publishing

By Karin Childs

Due to financial and practical issues, we have stopped accepting new publishing projects, and we have stopped manufacturing books ourselves. For the last several months, I have been working on converting our existing books into files that can then be printed on-demand through the Amazon.com CreateSpace program. This has worked well for us, and keeps the books available. In the case of some of our titles, we still have physical copies in stock, and we will continue to sell those through Amazon.com. The books that I have converted to on-demand titles, now available for purchase at Amazon.com, are:

Altruism: Many Kinds of Kindness by Soni S. Werner
Comfort and Hope for Widows and Widowers by Donnette Alfelt

Dragon Hill by Karin Alfelt Childs

Feeding His Flock by Robert S. Junge

Growth of the Female Mind by Soni S. Werner

Journal for Grief and Healing by Donnette Alfelt

Marriage Moats by Lori S. Odhner

Rejoice! The Story of Easter Morning by Karen Childs
Elder

Searching for Mary Magdalene by Soni S. Werner

The Christmas Tree Garden by Laura Barger

The Holy City by Lawson and Shanon Smith

The Message of Love Behind the Ten Commandments
by Jonathan Rose

The Story of the Call of Samuel by Bryn J. Brock

The Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer by
Hugo Odhner

The Throne Room of Heaven by Karin Alfelt Childs

Wing of Earth, Wing of Fire by Amanda Leigh Rogers

Items that we still have in physical stock are also available for sale through Amazon, through the Amazon Seller's Central program. Anyone interested in contacting us for bulk purchases can reach us at FtnPublish@aol.com, or 248-651-1153.

Georgian Swedenborg Society

By Bagrat Mamasakhlisi, President

On the 13th of June at one o'clock we had a meeting with the Georgian Swedenborg Society where 22 persons were attending. Ten of them were members of our Society and another twelve were guests. The meeting opened with my report. For about one hour I presented the history of the Georgian Swedenborg Society as well as other Swedenborgian Societies around the world. After my speech we had a coffee break after which I answered questions from those attending. There was a very big Interest in Swedenborgianism. I gave the books we have translated to those attending, *Heaven and Hell* and *New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine*. After the session with questions and answers we had dinner. Unfortunately the Georgian State Radio was not able to send a journalist to our meeting as planned because of severe flooding in the city of Tbilisi. We want to thank you once again for your help to make it possible to arrange this meeting.

Contact address: akhali.eklesia@gmail.com

New Christian Bible Study Project

By Steve David

The New Christian Bible Study Project is moving along briskly. Site traffic has more than doubled in the past year; we're seeing about 1000 visitors a day now, and it's still climbing quickly.

We're working with New Church people and organizations all over the world, and building out along several fronts—more translations of the Word and the Writings in various languages, and more explanations of stories from the Word, of doctrinal topics, and of words and phrases. The user interface is steadily improving, and we've made great strides in developing an administrative toolset that allows work under the hood.

Here are some recent highlights:

- We imported our first Korean translation of the Writings, *Divine Providence*, not long ago. Sunna Frost helped us understand the document well enough to prepare and import it.
 - We recently re-imported a public domain Estonian Bible translation; our previous one had some truncated text, as pointed out by an alert reader. We found a better version and imported it.
 - We also just added Japanese and Malayalam Bible translations. Now we can link them to the Japanese and Malayalam translations that are on-deck, as soon as we prepare and import those. Then, a Japanese or Malayalam Bible reader will be able to follow links from the Word to the Writings, all in his/her own language.
 - We've gotten some French translations of the Writings from Sylvain Agnes in West Africa. He's been scanning some old French translations by Le Boys des Guays, and sending them to us. They're queued up for importing, and posted as .pdf's on our on-deck page, but each one takes a lot of TLC to clean and prep for import. We recently cleaned and imported "Brief Exposition", as a test case, so it is online and linked to the Bible (available in French, also).
 - We're adding spiritual topic explanations, bit by bit—we're up to 71 of these now, and they cover a lot of the important topics in New Church thought.
 - Our concept explanations (for words and phrases in the Word) now number 413. There are lots more to come.
- Bible stories—looks like we have 62 stories with explanations now; that's been growing nicely. Most of the growth is from sermons that we are gradually prepping and importing from the pile that we have built up.

There's a new user interface for adding explanations (for authorized users); we are just starting to recruit some explainers. If we could crowd-source the work of adding collateral explanations, it would be a huge boost, since there's such a wealth of existing exposition that's been done. That's a big opportunity.

What's next? Coming up, we'll be importing more French translations, and others as they come through the pipelines. We will be pulling in more word/phrase correspondences from Nicholson's *Dictionary of Correspondences*, and audio files from Todd Beiswenger and Junchol Lee, and probably others. We are also soon going to be adding more interactivity to the site, so users will have accounts, and be able to save some preferences, bookmarks, hold discussions, etc.

We've been pleased to welcome Peter Buss and Ian Carswell to our board of directors, too, which gives us the benefit of their broad perspectives, expertise, and cheerful energy.

To sum up: we've built a site that attracts Bible readers, and connects them to the internal sense, AND to the biggest clearinghouse of New Church work—the Writings and collateral works in various media. Almost as side-benefits, we've made a great resource for NC scholars, translators, ministers, teachers, students, writers, parents, and people just working on their spiritual growth.

Growth is already strong. If we can make it an even-more-compelling Bible Study site, and expand our teams of translators and explainers, it could skyrocket.

Spreadsheet of the Writings and languages

(See insert in newsletter)

Here's a spreadsheet, with the works of the Writings, by language and color coded for their status. (Please note that all of Swedenborg's known works are in the spreadsheet, but I have it filtered to show only his published theological works. Partly, that's to make it viable for viewing/printing, and partly it's to focus on the most important works first. Also, several specialty

languages, e.g. Braille and shorthand, are filtered out.)

Several things “jump out” at me, as I look at it:

- 1) Collectively, these languages are spoken by perhaps 5 billion people—so this is almost all of the languages that we would need to address.
- 2) Overall, the Swedenborgian community has done a lot of translating, but our online publishing hasn’t kept up.
- 3) It’s really important to have the Writings and the Old and New Testaments cross-linked in both directions, since the internal sense is at the core of everything.
- 4) To my knowledge, NC Bible Study Project is the only system where there’s an emphasis on the Bible in many modern languages cross-linked to the Writings in many modern languages. The platform that we have developed makes it fairly easy to import existing translations, and introduces some labor-saving methods for developing new ones.
- 5) There’s tremendous evangelistic leverage available to the church, as captured in this matrix.

The lowest-hanging fruits are probably the blue translations. Processing and importing them takes some time for each work, but once it is in the system, it’s available to all Bible readers in that language.

Next, we could scan and import all the translations represented by the yellow squares.

Another thing to bear in mind is that the NC Bible Study Project provides a platform for the creation and translation of explanations. If we have a good explanation in English, it can readily be translated into French, for example, by any capable bilingual person. So... it’s not just the Word and the Writings—explanations of stories, words and phrases, doctrinal topics—all can be translated into as many target languages as we can muster.

One last note... there’s a significant advantage to having all this information in one place—for efficiency, certainly, but also for the size of the audience. It’s a self-reinforcing loop, since search engines rate high-traffic sites more highly. We’re getting 29,000 visits a month now, and it’s growing fast, so it seems to be a good place to be gathering and placing translations.

Steve David
for the New Christian Bible Study Project
www.newchristianbiblestudy.org
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
+412.513.5145
sdavid@skymark.com
SkypeID: steve.david.us

Swedenborg Foundation

By Morgan Beard

Over the past couple of years, the Swedenborg Foundation has been developing an online program aimed at introducing Swedenborg’s ideas to a whole new audience of people. We’ve been thrilled by the response.

On YouTube, we have an hour-long weekly program called *Swedenborg and Life*, which airs live on Mondays at 8 p.m. Eastern (U.S.) time and is available for viewing afterward on our offTheLeftEye YouTube channel. Hosted by Curtis Childs, the show focuses on a different Swedenborg-related topic each week. Some popular recent episodes have been “How to Deal with Evil Spirits,” “The Spiritual Force behind Music,” and “How You End Up in Heaven or Hell.”

As of June 2015, the channel has more than 14,000 subscribers—a 50% increase since the beginning of the year—and there are a huge number of people finding us through YouTube searches or recommendations. In an average week our videos have between 25,000 and 30,000 views, for an average of 190,000 minutes watched.

Our other major initiative is our Heaven and Hell Facebook page, where we post quotes from Swedenborg and related thinkers about the afterlife. This page currently has about 300,000 followers, but because we boost our posts (a form of paid advertising where our posts are shown to people with similar interests), the Swedenborg quotes are seen by an average of half a million people each week.

Another way that we’ve been working to promote awareness of Swedenborg is by making all of his writings available on Swedenborg.com for free download, along with a number of other books that help to introduce people to Swedenborg’s thought. Right now our site visitors are downloading between 2,500 and 3,000 electronic books per month, the majority of which are translations of Swedenborg’s writings.

Although we're succeeding in our mission of raising awareness of Swedenborg, we currently have fewer resources available to devote to our traditional book publishing program. We had a series of three new releases at the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015—paperback New Century Edition translations of Swedenborg's short works *The Lord, Life / Faith*, and *Sacred Scripture / White Horse*, the latter titles combining two of Swedenborg's short works into a single volume. However, while we have a number of books in our editorial pipeline, at this point we have no new commercial releases scheduled for the second half of 2015.

Last year we produced a small gift book, *Spiritual Growth: Lessons from Emanuel Swedenborg*, which was given away as a premium to our members. We also made extra copies available to members who wanted to give them away to others, but the book was never offered for sale. We got a tremendous response to the book, and so we decided to do another version again this year. *Divine Love: Lessons from Emanuel Swedenborg* follows the same format, with a series of passages from Swedenborg's writings followed by suggestions for reflection. It will be mailed out to members in late summer, and as with the previous book we'll make extra copies available for as long as supplies last.

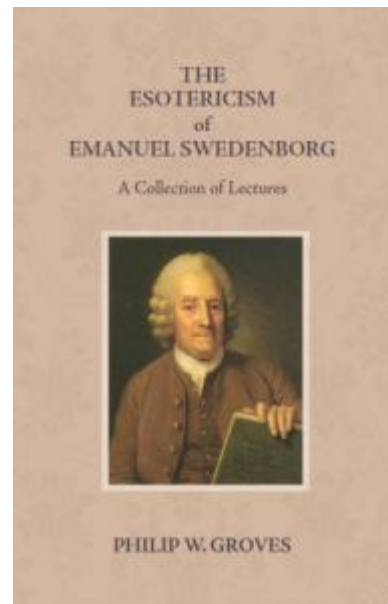
As we continue to expand our reach into the online world, we welcome all comments and feedback—let us know what you think!

Morgan Beard, Operations Manager
Swedenborg Foundation
mbeard@swedenborg.com

Swedenborg Centre, Sydney, Australia
By Michael Chester

New Book: *The Esotericism of Emanuel Swedenborg*.
By Philip W. Groves.
242 pages, paperback.

By way of introduction it's good to be reminded that the word "esoteric" simply means that which is inner, contrasted with that which is outer or "exoteric." According to Andrew Schneider, Esotericism is the body of knowledge or wisdom about all aspects of life that are within, behind, or beyond the outer appearance, form, or expression of life's many aspects.



When Philip Groves referred to Esotericism he would say that originally it was used to refer to something that was potentially inside yourself. "If you want to find the esoteric it's a matter of exploring your own being." He also said that genuine esotericism is the process of opening oneself up to huge cosmic influences that come from beyond the personality, and allowing oneself to be acted upon, catalyzed and reformed by their creative action.

This book is a collection of lectures given by Philip Groves to his groups. All chapters relate directly or indirectly to the work and teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg. The qualities of Love, Good, Wisdom, Truth and Use, and the eternal Presence of the Creator, so greatly elaborated and constantly explored by Swedenborg, are found here and supported with other works. There are numerous references to Sufi and Fourth Way material and methods; to spiritual insights of the Ancient Egyptians; plus illustrations taken from the natural world, which Swedenborg explained as being the vehicle for deeper knowledge and understanding through correspondence.

You can look inside by going to the Amazon website.

<http://www.amazon.com/Esotericism-Emanuel-Swedenborg-Philip-Groves/dp/1921271078>

The site lets you look at the contents, the first few pages and index. You can also search the book.

Why would you be drawn to buying the book? There is a sincere dedication that stands behind the book to provide true teaching to those who seek

fulfillment and deeper connections with Life. Also because of the calibre of the author. Dr Philip Groves was a truly remarkable spiritual teacher who introduced many people to Swedenborg, just as Wilson van Dusen and Helen Keller did in America and elsewhere. Liz Coggins, the publisher of his books, provides the following brief description of this outstanding person.

Dr. Groves received PhDs in Biochemistry, Divinity, and Psychology as well having specialized interests in the fields of Natural Medicine (diploma of Naturopathy), Chemistry, Marine Biology, Egyptology, Comparative Religion and Botany. He taught for over 40 years in universities, natural therapy colleges, and privately for his own groups of people. The foundation of his teaching, whatever the topic, was always to guide people into the abundance of life, creative expression of life's potentials as well as developing greater knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live. These higher goals were explored by the use of practical application and real methodology founded in science, history, botany, Esoteric Christianity, Sufism and the works of Gurdjieff and Emanuel Swedenborg. Dr. Groves taught in a relaxed manner, demonstrating at all times his love for the world and the Work; a search for truth, wisdom, love and good, and belief that maintaining these aspects of life must become part of our understanding and fill our everyday life.

Please note that this book and all his other books that are currently available will only be available till the end of the year. Shirley Groves who holds the copyright, has requested Triam Press to discontinue publication by the end of 2015. So, if you don't want to be disappointed in missing out on these precious writings, please be quick to purchase what you are drawn to, and not leave it till next year.

His other books that are currently available via Amazon are

- *Spiritual Foundations* (Paperback and Kindle)
- *Beyond the Fourth Way*
- *The Quest for Integration Vol 1*
- *The Quest for Integration Vol 2*
- *Spiritual Psychology*
- *Journey through the World of Symbol*
- *Psychopose: A collection of Essays*

You can access these books by going to this link that is the author's page.

http://www.amazon.com/Philip-Groves/e/B00MCE5IK4/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0

Spiritual Psychology does not have the "Look inside" feature to get an insight into its content. My suggestion for those wanting to know more, is to go to this site

<http://triam.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Spiritual-Psychology-Extract.pdf> where the publisher provides an extract.

His books in Australia, which includes a few additional titles, are available at the following website until stock runs out-

<http://www.swedenborg.com.au/philip-w-groves>.

The additional titles are:

- *Swedenborg's Mighty Contribution to the welfare of the soul.*
- *Science and Esoteric Wisdom*
- *The Garden of the Mind*
- *Swedenborg: The Dynamics of Transformation*
- *The Process of Transition*

Note that overseas orders are not catered for currently by the online system. Anyone wishing to order from overseas will need to email info@swedenborg.com.au with the title and quantity details and any shipping preferences.

New Church Associated Publishers

Book Expo

By Lisa Childs

On April 11, 2015 The Bryn Athyn College hosted, in their beautiful facilities, an open-to-the-public Book Expo to celebrate and explore Science, Spirituality, and Swedenborgian Theory throughout History. Hundreds of books of a vast variety were available and speakers were engaging attendees throughout the day. The theme of the Book Expo was, via books and talks, to follow spirituality weaving through ancient history, sciences, philosophy, medicine, naturalism, abolition of slavery, child labor rights, new spiritual paradigms, envisioning the afterlife, and Swedenborg's works, scientific and theological.

The Book Expo was made possible by the Bryn Athyn College (BrynAthyn.edu) hosting and supporting this event, and by the Cole Foundation (ColeFoundation.org), the Swedenborg Scientific Association (Swedenborg-philosophy.org), and the Swedenborg Foundation (Swedenborg.com) providing funding. Publishers' books and other resources were provided by: Brian Mann of Swedenborg Foundation, Dr. Ian Thompson of EaglePearlPress.com, Steve David of

NewChristianBibleStudy.com, Jon and Karin Childs of FountainPublishing.com, Joanna Hill of RockpointPress.com, James Wilson of Swedenborg Society, Doug Webber of dream-prophecy.blogspot.com, and Lisa Childs for New Church Associated Publishers (Swedenborg Scientific Association Press, Bryn Athyn College Press, and the General Church of the New Jerusalem Publications).

The talks were rich in content, generating a high level of interest and excitement. Networking added another important dimension to the event. The vast array of book was well appreciated. Each hour from 9:00AM to 3:00PM began a new talk, followed by Q & A. We are grateful for those who shared their energy, expertise, and thought: Reuben Bell, David Fuller, Bruce Henderson, Stephen Smith, Ian Thompson, Dan Synnestvedt, and Michael Hogan. We were especially grateful to Ian Thompson, author of *Starting Science From God: Rational Scientific Theories from Theism*, for traveling from California to join us. Talk videos are now available on youtube.com by searching on "NCAP Swedenborg." Talks were as follows:

Swedenborg's Scientific Works and the Swedenborg Scientific Association. Rev. Dr. Reuben Bell, Doctor of Osteopathy, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Director of Medical Humanities at the University of New England, President of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

Swedenborg's Influence on the Development of Osteopathy. Dr. David Fuller, Doctor of Osteopathy, Phila. College of Osteopathic Medicine. Author: *Osteopathy and Swedenborg*.

The Gift. The Gift of Revelation about Life after Death, How Providence Works, and the Inner Meanings of the Word and How they Relate Directly to our Lives. Mr. Bruce Henderson, 40 yrs. Editorial Page Editor for a daily newspaper, Director of Development & Communication for the Academy of the New Church & General Church, Editor: *New Church Life*. Author: *Window to Eternity, Why Does God Let it Happen?* and in late 2015: *Seventh Seal*.

Mentics, A Mind Modeling Method. Dr. Stephen Smith. *Mentics, A Mind Modeling Method* by Rachel and the late Oliver Odhner.

Starting Science from God. Ian Thompson, Ph.D. Theoretical Nuclear Physicist. Author: *Starting Science from God; Philosophy of Nature and Quantum Reality; Nuclear Reactions for Astrophysics; Compound Nuclear Reactions and Related Topics*.

Unmasking Naturalism: The "Science Wars" and Freeing the Spirit. Dan Synnestvedt, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Philosophy, Bryn Athyn College. Editor: *Faith and Learning*, Editor and contributing author: *The World Transformed*

The World Transformed 1700s and beyond. Mr. Michael Hogan, Conference Chair: *The World Transformed: 250 years later*, Contributing author: *The World Transformed*

NewChurchBibleStudy.com We regret that time did not allow Steve David to give a presentation on this comprehensive New Church Website of resources and the Writings. Please visit the website to be enriched.

Materials available on the mentioned websites, Amazon.com and/or the Bryn Athyn Cathedral Bookstore. NCAP book catalogs can be obtained at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral bookstore or by emailing ncapbooks@gmail.com. Also at Swedenborg.com for the Swedenborg Foundation's catalog.

Plans are being evaluated for another Book Expo in 2016.

Lisa Childs address: lisachilds1@mac.com

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

By Erland Brock

Czech Republic



Rev. David Krejza's 2003 translation of Lee Woofenden's *Heavenly City: A Spiritual guidebook* (a modern translation of Swedenborg's *New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine*) being out of print, a revised edition prepared and published by Lenka Machova is now in print. At the back of

this work is an Epilogue by Lenka Machova and an Overview of publications issued in the Czech language that includes works by Swedenborg as well as translated collateral literature.

Great Britain

We have received a copy of Volume III of *A Descriptive Bibliography of the Works of Emanuel Swedenborg*, edited and compiled by Norman Ryder, published by The Swedenborg Society, London. This magnificent 557-page hardbound volume includes SECTION C: Bibliographic Description 1756–1762. It is available at www.swedenborg.org.uk/bookshop and scroll down to “REFERENCE BOOKS”

We have also received the *Annual Journal of the New Church Historical Society* for the year 2015. On page one we read: “The Society was formed on 27th July 1999 under the auspices of The General Conference of the New Church. Its objectives are to encourage the collection, preservation, and study of resources for the history of the New Church and its institutions and individual members.”

The contents of this issue are as follows:

Editor’s notes

Richard Lines The Concrete Church
Patrick L Johnson How the Academy of the New Church/General Church was first launched at Camden Road in 1874

Adrian Mongredien How and when did my family become involved with the New Church?

Charles Higham James Glen: New-Church Pioneer and hermit

In Editorial Notes, Rev. Norman Ryder says: “As I finalise the components of my final issue of our Journal, I must express my appreciation to all who have contributed to its publication from 2000 to the current issuer. Our articles have come from Australia, South Africa, Nigeria, the Philippines, the United States, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands, as well as from Great Britain. I recall the encouragement given us by the late Dr Ian Sellers, who forecast that the formation of our Historical Society would help to place the New Church on the Academic ‘map’. The readiness of historians who are not members of the

New Church to allow us to publish their studies, and the staff of international libraries to accept the Journal for their collections, has helped us to do so. To all of them I owe my thanks, as well as to our members, who have encouraged me in my efforts as Editor to provide a scholarly Journal with down-to-earth appeal”.

As one who has not only enjoyed and been educated by this journal but also benefitted from personal communication regarding members of the Adelaide Society (the first in the Southern Hemisphere) in which I grew up, I express my own gratitude for existence of this journal. Knowing Norman Ryder since 1990 when I served with him on the committee that arranged the International Swedenborg Publishers conference at Manchester University in 1991 out of which SPI developed, I know he will be around to participate one way or another in the life of the Society and of the New Church. Thank you Norman.

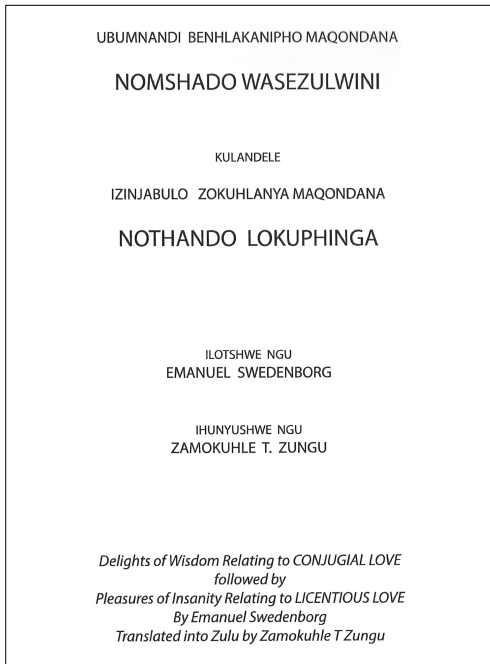
From page 1 again we read: For details of membership of the Society and the annual subscription, please contact the Secretary / Treasury, Mrs Pauline A Grimshaw, The Manse, Church Street, Kearsley, Bolton, BL4 9DD, England.

Erland Brock
erland.brock@verizon.net

South Africa

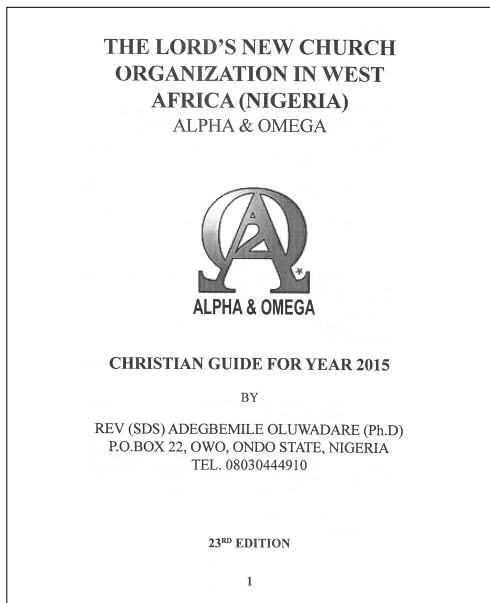
We have received a copy of *Nomshado Wasezulwinni* (Conjugal love), translated into Zulu by Dr. Zamokkule Zungu. The 6” x 8.25” work of 521 pages is spiral bound and can be reprinted on demand. See accompanying title page.





Nigeria

We have received a copy of *ALPHA & OMEGA: CHRISTIAN GUIDE FOR THE YEAR 2015*. This 23rd Edition is prepared for The Lord's New Church Organization in West Africa (Nigeria), of which Norman Ryder said that "it has been linked with the General Conference since its beginning in the 1930s as The New Church Mission in Nigeria." As indicated in the accompanying copy of the title page, this 40-page booklet provides a guide for the life of the church during 2015.



India

We received recently from Rev. Peter Devassy copy of *The Four Doctrines* in Malayalam. See accompanying title page.

SPI STATEMENT 2014 USA

Balance December 31, 2013	6,170.26
Income received:	
Contributions	14,966.03
Dues	1,350.00
Contributions (SPI organizations)	3,500.00
Total	19,816.03
Expenses:	
Grants	19,540.50
Operations:	
Newsletter & printing	1,210.89
Wages & benefits	250.00
Postage	21.90
Computer	151.91
Banking fees	0.00
Office supplies	23.28
Total	21,198.48
Net increase (decrease)	(1,382.45)
Received from SSA (owed SPI)	7,500.00
Balance December 31, 2014	12,287.81

Les Alden
SSA/SPI Treasurer

SPI Newsletter
Editor, Erland Brock
PO Box 717
Bryn Athyn
PA 19009
Tel: 215 947 8922
Email: erland.brock@verizon.net