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# **The New Church Newsletter**

## **Hurstville Society November 2025**

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### **Why Prejudice and Denial?**

By Rev. HyunJin Yang

*“When the time had come for Him to be received up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem”. (Luke 9: 51, 53)*



## **A Samaritan Village that Rejects Jesus**

Have you ever disowned a relationship with someone because the person's life was focused on something entirely different than yours? It may happen – differences bring an end to a relationship. But often, isn't a lack of patience and prejudice among one another and against each other part of the reason? And what if the same thing can happen in our relationship with the Lord? One note, however, is that it is what we do to the relationship, not what He does to us.

A story in the Gospel of Luke addresses a situation like this (9:51-53). A Samaritan village rejects Jesus simply because He is on the way to Jerusalem – a place or a value that they don't acknowledge to be valid. Their denial of the Lord rests on that difference and on that view. Their reaction is like, 'O, You are headed down to Jerusalem. So, You are with them, not with us. Then, we are done with you'. That is it.

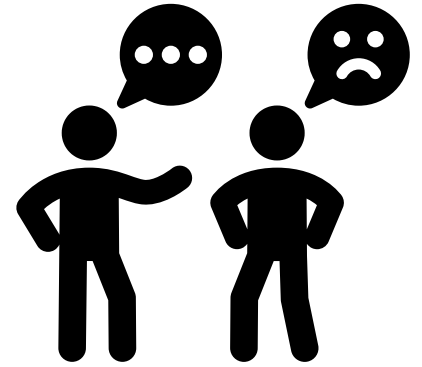
Historically, the Samaritans had a long-standing conflict with the Jews, and that they wouldn't do any dealings with them. And that past, along with the prejudice that the people of this Samaritan village have, becomes the very stumbling block that keeps their heart from meeting with the Lord.

Not all Samaritans, however, responded in the same way with their encounter with Jesus. There were many Samaritans who accepted Him as the Lord (See John 4).

## **Self-Centered Belief and Prejudice against What Is Not Our Own**

The story of the Samaritan village is about an attitude to not accept anything other than ourselves, our own beliefs and lifestyles. In other words, this Samaritan village represents our self-centered belief and prejudice that blinds us, even when what we are against is the Lord and His truths.

A story like this in the Word reminds us that the challenge is not from something else or somewhere else but is something right with us. It is with our exclusive attitude and unacceptability that are sprouted from a love of our own belief and the blind defense of it. And the lesson is that such an attitude is well capable of rejecting the Lord Himself. That is basically the story of the Samaritan village.



### **Where Is the Lord Headed?**

The broader story beyond this incident can tell us more about what their rejection means. First of all, at the time of the incident, Jesus knows that Jerusalem is where He is going to die on the cross, and yet, His face is steadfastly set towards it. He knows that it must be fulfilled and that He will rise again on the third day. In one sense, the spiritual message of what the Lord achieves by the death and the resurrection in Jerusalem is the unselfishness of His love and its victory after all. And its message extends to how His church on earth is to be built on the spirit and the life of laying aside ours or our own will, and of being born again through His Divine truths and goodness.

When we picture the Lord setting His face and vision in that direction, we see a striking contrast emerging with the Samaritans in the same page of the story – the Samaritans who can't see beyond their fixed thoughts. It is our story as well. The Lord is waiting to be received; He wants to pass through the barriers that we may place before Him. This mirrors the Lord's Words in the book of Revelation:

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”. (3:20)*

But we are unable to see it or hear it; We don't understand what it is about. Rather we judge and denies Him.



## Why Prejudice and Denial?

We can also say that this one Samaritan village's rejection represents our love of self-affirmation and self-gratification kind of faith. It is a faith that rests on, 'if You affirm our faith, lean towards us, and side with us, then we will accept You in return. If not, forget about it.'

### **A Reminder: Love of Ourselves Will Eventually Rejects the Lord.**

So, that is a false faith. We are taught and reminded repeatedly that we are not to find the real challenge from something else or somewhere else. We are taught and reminded time and again that it is right with us or within us. After all, it is the love of oneself and the desire to defend what we want to believe that slowly puts us in the opposition to the Lord's path. In the end, these can close our hearts in on ourselves and turn us aside from the Lord and everything that He could've gently offered.

When it is not checked, a love of oneself will eventually reject heaven and the Lord. The Heavenly Doctrines (or the teachings of the New Church) summarizes it below.

*Confirmed evils and falsities remain in a person and become matters of his love and so of his life. Arguments in defense of evil and falsity are nothing other than dismissals of good and truth, and if they escalate, are rejections of them. For evil dismisses and rejects good, while falsity dismisses and rejects truth.*



*Consequently, arguments in defense of evil and falsity are also closures of heaven; for every good and truth flows in from the Lord through heaven. (Divine Love and Wisdom 268)*



## The Roseville New Church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service

With our church service cancelled, eight of us from the Hurstville Society joined the Roseville New Church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service. It was great to be present at such a monumental moment for our sister church.

The two-hour service included the messages and greetings to be read to the Society, along with a separate keynote presentation by Dr. Jonathan King.



The highlight of the service was the sermon delivered by the Pastor, Rev. Howard Thompson. The message touched on how, throughout the history of Christianity, the use of the Lord's Word has often been exploited by churches and their leaders to hold their power, to claim their exclusive religious authorities, to gain worldly advantages, and more.

The sermon also highlighted the Lord's second coming as Divine Truth revealed in the spiritual sense of the Word. The Lord Himself described this as how we will see "the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory" (Mark 13:26; Matthew 24:30). We know that it can't be literally a person coming in the clouds, but rather it is the Lord's Divine Truth and its power that that we are to see in the spiritual sense of the Word. "The Son of Man" throughout the Word means His Divine Truth.



What it means for us is that now we can see who the Lord is more clearly than ever and what our spiritual life is about. We now can see, in the spiritual sense of the Word, how it is truly about understanding and living out our spiritual love of the neighbour and love of the Lord. What it means for us as a church is that the New Church is indeed a new Church that is integral in its faith and in its life to what the Lord says even in the deeper, spiritual messages of His Word.

The New Church was once called by some to be ‘the most radical church’, but its radicalism really means its return to the very root of Christianity – to what the Lord’s church was always meant to be!

It was such a powerful message to hear at a very special day.



## What’s Coming Up?

### Family Service (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Yes. First Sunday of each month is our family service. The format that we are getting more accustomed to: we have a short children’s talk prior to the main talk. Toward the end of the service, we will have a Q & A and discussion time after the first postlude.



A note for this Sunday: we will gather at Baringa for light refreshments after the service to welcome **Rev. Nathan Gladish** and his wife, **Elise**. They will be visiting Australia from the 30<sup>st</sup> of October to the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Nathan has served as a General Church minister over 40 years, ministering to a variety of congregations in the United States. As many of us know, he is a brother of Rev. Mike Gladish, who served the Society from 1974-1981 and the sibling of Lori Heldon.

**Guest preacher****– Rev. Nathan Gladish (9<sup>th</sup>)**

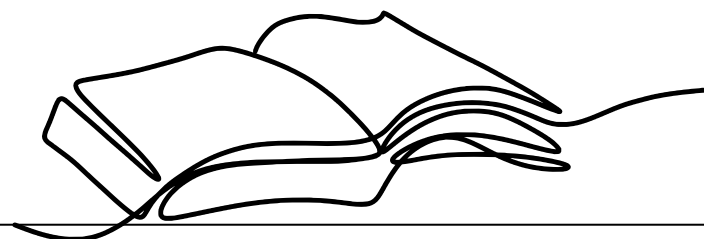
Rev. Nathan Gladish will be preaching on the second Sunday. This is one of the few occasions during the year where we welcome a guest preacher. Hope you can make it!

**Doctrinal Class + BYO lunch (11:00 A.M., 13 November)**

We will have a class on ‘proprium’. This class will be the second part of my first class on the topic I gave last year. A useful reminder for the term is that it is a Latin word that is translated into various English phrases such as ‘a sense of self,’ ‘one’s own,’ ‘our inherent character’, etc.

This second class will focus more on the topic of a heavenly proprium – a heavenly sense of self that we cultivate and experience as our life is built and driven by the Lord’s truth and His goodness. In other words, a heavenly proprium is a life of heaven that we are able to receive from the Lord and sense as if its life were ours.

This touches on the question of what we essentially are. The reminder is that we are merely a vessel of life. In other words, we are not some fixed forms or products of either goodness or evil. We were created to receive life from the Lord, who is Life itself, and we can choose to do so. These are some thoughts before the class. Come and join!





## **HNC Society Meeting and AGM (16<sup>th</sup>)**

We will have a Society Meeting + Annual General Meeting, following the service on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **Society News & Notes**

### **The Hurstville Society's Social Media Pages**

If you haven't had a chance to check out our social media pages yet, below are the links.

Our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HurstvilleNewChurch>

Our YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@hurstvillenewchurch2493>

### **Church Website Renewal Underway**

At last, we will soon begin renewing our church website. Here is a brief overview of our plan:

We will be building a new website using a software called WordPress. While we will be keeping our current website address – [hurstvillenewchurch.com](http://hurstvillenewchurch.com) – we won't be keeping and modifying the existing website.

One challenge we face is that as our current website wasn't originally built on WordPress, its contents can't be transferred. Instead, we will need to rebuild a new website from scratch. This means that the current website's material will eventually need to be deleted. Basically, we keep the website's address, as we 'overwrite' it with the new version.

Of course, we will make sure to save anything important that needs to be archived in the new site, for example, our past Newsletters.

**A few important notes:** during the building process, our current website will need to be taken offline for a few months until the new one is ready to go live in place of it. We may see this temporary shut-down take place in November or sometime near in the future. I do hope that it won't cause much inconvenience. I will keep you updated on when to expect it and how the progress is going.

Also, we are not outsourcing the work—YoungHee and I will be developing the new website ourselves. It can be jarring. But it seems that this is the only way. While it can be easier to hire someone, the advantage of building it in-house is that we will be able to update and manage it freely at any time as we wish. That is a huge advantage to have.

Whenever help or advice is needed, I will be reaching out to others, like Donna Heldon, who has been building a new website for *Our Shared Spirituality*, part of the Basil Lazer project.

If you have any concern or so, please don't hesitate to contact me or let me know.

### **NCIA Retreat 2026**

It is not yet too late! We have around 55-60 people attending which includes overnight, day visitors and people on zoom.

A few rooms are still available for booking!

### **NCIA Retreat 2027**

If you want to get ahead of the game (and I know you do!), 'Save the date' for the 2027 Retreat.

Due In: Friday, 22 January 2027

Date Out: Tuesday, 26 January 2027

The Tops at Stanwell Tops. Grevillea site. All ensuite and all air conditioned. Each room has a double bed plus single bunk beds.



# NCIA Retreat 2026

Alexandra Park, Sunshine Coast, Queensland



Please scan the QR code to register to make a booking.

Bookings are not confirmed until a deposit is received.



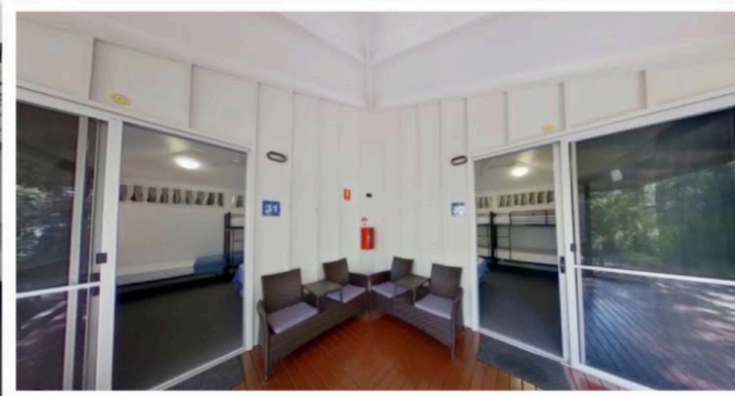
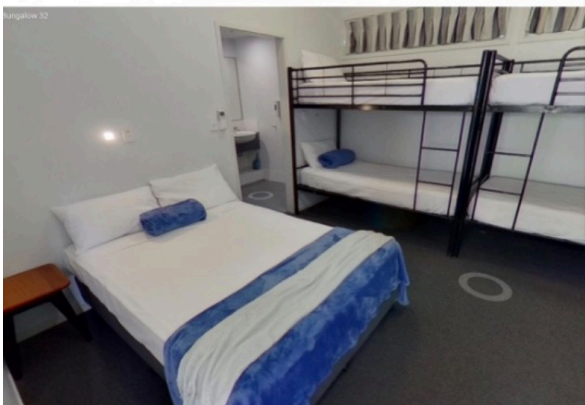
NCIA Retreat 2026  
Booking Form

## Thursday 15th to Monday 19th January

This retreat will be held from Thursday dinner to Monday 10.00am. Alexandra Park is located at Alexandra Headland within minutes walking distance to the beach.

The Bungalow accommodation is all air conditioned with ensuite bathroom, mini fridge, TV and an outside deck. Each room has a double bed, single bunk beds, or single bed and can sleep 5 or 6 people.

Twin share rooms (private room for two) are available but are limited so book in quickly.



Example of bungalow rooms

**Prices are per person and include all meals.**

<b>Adult Twin share \$720.00</b>	<b>Student (14-17) \$500.00</b>
<b>Pensioner Twin share \$700.00</b>	<b>Student (9-13) \$400.00</b>
<b>Adult Shared \$680.00</b>	<b>Child (5-8) \$350.00</b>
<b>Pensioner Shared \$650.00</b>	<b>Child (3-4) \$200.00</b>
<b>Linen Hire \$36.00 per set</b>	<b>Baby (0-2) Free</b>

Subsidies may be available on request

**Day Visitor costs - per person**

**No meals - \$32.00** (only for special diets not able to accommodate)

**All meals - \$100.50** (Breakfast, morning tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner, Supper)

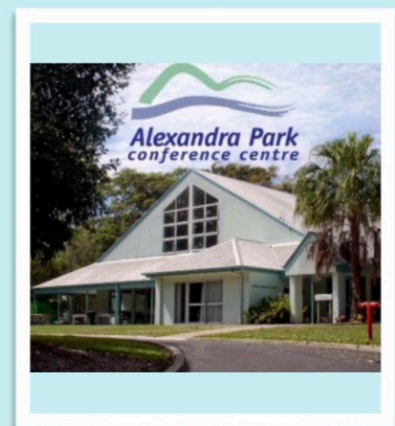
**Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea - \$55.60**

**Main Meal only \$51.25**

**ALEXPARK.COM.AU**

Alexandra Park Conference Centre has a website where you can do virtual tours of the rooms, meeting rooms and dining room.

**If you have any questions please direct them to [nciaretreat@gmail.com](mailto:nciaretreat@gmail.com)**





## Editor's Closing Note

Hello, friends. The Newsletter is where you can share your ideas or a short article you've written. And yes. We don't want anything that is controversial, political, or the like. But I would like to also remind us that this is a community space, where your thoughtful ideas can be shared with others. Send me something if you have one. Something about Christmas or New Year can be a good one.

Editor - Rev HyunJin Yang

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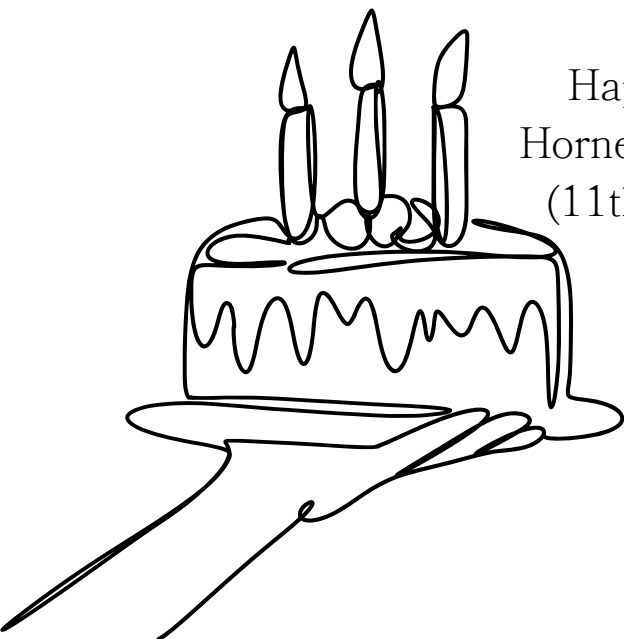
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<https://m.youtube.com/@hurstvillenewchurch2493>



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

