

EDITORIAL REMARKS

In This Issue

The issue opens with the concluding installment of Shanda Heindrichs' "Religion: The 'Indispensable Support' of the Nation," continued from the October–December 2008 issue. At both the global and local levels of government, we would do well to heed her closing sentence: "In Madison's thinking, it is our religious ideas that inform and enlighten our natural vision, and not the other way around."

Different levels of thought may be used in considering the natural world as an image of the spiritual plane, depending on the scale. For example, the human body can be considered macroscopically in terms of its general structure and function. At a finer level, we can study the physiology of its various parts. And again, with still greater resolution to a molecular level, we can consider the role of specific molecules, such as DNA. It is this last level that is the focus of Dr. Fredrick Bryntesson's article "The Life Cycle of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus: A Useful Tool for Teaching Scientific and New Church Principles in the Biology Classroom."

David Simpson's article "Return from the Unknown Country: A Swedenborgian Key to Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*" opens with this statement: "While commentaries proliferate about Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* (1866) . . . comparatively little exists about the association between its author and the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg as a potential source for Dostoevsky's literary devices and spiritual themes." Mr. Simpson remedies this deficiency by, in effect, providing an "internal sense" of the great novel, showing how the story cloaks the path of Raskolnikov's redemption and regeneration. In doing so, the novel takes on universality, since we all have an "internal sense" to our own life stories.

Swedenborg is typically portrayed as an inventor, scientist, philosopher, and revelator. Rev. Dr. Erik Sandstrom provides us with an early (1716) example of Swedenborg as a person curious about how the world works; in other words, as a scientist. The article is Dr. Sandstrom's transla-

tion of a short MS describing Swedenborg's experiment on echo from which he was able to obtain a value for the speed of sound.

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