

Swedenborg's Global Influence

Local PBS Station WYBE presents *Global Lens*

On November 29, 2004, Ashok Gangadean, host of WYBE's program *Global Lens*, taped a half-hour interview with New Century Edition Series Editor Jonathan Rose and Foundation Executive Director/Publisher Deborah Forman on the topic of Swedenborg's global influence.

At the Parliament of World Religions in July 2004, Forman attended sessions given by Dr. Gangadean, a professor of philosophy at Haverford College, and was stimulated by his global perspective and vital, life-affirming spiritual viewpoint. An accomplished author, lecturer, and philosopher, Dr. Gangadean has worked with numerous organizations such as UNICEF and the World Commission on Global Consciousness. He has written several books on global reason, global philosophy, and dialogue between worlds and is Founder-Director of the Global Dialogue Institute, which specializes in cultivating common ground and deeper global awareness among diverse worlds in our emerging global communities. Upon returning home,

Forman contacted him, and he expressed an interest in learning more about Emanuel Swedenborg.

After receiving books and videos sent by the Foundation, Dr. Gangadean expressed serious enthusiasm about Swedenborg and extended a marvelous opportunity for Foundation spokespersons to discuss Swedenborg on the acclaimed show *Global Lens*, formerly *Philly Live*.

Dr. Gangadean skillfully and seamlessly guided the interview, alternately directing questions to Dr. Rose and Ms. Forman, beginning with questions about Swedenborg's spiritual experience, the era in which he lived, and his influence in Europe and America. The conversation turned to Swedenborg's experience in heaven of people from other religions, how remarkably advanced such an insight was for its time, and how this insight inspired Charles Carroll Bonney with the idea of creating a Parliament of World Religions at the 1893 World's Fair. Other topics included Swedenborg's influence on new religious movements, on the advancement of women, on abolition and his system of correspondences.



Global Lens host Ashok Gangadean

The program was aired on December 13, 2004, and its footprint extended over Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. On Friday, January 14, the Foundation screened the program to kick off its 2005 lecture series, followed by discussion with Dr. Rose and Ms. Forman. ♦

SWEDENBORG LECTURE SERIES ♦ Spring 2005

January 14:

Screening of Ashok Gangadean's interview with Deborah Forman and Jonathan Rose

March 18:

The Holy Center: a talk by Dorothea Harvey

February 25:

Swedenborg: A Hidden Source of the Light and Dark in the Art of Edgar Allan Poe: a talk by Jane Williams-Hogan

April 15:

Observing Spirit: a talk by Peter Rhodes

May 13 Annual Meeting Program: a talk by Ashok Gangadean