



The New Church Newsletter
Hurstville Society November 2023

Swedenborg Was *Right!* Inhabitants on the Moon!

by Rev Todd Beiswenger

It would have been July of 1969 and people around the world were probably getting pretty excited because the Apollo 11 mission was going to put a man on the moon. But the New Church folks would have been particularly excited because this would be the mission that would provide the proof that Swedenborg was right: there are inhabitants on the moon. The story I've heard is that Rev Doug Taylor was promoting this idea, and was confronted by a reporter

when moon-men weren't found. He responded by saying, "They haven't been found yet."

When people have told me of Rev Taylor's response, I've always appreciated his conviction, and yet just kind of laughed it off because, well, there aren't people on the moon. They haven't found *anything* living on the moon, not even some bacteria or single celled organism, and not only that, no evidence of life *ever* existing there... so case closed, right? The Writings are wrong, no people on the moon. This, as you might imagine, does create a stumbling block for some people who are new to Swedenborg.

Since the moon landing, New Church scholars have been looking for a way to claim that 1) the Writings are an infallible revelation from God and 2) *Earths in the Universe* is true, so that point number 1 can actually stand. You've probably heard the ideas before... some will say that these people *used* to live there, or more commonly they'll point out that Swedenborg encountered *spirits* from the moon. For example:

"Some spirits appeared overhead, and I heard from there voices like thunder; for their voices thundered just like the claps of thunder which come from the clouds following lightning flashes... Their faces were not unattractive in appearance, but longer than those of other spirits. In height they resembled a boy of seven, but were stronger in body; so they were dwarfs. I was told by angels that they were from the moon" (EU 111, *emphasis added*).

The problem with this line of reasoning is that Swedenborg is clear that there are people who live on the moon. When you get to the

aforementioned *Earths in the Universe* #111, the first thing you read is a heading that states: “ON THE SPIRITS AND INHABITANTS OF THE MOON.” Spirits *AND* inhabitants!

I thought that I had solved this problem, and wrote about it in the April 2021 issue of our newsletter, with an article titled “Space, Science & the Death of Imagination”. My solution was that there are beings there, right now, but that they just live on a plane of existence that we can’t see. You might describe it as living on a higher frequency. I’ve been pretty happy with this explanation, but have found that others don’t find it as compelling as I do.

As you might imagine, this whole issue is really a fun, hobby-type question that sits on the back-burner for me, but in the last few months I’ve bumped into some stories in the news that have me wondering if, in fact, Swedenborg was right and there really are beings on the moon, and other planets too. Now, in order to get to this place, you’re probably going to have to go out of your comfort zone. Honestly, it’s a bit of a reach for me too, but the goal is to seek the truth, and sometimes that requires that we play around with some ideas that are unconventional.

So where this all started for me was a few months ago when a man named David Grusch did an interview as a means to get attention so that he could testify before the US Congress about government programs that were happening outside of congressional oversight. There really shouldn’t be programs outside of congressional oversight, and he believes that the US government is in possession of UAPs [aka UFOs], based on his interviews with 40 witnesses over

four years. Grusch claimed, in response to congressional questions that the US has retrieved "non-human" biological matter from the pilots of the crafts and that this "was the assessment of people with direct knowledge on the [UAP] program I talked to, that are currently still on the program".

To me, what makes Grusch's claims so credible is that he willingly testified under oath to Congress about it. He's been very careful about what he says publicly because a lot of the information is classified, and it would be a crime to reveal it. It just leaves me feeling like he really must have something. In fairness, he hasn't claimed there to be life on the moon, but if his claims are true, then it brings into question just how much we can trust what the US government has said on this issue.

The next story to come out was an interview with Tucker Carlson, who, after being fired by Fox News, was able to say whatever he wanted without being censored or scripted by his superiors. He then goes on a podcast interview and says:

"There's a lot of evidence these things are coming out of the ocean, including videotape of these objects coming out of the water at high speed or even more amazing descending at Mach 3 into the water... then we have a huge submarine fleet – American, but also Chinese and Russian - underwater with pretty sensitive measurement devices sonar, etc., and they have recorded these objects doing hundreds of knots underwater.

"So let's just stop there... things are moving at impossibly high speeds so just like let's just apply common sense for one second. If

I take a 45 caliber handgun and fire it at you underwater in a swimming pool 50 feet away you can catch the bullet because the resistance is so strong from the water that objects can't move that fast underwater. We know that, but they are and they're moving without any visible means of propulsion, so no wake, no bubbles. We tracked that all over the world on like sonar systems and some of this is in the New York Times.”

I’ve heard about underwater UFOs before, but if you listen to the whole interview you get the sense that in Carlson’s perspective, the underwater UFOs are actually far more prevalent than the flying ones. In fact, this is why the US government has taken to calling them UAPs – unidentified anomalous phenomena – instead of UFOs.

At this point I acknowledge that nothing I’ve shown so far says anything about life on the moon. That’s where the next story comes into play. The previous stories, to me, are still within my comfort zone. I think it’s quite believable that the governments of the world would lie about this. But with this next story we’re going to step right off the reservation into what many will consider a bridge too far, or simply “crazy town”.

It starts with a man named Ingo Swann, who in 1998 claimed to be a psychic – yes, a psychic, but stay with me – who was previously employed by the CIA to remote-view the dark side of the moon. Specifically, he was hired to look for an alien presence. It sounds like science fiction, but in 2006, when the CIA started releasing documents on the Stargate project, Swann's participation in the

program was confirmed. When Swann was asked about the existence of extraterrestrials, he said not only were they already here, but they are building something on the far side of the moon. Later he came to the conclusion that they have a whole mining industry there, and that the UAPs we see here are on resupply missions because the aliens need water to continue their mining operation.

I told you we were going to go off the reservation! What makes Swann compelling though is that he has quite a documented history of being right. However, even he admits he's right only 65% of the time. But this particular idea about aliens on the moon was something that he saw multiple times, so even if you don't buy the mining operation, Swann's claim that there are aliens there has a stronger chance of being right. However, I like the alien mining colony idea because of how it meshes with all of the accounts of underwater UFOs, and Swann was saying this decades before underwater UFOs became talked about in UFO circles.

Of course, the message from our governments says that all of this is nonsense. So then it becomes a question of who do you believe? The Swedish mystic who claims revelation from God, or a government that has been known to not always tell the truth? In most circles the "mystic" has less credibility than the government, but should that be the case? The stories I've given here are just snapshots of the bigger picture. There's actually a lot more information out there about inhabitants on the moon and government covering it up than I had expected. Could there be something to it?

Swedenborg opens *Earths in the Universe* with a bit of philosophy, basically saying “All of these planets were made, how can they not have people on them?” He then says, “The planet Saturn, which is farthest from the Sun, has a huge luminous ring around it that gives a great deal of light to that planet, even though it is reflected light. Can any rational individual who knows all this maintain that these bodies are uninhabited?” (EU 3)

So at that point he’s not saying he’s seeing beings from Saturn, rather philosophically saying “How could there not be?” To that end, Swedenborg speaks to “inhabitants” of various planets in 62 out of 178 passages in *Earths in the Universe*, so I have a hard time buying the idea that he’s just talking about spirits. He’s writing about inhabitants. To be perfectly honest, I’m intellectually at peace with the prospect of planets without carbon-based life forms on them, and I prefer my original solution of beings that we can’t see to the idea of aliens mining on the moon. However, I also feel like you go against Swedenborg at your own peril. And Swedenborg says there are inhabitants on the moon.

January Camp/Retreat Death & Resurrection

A couple of months ago it was announced that we were going to try to put on a family camp in the Blue Mountains during January 15-20, but as you may have heard by now, that plan has been scrapped. However, we’re still looking to do *something* that weekend of January 20-21st. **Rev Howard Thompson** has his eyes on having something in Roseville, maybe a couple of sessions in the morning and couple in the afternoon on the 20th, maybe even

a guest speaker so you get a different voice than usual. Perhaps we'll even bribe you with some cinnamon scrolls. Much to be determined, but save that weekend for now.

Hurstville AGM & Society Meeting

On November 12 we have scheduled an AGM & Society meeting after church. Perhaps the big thing we'll be looking at is what sort of schedule to run over the following few months. What do we want to do for our Christmas schedule? Is there any activity that would be fun to do as a group in January? Do we want to do a Journey program in February?

Of course this meeting is also the place to bring up any new ideas you have as well. Want to bulldoze the property and turn it into a roller coaster park? Maybe you think we need to have donuts after church, or we'd grow the membership if only we talked more about aliens... Bring your ideas! At worst case, the idea is voted "No".

Update from HyunJin Yang

Remember him? He was that nice, young minister from Korea who spent a month here with his wife, **YoungHee**. While I was on vacation he sent me an email, and among other things he wrote:

"I have been working hard to put final touches on my online projects, and they are now up online!"

The link for the website: swedenborg.co.kr

The link for the channel:

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

There's more in English on the website than I expected, and there are some spelling errors that I'll let him know about, but overall it looks good. There was talk at our last society meeting that we're due to update our website, so it is good to start looking around at what is out there and see what designs and layouts we like. If you watch some of the videos HyunJin created, you'll find that they're in Korean, but you should recognize the recording location.

Speaking of Websites

Have you checked out www.newchurch.org lately? They released an updated website a few weeks ago, and it looks good. I really appreciate that they spent time answering commonly asked questions, and, in my experience, we often spend our time answering questions that nobody is actually asking. People aren't asking what the laws of Divine Providence are, but they are asking about why there is so much violence in the Bible. I spent some time reading through the articles, and I think whoever wrote them did a great job. You might find it interesting to poke around the site and see what there is to see as well.

Swedenborg eReader App: Developed Locally, Deployed Internationally

Maybe you're taking a trip on a train or plane, and you'd like to sit and read some Divine Providence, or perhaps after reading this newsletter, you just have to dig into some "Earths in the Universe", but you just don't want to lug around those big ol' books. They're just too heavy. And maybe the font it just too small.

Well, there's a solution for that. You can go to your favorite store for downloading apps and get the Swedenborg eReader app. It's recently been updated, and one of the big features added in was that it now has links between the various books. For example, if Swedenborg references a paragraph in *AC in Heaven & Hell* you can now just click on the reference and off you go to heaven or hell! It also supports more languages too, so if you're learning French, and you want to test your skills, try reading some *True Christian Religion* in French!

When you marvel at how well this app works, you can tell **Zach Beiswenger** how much you appreciate it, because he was the lead developer for this updated version!

Spring Women's Weekend

Once again, our trusty group of seasoned New Church-minded ladies – plus a smattering of newbies – gathered for a delightful spring women's weekend, this September. Once again, we enjoyed spending time together, learning, playing, helping and praying over the course of our two-day retreat at The Tops Christian Conference Centre in Stanwell Tops, just south of Sydney. Although there were only six bodies in attendance this time, our numbers were well complemented by another half-dozen or more virtual attendees for many of the activities. Session topics included 'Reaching For the (Spiritual) Stars', 'Birth Work' and 'Shifting with Jacob' – plus we assembled another lot of birth kits for childbearing women in developing countries! These weekends are really starting to grow on us, so much so that we're already looking at dates for 2024. If

you're a woman who is at all interested, and hasn't already been getting emails from Jenn, please drop her a line (jenn@beiswenger.net) and let her know – we always enjoy welcoming new sisters to our midst, and are eagerly looking forward to what 2024 has in store!

Birthdays

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

And They're Back – ANC Dorms to Continue Operation

A few months ago I included an entry saying that the ANC dorms were closing. However, since then I received – and maybe you did too – an email saying that they've figured out a new plan that allows the dorms to continue to operate. Here's a paragraph from that letter:

“The good news is that through the dedicated, hard work of our task force and a core of supportive dorm families, we have developed a plan that modifies how we handle housing at ANC and continues to use the existing dormitory buildings. It is not a perfect plan, and it is currently designed as a bridge plan to meet the needs of our returning students and the students currently in the admissions pipeline. We will need to adapt the plan in the coming months and we do not know if it is reasonable to assume we can offer this housing model for the long term. But we are meeting the needs of our current families and continuing to investigate long-term viability. We remain committed to offering a New Church secondary school education for any student who wants what we provide.”

If you're wondering just what this new plan is, feel free to send me an email and I'll forward you the document that addresses it.

What's "new" about the "New Church?"

A very common question, to be sure. Well, it all started just over 200 years ago... the main branches of the Christian church had become less correct, and one man named Emanuel Swedenborg had written volumes about how Christianity was missing the point. Some readers of Swedenborg realised he was right, and formed a new organisation that would strip away the centuries of politics and tradition and get back to what Christianity was supposed to be about: loving God and loving each other. Everything else could be seen as merely a difference of opinion if those two main principles reigned supreme through this new church.

As a result we believe in a positive Christianity, one where we look to the best in ourselves and others while still holding ourselves accountable to a higher standard and taking responsibility for our lives. Nowadays we're not so much "new" as we are "different." We still keep the name, and yet make every effort to incorporate the ideals that were instrumental in being "new" over two centuries ago.

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