

DOES GOD EXIST?

September/October 2012

Volume 39 Number 5



A nonprofit effort to convince mankind
that God is real and the Bible is His Word.



A VISIT TO THE GRAY GHOST

Does God Exist? Lectureships

Sept. 21–23 Farmington, NM

505-325-2983

Oct. 20–21 Holmdel, NJ

908-216-5054

Nov. 4–7 Holly Hill, FL

386-677-5323

Check our website for an
updated list of lectures.
www.doesgodexist.org

In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

Articles in this Issue:

A Visit to the "Grey Ghost" 3
Where the Evidence Leads 8

Guest Article:

Apatheism 16
God's Other Book (a poem) 19

Special Features:

Scientists and God 20

Cynthia's Corner 21

Book Reviews:

Schizophrenic God? 22

I'm Not Broken 23

Dandy Designs:

Bubble-Rafting Snails 24

Roaches and Robotics 25

News and Notes 26

The **Does God Exist?** program offers apologetic materials in several languages for all ages. We are designed to serve and help others. Our materials are available on a loan basis or at our cost. If you are not aware of our DVDs or video tapes, CDs or audio tapes, courses, books, teaching materials, materials for the blind, and on-line question/answer services, contact us for a catalog and information sheets or visit www.doesgodexist.tv.

Correspondence should be addressed to John Clayton

1555 Echo Valley Dr., Niles, MI 49120-8738

e-mail: jncdge@aol.com

Home phone: 269-687-9426 FAX: 269-687-9431

Does God Exist? websites: <http://www.doesgodexist.org>;

dandydesigns.org; scienceterrific.com; whypain.org;

doesgodexist.tv; and grandpajohn.tv

Send subscription requests, orders, or address changes to:

Does God Exist?, PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704

Phone: 574-514-1400 or by e-mail: marcusen@michiana.org

DOES GOD EXIST? (USPS 011-010) is published bimonthly in January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December by **Does God Exist?**, 814 S. Main St., South Bend, IN 46601-3008. Subscription is free upon request. Periodicals postage paid at South Bend, IN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **DOES GOD EXIST?**, PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704.

A VISIT TO THE "GRAY GHOST"

We live in a culture that is trying very hard to discard its religious roots. Atheism, agnosticism, pluralism, modernism, and materialism have all had a very negative effect on faith and a large segment of our population does not have any religious affiliation and thus no teaching of a religious nature. This has affected our morality as a people and has caused us to accept some strange, and sometimes destructive



beliefs. It has been said that “the man who doesn’t believe in something will believe anything,” and there is some measure of truth in that statement. One of the things that has come out of this belief in anything, has been the unquestioning acceptance of the paranormal. The paranormal includes anything that cannot be tested scientifically. It does not involve just religion, but also involves things such as black magic, voodoo, witchcraft, clairvoyance, spiritualism, poltergeist, ectoplasm, psychic sciences, divination, and ghosts.

We do want to emphasize that we are not talking sleight-of-hand, recreational magic, or things that are done as a game or as a show. True magicians will tell you that what they do is only a trick or an illusion. Houdini had a trick in which he would hang a slate from the ceiling, take a cork ball and soak it in white ink, and then ask a person from the audience to take a sheet of paper, and walk out of the building. The person was then told to write a message on the sheet of paper and put it in his pocket. He would come back into the room and take the cork ball which was in the ink and hold it against the slate where it would stick. The cork ball would then start to roll across the slate writing out the message that the person had written on the slip of paper, and then it would fall to the floor.

Was this a paranormal demonstration? No it was not. Houdini wrote this comment about the slate writing trick. “I have devoted a lot of time and thought to this illusion. I won’t tell you how it was done, but I can assure you it was pure trickery. I did it by perfectly normal means. I devised it to show you what can be done along these lines. Now I beg of you, do not jump to the conclusion that certain things you see are necessarily ‘supernatural’ or the work of ‘spirits’ just because you cannot explain them” (*Scientific American*, February 2011, page 89).

While tricks can be entertaining and interesting, they are just entertainment. Raising someone from the dead however, is a very different type of activity. Witchcraft, black magic, voodoo, and even ghosts can be dangerous and destructive. The Bible has many passages in which God warns his people against engaging in these things. In fact, severe punishment was meted out for people who did persist in such things—even capital punishment (see Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:10–11; Leviticus 20:27; Galatians 5:20).

Why is God so severe in his reaction to his people getting involved in the paranormal? There are at least three major reasons:

1. It causes people to put their faith in something other than God.
2. It takes people away from the source of real answers in their lives causing them to devote energy to something that does not provide real answers.
3. It puts people in the path of dangerous people.

On June 17–18, 2011, we had the privilege of being a part of a seminar on “Christianity and the Paranormal” sponsored by the Apologetic Research Society (www.EvidenceforChristianity.org) and led by Dr. John Oakes. The idea of the seminar was to investigate claims about ghosts with a group of Christians—some who believed in ghosts, some who did not, and some who were not sure.



The seminar was held on the Queen Mary docked at Long Beach, California. This ship was built in 1936 and used to carry passengers from Europe to the United States. It was also used as a troop carrier ship in World War II because it was so fast (for its day) that German submarines could not keep up with it. It became known as “The Gray Ghost” because of its great speed and appearance to the Germans.

The ship has a long history of people getting killed on board. In one case it rammed another ship and cut it in half, causing the deaths of some 300 sailors. It was claimed that the ghosts of those killed on board were very active even as the ship became dry docked and turned into a hotel. There is a tour you can take on the ship that reminds

you of the haunted mansion in Disney World with some of the same theatrics and illusions. It is a fun show, but not terribly convincing. The Apologetic Research Society had arranged for some of us to take a special guided tour by a psychic spiritualist expert who was to show us the actual ghosts. I believe as Christians that it is important to investigate claims of this nature and help people understand what is going on. First John 4:1 tells us, “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, ...” Verse 2 tells us that we can recognize the false spirits by their refusal to confess Jesus as the Christ. First Timothy 4:1 is prophetic in its teaching, “God’s spirit specifically tells us that in later times some will desert the faith because they continuously give their attention to deceiving spirits and demonic teachings.” We are certainly seeing that being played out over and over in today’s world. Science is another tool we can use to investigate the credibility of claims about ghosts and other spiritual powers.

My role in the conference was to provide some scientific tools and concepts that aid in looking at the ghost issue. Our expert guide for the trip was an attractive young woman who not only did this kind

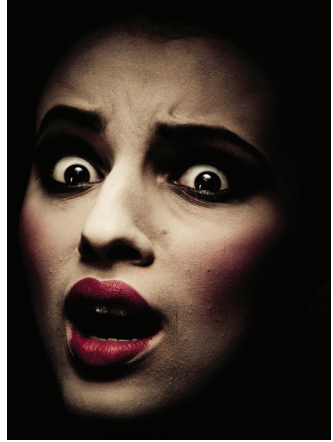


of contract guiding of people on a ghost ship, but also did seances and medium sessions. She was bright, informed, talkative, and seemed to be convinced that she was in regular contact with John, Jackie, and Henry (the more notable ghosts on the ship)

as well as a number of other ghosts who were regulars on the Queen Mary. We started our tour at 10:00 P.M. and went to the bottom of the ship where we walked through boilers, engines, old swimming pools, locker rooms, crew quarters, and special rooms until 2:00 A.M. Some of us had brought lights, and our psychic ghost leader had brought some special tools to help locate and communicate with the ghosts. The most “spooky” thing that happened in the tour was that shortly after we started a raccoon came running through the area. How he got into the ship or why is a mystery, but it certainly changed the atmosphere of what had started as a serious investigation.

One of the first tools our psychic expert leader had brought, which she said was probably the best tool she had, was a divining rod such

as those sometimes used to find underground water (a dowsing rod). In this case they were brass rods bent at a ninety degree angle. The idea was that you would hold the rods loosely in your hands with one side pointed down toward the ground and the other pointing straight ahead of you. By holding them side by side the two rods were perfectly parallel. You would then call out to the ghost to come and move the rods so they crossed. We stood for a very long time with nothing happening. Finally one young lady did have the rods cross and the psychic host informed us that the ghost had crossed them. She said you could even ask questions of the ghost and that “yes” answers would be the rods crossing and “no” answers would be them uncrossing. Why ghosts have to use such a weak and problematic method of communication was never answered, but we were told of trip participants who had suffered scratches on their neck when they offended the ghosts. The problem with this method is that if you hold the rods for a long time your muscles fatigue. If you let your hand dip slightly, gravity will start pulling the rods together. The whole issue of dowsing is at least to some extent based on that same idea.



In the swimming pool area there had been reports of pictures of ghosts having been taken and she even had a photograph album with pictures of ghosts which consisted of orbs of light showing up in the pictures. Some of our folks were also getting bright orbs of light in their cameras seemingly coming from something that our eyes could not see. As I walked around this area I noticed a variety of signs from the 1900s encouraging patrons to use the ultraviolet light treatments that were offered in the swimming pool area. Some of these very large lights were still on and I could take a piece of white paper and in total darkness get a violet color to appear on the paper. Some more experiments need to be done, but it appears to me that the orbs are ultraviolet light picked up by the cameras.

The highlight of the night was that we were taken to a locker area near the pool where a seven-year-old girl drowned many years ago. Each of us were put into dressing room stalls and all the lights were turned off. You can imagine what was going on with our group of nutty Christians enjoying being together. Doug Jacoby reached under the wall of his dressing room stall and grabbed the ankle of the people on both sides of him precipitating major screams. When we all got quiet our host called Jackie to come and visit us. Sure enough, she saw the seven-year-old girl playfully run across the area between the

stalls. None of us saw the girl, but our host gave a confident description that was a testimony that could not be refuted. Of course, none of us could verify it.

Some questions that have to be raised in any investigation like this include what are the background, medical condition, and psychological makeup of the observer? In this case we eventually learned that our expert psychic host has a history of severe seizures when she was a child. In her adult years she had a seizure when she was driving and the car flipped causing her to sustain massive brain trauma. She went through several years of treatment for mental disorders resulting from the accident. In most paranormal claims that involve the testimony of an individual, there is a history of injury, mental illness, substance abuse, or physical abuse to the individual making the claims. Famous cases like *The Amityville Horror*,



the “Betty and Barney Hill Abduction” incident, and the “Roswell” incident all have a common thread along these lines. Even traumatic experiences like the death of a loved one can cause people to experience images such as these.

After four hours of wandering around the bottom levels of the Queen Mary, and hearing and watching the best efforts of a psychic paranormal promoter, most of us found no evidence that there are any ghosts on the Queen Mary. The prohibitions of God’s people being involved with paranormal things like ghosts have logical reasons behind them, and I am personally convinced that there are no such things as ghosts. That is not to say that Satan is not alive and well on planet earth. It also is not to underestimate the various ways in which evil forces can impact our lives. It is to say that those who try to make money through ghosts and conversations with the dead are not those whom Christians should follow or trust. We must indeed “try every spirit” with all the tools available to us. We know that “... every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God ... and is the spirit of the antichrist” (1 John 4:3, NIV 1984) and that we can in fact “... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

— John N. Clayton

WHERE THE EVIDENCE LEADS

In the November/December 2010 issue of this magazine we had a wonderful article by Graham A. Fisher about Dr. Antony Flew titled “Follow the Argument Wherever It Leads.” The title of the article was actually a quote from Socrates and Flew knew it and used it frequently.



Flew was known as the world’s most notorious atheist until very late in his life when the evidence for God’s existence became so dominant in his view that he could no longer support atheism. Fisher was a student of Flew at the Keele University in England. The article gave us remarkable insight into this philosopher and his journey to belief in a designer of the cosmos—which we call God.

As a former atheist, I believe the logical plea to go where the evidence leads has to be discarded by atheists in order not to follow in the logical footsteps of Flew. In the forty-four years that I have been carrying on discussions and studies with atheists I have seen a wide range of responses to the evidence—from personal threats against me to complete surrender in obedience to Jesus Christ. What we would like to attempt to do in this article is to give a simplified explanation of some of the evidence for God’s existence, how some atheists have responded to that evidence, and why that response is not a good answer to where the evidence leads.

Before we start this discussion, let us point out that this is an open-ended examination of the evidence. What I mean is that there is always new evidence becoming available to all of us. We cannot argue or discuss what we do not know. We do not invent a God to explain facts that mystify us, but we can take what we know to be factual and examine our beliefs on the basis of that evidence. As new facts become available, we have to look at the new data and see how it fits what we believe. This is a dynamic process—always changing, growing, and expanding. When I left atheism in 1958 there was a great deal of evidence available. Now some 54 years later there is much more evidence. While my understandings have changed because of some of this evidence, my faith in God has grown enormously. I am sure someone else will be able to write an article like this 50 years from now that will be much more factual, and much more convincing. Some religious people seem to fear science and the future knowledge of man, and that is an unfortunate thing to do.

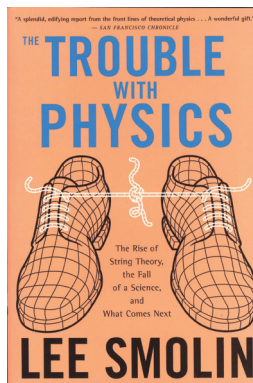
COSMOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

THE ARGUMENT — Cosmological evidence is the true creation evidence. Really there is no evolution/creation controversy because evolution does not attempt to explain creation. Evolution assumes the creation of space/time and matter/energy has already taken place. What evolution attempts to do is to explain how once these things were created they were changed into the life-forms we observe today. There is an old joke about the atheist and God having a contest in which the winner will be the one who creates the best form of life. As the contest starts the atheist reaches down and gets a handful of dirt and says, “OK, I will go first,” whereupon God says, “Now wait a minute, that’s my dirt.”

The argument is that scientific evidence supports the fact that there was a beginning to the cosmos that we observe and the beginning had to be caused by an entity that exists outside of space and time. That entity would have set the parameters that allow space/time and matter/energy to exist in a way that sentient life could exist.

THE ATHEIST RESPONSE — Popular atheist writers like Stephen Hawking have responded that they can propose theories that allow matter/energy to come into existence out of nothing. There have also been proposals of things like 11th-dimensional superstrings that have mathematical models showing they could theoretically produce tangible matter given the proper combinations of these equations. It has also been proposed that infinite numbers of universes may exist, and ours just happens to be the one with the parameters necessary for sentient life to exist.

WHERE DOES THE EVIDENCE LEAD? — Before we go any further, let me remind the reader that we are talking about scientific evidence. To be a valid scientific proposal one must be able to falsify the proposal and test it in some way. (This is known as “the scientific method.” See the article on page 20 about Francis Bacon, an advocate of this method.) Much of the atheist rhetoric in this area is simply not science, because it cannot be tested or falsified in any way. String theory has so many possible solutions to the equations that apply, that it is not a valid proposal. (For more information on this see *Science News*, 6/9/07, page 361; “Unraveling of String Theory” by Michael Lemonick, *Time*, 8/21/06, page 55; “Tangled Up in Strings” by Bob Berman, *Astronomy*, January 2006, page 16; and *The Trouble With Physics: The Rise of String Theory, The Fall of a Science, and What Comes Next* by Lee Smolin.)





The concept of multiple universes is another untestable proposal, but the number of required universes becomes another issue. Forty years ago we knew of a few parameters that had to be satisfied for stable matter to exist in such a way that life could exist. Our work in modern science has shown us that the Drake equation predicting the number of life-supporting planets in our galaxy with its several variables, was vastly conservative in how many parameters actually

exist. We have a list of 47 parameters originally compiled by Dr. Hugh Ross in a paper titled “Limits for the Universe” available at www.doesgodexist.org/Charts/EvidenceForDesign-InTheUniverse.html or use this QR code. When the calculations are made of how many universes would be required before all of these parameters are satisfied, the number exceeds any level of statistical significance. We will continue this discussion in the next area of evidence.



Even if one is to accept any of these proposals and theories, the fundamental question remains. Quantum mechanics has shown us that there is a level where Newtonian physics no longer applies. Principles of simultaneity and “Shroedinger’s Cat” that is theoretically alive and dead at the same time are fascinating and may lie at the base of how the creation of the cosmos took place, but the origin of these new concepts and the dimensions that govern them is still not answered. The old analogy of an explosion in a junk yard producing a car is not far off here. I may know how the car works and what it takes to make one, but suggesting that the car came into existence without an intelligence to direct its formation and functioning at a higher level than the car just does not work logically. If a robot assembles the car, the design of that robot becomes the issue and that is our next argument.

DESIGN EVIDENCE

THE ARGUMENT—The question of design has been mishandled so badly by atheists and religionists alike that the most basic question has largely been lost. In simple terms the design argument simply asks, “Is it reasonable to believe that the cosmos we observe could have come into existence by blind mechanistic chance?” The question of evolution has been thrown into this discussion in such a way that the argument has gotten lost. Many evolutionists like Francis

Collins, the former director of the “Human Genome Project”, are fundamental believers in God and in Christianity. What this degenerates into is a theological debate about how we interpret the Bible. While that is an important topic it is not related to the evidence for the existence of God.

The design argument for God’s existence functions at different levels. On an intuitive level the question is an emotional one. For example, can you watch the birth of a baby and believe that what you have just witnessed is a product of mindless processes in the natural world? On a philosophical level questions arise about the role of the observer on the outcome of a process and whether without an observer the final event would have been completed. The “Intelligent Design” movement has taken the question to a mathematical level asking if statistically it is possible to believe that chance and time alone can produce the complexity we see in all areas of observation. Calculations have been made on the chance happening of any number of events that are seen as unlikely by believers in God such as the production of a stable atom, the origin of life, the evolutionary processes going from an amino acid to DNA, or the complexity of the human brain. In all cases authors have been able to show that the probabilities are vastly beyond the Dirac probability limit for acceptable production by mindless chance. Antony Flew was especially impressed with the complexity of life occurring by chance following the chemical sequence proposed by the Miller-Urey experiment. The winner of the Nobel Prize for the discovery of the helix structure of DNA, Francis Crick, even proposed “directed panspermia” — the theory that aliens seeded life on the earth. Of course, this leaves the question of where the aliens came from. The design argument is that all calculations done show that the probabilities are beyond what can rationally be accepted as mathematically possible by mere chance.

THE ATHEIST RESPONSE — Most atheist responses to the design argument have been that the calculations are contrived. One suggestion has been that these are *ad hoc* arguments — that we are here, so any calculation begs the question of how we got here. Another charge is that not all of the variables in these calculations are independent. If every star in the creation has planets by virtue of the method by which the star was formed, then the number of possible planets is virtually infinite, greatly improving the odds. Another suggestion is that as our knowledge gets better, naturalistic methods of producing the desired final product become more feasible. We now know for example that amino acids, the building blocks of life, are produced and exist in interstellar space. The Miller-Urey hypothesis dealt with the production of amino acids, so all of the arguments about the formation of life by chance get better if the building blocks exist before we start any formation of life.

The final argument by most atheists would be that if the universe is infinite and if there is infinite time available, then anything can happen. No matter what the odds are, such as the odds of drawing an ace of spades out of a cold deck of cards, if you draw 52 times out of a deck of 52 cards the odds are high that at least one of those times you will draw the ace of spades. The argument would be that in an infinite universe anything can happen no matter what the odds are.

WHERE DOES THE EVIDENCE LEAD? — We have already pointed out that we cannot discuss what we do not know. It is true that in the past some design arguments have started with what we see in the world around us and try to work back to how it got to be the way it is. That is not the case in most modern design arguments in apologetics. If we start with the “big bang” and ask what the odds are of any kind of life coming into existence by chance alone then we are not demanding that the life be like us. We are also mandating that we do not have infinite time or infinite space! If the big bang happened 13.7 billion years ago then the time and the volume of space available for life to be formed in is limited. If space is isotropic then the volume would be the volume of a sphere with a radius of 13.7 billion light years.

While it is true that some parameters in any design argument might be related to other parameters, in the major design examples that are given it does not seem possible for probability functions to be linked. No one has suggested that the Planck constant, the velocity of light, the gravitational coupling constant, the electromagnetic coupling constant, and the strong and weak nuclear-force constants are directly related to each other in the production of a single atom from the big-bang conditions. Research on the proposed “God particle” uses these constants but does not explain their origin. (See the News and Notes article “The God Particle” on page 31.)

The calculations that have been done on various probability functions, especially in the areas of space and nuclear physics, no matter who did the calculations, have always been in the range of one chance in ten to the 600th power or more. All calculations of the number of baryons (nuclear building particles) in the universe have been in the range of ten to the 60th power. There is such a vast difference between these two numbers that the magnitude of size and mass in the cosmos seem to be a moot point.

ONTOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

THE ARGUMENT — *Webster’s Dictionary* defines ontology as “the branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being or reality.” Ontology investigates what exists or what can be said to exist based on certain feelings or human principles and faculties. The question in simple terms is, “Why do humans worship God?” Why do we even

conceptualize the idea of a supreme being? What makes us aware of self? Why do we propose and value morality of any kind? What gives us the capacity to express ourselves in art, music, poetry, literature, politics, and all the other ways that distinguish us from the animal world around us? If chimpanzees and gorillas have a genetic makeup that is over 90% the same as ours, why do these primates not do 90% of the things that humans do? Man's unique creation "in the image of God" is claimed to be a testimony to the fact that God does exist and we are uniquely made in God's image.



THE ATHEIST RESPONSE — In recent years there have been extensive studies designed to show that all of the processes described above are just functions of the human brain. There has even been a suggestion that there is a “god lobe” in the brain which gives us this capacity. It has also been suggested that animals may do these things, but just do not do them as we do them. It is claimed that whales and birds do sing to each other and that there are moral codes in animal behavior, but we just do not understand these codes and thus assume they do not exist.

WHERE DOES THE EVIDENCE LEAD? — The difficulty in this area is that everyone tends to be guilty of anthropomorphizing the animals in the world around us. We interpret what animals do as human expressions when in fact the animal is not doing anything that remotely approaches what humans do. Birds singing, for example, is not an exercise in artistic creation of expression as it is with humans. The beautiful cardinal singing away outside your window in the spring is sending out a warning to all other male cardinals to stay out of his territory and away from his mate, or else. We attach human emotions to things like bird songs, whale chirps, and wolf howls, and that tends to cloud the picture no matter what side of the debate we may be on.

Animals can be trained to do almost anything if the training is done in such a way that it is congruent with the animal's survival patterns. Animals raised in human homes with human artifacts do not become humans even when their intelligence is very high. Tragic attacks have occurred numerous times when these animals had a stimulus that triggered a survival instinct behavior. Those of us with children who are mentally challenged know personally that intelligence is not related to spiritual, artistic, or musical expression. Studies of brain

patterns in animals and humans under varied social circumstances do not show a “god lobe” or a “god response section” to the brain.

The evidence does not support the claim that ontological evidence indicates an animal cause to all human behavior including worship, artistic creativity, and conceptualization of self. This is a field of intense scientific research, so the picture will undoubtedly clarify in the years ahead.

PAIN AND SUFFERING

THE ATHEIST ARGUMENT—Our final point is the reverse of what we have done previously. This is a negative claim made by atheists to “prove” God does not exist. The claim here is that the reality of our existence demonstrates that in the words of Richard Dawkins, “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good. Nothing but blind pitiless indifference.” (*River Out of Eden* [New York: BasicBooks, 1995] page 133.) This argument against the existence of God maintains that if God exists, he would not allow the tragedies of life to happen—the natural disasters, the disease, the violence, the inhumanity of humans to fellow humans, and the pain that all of this brings.

THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE—Christians have maintained that there are beneficial products to pain and suffering. The claim is that pain and suffering allow growth and discipline to be developed. The fact that this life is not all there is and that something better lies in the future when this life is over, makes the atheist challenge of little significance.

WHERE DOES THE EVIDENCE LEAD?—First of all, those things that humans have done in opposition to what God has told us to do cannot be a part of this discussion. God cannot be held accountable for our stupidity and selfishness. The fact is that atheists offer no solution to the question of pain and suffering at all. Suggesting indifference is not a solution to anything. The fact that God allows us to have freedom of choice, choosing whether or not to live as God commands, is what allows real love to exist. Love can only exist if there is choice. Sexual “love” without choice, for example, is called rape and has nothing to do with love. The support and service of people of like mind when we face pain and suffering offers practical help in dealing with problems in life. The fact that having experienced a tragedy allows us to use that experience as a ministry to bring fulfilling work and purpose to life makes Christianity uniquely practical in addressing problems and suffering. Above all, pain and suffering from a Christian perspective means we have a purpose in existing—something that the atheist cannot entertain. God’s purpose

in creating us makes everything in life an opportunity to serve—even the unpleasant things that happen.

From an evidence standpoint, the Christian response to all problems of pain and suffering has supported their position. Major

relief of all kinds is dominated by Christian groups whatever the tragedy or problem is. Homeless shelters, treatment centers for diseases, disaster relief programs, food programs, hospitals, care facilities, care programs for mentally and physically



handicapped, substance abuse programs, women’s shelters, orphanages, elderly care facilities, and educational institutions have been dominated by Christian organizations and churches.

In this oversimplified and generalized treatment we have simply tried to make some general comparisons. Previous issues of this journal and our web sites go into each of these areas in more detail. The evidence is massive, and we have just tried to hint at a small part of it. For more information we encourage you to go to one of our websites.

—JNC

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITES —

FOR EVIDENCES OF GOD
DoesGodExist.org



FOR VIDEOS OF GOD’S EXISTENCE
DoesGodExist.tv

FOR THE PROBLEM OF PAIN AND SUFFERING
WhyPain.org



TO LEARN ABOUT GOD’S CREATION
DandyDesigns.org
ScienceTerrific.com



APATHEISM

by Wayne Turner

Editor's note: The following article was an editorial in *Gospel Herald*, published in Toronto, Canada. We thought the message was important and Wayne Turner gave us permission to share it with you.

According to the old story, a teacher asked his class, “What is apathy?” A bored, disinterested student replied, “I don’t know, and I don’t care.” That pretty much sums it up. Apathy, from the Greek, identifies someone as being without feeling or emotion — indifferent.



In the past, we have seen the results from various surveys of the religious landscape of North America. They have shown the relative decline of many of the “mainstream” denominations, the rise in other religions, and more recently, the

increasing numbers who identify themselves religiously as “nothing” or “none.” Over the past several years we have seen the arrival of a new, very outspoken and aggressive atheism which has been advanced by very articulate exponents. More recently, a new grouping has been identified. Technically, these people might be included under the umbrella of atheism. However, while many atheists have consciously rejected belief in God or religion, this group does not even want to think about whether or not there is a God, an afterlife, or any real meaning to existence. They are spiritually apathetic. Cathy Lynn Grossman of *USA Today*, in “For many, ‘Losing My Religion’ isn’t just a song: it’s life” (12/25/2011), sums up their attitude as “So what?” and observes that the “So Whats appear to be a growing secular subset.” These people are being called “apatheists.”

No one really seems to know for sure where the term originated other than that it came into use sometime after 2000. Obviously, people with these views (or rather lack of views) are not a new development. What is new is that they are now being identified as a separate grouping. As Grossman observed, “Researchers have begun asking the kind



of nuanced questions that reveal just how big the So What set might be . . .” She mentions a 2011 Baylor University religion survey that reported 44% of their respondents do not spend any time seeking “eternal wisdom.” Nineteen percent said, “It’s useless to search for meaning.” She also noted a LifeWay Research survey where 46% do not wonder whether

they will go to heaven.

Hermant Mehta is an active atheist rather than apatheist. In his blog, “Friendly Atheist,” he wrote, “as much as I’d love to see more people take on the cause of many atheists . . . I don’t mind people who don’t care at all. With one caveat: as long as the Apatheists appreciate that many of us (i.e. atheists—WT) take the issue very seriously . . . and don’t go out of their way to stop us from advocating our own positions.” Later he says, “It’s weird for me to support ignorance (or active avoidance) of the issue . . . but the Apatheists aren’t the ones who give us trouble. It’s the vocal believers . . . who are the problem. They’re the ones we need to go after.”

The growth of apatheism represents a significant challenge for Christians. In the past, we could at least try to engage atheists in discussion and debate about the evidence for the existence of God. They approach their beliefs with similar conviction and passion as believers. How can we approach people who are not willing to discuss or even think about the deeper, more important questions of life? Apatheists do not care whether God exists or not. The typical “whatever” attitude of post-modernism appears to have become the “so what?” of apatheism.

Grossman presents the conclusions of David Kinnaman, author of *You Lost Me*. Young people today are part of a culture that “celebrates an idea that all truths are equally valid” and are not interested in following or “trying to talk a diverse



set of friends into a shared viewpoint.” Then he adds, “personal experience, personal authority matter most. Hence Scripture and tradition are quaint, irrelevant artifacts.” Instead of following Jesus, they want to follow their “friends” on Facebook.

We might wonder, if at least in part, at the root of apatheism is that many people have never been exposed to anything spiritually worth caring about. How many are reacting to religious stereotypes?



How many have tried various churches only to find them as apathetic and empty as the secular world? Obviously an apathetic church has nothing to offer an apathetic world.

While there are many questions about how we can effectively respond to apatheism that we need to answer, it seems evident that the clear demonstration of practical Christianity must be an important part of it. For many years we have repeated, “I’d rather see a sermon than hear one.” Non-Christians should see in us, as individuals and congregations, the consistent practice of Christ and God’s Word. Jesus described his kingdom as a pearl and a treasure — something of such great value and beauty, that when a person sees them, he or she will give up everything to acquire them.

The apatheists may resist hearing about Christ but can they avoid seeing him?

*Let your light so shine before
men, that they may see your good
works and glorify your Father
which is in heaven.*

—Jesus (Matthew 5:16)

GOD'S OTHER BOOK

by Eugene A. Poirier

The Bible is our book from God
In this our Christian land.
We place it on our bookshelves
And in our pastors' hands.
Most people own a copy
With a leather-covered back.
But when it comes to reading it
We find there is a lack.
When people watch a Christian's life
They see the things we do.
They read our actions like a book
And watch our dealings too.
They hear our words, they see our deeds,
They listen, watch and look.
Within our lives, through daily walk
They read God's other book.



Editor's note: Mr. Poirier is one of a large number of prisoners who are taking the **Does God Exist?** correspondence course. He sent us this hand-written poem, and we hope you will take its message to heart.

SCIENTISTS AND GOD

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Tihomir Dimitrov on the nobelists.net website for quotations from many of the founders of modern science who were also fundamental believers in the God of the Bible. As we share these quotations we are reminded that being a good scientist is not at odds with belief in God.

SIR FRANCIS BACON

1561-1626

English Philosopher, Statesman, Scientist, and Advocate of the Scientific Method

“There are two books laid before us to study, to prevent our falling into error; the first, the volume of the Scriptures, which reveal the will of God; then the volume of the creatures, which express His power.”

“It is true, that a little philosophy inclineth man's mind to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds around to religion. For while the mind of man looketh upon second causes scattered, it may sometimes rest in them, and go no further; but when it beholdeth the chain of them, confederate and linked together, it must needs fly to Providence and Deity.”

“The first creature of God, in the works of the days, was the light of sense; the last, was the light of reason; and his sabbath work ever since, is the illumination of his Spirit. First he breathed light, upon the face of matter or chaos; then he breathed light, into the face of man; and still he breatheth and inspireth light, into the face of his chosen.”



Portrait of Francis Bacon by Frans Pourbus (1617)

Cynthia's Corner



Editor's Note: We appreciate the large number of you who have written telling us how much you appreciate this column, and how many of you feel this adds a "warm, human, personal" touch to articles that sometimes seem to be scientific and intellectual in approach to the issues of today. Thanks for encouraging my wife. — John Clayton

John and I just celebrated our third anniversary. Our first two anniversaries we took turns at having surgeries, so being together and well was a blessing. We are grateful to God for all he has done in our lives and marriage so far. We have had big and little adjustments to make to our new life together. We are learning every day about each other and about ourselves. As a follower of Jesus, I need to remind myself to concentrate on changing me instead of focusing on the minor things I would like John to change. I need to remember I am not the one to cause change in John.

As Christians, it is God's Spirit that works in us to change us from the inside out. Obedience to God's Word and prayer is necessary for that to happen. One scripture I think is especially hard for wives to obey and trust is 1 Peter 3:1–6 which says we can win our husbands over (this is not limited to just bringing him to Christ) without a word being spoken by our behavior if we are reflecting a quiet and gentle spirit, living without fear, and trusting God. We cannot have a quiet and gentle spirit if we are worried and upset by many things. And we cannot be submissive to our husbands (Ephesians 5:22) if we are not in submission to God first. We have to get our hearts, minds, and actions right with God in order to influence our husbands, families, the church, and the world. It starts with me. I have to remove the "plank" in me before I look for the "speck" in someone else (Matthew 7:3–5).

I am especially convicted of this after being blessed to attend the Spiritual Growth Workshop in Orlando, Florida, at the end of June where the **Does God Exist?** ministry had a booth and John was asked to speak and conduct question/answer sessions. The emphasis on personal spiritual growth and not being ashamed to follow Jesus was life-changing. I pray that God will bless John and me with many more years together, and that I can be a blessing to him and my family. I pray that I can know and fulfill the purposes God has for me.

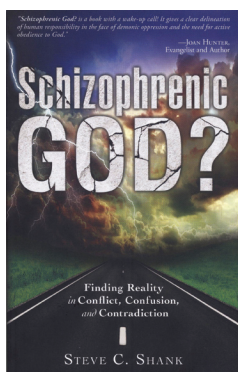
—Cynthia Clayton



The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

Schizophrenic God?

by Steve C. Shank, Destiny Image Publishers, © 2012,
219 pages, \$15.00 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-0-7684-4082-9



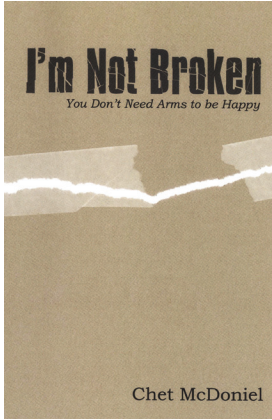
One major misunderstanding for both atheists and believers is whether man has free will. Does God know everything in advance of when it happens? Why does God allow evil? How does God's sovereignty function in our lives? This book is divided into two sections. The first is titled "Why?" In this section Shank develops a contrast between what he calls "the extreme sovereignty view" in which God's will essentially makes us robots who have no control and what Shank calls "the Jesus worldview." In this reader's view Shank does a good job of pointing out that we are in control of our lives and are active in determining our eternal destiny. That is what Shank calls the "Jesus worldview."

The second section of the book is titled "What About ...?" This anticipates questions and challenges to the notion that we are in control. Human suffering is a major area and Shank has an excellent treatment of the book of Job. The biggest weakness of this section is an endorsement of Pentecostal-type miraculous healing. This leads into an area of discussion that detracts from the basic theme of why bad things happen to good people.

This is not a useful book for helping atheists or skeptics with the issue of why God allows bad things to happen and why we exist. The argument is totally biblical and then veers off into claims of miraculous healing which will stop an atheist from accepting the author's position. However, Christians who want a biblical perspective on the Christian world will find it useful. We are not robots and free will does in fact function in our choices and their consequences. We recommend this book to Christians seeking understanding in this vital area.

I'm Not Broken

by Chet McDoniel, You Don't Need Arms, LLC, ©2009,
(available from chetmcdoniel.com), 85 pages,
\$15.95 (paperback), ISBN 978-1441428981



The **Does God Exist?** ministry has responded over the years in many ways to atheist challenges that there cannot be a God who would create man with all of the tragedy and pain that is in the world. One of those ways has been to tell the stories of people who have undergone tragedy and problems in life. When our son Tim was born blind, mentally challenged, schizophrenic, and with cerebral palsy we told our story in a booklet titled *Timothy: My Son and My Teacher*. That was followed by *The Whiner's Guide to Chemotherapy* by Judy Hines Ragsdale telling of battles with cancer; *I'd Offer You My Seat ... but It's Taken*

by Ralph Scott dealing with being confined to a wheelchair for life; *Living Successfully With Diabetes* by my wife Phyllis after 60 years of insulin-dependent diabetes and its complications; and in 2006 *All He Needs for Heaven* by Jim McDoniel telling his story of having a baby born with no arms and no upper legs. That baby was born in 1980 and is now a young man who is doing lectures and conducting seminars on living with problems of all kinds. This book is one he has written — subtitled “You Don't Need Arms to be Happy.”

Do you want an enjoyable read that will make you smile and give you advice for living successfully in spite of problems and disasters? If so, you will love this book. It shows from a Christian perspective, that happiness is a choice. In fact, that is the title of one chapter. Other chapters are “Use What You Have;” “Adjust Your Priorities;” “Invest Yourself in Others;” “Don't Whine;” “Smile as if the World Depends On It — Because It Does;” “The Wrong Side of the Bed;” “Who Is Broken;” and “Define Broken.” Chet speaks from experience, from a dedicated commitment to God, and from a positive outlook on life. The book is only 85 pages and draws on his experiences as a travel agency owner, husband, father, and lecturer. We recommend this book highly.

ADDRESS CHANGE? To remain on our mailing list, please give us both your old and new addresses with both zip codes at least six to eight weeks before the move, if at all possible. Thanks!



DANDY DESIGNS

Bubble-Rafting Snails

God has designed life so that it can be found everywhere on our planet. Many times what is useful on land is not useful in the sea and vice-versa, but sometimes it just has to be modified in its design to enable it to function. Most of us are familiar with snails. We have seen land snails in our gardens and know that their scientific name, *Gastropoda*, pretty well describes how they function. *Gastro* refers to their digestive system and *pod* refers to their foot. This snail secretes a slime or mucus which



Snail washed upon shore.

it slides along giving it its slow locomotion on land. This slime also sends out chemical signals to others of its species.

In the ocean there is a family of snails called *Janthinidae* which uses the slime to form rafts. The snail folds its foot around a pocket of air making a bubble. The bubble is then attached to other bubbles making a floating raft which becomes a home to the female snail and eventually to a mate. The snails can produce a bubble a minute.

The design of the snails to allow this unique method of living and reproducing is remarkable. The snails not only have mucus secretions that allow the trapping and attaching of air, but they do not have gravity-sensing organs so they can live anywhere on the raft and not have the limitation of having to respond to gravity to eat or move. The snails are hermaphroditic, meaning that all of this species of snails eventually become females at adulthood. When the babies are produced they are larvae which simply tumble into the ocean. Being less dense than sea water they bob around until they are able to produce their own rafts.

Romans 1:20 tell us that we can know there is a God “through the things that are made.” The design of creatures like the bubble-rafting snails challenge our imagination, not only to conceive of a creature that can live uniquely in a difficult environment, but can be engineered and constructed to have all the tools needed to survive successfully. Source: *National Geographic*, April 2012, page 23.

ROACHES AND ROBOTICS

Amir Ayali is a professor of zoology at Tel Aviv University and has been working with collaborating scientists at Princeton on the engineering principles used by cockroaches. Ayali is employing these principles in advanced robotics. What the researchers are doing is to look deeply into the neurological functioning to help them design robots “with a more compact build and greater efficiency in terms of energy, time, robustness and rigidity.”

Cockroaches have what is called “a tripod gate.” They are supported by at least three legs at all times when they are moving, providing greater stability on every kind of terrain. Ayali says their speed and agility is almost too good to be true. The researchers are interested in how sensory feedback from one leg is translated into the coordination of all the other legs. Insects utilize information from the environment around them to determine how they will move, and sensors give them data about the terrain they are encountering and how they should approach it. How this information gets transferred to the insect’s leg is what the researchers are interested in so they can mimic the cockroach’s locomotion.



In addition to cockroaches the researchers are looking at other insects and even caterpillars as resources for information to lead to more advanced robotics. Locusts have an unusual aerodynamic build and energy metabolism for long-distance flight, and recordings of their nervous systems and videos of their flight have led to better technology for miniscule flying robots. Caterpillars are useful in building soft bodied robots with what scientists call “endless degrees of freedom of movement.”

Ayali and his fellow researchers say that the superior robotics that they are developing can be used to explore new terrain in outer space. As the problems of sending humans into space become more obvious the use of robots to do our exploring becomes the future of space exploration. Many huge developments in science and engineering have happened because the researchers knew that the design and development of things in nature work and have been put in place with incredible intelligence and purpose. Even the lowly cockroach has some things to teach us about both robotics and about God. Source: <http://www.scientificcomputing.com/news-DS-Roaches-Inspire-Advanced-Robotics-020811.aspx>.

News and Notes

FLOOD EVIDENCE. It is becoming increasingly difficult for skeptics of the Bible to maintain that the Bible is just a collection of ancient myths with no credibility or support. In the past several months several secular magazines have run major articles which lend credence to the biblical account. In the July-August 2012 issue of *Discover* magazine (page 42) is an article by David Montgomery titled “Traces of the Great Flood.” While Montgomery goes to great lengths to deny that things like the Grand Canyon were formed by a flood (correctly so), he does show that many places on the earth show that massive flooding has taken place. The issues to the extent of the flood of Noah and what effect that flood would have on the morphology of the earth remain unanswered, but relegating the biblical account of the flood to myth is extremely hard to do if one looks at all the evidence with an open mind.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRESS. In a similar vein, archeological discoveries continue to bolster confidence in the biblical account. *Biblical Archaeology Review* and its editor Hershel Shanks have not always been supporters of the integrity of the Bible, but in the past year it seems there has been a change in the magazine’s approach. In the July/August 2012 issue are three articles that have a positive relationship with Scripture. Shanks maintains that the inscription on a burial box that identifies the inhabitant as “brother of Jesus” is valid and not a modern day forgery, and in a recent trial the owner of the box was exonerated of forgery by a Jewish court. Another article backs up 1 Kings 14:25 and its claim that King Shishak of Egypt marched against Jerusalem. A third article discusses how inscriptions help date the Psalms.

NATIONAL ATHEIST PARTY (NAP). Troy Boyle, a 45-year-old corporate legal representative, founded a political party based on the belief there is no God and that secularism is a viable belief system for social and political progress. The “Reason Rally” in Washington, D.C., March 24, 2012 that we mentioned in a previous issue of this column (July/August 2012, page 28) was a product of this group’s

activity. This group is registered as a 527 political party and planned a political convention October 5–6, 2012, but the convention has been moved to 2013 because of a lack of funds. When atheism is both a religion and a political party it is as dangerous as any extremist group. NAP is not napping. (See the article in this issue on page 29.) Source: TheBlaze.com, August 31, 1202.

DARK MATTER’S DESIGN. One of the great cosmological mysteries of today is the fact that we have galaxies spinning at such high velocities that they should be flying apart. The fact that they are not flying apart means something is holding the system together. Scientists believe that something is a massive cloud of a form of matter that does not interact with ordinary matter. This huge cloud is called “Weakly Interacting Massive Particles,” known by the acronym WIMPs. As our solar system passes through this cloud, the earth and everything on it are bombarded with WIMPs. In fact, billions of these particles pass through your body every second. They would blast us into bits if it were not for the fact that they do not interact with ordinary matter. Astrophysicists at the University of Michigan and Stockholm University report that cosmic rays and natural radioactive substances expose us to more radiation each second than we would receive from WIMPs in a lifetime. There is no need for us to fear dark matter or WIMPs. To design a particle that can be cosmic glue and hold everything together, and yet not interact with matter destroying it is such a complex issue that so far no one has designed a test to measure WIMPs. The complexity of the design of the cosmos is a great evidence for God and for his wisdom. Source: *Science News*, May 19, 2012, page 2.

TATTOO/PIERCING AND ALCOHOL USE. A difficult issue for many Christians is the issue of whether to do body piercing and tattoos or not. Data shows that at least a third of U.S. adults have non-earlobe piercings. Arguments against these practices center around whether they convey a negative image that the person presents a risk-taking life style — morally and socially. A new study shows that alcohol consumption is significantly higher in people with tattoos and piercings. A study of people exiting bars showed that women with piercings and tattoos had breath alcohol levels twice as high as women with no piercings or tattoos. The difference for men was significant, but not as great as for women. There are various ways to interpret this, but it could be an indication that people who get tattoos and piercings



have a propensity for taking health risks. There is an image that these practices convey and which we all need to consider. Source: *Science News*, May 19, 2012, page 4.

WHAT IS LIFE? There are a lot of articles in the press these days about how life got started on the earth. The public is being led to believe that life forms easily by chance processes, and that there are many different forms of life that are radically different from what we see on earth. Most of what is being presented is not very good science. Life is typically defined as that which can move, breathe, respond to outside stimuli, and reproduce. This definition has many problems, because some forms of things we feel are living do not fit the definition well. A jellyfish has no brain, no blood, no bones, and no heart. Its nervous systems is very elementary. It really is not a fish at all and is in fact 95% water. A virus does not breathe. Suggestions that life could be based on something other than carbon and oxygen do not work very well either. Other group IV elements in the periodic chart can do some of the chemical things that carbon can do, but their density and electronegativity do not allow them to do others. Life is special, unique, and carefully designed. We may find life elsewhere in space, but, like life on earth, planetary conditions and the life forms would have to be carefully matched. So far that does not seem very likely. Source: *Ocean Conservancy*, Spring 2012, page 7. (See also “How Many ‘Earths’ Are There?” on page 30.)

SWARM INTELLIGENCE AND THE MIND. In the *Smithsonian* magazine (March 2012, page 14) there is a fascinating article by Carl Zimmer about bee swarms and how decisions are made by the hive. Dr. Tom Seeley of Harvard University has been studying how swarms of bees make decisions. The method is quite simple in appearance. When a scout bee comes back to the hive it does a “dance” in the hive to tell the other bees where she has been and how good the place is. Seeley had set up five locations for a bee hive, with different conditions in each one. When a worker came back from the best

place the worker would make some 200 circuits or more wagging violently all the way. If the place was not as good there would be fewer circuits and less energetic wagging. All this would send another wave of bees to the place in question, and they would do what the first bee did. A third wave would then investigate



the place. Eventually the hive moved to the best place. The idea that the queen makes the decision is incorrect. The hive makes the decision and the queen obeys what the hive decides. Neuroscientists believe that the brain works in the same way. Single neurons make the first contact and other neurons join in, allowing a full decision to be made. God's design for the swarm and his guidance on how it can make good decisions helps us understand the natural world, and perhaps how our brains work as well.

ATHEISTS THREATEN EVICTION OF CHRISTIANS AT “REASON RALLY.” *Citizen* magazine (June/July 2012, page 8) reports that an atheist rally, called “Reason Rally,” held at the Washington Monument in March was anything but reasoning. Richard Dawkins was the main speaker and urged his fellow atheists to “ridicule and show contempt” for religious beliefs. Singer Tim Minchin was also featured and used 75 F-words in his presentation. A favorite sign carried at the rally was “So many Christians, so few lions.” When a Christian group called “True Reason” requested permission to take part they were threatened with eviction by security guards. David Silverman, head of American Atheists, said to them, “We are not going to D.C. for ‘dialogue’ with people who believe ridiculous things—we are going to have fun with other like-minded people.”

Later the same month an atheist soldier, Justin Griffith who is stationed at Fort Bragg, NC, organized what is described as “the first major atheist event on a U.S. military base.” Griffith’s argument to get the Army’s endorsement was that they had allowed and endorsed the Bill Graham Evangelistic Association program called “Rock the Fort” on September 25, 2010. Griffith is backed by the Freedom From Religion Foundation and other atheist groups.

Richard Dawkins was also a headliner at the Fort Bragg festival along with the rock band Aiden and singer/songwriter Roy Zimmerman. The elite skydiving team the U.S. Army Golden Knights performed, “despite the reluctance of some of the team’s Christian members.” Reports in *TheBlaze.com* said that the event was made possible by \$50,000 supplied by the U.S. Army and \$70,000 supplied by an atheist organization in Raleigh, NC. According to *TheBlaze.com* organizers had hoped for a crowd of 5,000 but there were “at least several hundred” who showed up. That makes it interesting to consider the cost per attendee.

Army Chaplain Chuck Williams pointed out that atheist rallies, like the ones at the Washington Monument and Fort Bragg, are using “government-owned venues to ridicule, mock, and disparage those of our fellow soldiers and family members who do profess a faith in God.” Sources: *Citizen* magazine, June/July 2012; *TheBlaze.com*, April 1, 2012; *MSNBC.com*, March 24, 2012.

THE GENOME AND DISEASE. A claimed benefit of constructing the human genome was that the information could be used to predict what diseases might cause a person's death. This was supposed to enable genetic engineering, and allow insurance companies to save money by refusing to insure people who had a genetic tendency for a particular disease. Johns Hopkins researchers have examined data from 53,666 identical twin pairs to see if the risk of 24 different diseases could be predicted. Since twins have the same genetic makeup, it was thought that they should have the same risk of these diseases, which included cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and Alzheimer's. The bottom line is that the genetic tendency just was not reliable. Epidemiologist Walter Willett of the Harvard School of Public Health said, "Basically, you can still do better just by putting somebody on the scales and asking about their smoking history." The indication is that our genes are not the only factor influencing our illnesses. Source: *Science News*, May 5, 2012, page 11.

HOW MANY "EARTHS" ARE THERE? Researchers studying the existence of planets going around other stars have catalogued over 700 planets so far, but a more general study shows that on the average every star in the galaxy has 1.6 planets. That number happens because some have no planets and some have at least ten planets. If that number is correct, that would mean that there are 100 billion planets in the Milky Way galaxy. So far the planets we see are way too big and have massive problems in their orbits and makeup to support life. The question is, "If there are 100 billion of them wouldn't one have the right conditions?" We can watch stars form, and we know that process produces a large amount of debris surrounding the new star. If what we see happening is what produced all of the stars in our galaxy it would seem possible that another planet like earth could form. It would be the right size, have the right spin, and be the right distance from the star. However, there would still be a vast number of other conditions necessary for life to be able to survive, such as the shape of the orbit, the distribution of water surface area, the chemical makeup, the sequence of chemical reactions, and the magnetic structure. We have a list of 47 such conditions that would be critical for life at www.doesgodexist.org/Charts/EvidenceForDesignInTheUniverse.html or use the QR code on page 10. All of those conditions could also have been met if an intelligence was involved in the formation of the system. The bottom line is that no matter how many planets are found going around other stars, there is no negative implication for arguments related to the existence of God. We are just learning more and more about the processes involved when "God created the heaven and the earth." Sources: *Science News*, February 25, 2012, page 12, and *Discover* magazine, March 2012, page 15.

COLOR IN LIVING THINGS. In the “Dandy Designs” column of our May/June 2012 issue we told about how bird feathers create beautiful colors without pigments. Along that line the May 2012 issue of *Scientific American* (page 76) has a fascinating article by Philip Ball on how various animals create color. We normally think that animal colors are made up of pigments, like paint. However, Ball describes seven different methods that animals use to create colors or to change color quickly. In butterfly wings there are reflecting layers made from a natural polymer called chitin separated by air sacks. In birds there are layers of rods made of melanin embedded in keratin (a protein you have in your fingernails). These layers separate colors of light and refract them at different angles. By changing the angles of the layers the colors can be changed. This method is used by the Lawe’s parotia bird to change its blue-green feathers to yellow with a slight movement. Another method is called the Christmas tree effect because it uses diffraction to scatter the colors. Swallowtail butterflies use light bouncing bowls to separate colors. Another butterfly called the emerald-patched cattleheart uses photonic crystals to select certain wavelengths of light to reflect. Certain sea worms use hollow fibers to reflect the red part of the spectrum giving them an iridescent red color. Hummingbirds and peacocks use deformed matrices to produce color and squids use reversible proteins. Research continues to see how man can use these designs, but the original design principles cannot be a product of chance, and speak eloquently of the methods of the Creator in everything we see on the earth.

HAS THE “GOD PARTICLE” BEEN FOUND? In July 2012 the news media went wild with the news that the Higgs boson, the so-called “God particle,” had been found. News reports carried statements like “Scientists 99.999% sure ‘God Particle’ has been found” and “Prepare the fireworks: the discovery of Higgs boson is finally here” and “the most important physics discovery of the century.” The *London Daily Mail* said, “Professor Higgs wipes a tear from his eye as fellow scientists find his ‘God particle’ on ‘momentous day for science’—40 years after he predicted its existence.” But what is this elusive particle and has it really been found? Higgs boson is a theoretical sub-atomic particle proposed by Peter Higgs in 1964 that supposedly gives mass to every other particle. Whether there really is such a particle and whether it has been found is being widely disputed at the time of this writing. Stay tuned for more.



This journal is a part of a program of service titled **Does God Exist?** The purpose of the program is to provide thinking, seeking people with scientific evidence that God does exist and that the Bible is His Word. It is our conviction that all men can logically and rationally believe in God. In addition to this bimonthly journal, the **Does God Exist?** program offers DVDs and video tapes, CDs and audio tapes, courses, books, and other materials. These materials are offered on a loan basis or at our cost. We also are more than willing to correspond with you and answer any specific question(s) you might have. If you would like further information on borrowing or purchasing these materials, we would be glad to send it to you. Check the boxes below to describe what you would like and mail it to us. We will get it right out to you.

Send request to:
Does God Exist?
 PO Box 2704
 South Bend, IN 46680-2704

*It's scientists vs. preachers,
 not science vs. the Bible.*

Please put me on your mailing list for your free bimonthly publication.

Please enroll me in your free basic correspondence course.

Please enroll me in your free intermediate correspondence course.

Please send me a catalog of other opportunities available through the **Does God Exist?** program.

Name _____

Street or PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____