

A Journey of Faith and Science

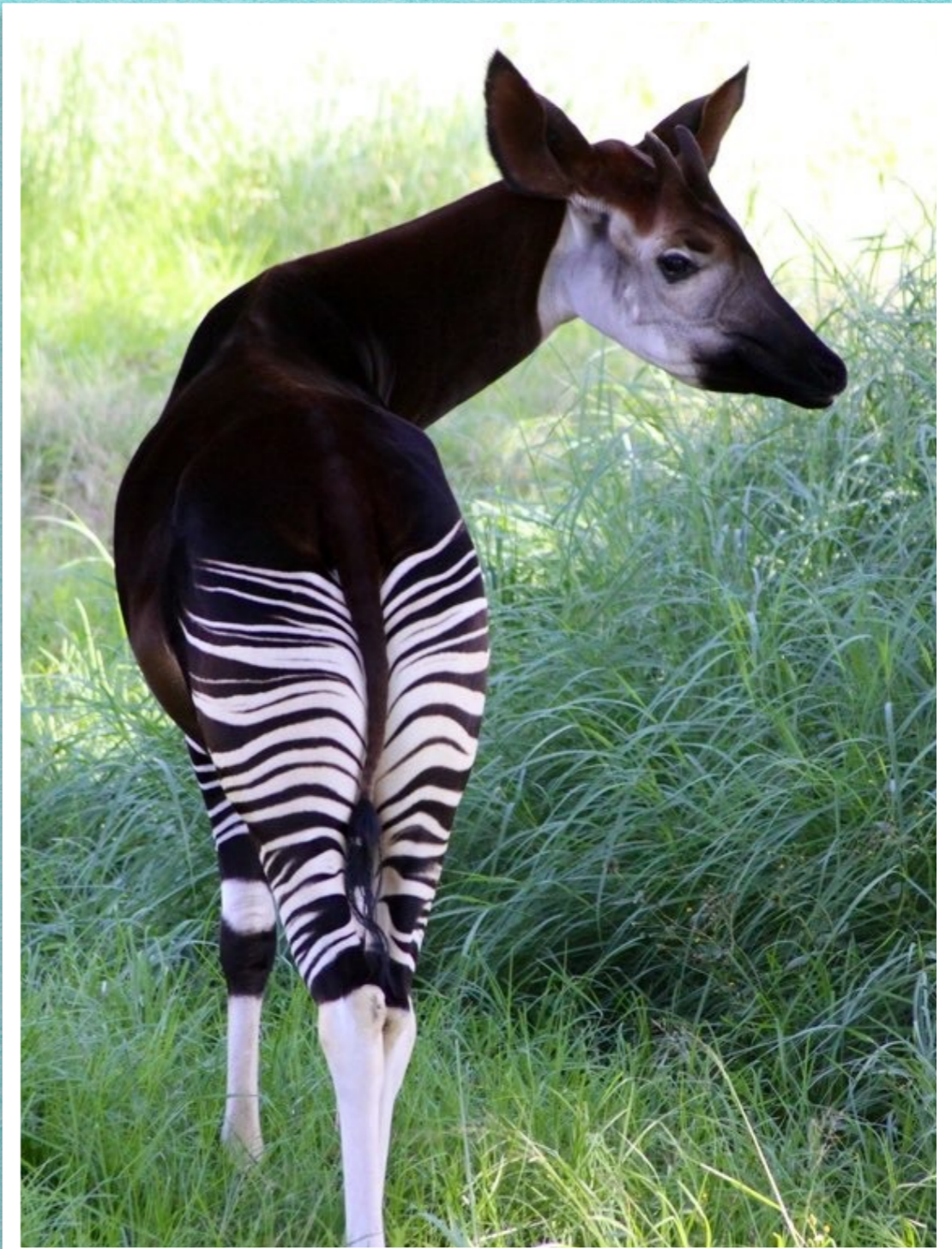
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Toward the end of my graduate studies in organic chemistry, the conflict that sometimes arises between science and faith presented itself. The closest friend that I had in a group of about 25 people was a brilliant post-doctoral fellow from Georgia, and we decided to take a day trip to the San Diego Zoo to get away from the pressures of the University.



Dr. Boyle

At the end of the day, as they were heading back, his friend began to speak about the okapi they had seen at the zoo, a giraffe-like animal with stripes on its legs reminiscent of a zebra.





Raul654

Okapi

His friend speculated about the evolution of this unique animal and when he detected, a reticence on Dr. Boyle's part, he said in surprise, "You don't believe in evolution, do you?"



Ken Bohn

The okapi has stripes like a zebra, the stocky body shape of a horse, and a tongue like a giraffe. Its neck is also similar to a giraffe. This combination of characteristics is supposed to be evidence of evolution.



Ken Bohn

The okapis are native to the deep forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



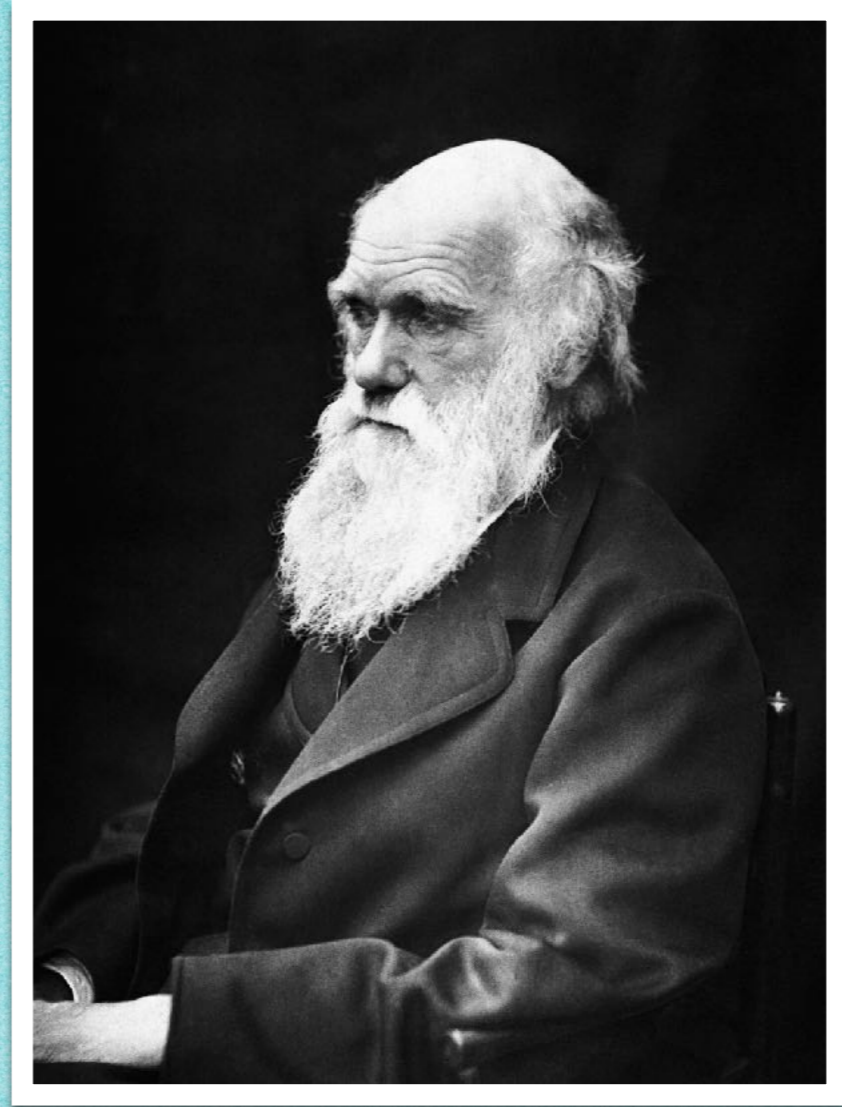
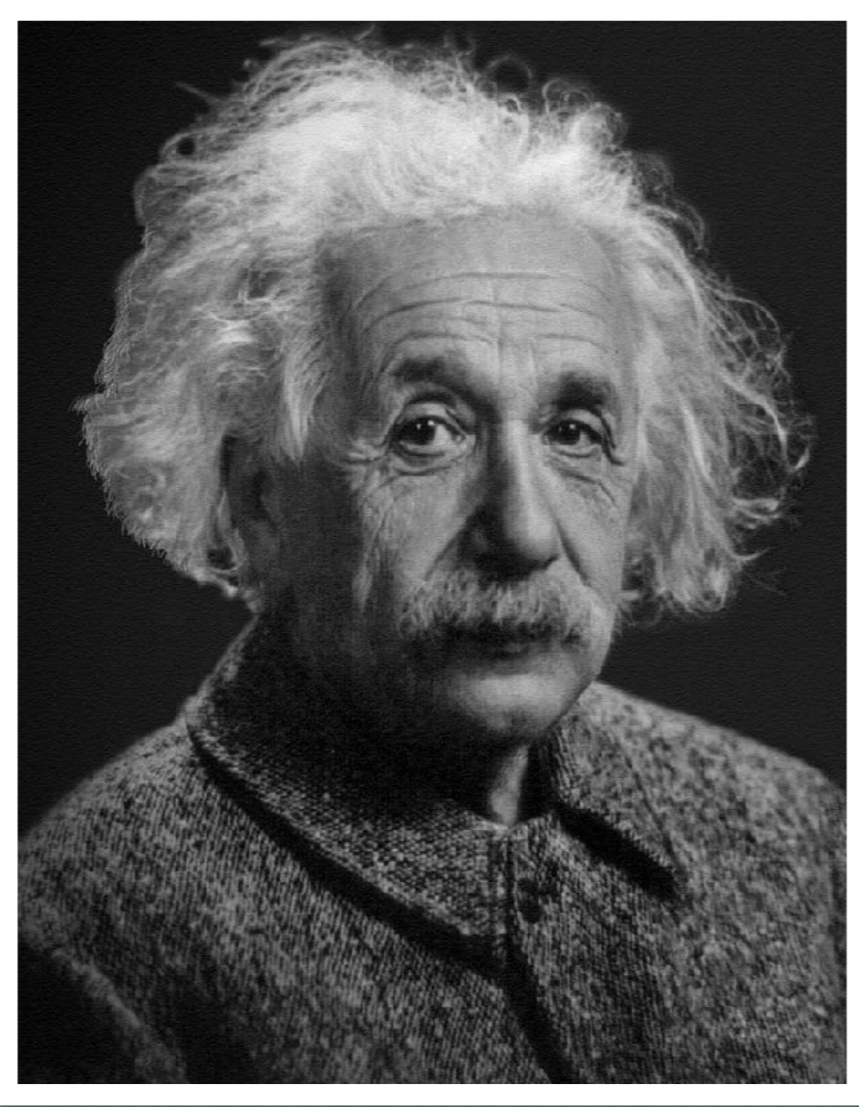


Okapis are hard to find in their habitat, for they are very wary, and their highly developed hearing alerts them when they hear humans in the distance, and they run. In fact, while the people of the Ituri Forest knew of okapis and would occasionally catch one in their pit traps, scientists did not know of okapis until 1900. The secretive nature of okapis and the difficulty most humans have traveling in okapi territory have made okapis hard to observe.

To see an okapi in Africa you would need to spend days or even weeks in the rainforest. And even then, you probably wouldn't see one, as they are very shy and elusive and live in a difficult habitat for humans to travel in.

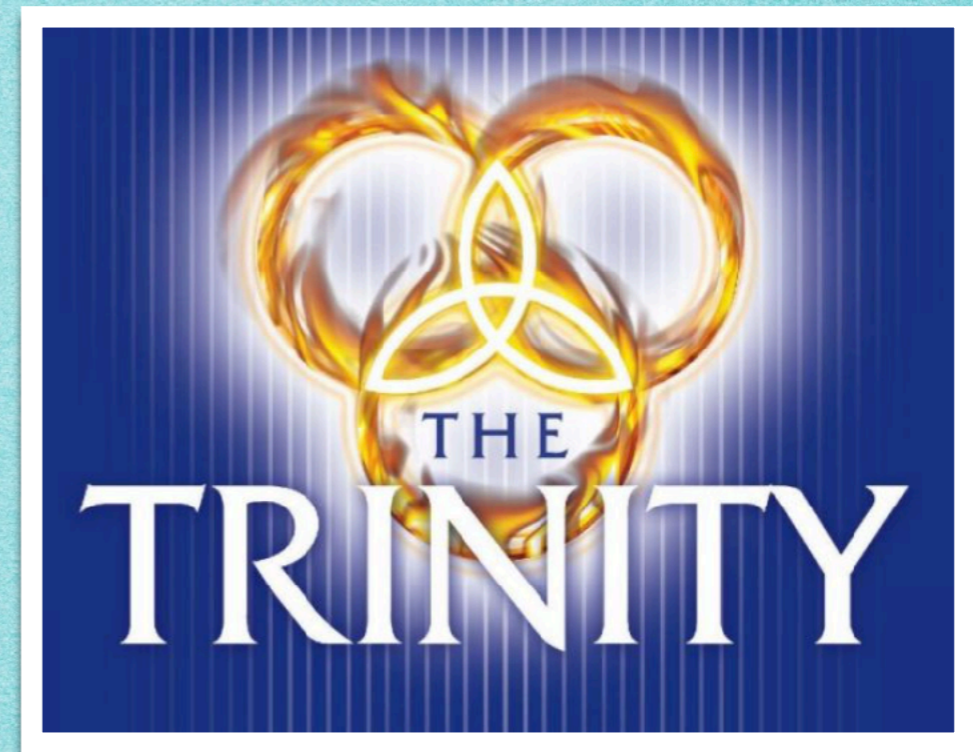
The okapi's dark purplish or reddish brown fur is dense and feels like velvet. It is also oily, so water slides right off, keeping the okapi dry on rainy days.

And they eat 40 to 65 pounds (18 to 29 kilograms) of leaves, twigs, and fruits each day.



My friend's shocked response to my faith in Creation speaks volumes regarding the perception of Darwinian evolution as undeniable and established **fact**, as opposed to a **theory** . . .

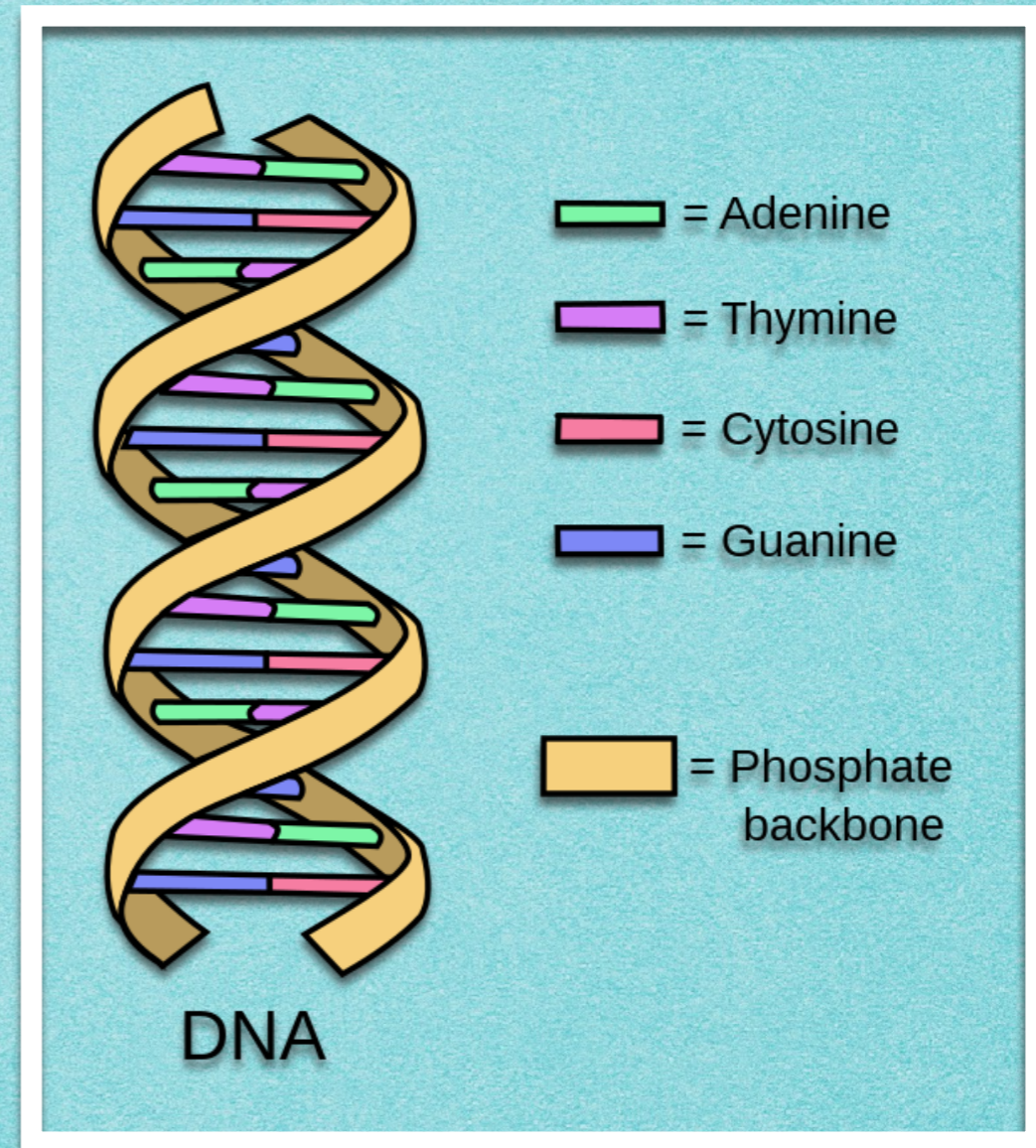
. . . a theory that can be legitimately challenged. A denial of Darwinian orthodoxy is often viewed by its advocates in much the same light as a denial of orthodoxy by any other religious person.



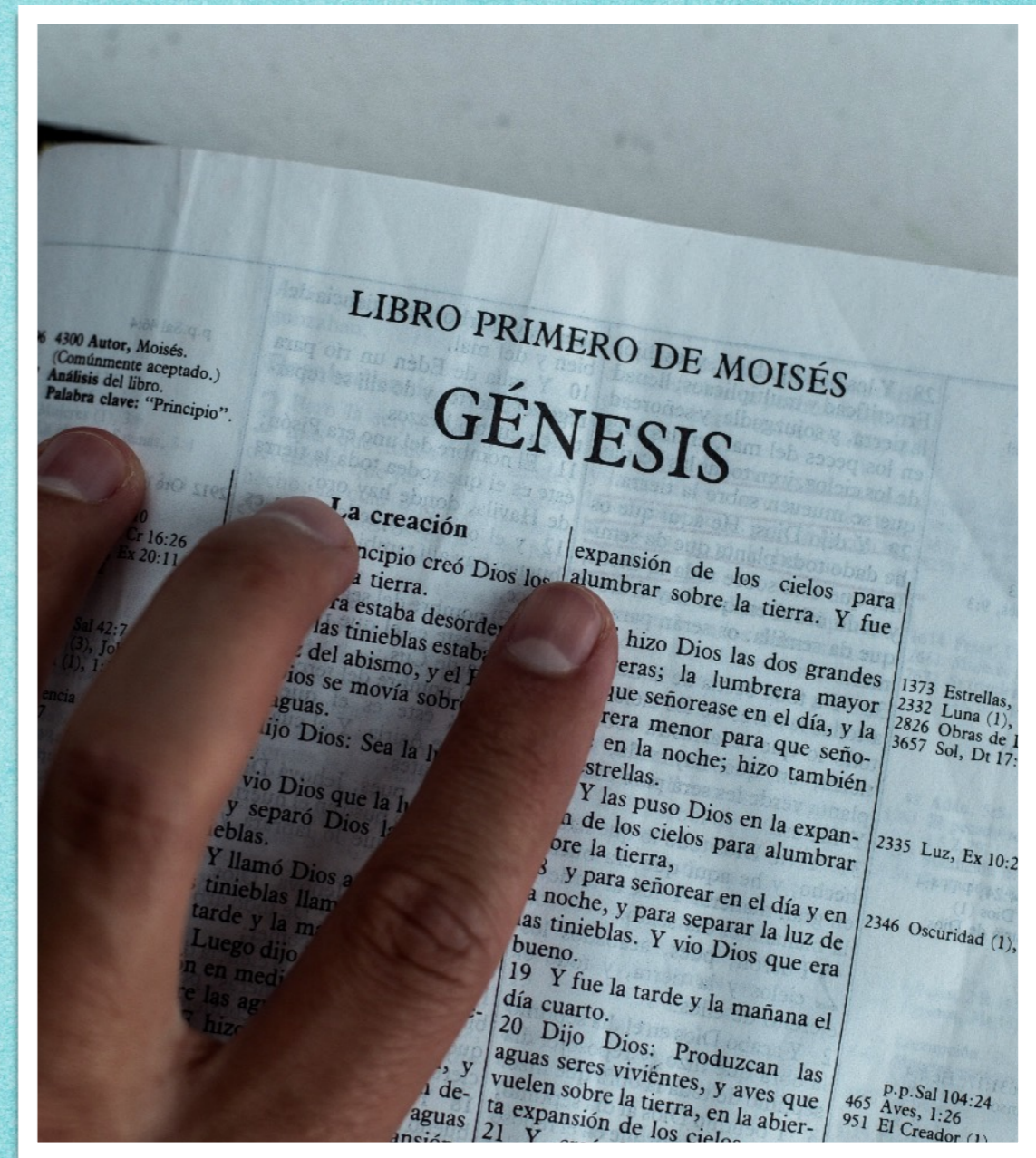


In the intervening years, science and faith have continued to play an important role in my life and I now teach medicinal chemistry and pharmacology at the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy. As opportunity presents itself, I try to explain to my students the ways in which complex and interdependent biochemical transformations, such as DNA synthesis . . .

DNA synthesis is the process in which adenine, thymine, cytosine, and guanine are linked together to form DNA.



... DNA synthesis defies an evolutionary stepwise origin and demand a Creator. I also try to explain to them why it matters that a Christian should believe that God is the Creator of life, as opposed to creation by the purposeless mutation/adaptation model espoused by the neo-Darwinian synthesis of evolution.

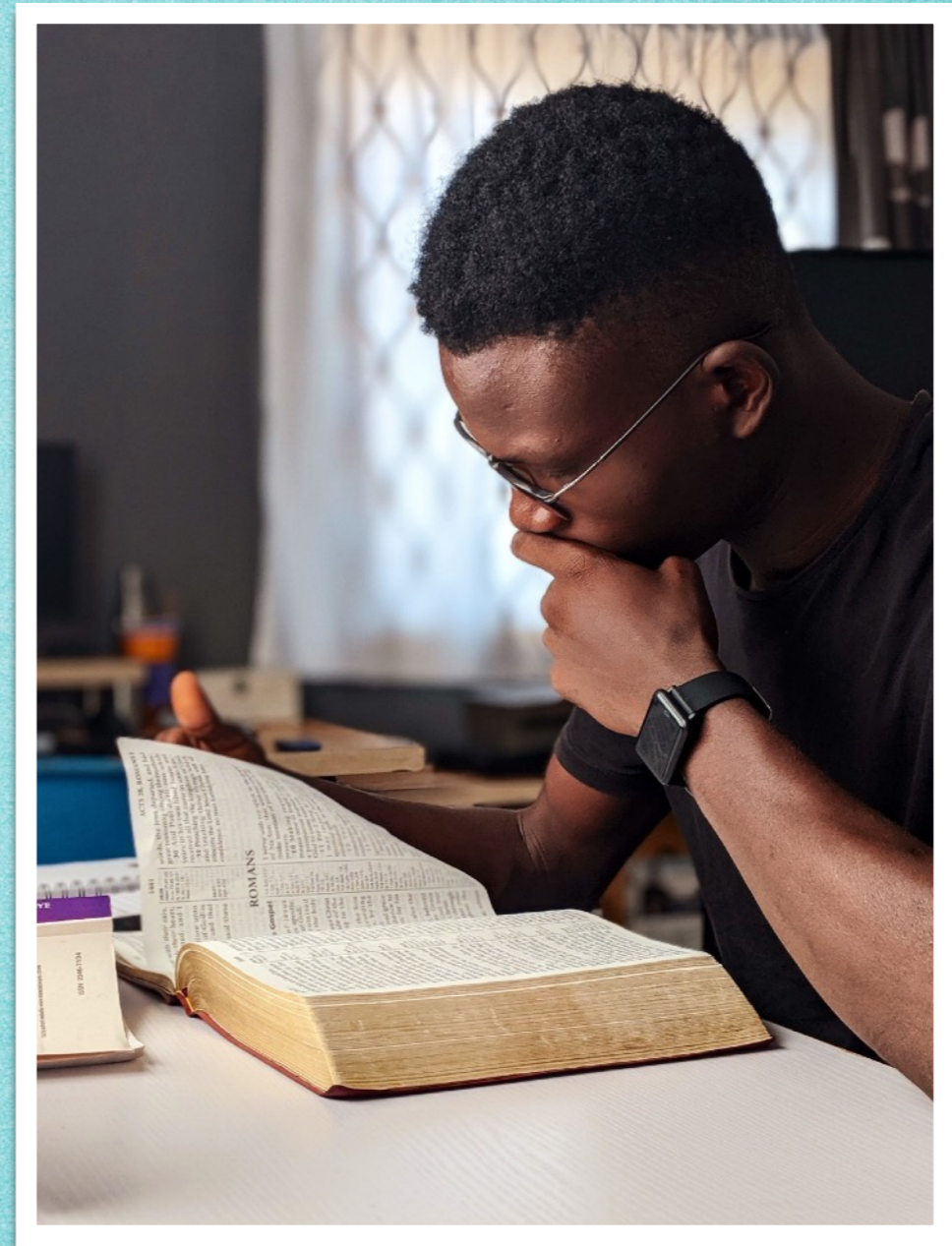


My research is focused on aggressive and difficult-to-treat cancers, and I hope that these studies might eventually lead to therapies that can improve cancer patients' lives. I've found that it is entirely possible to be a Bible-believing, Jesus-loving Christian and a believer and practitioner of science.



Dr. Boyle

The Bible describes us as “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). It says that we are the product of careful thought and preparation, and created in the image of a God that loves us (Genesis 1 and 2). These same things are true of the world around us, the study of which we call “science.” My favorite author, Ellen White, says that “All truths, whether in nature or Revelation, agree.” (*The Signs of the Times*, 1884, #11).



The honest pursuit of truth should never cause Christians to fear that their faith will be shaken or lost.

We may not be able to understand everything that is found in nature, but the reality is that no one does.

But the truth can only be found in the One who calls Himself “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6). In

my experience, science rightly understood leads us closer to the Author of all knowledge and provides for a greater appreciation for the work of His hands.



Dr. Boyle