

# TRP2661 - The Church of the Margins

*Ministering to Christ in the  
Poor, the Sick, the Alienated,  
and the Imprisoned*



*Tuesday, April 2, 2019*

# Hole in the Wall

With reference to  
Mother Maria Skobtsova, *Essential Writings*  
By Neil Kazen

## WHAT MARGINS?

When we think of the Church of the Margins we think about ministering to those who are literally, the poor, sick, alienated and imprisoned. But the circle grows much larger when we think of it in terms of Christian salvation; it includes most of society. Think how many of University of Toronto's 60,000+ students attend any Church/ Chapel service? We would be lucky to see 60 of them attending all chapels combined. That's 1/1000. What about the remaining 99.9%? Do they really feel rich, healthy, communal and free in spirit? Even the 1/1000 who attend Church services, do they really feel secure in their faith? That's up to them to decide. But, if in a moment of candid reflection, they felt otherwise, this presentation might help.

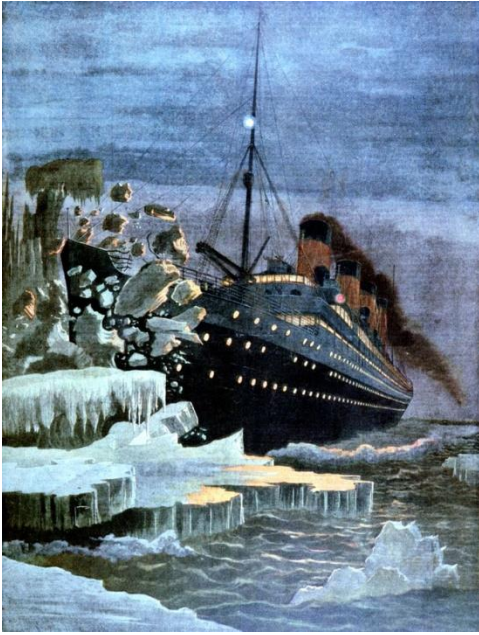
In today's world, most of society lives on the margin of salvation. Why?

## THE CRASH



Life has never been the same since the Titanic of Christendom hit the iceberg of mechanistic determinism/ nihilistic science. The chock threw many of its people off the deck instantly. And with gaping holes in its hull, questioning the very existence of God; and the very foundation of all what Christianity stands on and for, it listed so badly that most off the rest slipped off board into the raging waters.

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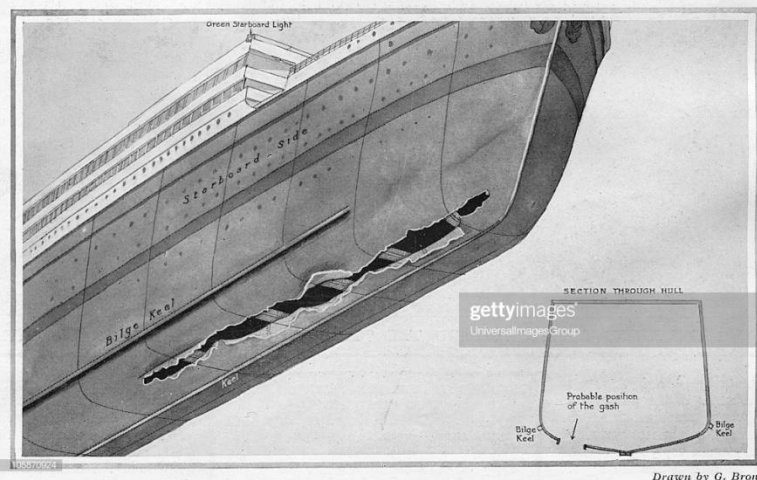
The lucky of them huddled on the dingy lifeboats of “New Age spirituality”, tossed around by the waves of insecurity. The not so lucky had to brave the frigid waters of full-fledged atheism that sucked the life out of them. The few who were still on the ship, the die-hard Christians, barricaded themselves in their airtight chambers in a desperate hope for survival regardless of what happens next. Little they knew, once the merciless ocean claims their ship, they will be crushed hard by the heavy weight of reality ... die-hard indeed.



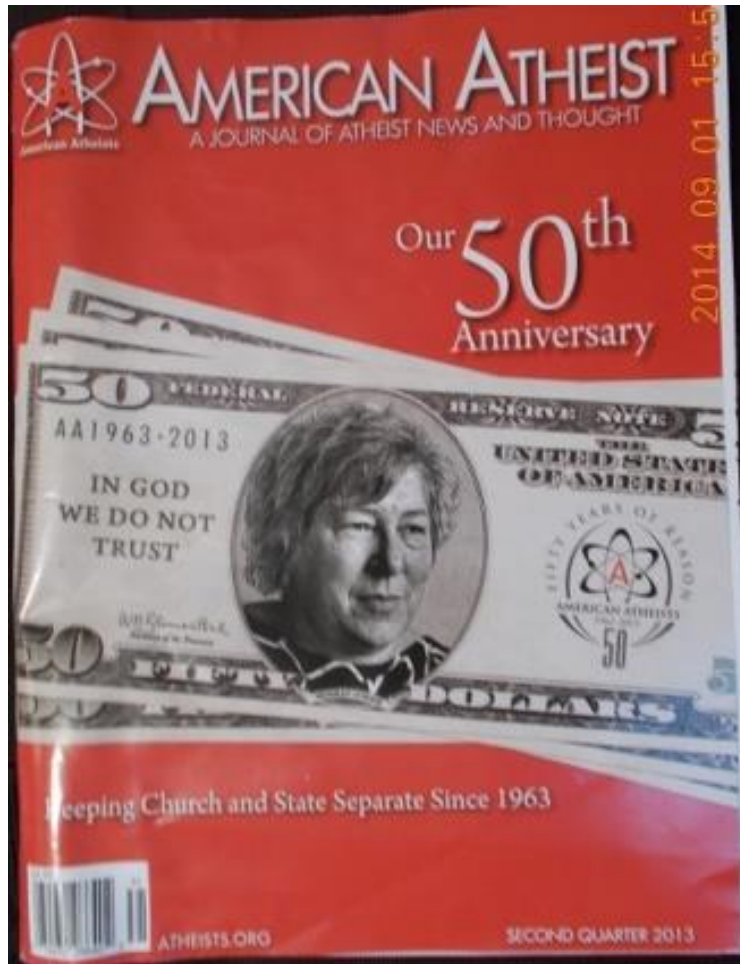


## CLUMSY RESPONSES

While the tragedy is unfolding, Reformers are busy shuffling furniture on board as if that would reverse the listing. They don't seem to be aware of the holes in the hull; either they didn't bother looking over the edge or they were too blind to see. At least they saw the incline while the Performers, of traditional rituals, aren't even aware of that. Watching the Reformers and Performers bumping with each other on that slippery sloped deck would have been entertaining if it wasn't so sad.



## OPPORTUNIST ATTACKERS



In 2013, the American Atheist journal celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On the cover page, they showed their dream \$50 bill. On the left of the bill: “IN GOD WE DO NOT TRUST”. And on the right: A symbol of the atom with letter “A” in the middle; doubling for both “Atom” and “Atheist” that is because, as the statement around the atom says: “FIFTY YEARS OF REASON”. After all atheists are the ones with reason who base their arguments on scientific stuff such as Atomic Physics ... so they imply.

Our poor children fall for it; after all how can their Faith stand up to such “Atomic Science”?... And, sadly, they abandon the Faith. Look what happened during the past 50 years.

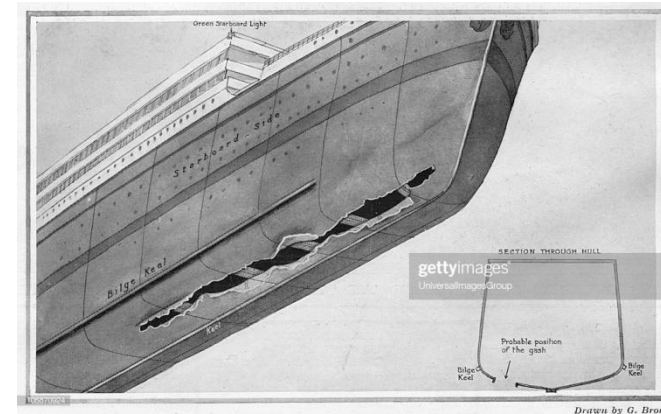
Ironically, their “Atom” is actually an outdated cartoon. It represents the early atom model by Rutherford more than a century ago. That model, with well determined electron trajectories, was laughed at by Erwin Schrodinger who, in 1927, developed equations for probability waves.

## IT'S WAR!

It is a crisis like being in war; war against mechanistic determinism/ nihilistic science. The words of Mother Maria, in the context of WW2 is relevant here: “... *there is sometimes in war that constitutes our only chance. That does not mean we should want it. But, once it has broken out, it should be made use of.*” (Mother Maria, Essential Writings, p. 138)

Brave scientists for Christ came to the rescue. The Christian Titanic, unlike the other one, has unexpected help from some of the best scientific minds in the world. Like brave divers with effective tools they are busy bridging the gaps. In their dedication to save the ship, they didn't bother taking permission of its Officers (Church clergy).

After all, it was those “in charge” who steered it on that fatal course.



And as Mother Maria said: “...*the gates have suddenly opened onto eternity, all natural life has trembled and collapsed, yesterday's laws have been abolished, desires have faded, meaning has become meaningless, and another incomprehensible Meaning has grown wings on their backs.*” (p.127). It is Quantum Theology; a new revolution sweeping the world where the very basic understanding of existence is deeply revised; the greatest revolution in 2500 years connecting this world with the other world.



# SCIENTISTS FOR CHRIST

Science Symposium  
March 26 –27, 2008



## Wheaton College

*For Christ and His Kingdom*

### String Theory and the Multiverse: Philosophical and Theological Implications



**Robert Mann**  
"A New Question  
for Science and  
Theology"



**Dr. Robert Mann** is Professor of Physics and Applied Mathematics and the Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Waterloo. He is currently Vice President elect of the Canadian Association of Physics.

**Robin Collins**  
"The Multiverse, Theism, and Christian Faith"



**Dr. Robin Collins** is a professor of philosophy at Messiah College. He has two years of graduate-level training in theoretical physics and has written over twenty-five articles on topics ranging from philosophical issues in quantum physics to evolution and original sin. He is currently completing a book on the evidence from physics and cosmology for the divine design of the cosmos.

**Gerald Cleaver**  
"The String Landscape,  
the Multiverse, the  
Anthropic Principle, and  
Anselm's Ontological Argument"



**Dr. Gerald Cleaver** is Associate Professor of Physics at Baylor University and heads the Early Universe Cosmology and String Theory division of Baylor's Astrophysics Center. Gerald earned his Ph.D. at Caltech in 1993, studying under John Schwartz, a founder of string theory. Gerald has written 50+ journal papers and conference proceedings.

**Don Page**  
"Does God so  
Love the  
Multiverse?"



Monotheistic religions

**Dr. Don Nelson Page** grew up in Alaska and studied at William Jewell College, Caltech and the University of Cambridge (under Stephen Hawking). He taught physics at Penn State University and is now at the University of Alberta. He and his wife Cathy have three biological children and two adopted daughters from Haiti.

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# SEMINAR TOPICS

**Robert Mann**  
**"A New Question  
 for Science and  
 Theology"**



The puzzle of existence is perhaps the oldest question addressed by both science and theology — why is there something rather than nothing? In the past few decades scientific research (mainly in cosmology) has generated a new question for each: why is there something rather than everything? This question has emerged because it has become clear that our cosmos is not a typical specimen out of a set of logically possible alternatives. Rather, the conditions for life as we know it are very special, depending sensitively upon the values of a large number of constants of nature whose empirical values superficially appear irrelevant. Is this atypicality indicative of some kind of transcendent super-intelligence, or is it best explained by embedding our cosmos in a much larger structure, in which its special features inevitably occur due to statistical flukes? Or are there alternative modes of explanation that go beyond the scientific approach while paying due diligence to the integrity of the scientific method? This talk shall point out the challenges that the new puzzle of existence poses for both science and theology.

**Robin Collins**  
**"The Multiverse, Theism, and Christian Faith"**



This paper will focus on the multiverse hypothesis and the Christian Faith. First, I will argue that what I call the "multiple universe generator" scenario (MUG)—that is, the version in which the multiverse is generated by some physical process—does not substantially undercut the argument for theism from the fine-tuning of the cosmos for life and the beauty and elegance of the laws of nature. I use the inflationary/superstring multiverse hypothesis as my test case. Second, I argue that theists have some reason—e.g., based on God's infinite creativity—to be sympathetic toward MUG. Finally, I will address several theological difficulties that MUG raises for theistic belief and the Christian faith, such as for the doctrine of the Incarnation and Atonement.

A common theme of this seminar, is that String/ M-Theory, Multiverse hypothesis is compatible with Christian Theology.

God as Multiple Universe Generator.

Deep understanding of existence, with ontological argument.

**Gerald Cleaver**  
**"The String Landscape,  
 the Multiverse, the  
 Anthropic Principle, and  
 Anselm's Ontological Argument"**



In the first part of my talk, I will review the 20 year history of modern string/M theory (beginning with the first string revolution of 1984) that has led to the current theorized string landscape and its proposed realization in a multiverse of at least  $10^{500}$  (and perhaps an infinite number of) causally independent universes. The properties of a string/M-theory multiverse will be summarized. The (cyclical) ekpyrotic model will be discussed as an example. Then in part two, I will analyze the string landscape/multiverse picture with regard to the Anthropic Principle and fine tuning. In the final part of my talk, I will discuss how Anselm's Ontological Argument suggests the string landscape/multiverse picture is not just consistent with Christian theology, but that a creation of (at least) the magnitude and vastness implied by the string landscape/multiverse picture is what should, in fact, be expected in Christian theology.

**Don Page**  
**"Does God so  
 Love the  
 Multiverse?"**



Monotheistic religions such as Judaism and Christianity affirm that God loves all humans and created them in His image. However, we have learned from Darwin that we were not created separately from other life on earth. Some Christians opposed Darwinian evolution because it undercut certain design arguments for the existence of God. Today there is the growing idea that the fine-tuned constants of physics might be explained by a multiverse with very many different sets of constants of physics. Some Christians oppose the multiverse for similarly undercutting other design arguments for the existence of God. However, undercutting one argument does not disprove its conclusion. Here I argue that multiverse ideas, though not automatically a solution to the problems of physics, deserve serious consideration and are not in conflict with Christian theology as I see it.

**DISCLAMER:**  
**IT'S ONLY A HOLE IN THE BRICK WALL!**

Do you feel that the “impeccable” science you were taught at school is standing, like a brick wall, between you and your faith?

- That the Laws of Nature explain everything, at least in principle?
- That evolution negates creation by God?
- That the question should not be WHY, but only HOW?

Do you wish you could just breach that wall of mechanistic/ deterministic/ nihilistic science?

Cheer up, stop banging your head against the wall; others have done that for you!



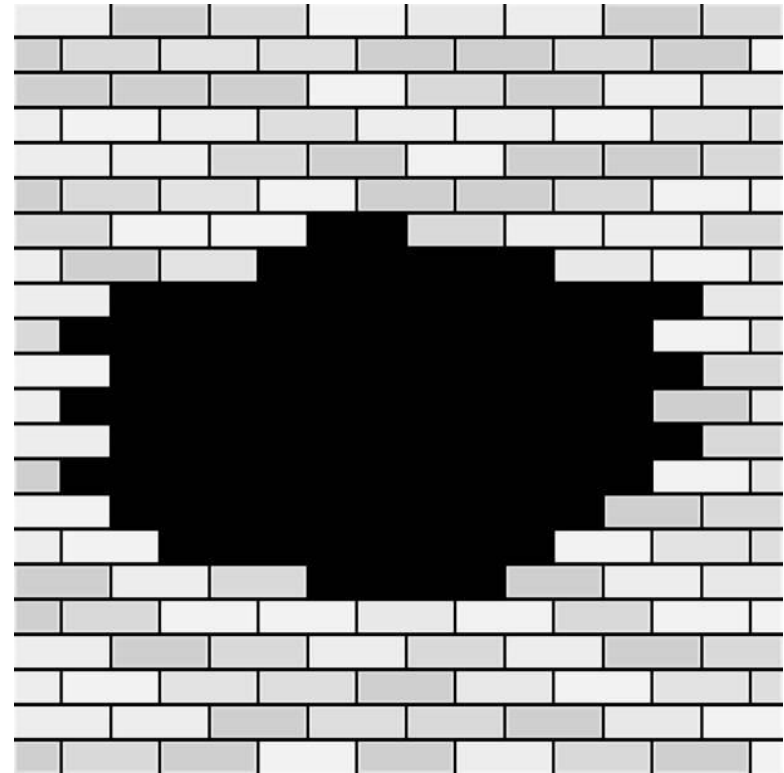
# THE HOLE IN THE WALL

Mechanistic/ Deterministic/  
Nihilistic (Classical) Science  
of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> C; but still  
prevalent in today's culture.

Modern Science; 1900- today. Especially  
Quantum Physics with wide ranging  
applications in Q-Consciousness; Q-  
Evolution; Theory of Dissipative Structures;  
etc. with implied or expressed apophasis.

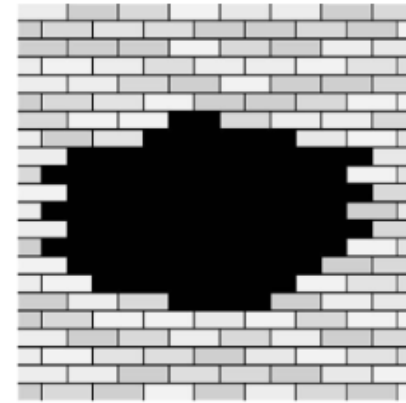


Faith readiness  
enhanced  
further by  
Quantum  
Theologians,  
like the ones  
introduced  
earlier.



## IT'S ONLY A HOLE ... SO FAR!

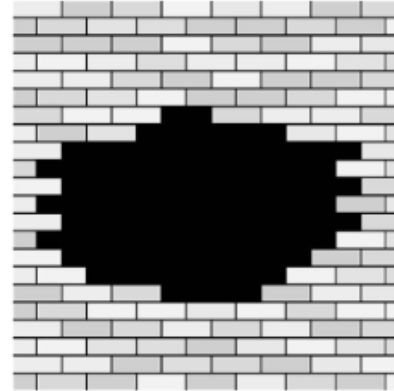
- Breaching the wall of old science, opens your mind to the wonder of what's beyond... like gazing in the pitch darkness of the infinite unknown.





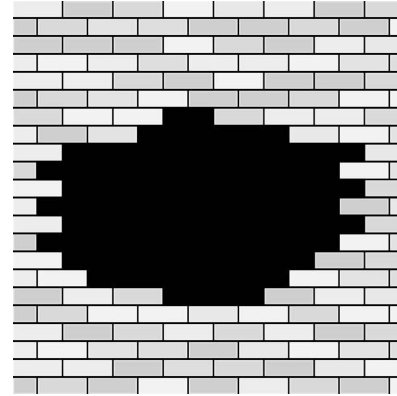
## IT'S ONLY A HOLE ... SO FAR!

- Breaching the wall of old science, opens your mind to the wonder of what's beyond... like gazing in the pitch darkness of the infinite unknown.
- No matter how faith oriented science is, it remains at best a skeleton of the faith. That applies to any rational process, be it Philosophy, Rational Theology, etc.



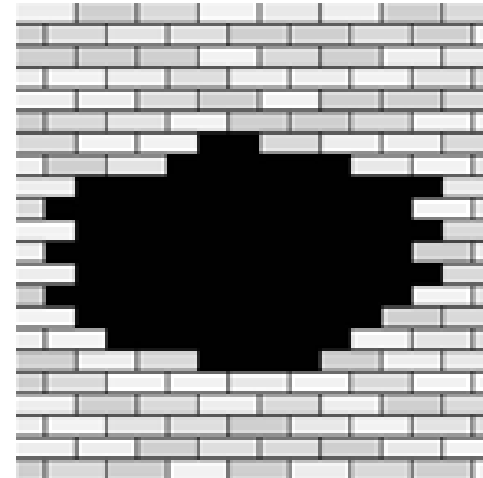
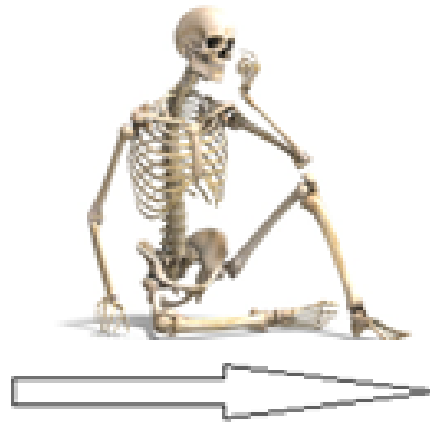
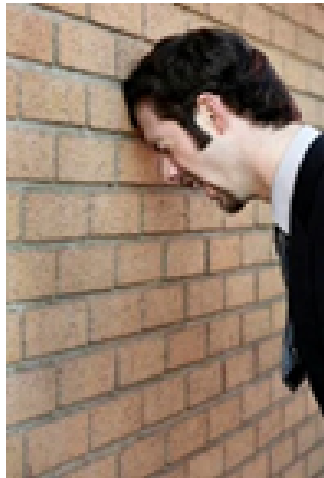
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- No matter how faith oriented science is, it remains at best a skeleton of the faith. That applies to any rational process, be it Philosophy, Rational Theology, etc.
- But without a skeleton, faith will be like jelly fish... drifted by every current, and defenseless against every predator.



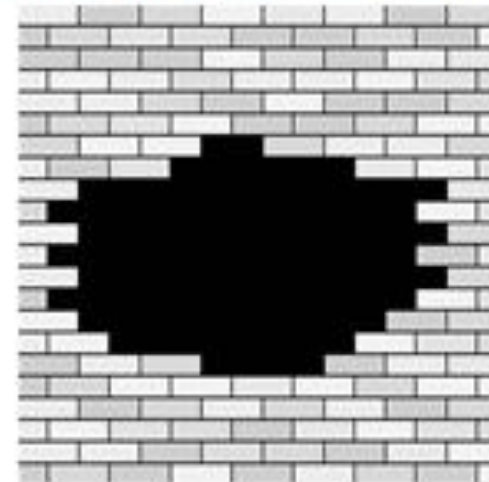
## THE FINAL FRONTIER

Quantum Theology can free you to pursue your faith while you gaze in the dark

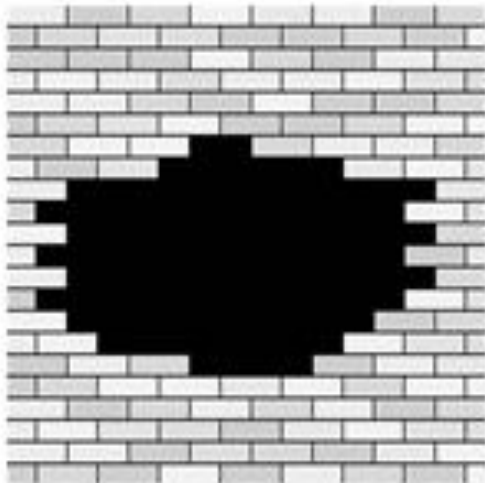


## THE FINAL FRONTEER

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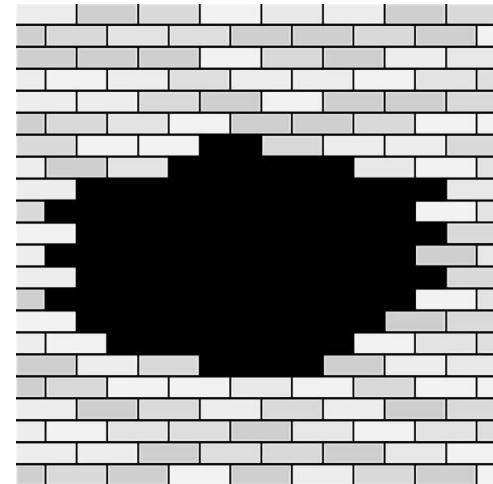
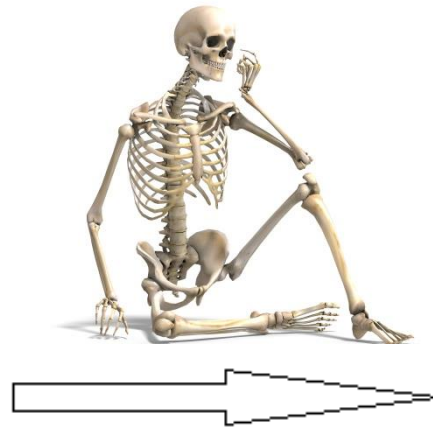
But only the Cross can lead you to the Light in the darkness



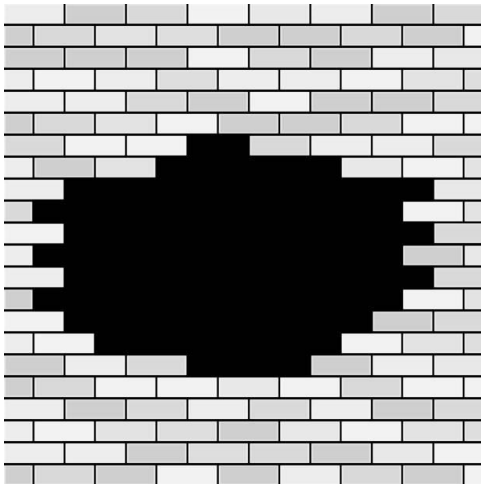


# THE FINAL FRONTIER

Quantum Theology can free you to pursue your faith while you gaze in the dark



But only the Cross can lead you to the Light in the darkness



That was my personal experience

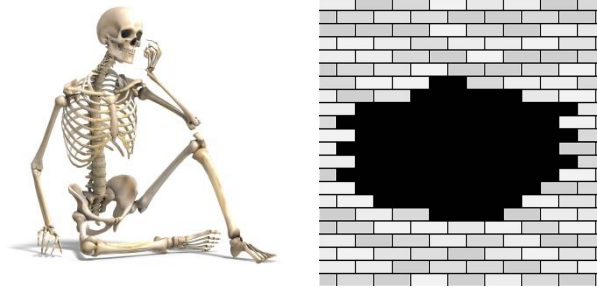
# THE ULTIMATE REALITY, TRUTH AND MEANING



The Light broke in the empty darkness of despair ... it flashed in the whole universe ... every point in the universe was bursting with infinite Light ... and that Light had something unique to it ... it was felt as the True Light ... the ultimate reality and meaning ... It is everything that matters ... nothing else matters. No earthly reality compares to It, even the most rigorous facts of science ... no joy compares to it, even the joy of having a new borne ... no blessing compares to It, even the approval of the highest worldly authorities. Any attempt to relate It to anything in this world would be a desecration of It. It cannot be related to any one; only It's fruit can. And It happened only when the whole world collapsed. It vanished once the world rebuilt itself.

But for Mother Maria, her experience of eternity survived because she saw Christ in people around her: *“And I think that anyone who has at least once felt himself in this eternity, has at least once realized what path he is following, has seen at least once the One who walks ahead of him, will find it hard to turn from that path; to him all coziness will seem flimsy, all riches without value, all companions unnecessary, if he does not see among them the one Companion bearing the cross.”* (p. 128)

## BACK TO THE HOLE IN THE WALL



The following will cover:

- A video “Smiling Face” showing the range of scale of the observed world, from the largest to the smallest.
- Brief introduction to Quantum Physics; highlighting increasing apophatic tendency.
- Selected examples where Quantum Physics helps the Christian Faith.
- Dissipative Structures theory as a reversal of entropy; triumph of life.
- The Other World as extrapolation of the Theory of Relativity.
- Salvation related to Psychology. Correlation with Mother Maria’s writings.
- Video “Pale Blue Dot” of the Earth, by NASA and Carl Sagan. A call to humility.
- A closing statement by Mother Teresa.