Schweitzer’s claim of finding such specific organic information and particularly of discovering transparent blood vessels and other stretchy organic material is hotly contested by some scientists. Jeffrey Bada, an organic geochemist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, cannot imagine how soft tissue can survive for 65 millions years. He claims that environmental radiation would degrade organic tissue over this vast amount of time. For example, he says, “bones absorb uranium and thorium like crazy. You’ve got an internal dose that will wipe out biomolecules.” Therefore, Bada concludes that Schweitzer’s cellular material must represent contamination from external sources.

The above two observations by Bada are significant. A prominent Adventist palaeontologist tells me that Bada is scientifically correct in his first claim that the environmental radiation of uranium and thorium into dinosaur bones over a period of 65 million years would wipe out biomolecules. Assuming Bada’s claim on this point to be true, this means that Schweitzer’s soft-tissue samples represent either contamination, or they represent strong evidence that the dinosaur from which the samples came was buried recently and not 65 million years ago. Given the fact that Schweitzer’s continuing tests demonstrate the authenticity of her claim that the samples indeed represent uncontaminated soft tissue, this means that the claim to contamination can be ruled out, and that, therefore, the soft tissue points to a recent burial of the dinosaur. No wonder evolutionary scientists are vigorously disputing Schweitzer’s soft tissue find.

Famous Atheist Turns Toward God
Something encouraging occurred in 2004 in the discipline of philosophy (reflections about the true nature of things) that is worthy of attention. The world-renowned philosopher, and ardent atheist, Antony Flew, unexpectedly turned from his atheistic posture to a position that affirms some form of divine designing cause. Although a regular student attendee of Christian apologist C. S. Lewis’ Socratic Club of Christian writers, Flew ultimately rejected Lewis’s argument from morality as given in Mere Christianity. While a professor, Flew spent the next 50 years of his life carefully rebutting many of the philosophical arguments for the existence of God.

In a December 2004 interview with friend and philosophical adversary, Gary Habermas, Flew indicated that he has accepted some form of God, but perhaps not exactly like “the God of the Christian.” While this may not sound like the heart-changing words we’d prefer to hear, they are significant coming from a...
man who has dedicated more than 50 years of his life to arguing—and strongly at that—against any God at all!

That Flew’s change of mind (if not yet heart) resulted from some of the recent evidence that has emerged from the realm of science is particularly encouraging and noteworthy for us as Adventists. It demonstrates that even a world-class thinker and scholar, like Flew, is able to see the evidences of “intelligent design” woven into the world of nature. This also illustrates the beauty and truth of the biblical statement: “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13, NKJV).

Homing Christians: Work of the Holy Spirit

As a boy in Singapore, I raised homing pigeons. Worshipers there would buy pigeons at the pet store and then release them as thank offerings to the gods. I sold one of my birds to the same pet shop three times because of this religious practice. On the third time my pigeon returned to the home loft, a message written in Sanskrit to the gods was attached to its foot.

Jim Tucker mentions that research has shown that homing pigeons navigate by sensitivity to the Earth’s magnetic field, by observing the Sun, and by recognizing familiar landmarks as they near home. By acting on their drive to return home, and by following the critical signage available to them, homing pigeons return long distances to their nesting sites. By the grace of God, let us be homing Christians—individuals who actually trust and follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the counsels of God’s Word, and His messenger in order to return to our everlasting home loft with the Creator.

REFERENCES

2 Ibid., p. 38.
3 Ibid., p. 39.
4 Ibid., p. 40.

On Columbus Day 1992, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began a 10-year search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI). So far, apparently, there has been no answer. We’re still on hold!

Since 1960, NASA has made 50 such attempts, but previous radio searches had sampled only a thin slice of the cosmos. The SETI project, however, linked existing radio telescopes around the world with newly developed computer programs that were capable of scanning 15 million frequency channels a second. That was 10,000 times more frequencies than the previous 50 attempts combined—and at 300 times the sensitivity.

Soon after scientists initiated such an extensive a program, they began to worry about what they should do if they succeeded. What should we do if someone out there actually receives our signal and sends back an answer? What do we say next? How do we communicate with a species from another planet? In the event that we ever do hear back from outer space, some have suggested that we should take a cue from how we are presently communicating with other species from *this* planet. With this in mind, inter-species communication psychologist Francine Patterson, who taught Koko, an adult lowland gorilla, how to communicate with American Sign Language, asked Koko, “What would you say to someone who didn’t know anything about gorillas or people?”

After little hesitation, Koko, who has the vocabulary of a six- or seven-year-old deaf child, signed back, “Koko good” and “People frown sometimes.”

In charitable honesty, Koko has put her finger on something important. The fact is that members of the *Homo sapiens* species are not perfect, and apparently it doesn’t take a team of psychologists to recognize this. A gorilla can see that we have some problems. By and large, we’re un-