

Going beyond science

By Joseph Tkach

At one of the many conferences I have gone to, I enjoyed discussing Albert Einstein's historic work with a meteorological scientist friend.

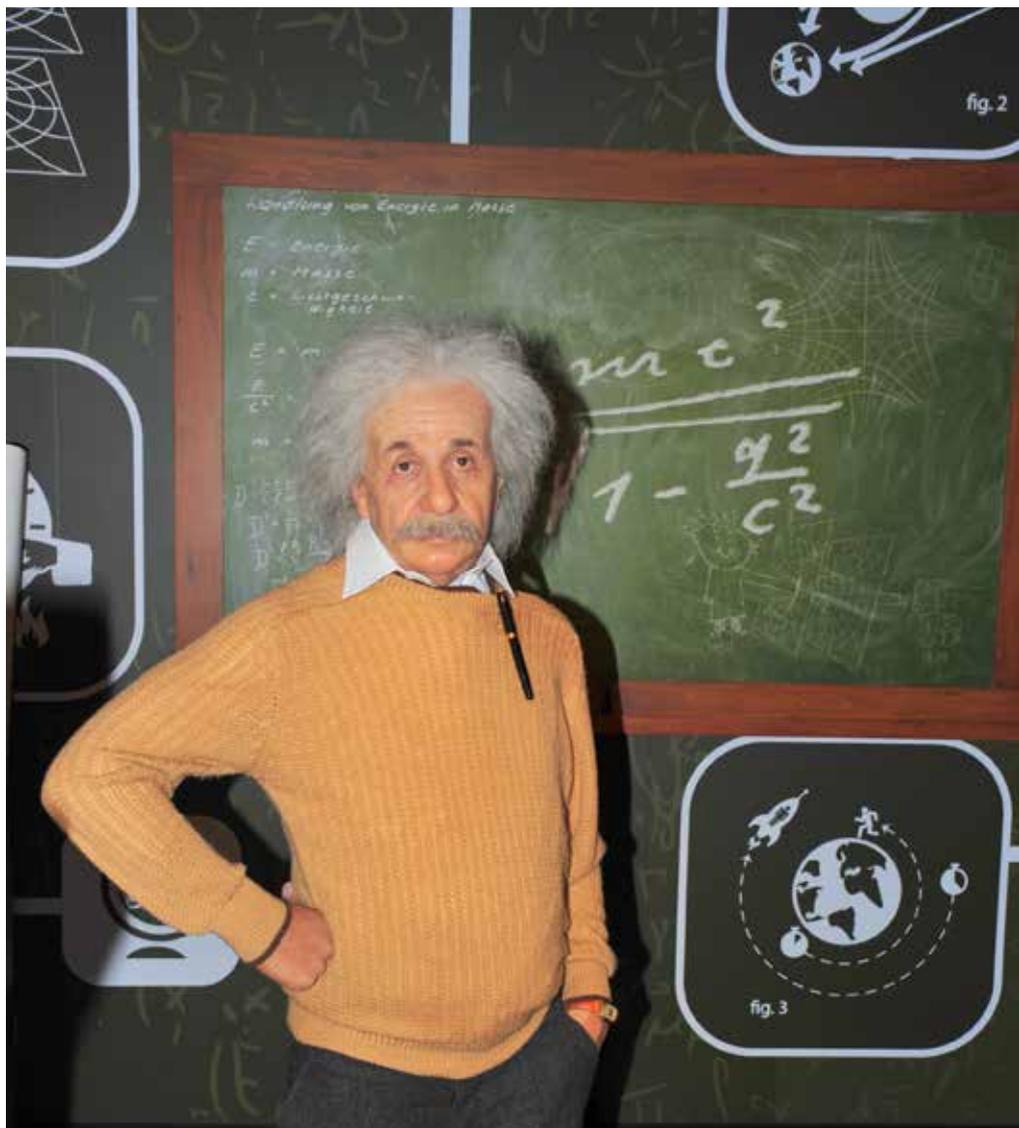
I mentioned how I'm enchanted by Einstein's well known statement that 'God does not play dice with the universe'. I also noted my amazement that Einstein's predictions about our visible universe, made over 100 years ago, have been verified by science through empirical measurement.

One of Einstein's predictions was that there are speed-of-light gravitational waves traveling through space. Einstein considered them too small to be measured and thus unverifiable.

Though Einstein was right about the existence of gravitational waves, he was wrong to think they would never be discovered. In fact, they were detected and measured by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO). LIGO analysed and merged multiple sources of light, using technology that can detect distortions one million times smaller than the width of a hydrogen atom. LIGO's measurements suggest that these gravitational waves originated with a cataclysmic event in the primordial universe.

Why was Albert Einstein so advanced in his thinking?

Personally, I believe it is because Einstein included in his thinking the reality of a creator of the universe. Though some claim he was an atheist or agnostic, it's clear that Einstein did not exclude God from his thinking in the way many scientists do. His metaphor that God does not play dice with the universe continues to cut through mysteries



concerning the universe that baffle many scientists. Natural science is fundamentally about discovery, which includes coming to realise that we lack explanations for many of the things we observe about the natural world.

Acknowledging this limitation of science is important in that it helps us understand that, if we are to have an ultimate explanation for nature (and for science itself), we will have to turn to a higher, more comprehensive level of explanation.

Our study of nature (of inner and outer space, particularly) has, seemingly, brought us to the point

where we must recognise that nature raises questions that, in principle, science is unable to answer. Therefore, shouldn't we look beyond the natural sciences to answer the very questions that this field of study raises?

In searching for answers, perhaps we could re-visit our ideas about God.

Let's not exclude God from our thinking.

This is a transcript of the weekly 'Speaking of Life' radio programme by Joseph Tkach, President of Grace Communion International. For more information visit www.gci.org.