

Author Paul Hutchins

The Secret Doorway; beyond imagination

Interview Questions and answers

You may copy and paste the questions that you feel would be of most interest to your audience. Ask about Hubble Images on Canvas give-a-ways for your program.

1. Q. You have stated that your book goes to the very core of man's existence; can you explain what you mean by that?
 - A. The world today seems to be divided between two lines of thought about how our universe can into existence. One believes we were created by an intelligent being, the other believes we evolved by chance. My book takes the images and data collected by the Hubble and other telescopes and lays out a clear and dramatic picture of how the universe was designed and shaped through the use of Superior Imagination, and shows how creative imagination is now the force shaping our world as well as our future.

2. Q. The United Nations has declared the year 2009 as the international year of astronomy, what was their reason for doing that?
 - A. 2009 celebrates the first astronomical use of the telescope by Galileo – which is a momentous event that initiated 400 years of astronomical discoveries and triggered a scientific revolution which profoundly affected our worldview. The IYA2009 will highlight global cooperation for peaceful purposes – the search for our cosmic origin and our common heritage which connect all citizens of planet Earth. The vision of the IYA2009 is to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day and night time sky – and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery. Also to help all humans realize the impact of astronomy and basic sciences on our daily lives, and understand better how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society. The aim of the IYA2009 is to stimulate worldwide interest, especially among young people, in astronomy and science under the central theme "The Universe, Yours to Discover."

3. Q. You have quoted Einstein. What do you feel he meant when he said "Imagination is everything? It is the preview of life's coming attractions. (Page 3)
 - A. Imagination is everything, without it life as we know it would be pretty boring. In our minds, each of us imagines what we could do, and if we have enough determination, then our imagination will drive us until what we imagined becomes reality. A good example are the Wright brothers, in their mind they watched the birds and saw themselves flying on a machine, and their imaginations drove them until they realized what they had imagined. Thus our imagination serves to give us a preview of what is to come, but only if we persist with our dream as the Wright brothers did.

4. Q. Do you think keen imagination is a common thread between brilliant men like Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton, and Einstein? (Page 3,4)
 - A. Yes, I believe a keen imagination is a common thread between all those who have achieved great things. I believe imagination is an invisible force that shapes our world through the things devise or create. Just look at all the great inventions, architecture,

literature, science, art, and everything you can think of and how it all has effected and shaped our lives. When you look at the people behind these works, in every case they were people with a keen imagination, and passionate determination.

5. [Q. The book's title is *The Secret Doorway*; beyond imagination, how did you come up with that name? \(Page 79\)](#)
 - A. For thousands of years man looked up at the stars with his naked eye in awe and wonder of what lie beyond the night sky, but in the 17th century when Galileo turned his newly improved telescope to view the stars, he discovered a hidden doorway to a world that no one including himself had ever imagined. Then in 1990 the Hubble space telescope was launched and man discovered things so strange that they seemed beyond our imagination. In those bewildering worlds, are places . . . Where a teaspoon of matter weighs as much as 200 million elephants . . . Where a tiny whirling star winks on and off thirty times a second . . . Where a small mysterious object shines with the brilliance of ten trillion suns . . . Where matter and light are continually sucked up by devouring black holes, never to be seen again. In essences, through the use of his imagination and the invention of the telescope, man has discovered a once Secret Doorway to an incredible universe that our forefathers knew nothing of, and what we have found there are things beyond our imagination.

6. [Q. What impact do you feel Galileo's discovery of this Doorway to the universe has had on the world up till now and will have into the future?](#)
 - A. I believe the discovery of the universe is the greatest discovery since, and second to the introduction of the Bible, for two reasons. First we have discovered a world our fore fathers did not know existed. Second, is that all the knowledge we will ever gain exploring the earth pales into insignificance compared to the knowledge we stand to gain by exploring the endless universe. We could explore the universe 100 billion years and still would only be scratching the surface on all there is to know about it. Just to think of the limitless discoveries that await us out among the billions of trillions of star, and potential planets without number boggles the mind!

7. [Q. You say, and I quote, "Since the launch of the Hubble telescope in 1990, mankind has been witnessing a real-life drama unfolding like a silent motion picture transmitted from space—one frame at a time, with each frame telling its own awe-inspiring story; yet, collectively, they recite the Grandest Story ever told: the Creation of the Universe in detail never before revealed." In your mind how do you see this as an unfolding drama of creation? \(Page ix\)](#)
 - A. When you take all the images and information that is being collected and transmitted back to earth by the Hubble, Spitzer, and other telescopes and stitch it all together you get this slow motion cinematic drama of a Grand Architect on a universal scale under construction. You see how stars form and cluster into black holes to become the central powerhouse for galaxies. Then you see galaxies colliding to form super galaxies, and then collecting to form galaxies clusters containing trillions and trillions of stars, and in recent years we are seeing for the first time in history glimpses of how planets are formed out of dust clouds from their parent stars to create solar systems like our own. The featured highlight of this Grand Drama is the display of colorful nebula like the infrared Eagle Nebula captured by the Spitzer telescope, exploding like a controlled fireworks display that light up the night

sky. Collectively all these images and information tell a compelling story of a Supreme and complex Architect, and the use of Superior Imagination. With the images, and data that are pouring in from space it is like we are witnessing the creation of the universe in slow motion. It is no wonder that NASA is driven, to one day find a way to go through that doorway out into the universe.

8. Q. How do you think imagination played a part in the design of the universe? (Page 3)

A. When Einstein said "Imagination is everything." It is the preview of life's coming attractions." I think he was onto something, because when you think about it, imagination has been the starting point of everything. The entire life experience of man has revealed that nothing man has designed, invented, conceived, or brought into existence, from pyramids to flying machines including the Hubble space telescope came about void of creative imagination. Imagination is the driving force that shaped our world, from great plays, to music, to great inventions, and continues to shape our world on a daily bases, and is now shaping our future through the design of cutting edge technology.

This fact raises some very important questions: If mans imagination is the driving force that shapes our world, then was creative imagination the driving force that designed and shaped our incredible universe? Is it not scientifically logical that it would require Supreme Imagination to conceive, design, and bring about such a Grand work of living art powered by dynamic energy?

In the last half of the book I list all the great inventions of man and compare them to things discovered by Hubble. For example when you look at the microprocessor and the imagination that went in to that invention, it is pretty brilliant when you consider that everything today runs by computers, but when you compare that to the Sombrero Galaxy that is made up of 800 billion stars like our sun, and then begin to imagine how many planets those 800 billion stars have and what that in tells it makes you feel pretty small. There simply is no comparison in the imagination of man and the Supreme Imagination of the one behind the design of the universe! What puzzles me the most is how some people just don't get it? If it took imagination for man to design and construct the Space Shuttle and Hubble telescope, wouldn't require imagination to design and construct the universe which is far more complex. I'm sorry but it just didn't construct itself, someone had to construct it and put it all in motion. Just because that force is obviously invisible to the human eye doesn't mean it don't exist. We can't see radio waves either but they exist otherwise people couldn't hear their radios or watch TV.

9. Q. How specifically do you see imagination in the design of the universe? (Page 31)

A. There are limitless examples, the Sombrero Galaxy is one, but a really big one is how there is such precisions in how all the galaxies, star, planets and moons move in their orbits as if they were orchestrated by a grand conductor, this orchestra could not have just happened, it is far to complex.

10.Q. Don't the stars and galaxies crash into each other sometimes?

A. Yes, that is true, but you have to keep in mind that what we are seeing now, took place billions of years ago when the universe was just emerging. Just like with any construction zone, things sometimes look a little messy at first, but finally a beautiful structure emerges. The universe is so precise that we set our watches by its movements.

11.Q. The book is filled with beautiful images of the universe taken by the Hubble and Spitzer telescopes. For those who may not be too familiar with these telescopes what can you tell us about them? (Page 21,23)

A. The Hubble as you may know is the more famous of the two. It was launched by NASA in 1990 to orbit 350 miles above the earth where it can view space without the distortion of earth's atmosphere. Every 97 minutes, Hubble completes a spin around Earth, moving at the speed of about five miles per second. Since its launch it has orbited the earth thousands of times, and taken thousands of images of galaxies, stars, and nebula and collected years of important data about the universe. But, even in deep space, there are things still kept from Hubble's gaze.

Many regions of space are filled with vast dense clouds of gas and dust, which block the view and remain hidden from optical telescopes. The Spitzer, telescope as it is called today, is an infrared cousin of the Hubble Space Telescope that followed Hubble into space in 2003. Its job is to study how stars, galaxies, and planets develop and form, Spitzer detects infrared—longer wavelength—light that our eyes cannot see. It detects the infrared energy, or heat, radiated by objects in space and is able to detect dust disks around stars allowing us to peer into regions of star formation, the centers of galaxies, and into newly forming planetary systems. Unlike the Hubble that orbits around the earth it is in an Earth-trailing solar orbit. In other words it is following the earth as the earth orbits around the sun.

12.Q. What is the Big Bang theory and what is your view on it? (Page 25)

A. The big bang theory is the latest in man's imagining how the universe began. The essential idea behind the theory is that the universe began and has expanded from a primordial, extremely hot and dense initial condition at some finite time in the past and continues to expand to this day. In other words it was a supposed spontaneous explosion of matter and energy that happened about 14 billion years ago and has been expanding ever since to form the universe as we know it today. The big question is; will this theory pan out or will it be replaced by an even more accurate account, based on further research and investigation? Only time will tell. Remember that, based on their limited information, people in the classical era believed the Earth was flat. Through study and investigation, man later realized that it was spherical. Nevertheless, even that was not proved beyond a shadow of a doubt until much later in history, when the first astronauts saw the earth from their space capsules. At one time the earth was thought to be the center of the universe, and that also proved to be wrong. As technology advances, so will our understanding of how the universe formed.

13.Q. You say, "As man explores the universe with Hubble, Spitzer, and other space telescopes, it becomes apparent that there is order in the design of the universe and evidence of a Grand Designer." When some look at the big bang theory, they may

wonder, how can you get orderly design out of an immense explosion of energy, how do you explain that? (Page 27)

- A. Have you ever been to a fireworks display? What did you see? You saw an explosion of energy, yet it resulted in a beautiful organized display of color and design. Fireworks (devices) take many forms to produce the four primary effects: noise, light, smoke, and floating materials. Fireworks were originally invented by the Chinese for entertainment purposes. This was a natural extension of the Chinese invention of gunpowder. In China, they were first made by fireworks masters who were well-respected for their knowledge of the many complex techniques used to create truly dazzling fireworks displays. Notice I said, complex techniques required by skilled craftsmen are necessary to create the right effects, not just some gunpowder packed into a rocket and exploded.

My thoughts on the theory are; if the beginning of the universe began with a big bang of energy, as the theory suggests, it was not a disorganized explosion like a keg of gun powder exploding on a universal scale. Hubble and Spitzer have revealed that there is order in the universe, although it appears it emanated from an explosive beginning, much like a beautiful exploding fireworks display. It appears to have been controlled and organized by technical and creative design.

What we are now witnessing for the first time in human history, as a result of high-powered space telescopes, is an explosive display of beautiful design that gives astronomers the same thrill they must have received when they witnessed their first fireworks display as a child. We don't fully understand how the universe came about any more than a child fully knows the inner workings of fireworks. When we see the images delivered to us from space and the variety of galaxies, stars, nebula, quasars, neutron stars, black holes, supernovas, and other cosmic effects, we can only imagine that these creative displays of energy were conceived and prepared by a Superior Craftsman. It seems His intent was to impress us with a dazzling technical fireworks display on a universal scale without compare.

14.Q. What inspire you to write on this subject? (Page 31,37)

- A. I have always been intrigued with imagination, so at first I had chose the title of "Imagination; The Force That Shapes Our World." I began to think of about all the great inventions of man and ask myself, what is the greatest example of imagination I could think of? I had remembered seeing a picture from the Hubble telescope called the Monocerotis Light Echo and thought, the design of Universe was the greatest example. So I did a Google search on the Hubble telescope and can across the image of the Sombrero Galaxy which was a galaxy that to me looked like a fly saucer. I learned that even though it was half the size of our Milky Way Galaxy it contained over 800 billion stars that gave it a tremendous glow of energy in the center. It just blew me away! Then I remembered a profound passage from the book of Isaiah that talked about an incomprehensible power responsible for all the stars, and how the one responsible for them knew each one by name. I suddenly realized I needed to change my subject matter, from the imagination of man that shapes our world to the Superior Imagination that was responsible for this awe-inspiring galaxy and our incredible universe.

15.Q. What was the passage from Isaiah that you found so profound? (Page ix)

- A. Even though the book is not about religion I felt compelled to include it and discuss its implications on man's view of the universe. There Isaiah quotes God as saying "To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One. Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing."

Keep in mind that Isaiah wrote this passage over 2300 years before the telescope was invented, and 2700 years before the Hubble and other telescopes revealed that the comprehensive energy that powers the universe is incomprehensible to the human mind. The only term in our human vocabulary that comes close to explaining it is Supernatural. The question I pose is; without the use of a powerful telescope, how did Isaiah know this information about the universe. It seems logical that the one who created all the stars would surely know each one by name. To name all the stars that number in the billions of trillions is no task for mere mortals and beyond our imagination.

16. Q. You liken the universe to a large vineyard with galaxy clusters as far as man's space telescopes can see that grew from one tiny but powerful seed, what do you mean by that? (Page 33)

- A. I find it interesting that, from one tiny grape seed, with nurturing over time, you could grow a massive vineyard that would cover an entire continent with grape clusters as far as the eye could see. What a miracle of life wrapped in such a tiny seed. My question is: could this same miracle of the creative process shed light on how our Grand Universe formed, expanded, and spread out over billions of years like a colossal vineyard? The question I ask is; could the universe be feeding upon the soil of dark energy as it continues to expand outward from its small but powerful seed of origin? Many of the answer to questions we had in the past have been solved by studying the natural creation around us. Maybe we should take a closer look at this miracle of life process in a seed, maybe we will learn something.

17.Q. You have called the famous Hubble Deep Field photograph, A Mere Reflection of Reality, can you expand on that? (Page 35)

- A. From Sept. 2003 till Jan. 2004 The Hubble telescope focused on a patch of dark sky about the size of a dime. As if looking through a straw the Hubble photographed 10,000 galaxies which give us a sense of how massive the universe really is. It is considered by some as the most important photograph ever taken. The most interesting thing about that photograph is that it was the culmination of 400 years of man's imagination, blood, sweat, tears, billions of dollars and a whole host of inventions including the space shuttle, and the Hubble telescope. Now consider this; that image that took all that imagination and effort on the part of generations of dedicated men and women is merely a photographic reflection of the reality! What is to be said about the imagination and effort that went into creating the reality? The reality could only come from someone with a Supreme Imagination. For one to imagine that the universe came about on its own void of imagination would be like saying the Hubble telescope came along on its own and took

that amazing photograph without the imagination and creative genius of NASA and all those involved in its creation. That is an absurd thought!

18.Q. You write, "It is now obvious that the Earth was billions of years in the making and our knowledge confirms what Galileo understood: Not all scriptural passages ought to be taken literally." What do you say to Creationist who believes that the earth was created in 6 literal days? (Page 52)

A. The only thing I can say is take a look at what history has taught us. Things aren't always what they appear to be at first, and with knowledge come understanding. The Catholic Church was firm on its position in Galileo's day when they believed that the earth was the center of the universe and that the sun revolved around it, based on a passage from the book of Joshua where it says God made the sun stand still for a day. The Church ultimately had to admit their view was incorrect based on the increased knowledge of science and that the passage in Joshua, as Galileo had suggested was not to be taken literally.

What we have to keep in mind is that the Bible writers in those days wrote from a terrestrial point of view, so they wrote it as they saw it. You also need to keep in mind that they wrote using terms people understood in their day. For example when God, at Job 38:6 ask Job about the earth where he said, "Into what were its pedestals sunk, and who laid the cornerstone?" People in Job's day understood what a pedestal and cornerstone were, but they didn't know about gravity and likely could not have comprehended that the earth was held in place by gravity at that time. So God had Job write in terms people living then could grasp at the time. It is obvious to us today that the earth hangs upon nothing because we have a better understanding of gravity, but if we didn't understand gravity, it would not be so obvious.

The Bible contains scientifically accurate information clearly ahead of its time, though it never gets bogged down in scientific explanations that would have been meaningless or confusing to ancient people. The same would be true in regards to the six days of creation. People at that time had no concept that the universe was billions of years old. They could however relate to a day as being a time period in which an event transpired. Like the term in Noah's day when he built the ark. Noah lived 950 years, so the Bible's reference to six days of creation would have been referring to 6 creative events with each being thousands of years each and not 6 literal days. The Bible contains nothing that contradicts known scientific facts. These 6 events mentioned in the bible have been confirmed by science to have taken place much the way the Bible states but over a period of millennia. The Genesis account states in its opening verse that in the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth indicating that the earth had already been formed at this point before these six events or days took place. These 6 creative events would have been necessary to prepare the earth for human life to come in the final phases of the sixth event.

Galileo in the beginning wrongly believed as did the Church that the sun revolved around the earth until the evidence was enough to convince him otherwise. I guess the lesson history teaches is to learn to adjust our thinking when there is enough evidence to call for

it. To acknowledge the 6 days were not literal is not saying they did not happen as the Bible stated, it just acknowledges that not all scriptural passages ought to be taken literally, just as Galileo suggested.

19. Q. In one chapter called "Simply Dust in the Quasar Wind" you say "The chair you are sitting on right now, this book, your house and every item in it, your food, your clothes, your car—everything is nothing more than some of this wonderful cosmic dust that was once blowing in the wind of the early universe," does that mean we really are dust in the wind as the song goes. (Page 57)

A. Yes, that statement pretty much tells it as it is. Astronomers using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope found evidence that quasar winds might have forged dusty particles in the very early universe. The findings are another clue in an ongoing cosmic mystery: where did all the dust in our young universe come from? Dust is crucial for efficient star formation as it allows the giant clouds where stars are born to cool quickly and collapse into new stars. Once a star has formed, dust is also needed to make planets and living creatures. Since man, and everything he has ever devised were formed out of the earth in the form of minerals, you could say everything is nothing more than this miraculous cosmic dust in the wind!

20. Q. Does NASA now know how planets like our Earth are formed? (Page 69)

A. They don't have all the answers yet but with the aid of the Spitzer Space Telescope they are now using infrared imaging to detect how planets are forming from the dust lanes left by their star when it formed. They think dust grains clump together like snowballs to form larger rocks, and then the bigger rocks collide to form the cores of planets. When rocks revolve around their central star, they act like cosmic vacuum cleaners, picking up all the gas and dust in their path and creating gaps, between the planets like you see in our solar system.

21. Q. In the chapter "Heart Beat of a Planet" you make reference to an interesting website maintained by Nasa, what can you tell us about that site that you find intriguing? (Page 73)

A. It is an animated image made of the entire earth and it appears that the earth has a heartbeat. It is made up from images from a satellite taking images of the earth 24/7 to monitor a variety of terrestrial, oceanic, and atmospheric features of the Earth. Using a collection of satellite-based observations, scientists and visualizers stitched together months of observations of the land surface, oceans, sea ice, and clouds into a seamless, true-color mosaic of every square mile of our planet. In this animation the Earth's vegetation expands over the planet each growing season, and then retracts in this animated display, as if the Earth's heart were pulsating and providing life to all. It is very fascinating to look at.

22. Q. What can you tell us about the James Webb Telescope that will replace the Hubble 2013? (Page 79)

A. The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) will be a large infrared telescope with a 6.5-meter primary mirror. Launch is planned for 2013. JWST will be the premier observatory of the next decade, serving thousands of astronomers worldwide. It will study every phase in the history of our Universe, ranging from the first luminous glows after the Big Bang, to the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the formation of our own Solar System.

23. Q. What credentials do you have in Astronomy and on the Bible to write this book?

A. While I am not an astronomer or scientist, I guess, to quote my daughter "I am obsessed with astronomy." As an astronomy enthusiast I spent a year researching the images and information on the findings from the Hubble telescope, and 80% of the texts in the book are actual quotes from NASA and associated astronomers, and scientist. Regarding the bible, even though I have read and studied it on a daily bases, pretty much for over 34 years, I quote the bible only once so as not to make this book about religion. I think, in a very simple statement that one scripture says all there needs to be said about the universe from a Biblical point of view, without bringing religion into the discussion. Who can be compared to the one responsible for the universe and all this amazing cosmic dust? It is a fact, man's wisdom and imagination certainly is no match for the Superior wisdom and imagination that went into the design and structure of the universe. To deny this basic fact is to deceive ourselves!

24.Q. You've ask the question; have we unbeknownst to ourselves been brought to this point in time and given this amazing technology by the one who created all the stars to show us his incomprehensible power and Supreme Imagination? Do you think this the space technology we have today could in some way be from God?(Page 88)

A. My honest answer to that is that I don't know, but it is a good question to ask. Today we are able to see the universe in a way no other generation ever has, and what we have discovered seems to confirm what Isaiah already knew, that there was an incomprehensible power behind the universe. Anyone that has ever read the Bible knows there are many accounts where God maneuvered things and used people to accomplish his purpose without their realizing they were being used.

One example of that is where the Bible prophesied over 150 years in advance at Isaiah 44:26-45:7 that Cyrus the Great, founder of the Persian empire would overthrow Babylon by drying up the Euphrates River and enter Babylon through the large unlocked and open doors of the city in order to deliver the Jews from bondage to rebuild Jerusalem.

History has recorded this event See > <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon>

"Persia captures Babylon" "In 539 BC, the Neo-Babylonian Empire fell to [Cyrus the Great](#), king of [Persia](#), with an unprecedented military maneuver. The famed walls of Babylon were indeed impenetrable, with the only way into the city through one of its many gates or through the Euphrates, which ebbed beneath its thick walls. Metal gates at the river's in-flow and out-flow prevented underwater intruders, if one could hold one's breath to reach them. Cyrus (or his generals) devised a plan to use the Euphrates as the mode of entry to the city, ordering large camps of troops at each point and instructed them to wait for the signal. Awaiting an evening of a national feast among Babylonians (generally thought to refer to the feast of Belshazzar mentioned in Daniel V), Cyrus' troops diverted the Euphrates river upstream, causing the Euphrates to drop to about 'mid thigh level on a man' or to dry up altogether. The soldiers marched under the walls through thigh-level water or as dry as mud. The Persian Army conquered the outlying areas of the city's interior while a majority of Babylonians at the city center were oblivious to the breach. The account was elaborated upon by Herodotus, and is also mentioned by passages in the Hebrew Bible. Cyrus claimed the city by walking through the gates of Babylon with little or no resistance from the drunken Babylonians. Cyrus later issued a

decree permitting captive people, including the Jews, to return to their own land (as explained in the Old Testament), to allow their temple to be rebuilt back in Jerusalem.”

25.Q. When you look at all these amazing images captured by Hubble, would it be fair to say man has stumbled upon a gallery of a formally unknown artist with Supreme Imagination? (Page 89)

A. That is exactly how I would describe it, but these works of art were not painted by mere mortals with brush strokes of colored oil paints onto cloth canvases. They were in fact painted with cosmic dust supercharged with dynamic energy onto a canvas of dark energy peppered with stars covering billions of light-years across the great expanse of the heavens—truly a living orchestra playing in symphony.

26.Q. I understand during your research for the book you decided to enlarge some of the Hubble images up to as much as 500% and transfer them onto canvas, and you were surprised by what you discovered. (Page 197)

A. Yes, I was quite surprised to find out how really beautiful and inspiring these images are to have on canvas hanging on your wall. Also I discovered that when I enlarged the images, I found that the small dots of light originally thought to be stars were in many cases hundreds of galaxies. One of my favorite images is the Sombrero Galaxy. I found when I enlarged it I discovered hundreds of galaxies but the most intriguing thing was a set of twin spiral galaxies in the background at the bottom left edge of the image. It just blew me away to think that the Sombrero Galaxy in the foreground with its 800 billion stars was nothing compared to the sum total of the hundreds of galaxies, no doubt containing trillions and trillions stars, in the background! The sheer numbers overwhelm you, then you wonder; how many of those trillions of stars represented by this single image have one or more planets orbiting around them. It just humbles you to look upon and then imagine all the possibilities for billions of years represented by a single photograph.

27.Q. You offer your book to Schools, Clubs, Sports Teams, Booster Clubs, 4-H Clubs, PTA/PTO Groups, & Non-Profits to be used as an educational fundraiser, what can you tell us about that?

A. Yes, as you may know the United Nations has declared 2009 as the international year of Astronomy, directed mainly to get youths interested in Astronomy. Because of the simplicity and educational value of this book I have decided to offer it to these organizations at a substantial discount as a tool to raise funds for their causes and at the same time inspire youths around the world and give them an overview of Astronomy, the Universe, and NASA's space program. Any organizations interested in raising funds for their cause during this 2009 international anniversary year of the telescope can go to our website at www.TheSecretDoorway.com and click on fundraiser to learn more about the program.

28.Q. In your biography you state that after the death of your father, your mother had to work full time to support the family, and due to lack of direction and guidance in your life, as a young teenager without a father you became involved in a life of crime and

drugs. What advice can you offer to young mothers that find themselves in a similar situation with troubled teenagers without a father?

- A. If my poor mother could have only known how much I needed a father figure in my life to provide discipline and direction it would have saved her years of heartache. What I desperately needed but did not have, was someone to take a personal interest in me, and provide some direction. If she could have gotten me into a youth program like Big Brothers, Big Sisters, or Junior Achievers where someone was there to help guide me I think it would have made a world of difference. Without direction I just followed my older brother and friends into a life crime and drugs. What mothers need to know is that a child naturally craves attention from its parents and when they don't get that attention in a positive way, the child will many times rebel and get your attention, even though it is in a negative way, they have none the less got your attention. My best advice to young mothers today with troubled youths or those that are even leaning in that direction is to be involved with every aspect of their life as early as possible, and enroll them in some kind of youth guidance program and get them focused onto something positive, and very importantly watch their association, and weed out any bad influences.

29.Q. You talk about how you were chased and shot at by the police. Why were they chasing and shooting at you?

- A. It was actually the local sheriff. I had been out all night riding around with my friend casing places to break into. It was around daybreak that we were driving alone and suddenly out of nowhere the sheriff pulled in behind us with his lights on and siren blaring. My friend was driving and it was him that the sheriff had been looking for. We turned off onto an old dusty road and speed up and that's when he started shooting at us. My friend and I ducked down in our seats as he started swerving the car back and forth across the road. After about 20-30 minutes we lost him and manage to get away.

30.Q. You said your friend was featured on America's most wanted. What happened?

- A. Yes, several years after that incident he was featured on America's most wanted for a double murder and was later caught and sentenced to prison.

31.Q. It sounds like you had a pretty crazy and dangerous youth.

- A. Yes, I consider myself fortunate to be alive today. My older brother that I committed most of my crimes with ended up going to prison, and shortly after getting out was shot in the head and killed at the age of 21. Many of the friends I ran with in those days are dead, from drug overdose, suicide, or are in prison.

32.Q. What was the turning point that turned your life around?

- A. At the age of 19 my life was a mess and in despair feeling that there was no purpose to life to the point I contemplated suicide. Then I came into contact with a group of Christians that showed me from the Bible that there is a purpose to life and helped me to turn my life around. The only reason I'm alive today is because I found the truth through a study of the Bible that gave me a reason for living.

33.Q. Based on your life experience what advice can you offer to youths growing up today?

A. I really feel for youths today, because life is even more complex and difficult for today's youth than when I was growing up. The first piece of advice I have is, as hard as it may be sometime, listen to your parents no matter what. They don't have all the answers, but one thing they have is life experience. As I look back I really regret not listening to my mother, I could have saved us both a lot of heartache if I had only listened. If you are in a family where a good example is not being set and you feel no one cares or has time for you, then try to reach out for help through a youth guidance program, ask your teacher at school or go online to contact organizations like Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Junior Achievers, Kiwanis, Rotary International, or just do a Google search with the words Youth Guidance Programs. Most of all don't go with the flow if you know in your heart it is taking you in the wrong direction.

34.Q. Where can people find your book?

A. It is available in book stores, if you would like to read excerpts from it and purchase it online go to: www.TheSecretDoorway.com Also you will find posters and Hubble images on canvases.