

ON A  
BACKYARD  
SAFARI

WITH OUR FATHER OF DETAILS

MIKE ATNIP



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BACKYARD  
**SAFARI**

*WITH OUR FATHER OF DETAILS*



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## The Journey

**T**he word *safari* is an English adaptation of an African Swahili word meaning “journey.” This journal is a record of an incredible safari my family and I made in the last year. We invite you to join us on this safari for a small glimpse of the majesty of our Father of details.

We will begin with a vantage point that shows the universe somewhat as God might see it, except that our perspective is always incomplete. While our Father of details sees infinity, we humans are limited. Our minds want to “blow a fuse” when we try to imagine the vastness of outer space. So we have to start with the visible universe, that which we can see and measure. The photo on this page encompasses one tiny slice of that universe—an area of night sky equivalent to a pinhead held at arm’s length.

Astronomers estimate that the most distant objects observable with the most powerful telescopes today are around 13 billion (13,000,000,000) light-years away, and that the universe is at least several times larger than that. Within that incomprehensible expanse are an estimated 300 sextillion (300,000,000,000,000,000,000) stars in 130 billion (130,000,000,000) galaxies.

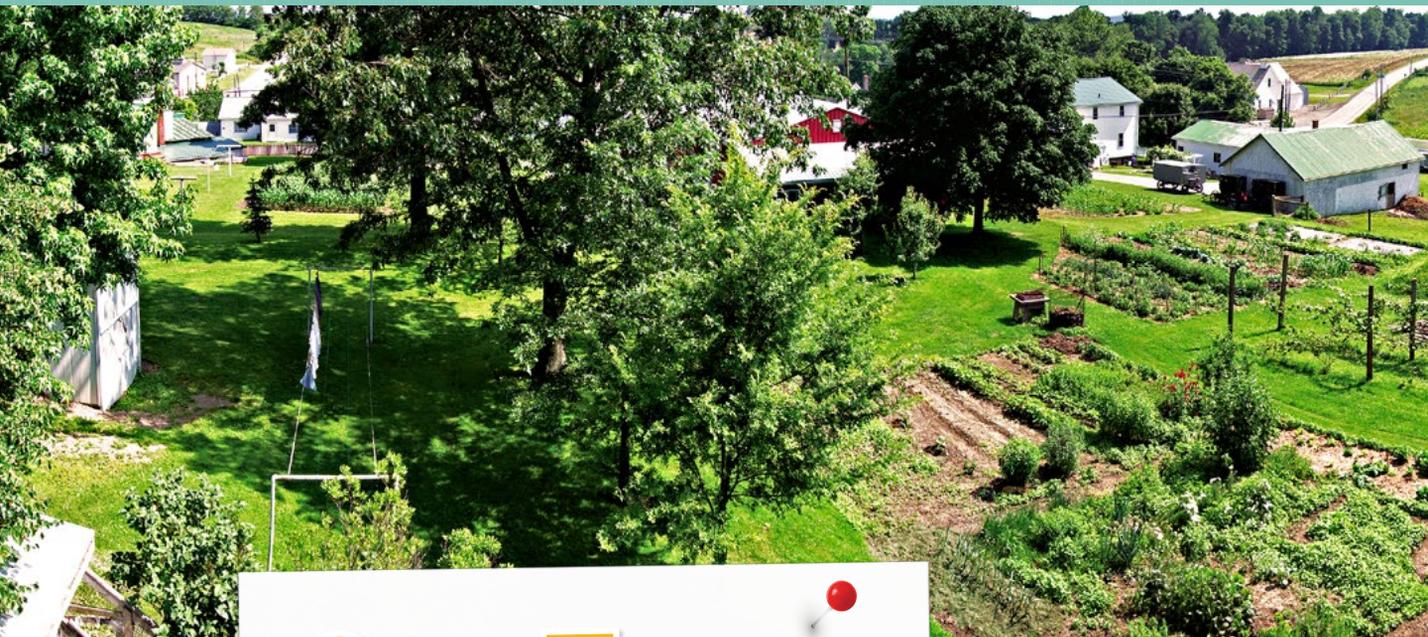
Now let’s narrow our field of view.



This galaxy is similar to the Milky Way, the one in which we float. But several hundred billion stars are still far too many to focus on, so we will choose just one speck in the Milky Way: our sun with its planets.



In fact, we will limit ourselves to planet Earth for our peek into the majesty of our Father of details. But even Earth, a tiny detail in the vastness of the observable universe, is far too big for our study.



Our Two  
**ACRES**



**W**e've chosen two acres on Earth—just two from among its 36,677,592,320 acres of land. A portion of these two acres is visible in the bird's-eye photo, from the foreground to where the two buggies are parked against the white shed near the upper middle of the photo.

At first glance nothing here seems remarkable. These two acres contain no jungle, no

rushing rivers, not even a gurgling creek or a picturesque pond. There is a house, several outbuildings, a garden, a small pasture, a tiny woods (right side, back corner), and some fruit trees—all within the small town of New Bedford, Ohio.

What kind of surprises could God have in a two-acre town lot? What can we find on our safari?



## Our First Surprise

A bumblebee is foraging on the head of an onion plant in one of the gardens. Perhaps you are thinking there is nothing outstanding about a bumblebee in a garden, but let's stop a moment and examine this bee. Turn the page to see . . .

