Ming Wang is inspiration in 'God's Not Dead' film

Two years ago, **Rice Broocks** chronicled in a book the stories of six individuals, their atheist beginnings and their search to find God.

One of those individuals is **Dr. Ming Wang**.

Wang, a cataract and LASIK surgeon in Nashville, moved from atheism to Christianity while he was a student at Harvard Medical School.

Wang's story, which was captured by Broocks in his book "God's Not Dead," served as the inspiration for the character Martin Yip in the movie of the same name, which was released March 21 and has made a splash at the box office with more than \$22 million in earnings.

Influenced by a professor who, Wang said, showed him evidence of the existence of God, Wang became a Chris-

"I began to study human anatomy, including the eye, and found that the structure ... is so complex that I began to doubt if it



Dr. Ming Wang, left, and actor Paul Kwo, who plays the character inspired by Wang in the movie "God's Not **Dead."** SUBMITTED

could all (have) evolved from random," said Wang, who became director of the Vanderbilt Laser Vision Center in 1997 and founded his own laser vision center, Wang Vision Institute, in

"... So, science, or at least science alone, cannot provide the answer as to how such a complex structure as the human eye has formed."

Broocks first told Wang's story in Chapter 10 of his book: "I met with the filmmakers, and we discussed the

idea for the movie — it was then that I told them Ming's story,' Broocks said.

The movie, Wang said, will help in his continued effort to tell his story: "I have come to realize that faith and science serve two different purposes, they are the two sides of a coin: Science is about what things are, and faith is about why things are."

> — Jessica Bliss ibliss@tennessean.com

ABC 'Nashville' stars rally to end cancer

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Actors and musicians Charles Esten and Clare **Bowen** — better known to fans of ABC's "Nashville" as Deacon and Scarlett — will help raise funds for childhood cancer research at a charity event in Nashville on April 19.

Esten and Bowen will serve as honorary chairs for the third annual Rally Rumble teen music festival at Rocketown, with proceeds benefiting the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research.

The Rally Rumble



Esten

www.crowdrise.com, with each performing in honor of a "Rally Kid" who is battling cancer. They are promoting the event on Twitter with the hashtag #EndChildhood-Cancer.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the event, which runs from 2 to 11 p.m. April 19 at Rocketown, 601 Fourth Ave. S.

The local school with the most students in attendance will receive an electric Rally Mod-Guitar, signed by Esten, Bowen and past celebrity chairs, to display in their school for one year.

To learn more, visit www.rallyfoundation. org/RallyRumble.

> Dave Paulson, dnpaulson @tennessean.com

Jack White announces new solo album

Just days before headlining the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn., in June, Nashville rock heavyweight Jack White will release a new solo album.

"Lazaretto" will hit listeners June 10 via White's Nashville-based label Third Man Records/ Columbia. It's the followup to the former White **Stripes** frontman's 2012 solo debut, "Blunderbuss," which became his first to top the U.S. albums chart and earned him a nomination for album of the year at the 2013 Grammy Awards.

A streaming track from "Lazaretto" came along with last week's news: The instrumental tune "High Ball Stepper" is available for preview on YouTube.

White will be selling a special edition of the album through Third Man's "Vault" subscription service — more info is at www.thirdman store.com.

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To listen to 'High Ball Stepper' from White's album, visit Tennessean.com/ music.

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