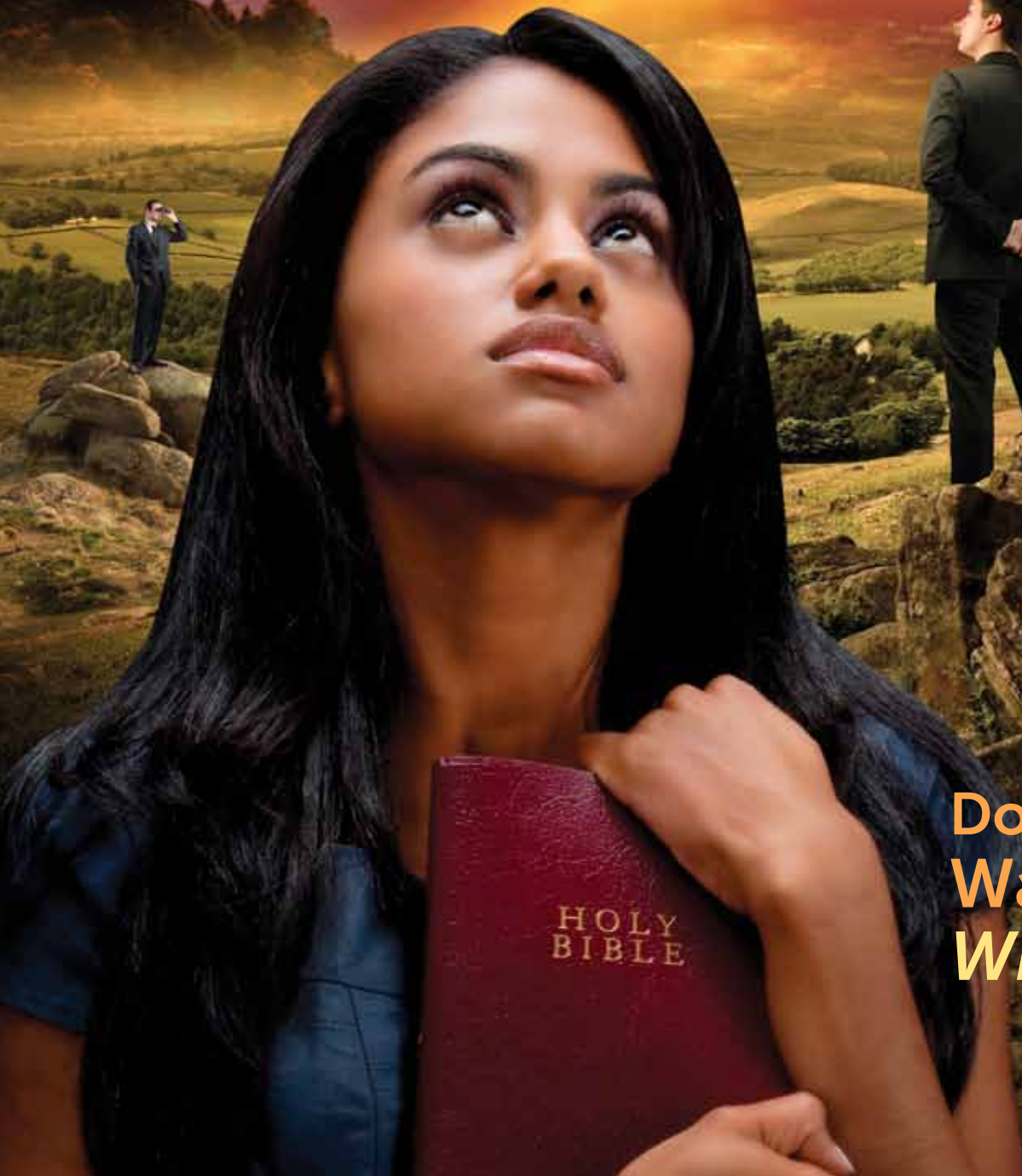


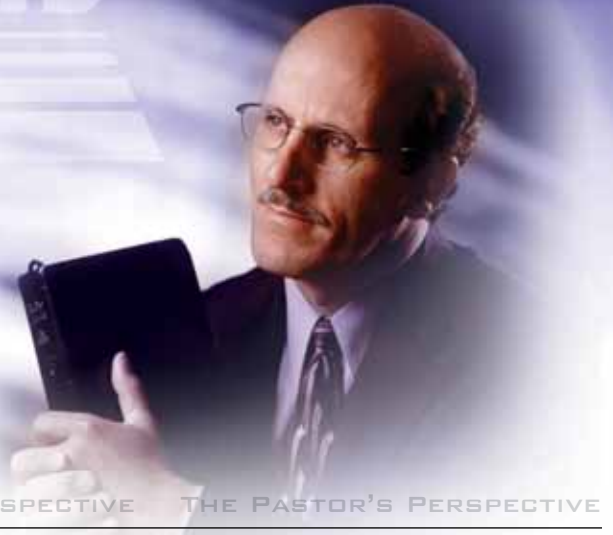
WATCHING



**Don't Just
Watch ...
Witness!**
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WATCHING AND WORKING

BY PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR



THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

On a cold December evening in New York City, a mom and dad with several kids went Christmas shopping. As often happens, the father wanted to buy a present for the mother without her knowing, and the mother wanted to buy a present for the father without his knowing, so they figured they would “divide and conquer.” They split the children between them and parted ways, going different directions up the busy street, with a plan to rendezvous later.

What they didn’t realize was that each one thought the other had taken their youngest, a little three-year-old girl, who was so captivated by all of the beautiful holiday displays in the store windows that she was unaware her parents were gone.

The little girl, surrounded by crowds of people, didn’t sense that she was abandoned. Enthralled by the lights, she continued wandering up the street lost in the spectacle. A family on their way to a church program stopped at a traffic light, and the wife remarked to her husband, “Isn’t that the Miller’s little girl standing in front of that store window?”

The husband looked and said, “It certainly does look like her.”

The wife asked, “I wonder where her parents are?”

“Don’t worry,” the husband assured her. “They wouldn’t leave her alone on the street.” Being a little late for the church program, they hurried on.

When the Miller family came together again later that night, they were terrified to realize their youngest had

wandered off. They called the police and began searching frantically through the cold night. Unfortunately, the next morning, the little girl’s body was found, cold and lifeless, under the stairs of a brownstone building.


How do you think her parents felt? And how hot were their tears when they discovered that their friends had seen their little girl out on the street—cold, alone, and lost—yet they drove on to church, never stopping to help?

This chilling story describes the condition of many Christians. We’re so busy with church that we forget the

purpose of church, which is to share the mercy of God in a lost and cold world—a world mesmerized by flashy bling and materialism but hollow promises.

It’s not only the duty of every Christian to share his or her faith, but a profound privilege and a sure blessing. So get involved!

That’s why I love the theme of this issue of *Inside Report*. It’s about two

cherished qualities of the faithful Christian—eagerly watching for the return of our Savior *and* convincing others to start watching along with us. We’re not to watch as mere spectators but as fully engaged soldiers. I hope you’ll actively help Amazing Facts share the good news at this vital moment in history—yes, with your gifts and prayers—but also by pointing others to our many books and DVDs and to our many websites. 



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Don't know what to share when witnessing to a friend, co-worker, or stranger? Don't worry—Amazing Facts has tons of resources that are easy and fun to share anytime, anywhere!

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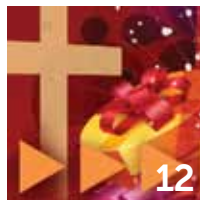
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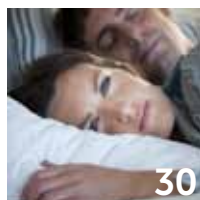


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Inside Report is a quarterly publication of Amazing Facts, Inc. Contributors to the ministry receive the *Inside Report* for a year from the date of their most recent gift.

Amazing Facts, a nonprofit ministry, shares the saving truths of Jesus Christ around the world through literature, radio, television, the Internet, public evangelism, outreach training, and more. For operation, we depend on the gifts and prayers of caring Christians who believe in our mission.

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FREE BIBLE STUDIES

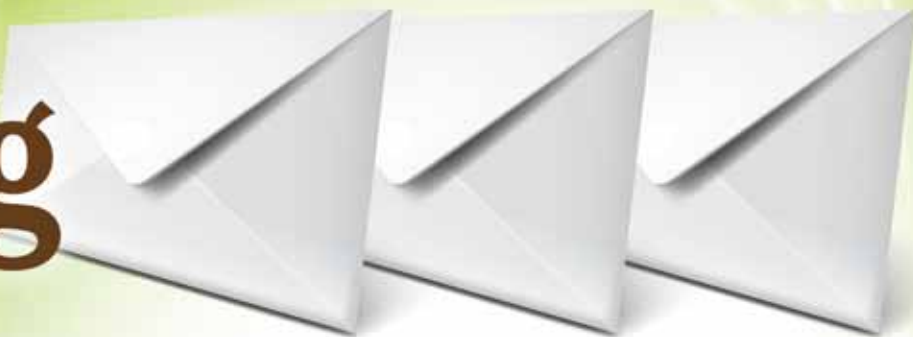
To enroll in our free 27-lesson Bible study, go to www.amazingfacts.org and click on "Bible School." Or to take the free course by mail, send us your name, address, and phone number and specify that you would like to begin the course. (Printed lessons are in English and are available only in Canada, the United States, and their territories.)

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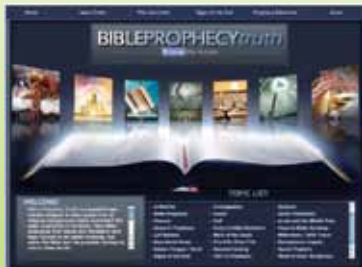
Visit afbookstore.com to discover all the great Christian resources available through Amazing Facts, including books, DVDs, and other products to help you in your walk with Christ and share the good news with others.

Mail Bag



Simple Witnessing Idea

“The secular world is fascinated by prophecy. I take advantage of that by sharing the Bible Prophecy Truth website with everyone. At the end of every conversation, by phone or in person, I always ask, ‘Can I share a website with you?’ Everyone says yes! I then say, ‘It’s bibleprophecytruth.com.’ I always spell ‘prophecy’ for them and add, ‘If you’ve ever been curious about what the Bible says is happening today and what’s ahead, it’s the most exciting adventure in learning I’ve ever had.’ It’s that quick and simple! It is something anyone can do and is a wonderful way to witness. Most people respond with genuine excitement and appreciation. I encourage everyone to try it and discover for themselves how well it works. I know that it is reaping much fruit.” *Bob, Castle Rock, Colorado*



Bible Answers Live in Guam

“Your *Bible Answers Live* program on Joy FM in Guam hooked me as I was channel surfing on my way home from work one evening. . . . Your website became my virtual home. I’ve used all of the Bible Study Guides and many other online resources. Like many others, I have viewed many, many videos, and I constantly use the virtual library. I am truly and forever indebted to your ministry’s part in bringing me to the foot of the cross.” *Alex, Guam*



Always Room for More Light

“I really enjoy your programs! I watch them here in Zimbabwe and appreciate all the things I learn. I thank the Lord for Pastor Batchelor and his dedication



in teaching people about God. I have been a Christian all my life, and there are some things you still need to be taught

no matter how long you’ve been in the faith. I thank God we are able to get your program, and I learn more all the time.” *Renée, Zimbabwe*

Be Zealous

“The article entitled ‘Be Zealous’ was so empowering that it brought me to tears. I will have to share this with some of my Christian friends who may also appreciate a pep talk.” *Linda, email*



“This is truly an amazing article and very timely. I sent it to a friend, and he was so happy for it. Most of us are basically lukewarm but reading this really inspired me, and it’s a boost that I needed. I hope you continue to write more like this so we can share and make a change in our personal life for God.” *Damian, web comment*

Want Bible answers in your inbox? Inspiring articles? Latest ministry news? Testimonies showing how your support is making a difference? Or how about exclusive deals on our best products? Then sign up for our email specials and the *Inside Report* e-newsletter at subscribe.amazingfacts.org!

The *Inside Report* welcomes all correspondence regarding Amazing Facts. Letters and other materials may be used—in whole or in part and edited for content and clarity—in future ministry publications. **If Amazing Facts has helped change your life for Christ, please write us at testimonies@amazingfacts.org!**



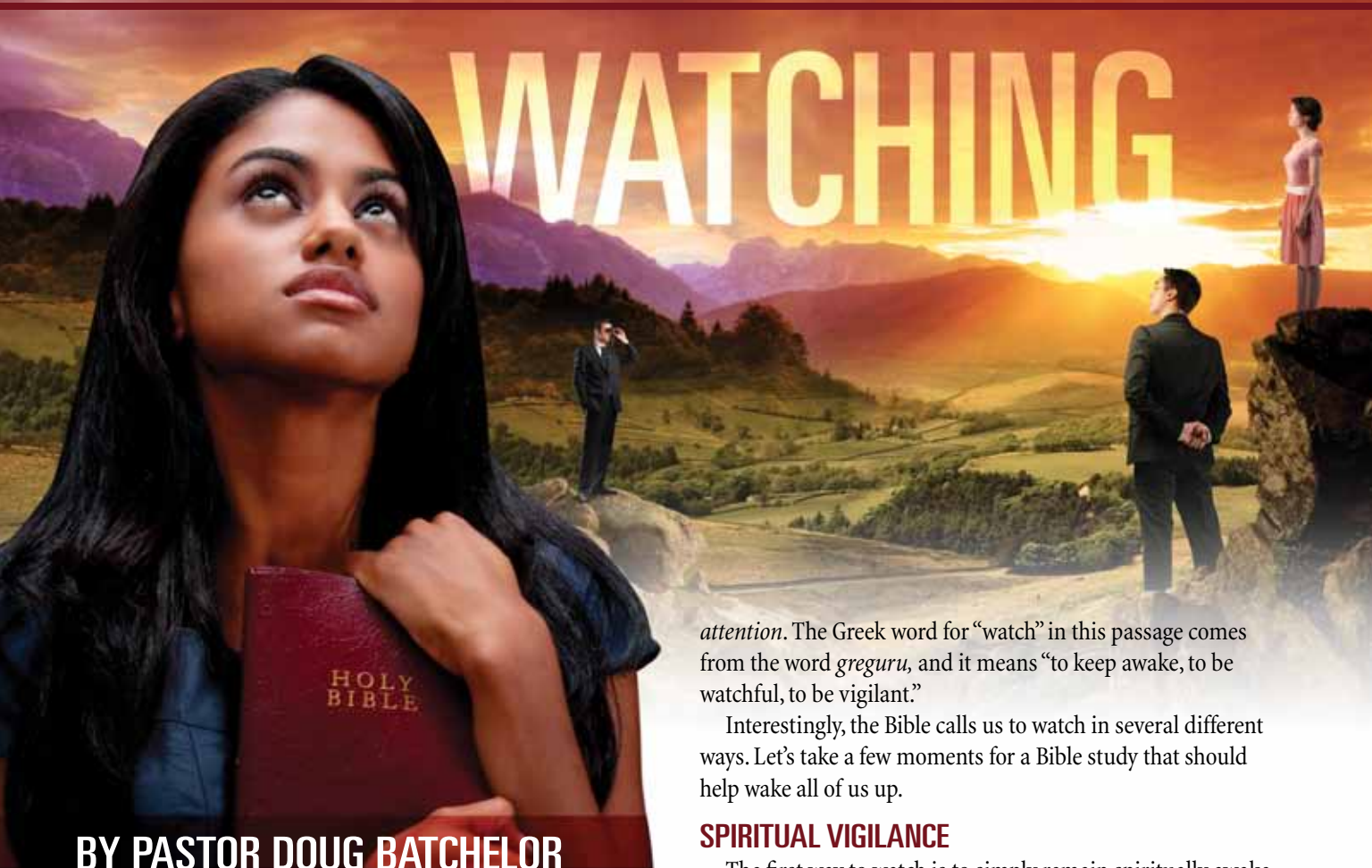
The rapture?
Pre-millennium?
Post-tribulation?

What does it all mean? He's been so confused by the many interpretations of prophecy and frustrated by false predictions that he's ready to give up searching the Word for good.

Today Amazing Facts is helping him and millions like him around the world get a better grip on Bible prophecy, restoring their confidence in the Word of God, leading them out of confusing deception, and offering them a stronger relationship to the ultimate purpose of prophecy—Jesus Christ.

Your help each month will make it possible to give more people clarity and hope while they study Bible prophecy.

Donate online at www.amazingfacts.org



BY PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR

Many years ago, when telegraph service using Morse code was still common, a number of young men had gathered to apply for a job at the local telegraph office. While they were all waiting in a reception area to be interviewed and chatting with one another, the faint sound of the “dot, dot, dash, dash, dot, dot” from a nearby telegraph machine drifted into the room. Suddenly, one of the men jumped to his feet and ran through the door into the adjoining office.

He came back a few moments later grinning. He announced, “I got the job.”

The others wondered, “How did you get the job before we even got a chance?”

He said, “You were so preoccupied with visiting that you weren’t paying attention to the code.” He explained, “I was listening to the message, and it said, ‘I am looking for somebody who is alert, and the first person who hears this message and comes into the office will get the job.’” He was paying attention!

I think this is a timely parable to the members of the Christian church, who seem to be deeply distracted from the message God is trying to send us today.

In Mark 13, where Jesus highlights the astounding signs of the second coming, four times He says, “Watch.” That is, *pay*

attention. The Greek word for “watch” in this passage comes from the word *greguru*, and it means “to keep awake, to be watchful, to be vigilant.”

Interestingly, the Bible calls us to watch in several different ways. Let’s take a few moments for a Bible study that should help wake all of us up.

SPIRITUAL VIGILANCE

The first way to watch is to simply remain spiritually awake.

Jesus said that many people will be sleeping when the bridegroom comes, rather than watching. “While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept” (Matthew 25:5). The wedding party was to be watching for the bridegroom, but at that critical moment they all dozed off. Notice it says “they all”—100 percent, both the wise and the foolish—fell asleep.

Paul admonishes, “You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober” (1 Thessalonians 5:5, 6 NKJV). This kind of watching is more than just watching, as if you’re gazing listlessly at the television. It requires being attentive and alert and clear about the happenings around us.

WATCH AND PRAY

Not only are we to be awake and watching, Jesus said we are to watch and pray.

Have you ever been in a hospital keeping vigil because someone you love was going through a critical surgery? You kept praying for your loved one and nervously watched the operating room doors because the doctor could have come out at any moment with pivotal news. Your heart was really in it because you were praying for an outcome that meant life or death.



That's what it means to watch and pray. That's what Christians need to be doing now. "The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer" (1 Peter 4:7).

In the book of Nehemiah, the king of Persia tells the prophet to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. However, the Samaritans and Arabians did not want the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt, so they constantly tried to disrupt Nehemiah's efforts, waiting to catch him off guard so they could sabotage his work.

"But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth" (Nehemiah 4:7). Nehemiah's enemies were extremely angry at his progress. It's the same way the devil feels when God's church is being built up.

They also "conspired . . . together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it" (v. 8). Satan comes against us with great wrath to hinder God's work. "Nevertheless we [Israel] made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them" (v. 9).

In response, God's people didn't just pray. They didn't just watch. They did both night and day.

WATCHING YOURSELF

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was facing His greatest trial. There, at the very axis of the plan of salvation, He knew He was about to experience intense suffering and death on the cross. He made one simple request of His disciples while He left to pray: watch.

"Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?'" (Matthew 26:40 NKJV). I suspect a lot of us watch like Peter. And the Lord says to us, *Could you not watch with me one hour?*

We are again at a critical point in history. Jesus is about to return to planet Earth. Probation is closing, and He's asking us to watch. We don't want Him to say, *What? Could you not watch with me one hour?*, but I would guess He just might say that today! So He warns, "Watch and pray" (Matthew 26:41).

Part of this watching is watching ourselves. "Examine yourselves as to whether you're in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV). You need to be watching yourself *and* your surroundings. You need to be asking yourself, *Am I growing? Am I becoming more like Jesus?* "Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3 NKJV).

Ask the Lord to watch your mind, your heart, your lips. We need to be guarding what we allow to come into our minds. This is one of the single most important things you can do in your own discipline as a Christian: guarding the avenues to your soul. You're the combined essence of all those things that you take in. Some of those things have been Trojan horses. We think there's no harm done, but once it gets into our minds, it becomes a disaster. "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished" (Proverbs 22:3 NKJV).

WATCHING OTHERS

We need to watch our brothers and sisters. I'm not talking about being judgmental and trying to catch people in sin. I'm talking about a genuine caring for other people's souls. "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:19, 20 NKJV).

We've got to watch each other! Some are spiritually drifting, and we need to care about that.

Children need watching. As they get older, they generally want to be watched less, but that's usually when they need to be watched the most. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1 NKJV). By watching in love, we can claim a brother or sister in Christ who would have been lost otherwise!

A man in Africa worked in a diamond mine. He was leaving work one day but happened to be watching the conveyor belt as it was taking rocks

How is your prayer life lately? If you're not watching and praying, I suggest you make a prayer list. I guarantee it will make it easier to pray. As time goes on, your list will grow, and your time in prayer will also grow.

Do you know what would happen to the church if we each watched and prayed an

hour a day? How about adopting that as your slogan for the next few months: *Watch and pray an hour a day.*

You have 24 hours each day. Pick just one! Or split your hour up into three 20-minute sessions. Can you give Him one hour a day?



to the crusher. These were the worthless rocks, to be pulverized and dumped into the landfill. He happened to notice a hand-sized rock and thought it didn't look right. He grabbed it off the conveyor belt and took it to his supervisor. It ended up being the 10th largest diamond in the world—616 carats. This diamond in the rough was going to be thrown into a landfill but for an alert worker who was watching. They gave him a reward of \$15,000.

How great will your reward be if you watch? Every day we meet some of God's diamonds who are on their way to the landfill. They might look like common rocks on the outside, but many are really bearing a diamond within. If we're not paying attention, they'll pass us on the conveyor belt to oblivion. "‘They shall be Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him’" (Malachi 3:17 NKJV).

You are your brother's keeper. Watch yourself and watch others. Plus, you need to be receptive to others watching over you! "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account" (Hebrews 13:17 NKJV).

As Americans, we love our independence. We don't want anybody in our business. We have been so bombarded with this idea, however, that when you talk about Christians watching out for each other spiritually, it seems invasive and nosey. But we should care enough about one another that we watch out for each other spiritually.

WATCHING THE ENEMY

I had a friend in the hills who once owned an ornery goat. One time when he asked me to care for his livestock, he warned, "Don't ever turn your back on that goat. As soon as you do, he'll butt you so hard you will need to change your ZIP code!" Well, the little beast never did get me, but I saw him knock someone else off his feet. He would graze peacefully like he didn't care you were there. But just as soon as you took your eyes off him, wham!

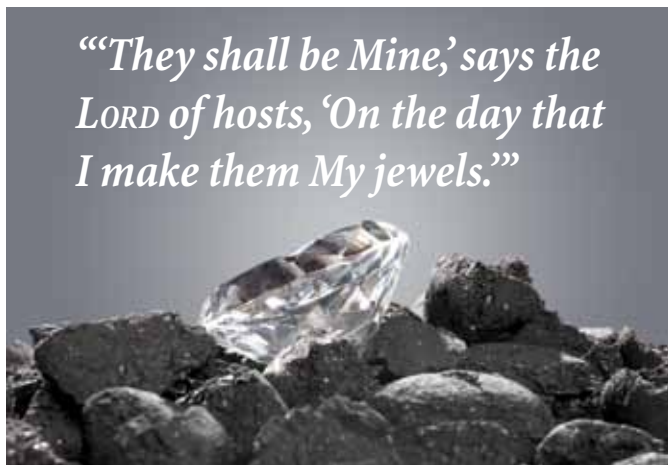
The devil is like that.

We need to watch the enemy. Peter says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8 NKJV).

Good pickpockets often work in teams. One of them will cause a distraction while the others pick the pockets. Long ago, when I was young and far from being a Christian, I worked with a friend to steal from grocery stores. He would go into a store and make a big ruckus. Of course, everybody turned to look, even the security guard. Then, while everyone was watching him, I would slip a steak under my shirt and head

out the door. Soon my friend would calm down and walk out too. We never got caught.

Likewise, the devil is a master at diversionary tactics. He creates minor doctrinal distractions to get everybody looking away from the bigger moral problems. Let's watch out for these tricks and do our best to keep Jesus and His Word as our focus.



WATCHING AND WARNING

What good is a blind, deaf, and mute watchdog? This is how Isaiah describes religious leaders who don't warn people when the enemy is near. "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber" (Isaiah 56:10).

When war was eminent, Israel would position watchmen strategically on the wall for maximum visibility of their surroundings. Approaching armies often kicked up a thick cloud of dust, which you could see from miles away. Sometimes, you could hear the ground rumble.

Should a watchman see the dust and hear the rumbling of an approaching enemy army, he would blow a trumpet to warn all the people in the surrounding farms to flee into the protection of the city walls. Everybody's life was in the hands of the watchman; if he did not give warning of the enemy's approach, they would overtake the unprepared still in their fields. Property and lives would be lost.

But did you know that failure to give a warning could be fatal for the watchmen as well?

"When he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. ... But he who takes warning will save his life" (Ezekiel 33:3–5).

NKJV). You are expected to act if you hear a warning.

“But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.” (Ezekiel 33:6 NKJV). If the watchman failed to blow the trumpet, he was held responsible for any who died.

You and I are a type of watchman. God has given us life-and-death messages in His Word. We know the sword is coming. He says to you and me:

So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. When I say to the wicked, “O wicked man, you shall surely die!” and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul (Ezekiel 33:7–9 NKJV).

Toward the end of his ministry, Paul wrote, “I am innocent of the blood of all men” (Acts 20:26 NKJV). Why did he say that? He added, “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” (v. 27). He had faithfully blown the trumpet. He had given fair warning.

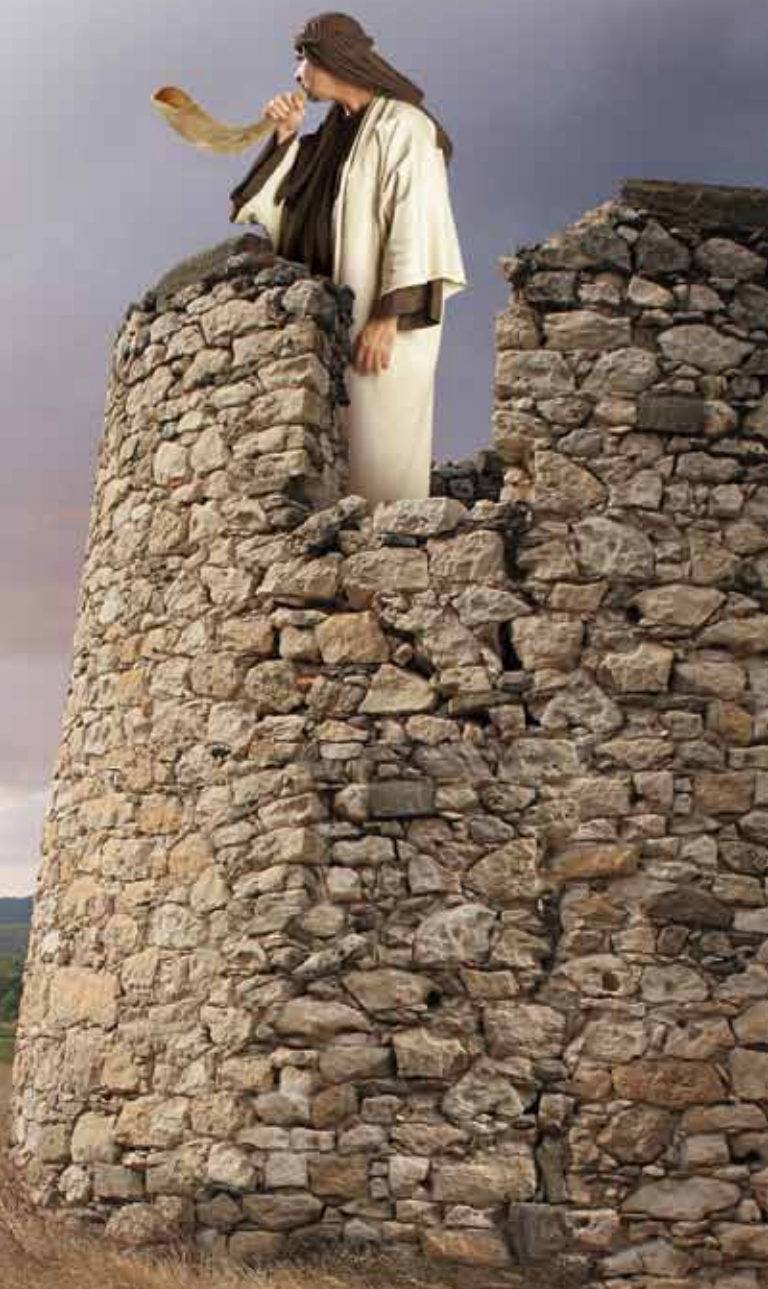
The Bible says, “Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1 NKJV). Are you blowing the trumpet? I’m not suggesting marching up and down the street being obnoxious for Jesus, but God does bring people within our sphere of influence every day. The Holy Spirit will impress us to say a word to this person or that person. But you have to be watching.

Not long ago, I called to have satellite Internet service installed in my cabin in the woods. This helped me stay in touch with the

office when I was out of town. The satellite company sent up some installers from Sacramento, a four-and-a-half-hour trip one way! After these two fellows pulled up to my yard in their company truck, one of the first things they asked was, “You got any pot?”

I said, “Sorry guys. You’ve come to one of the few pieces of property out here where you’re not going to find any pot growing.” They were disappointed but went on with their

Continued on page 26.





Don't Just Watch ... Share!

Books and DVDs
that make sharing
fun and easy!

Every time you purchase an Amazing Facts product, you're making it possible for us to share the everlasting gospel around the world. But together we can do even better.

It's important for us to be personally active in sharing our faith whenever possible. Below, we've featured some dynamite sharing products—each produced by Amazing Facts—that are really easy to share with just about anyone. Try keeping a collection of sharing books and DVDs in your car or purse so you'll be ready whenever the Lord gives you a divine appointment to share Him!

If you have some sharing ideas, let us know at editor@amazingfacts.org.

Prophecy Bible

What is it? A feature-packed study Bible from Amazing Facts, with fresh insights from Pastor Doug. Also includes all 27 prophecy Bible Study Guides!

How to share it: “If you know someone who needs a Bible, this is the perfect gift. Comes packed with resources that help them really grasp the three angels’ messages and understand confusing Bible passages. It’s an entire prophecy series wrapped up perfectly in a study Bible! Great for that special someone, a student, or as a door prize or church giveaway.”

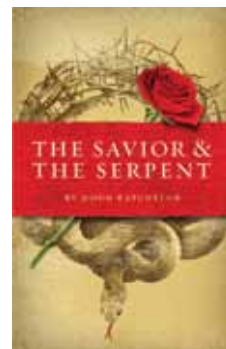


The Savior & the Serpent

What is it? A unique look at the message of salvation through the lens of the serpent on the staff.

How to share it:

“Know someone who thinks the Old Testament doesn’t matter? This sharing book connects the redemptive work of Christ with ancient history and gives seekers assurance that God has been working to save everyone from the snares of Satan. Some insights from Pastor Doug will blow people away about the love and goodness of God.”



Who Are the Sons of God?

What is it? Pastor Doug tackles the controversial subject of the giants of Genesis in this sharing book.

How to share it: “Believe it or not, this subject has last-day implications. So for anyone confused about the sons of God, this is a great little study to put them on the right track. As usual, it features Pastor Doug’s straightforward but warm and charming style.”



The Best of Amazing Facts Presents DVD

What is it? Pastor Doug’s best, most popular sermons from 2011.

How to share it:

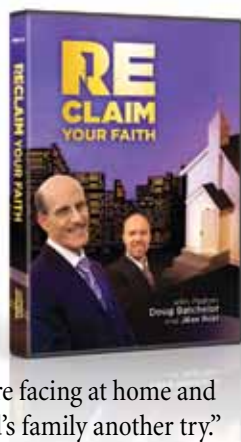
“A cool highlight reel that shows Pastor Doug’s friendly and engaging style even as he bravely explores the most controversial Bible subjects. Easy to share with anyone ... even skeptics will respond. Be sure to have a copy or two with you whenever you travel and strike up a conversation with a fellow traveller.”



Reclaim Your Faith DVD

What is it? A life-changing DVD series for those who have wandered from the church.

How to share it: “Chances are, you know someone struggling with getting their first love back after having experienced a crisis in church that left them feeling distant and cold. If they aren’t willing to go back to church, these DVDs will really help them deal with the deeper issues they’re facing at home and invite them to come back and give God’s family another try.”



Sugar-Free Raw Desserts

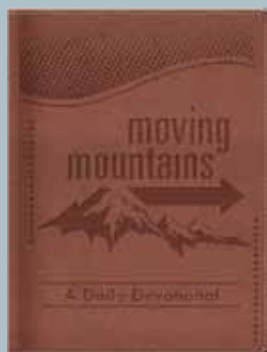
What is it? A top-selling cookbook that features alternative recipes for people’s favorite desserts.

How to share it: “Health is a big industry, and people are going to be delighted about being able to enjoy their favorite desserts without the guilt. It’s really a great, backdoor sharing opportunity—helping people get comfortable with a health message that’s full of warmth and not judgment. Give it to someone struggling with health issues!”



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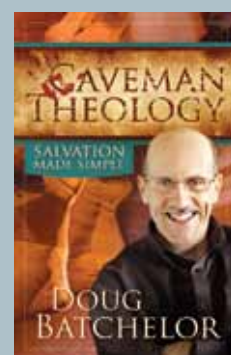
Other Great Sharing Tools



Moving Mountains



NOOK Tablet



Caveman Theology



PAYING FAITH FORWARD

Mary Kowalski* was born in Russia during World War II. Her Jewish parents and two older siblings had fled there from Poland several years before she was born. Although they had been able to escape the concentration camps, her brother, who was only 10 months old at the time, died a short time later from an illness he had contracted during their escape. Mary remembers growing up in poverty and moving around frequently to escape Hitler's regime. Her family eventually moved to Israel. They began to set down some roots and started a business.

In 1976, Mary decided to make another big step in her life and moved to America. She didn't like the idea of bringing money into the country, so her family bought a diamond ring for her to use as an investment. She put it away in various safety deposit boxes and someday hoped to give it to her children.

A New Faith

While living in Los Angeles, Mary was invited to a church that was conducting a satellite evangelistic series. For the first time, she learned of Christ. Mary soon had a satellite dish installed in her home and began to watch programs with a speaker named Doug Batchelor. She appreciated the clear truths that were brought to light by Amazing Facts programming. She learned more teachings from the New Testament, and her eyes and ears were opened up to the love of Christ and His death on the cross for our salvation. Mary returned to the church the next


week ... and again ... and again. She continued to grow in her Christian walk, and she fell further in love with the Lord.

Mary became a Sabbath-keeping Christian, much to the disappointment of her family, yet she could no longer ignore the prompting of the Holy Spirit. She even began to see how the Lord had been taking care of her family, from their days in Russia during the war to her current life in the states.

Acting on Her Faith

Three years ago, Mary became ill and came to the conclusion that if she were to die, she didn't want to die with her worldly possessions still in her home. She feared they might become a stumbling block to her children, so she began to liquidate all of her jewelry and antiques.

Because Mary appreciated the Amazing Facts programs, she decided to donate her diamond ring, since appraised at \$20,000, to the ministry to benefit the work of evangelism. She knew that the satellite programs were the reason she was now in the church and that they were a powerful tool for the Lord.

Fortunately, Mary recovered from her illness and says she is getting healthier and stronger each day. She feels like a huge weight was lifted from her shoulders after giving up everything she felt she didn't need, including her ring. Her life is full of peace because of her assurance that the Lord is guiding her life. 

**Not her real name.*

What Happened to Your Golden Goose?

"That which you bestow in the cause of God is not lost. All that is given for the salvation of souls and the glory of God is invested in the most successful enterprise in this life and in the life to come. Your talents of gold and silver, if given to the exchangers, are gaining continually in value, which will be registered in your account in the kingdom of heaven."—Counsels on Stewardship

Good, loving Christian souls have often told me that they wished they had given a portion of their real estate to the Lord's work when it still had value back in 2005. I can't help but wonder if I will hear the same thing from people who have investments in gold and silver.

The editorials on the future of the world economy paint apocalyptic scenes, and one cannot help but recognize that security will not be found in the things or solutions of human wisdom—but rather in the Lord alone. The explosion of value in gold and silver are alarmingly similar to the charts we saw about real estate before the housing bubble burst—and the Bible promises that, some day soon, gold and silver will have no more value.

Call us today if you want to turn your precious metals into souls for the kingdom. We have options that will benefit your family and the cause of Christ through Amazing Facts.



Dan Storkamp
Planned Giving Manager

Call 800-436-2695 today!

BIBLE Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



Tune in to *Bible Answers Live*, Amazing Facts' live, nationwide call-in radio program, and listen to Pastor Doug give biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To get times and stations in your area, or to listen to answers online, visit www.amazingfacts.org. You can also request a free program guide by phone or mail.

What are some biblical principles to follow when it comes to entertainment for a Christian?

This is a very relevant question today, especially when you consider that with the onset of the Internet, smartphones, animated billboards, and HDTVs, the average person must swim through a constant waterfall of entertainment advertisements daily. There has never been a time in history when a Christian's senses have been assaulted by worldly media as much as they are this century.

We need to be aware, then, that the Bible standard is very high. In Philippians 4:8, we read, "Whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report . . . think on these things."

If you apply these criteria to what you're watching, reading, and hearing, you will be following the very best counsel available. Is your choice of entertainment elevating? Is it noble? Is it true? These are some of the tests that Paul applies regarding how we determine what we choose to think about and subject our minds to.


King David writes, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Psalm 101:3). When we follow this as a guideline, we're more likely to choose activities that nurture the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

Obviously, all Christians recognize that it's a sin to lie, kill, steal, or commit adultery, but somehow when it comes to being entertained by watching or reading about others breaking these commandments, we manage to rationalize that it's okay. Really?

Paul says the "righteous judgment of God" will fall on those who not only do these things but also on those who "approve of those who practice them" (Romans 1:32 NKJV). In other words, many Christians choose to sin vicariously by being entertained by the sins of others, real or imagined.

No one can escape the truth that we are changed by what we behold. "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV). As we worship and look to Jesus, we become like Him. As we worship and look to the world, we will become like the world.

Ultimately, this is the bottom line. "What would Jesus do?" What would He watch, what would He read, and what would He listen to? If He suddenly walked into your room, would you quickly change the channel, slip that novel under your pillow, or delete your browser history? Actually, He and His angels are there now, so these are very good questions to ask yourself in every situation.

A Christian is a follower of Christ, so Jesus' example should be foremost in our minds and hearts. The only way to really find that out is to study to know Him better through your Bible. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5 NKJV). 

Want Bible answers in your inbox? Inspiring articles? Latest ministry news? Testimonies showing how your support is making a difference? Or how about exclusive deals on our best products? Then sign up for our email specials and the *Inside Report* e-newsletter at subscribe.amazingfacts.org!

TV AND RADIO BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Spiritually uplifting messages are available every day on Amazing Facts radio, television, and Internet!

TV



You can enjoy Amazing Facts radio and TV broadcasts at www.amazingfacts.org.



You can now watch AFTV on **ROKU!** Now streaming to your TV inspiring biblical insight to grow your faith!

FREE PODCASTS!



Watch & listen to Pastor Doug anytime on your computer or MP3 player! Find out more online.

Be sure to visit our website for more audio Bible lessons!

RADIO

WEB

AMAZING FACTS PRESENTS

A weekly 30-minute program with Pastor Doug that explores the Bible in-depth, offering practical guidance and information for Christian living, prophecy, and more!

APRIL 29

BABYLON AND THE USA

What will be the relationship between the United States and the false church in the end? This message has never been more vital—so make sure you tune in to be informed and inspired!

MAY 6

DROWNING THE OLD MAN

In this beautiful message about new life, Pastor Doug explores the significance of baptism and why each Christian is called to experience this spiritual coming-of-age ritual.

MAY 13

THE RICHEST CAVEMAN

Pastor Doug's personal testimony shows how God's power can change lives! The incredible witness of a cave-dwelling hermit who's become an international soul-winner. Tell your friends!

MAY 20

DEADLY DELUSIONS

What happens when we die? Open the pages of the Bible for an eye-opening true picture of life after death that just might go against everything you've ever heard!

MAY 27, JUNE 3

WHAT IS THE LAKE OF FIRE?, PARTS 1 & 2

Understanding the truth about hell and its purpose is one of the best ways to understand God's plan for mankind. Get past the myth and get the Bible truth about this misunderstood topic.

JUNE 10

A THOUSAND YEARS OF PEACE

What is the millennium? Find out what the Bible really says about this mysterious era to come and what you'll be doing for a thousand years!

JUNE 17

HEALTHY LIVING

The Creator of the universe truly cares about how you treat your body. Want to know how to do it right? Pastor Doug opens up the operator's manual and gives you a fun and exciting test drive!

JUNE 24

CLOTHED WITH LIGHT

What is the purpose of God's church? And is there a "true" church? Pastor Doug tackles all this in a riveting sermon about God's plan to use you to bring light to the world.

BIBLE ANSWERS LIVE — Airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 P.M. Pacific.

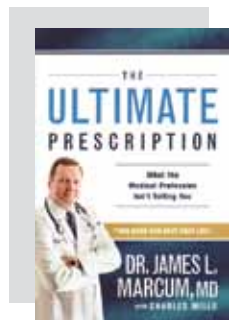
A live call-in radio program where you can ask Pastor Doug any Bible question and get a biblical answer in return. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate.



You can watch Bible programming you can trust at www.amazingfacts.tv — streaming online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tune in today!

Be a witness! Tell your friends about AFTV and how they can watch us anytime day or night!

Schedules are subject to change. Television broadcast includes national broadcast only; visit amazingfacts.org for more information.



The Ultimate Prescription

Would you like to discover the powerful ways in which God is part of the healing process? Cardiologist and radio host Dr. James Marcum explains how the spiritual dimension of our health is being ignored and how to fix it. Discover today the true path to longevity and joy!

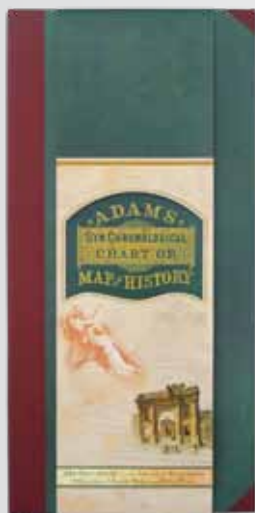
BK-TUP ... \$15.99



Scripture Mysteries Documentary Series

This riveting Bible series reveals fresh insight into a number of controversial Bible topics. Features top-notch theologians and archaeologists—so you'll better grasp wonderful facts about the Bible, such as its reliability, prophecy, the problem of evil and suffering, and more!

DV-SMDS ... \$75.00



Adam's Synchronological Chart or Map of History

A vintage reproduction of the famous 1871 illustrated timeline of Earth's history—an in-depth panorama as seen through the lens of the Bible. Features a 21 panel accordion-style fold-out measuring 25 feet! (13.5" W x 27.5" H when closed.) A must-have for Bible students!

BK-COH ... \$39.99



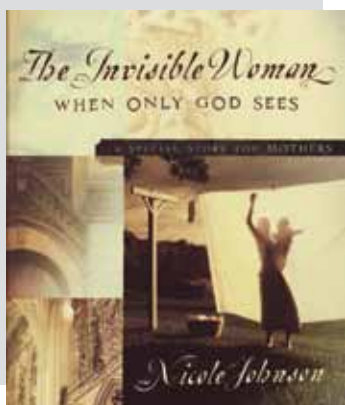
God In Pain: Another Look at Evil, Suffering, and the Cross

David Asscherick. A heart-touching and unique perspective about pain and suffering that will help you recognize God as the victim and the solution.

BK-GIP ... \$17.00



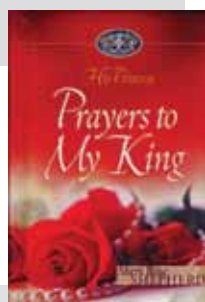
Gift Ideas for Mother's Day May 13



The Invisible Woman: When Only God Sees

Nicole Johnson. A woman's work is often anonymous—even as she builds and shapes the future. This moving story affirms women in their often unseen daily chores for their families. Sure to become a treasured gift by mothers and grandmothers everywhere!

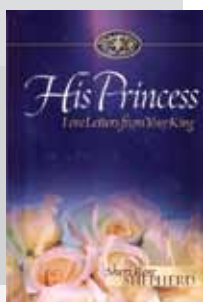
BK-TIW ... \$13.99



Prayers to My King

A beautiful gift book created to help women connect intimately with God. Will help you express your deepest thoughts, desires, fears, and failures by emulating King David in the Psalms and crying out to God through prayer. Christian women will gain a personal, dynamic prayer life.

BK-PMK ... \$13.99



His Princess

It's hard for most women to look at their lives and think of themselves as royalty. But God is their loving King, and He has chosen them to be in His family! Be affirmed of who you are, why you're here, and how much you are loved as your soul soaks in these love letters from God.

BK-HPD ... \$13.99



His Princess Bride

We are the Bride of Christ. If you are ready to enter into a passionate relationship with the Lord—if you have wanted your Lord to whisper sacred secrets of eternity to you through His Word—then this book was written for you.

BK-HPB ... \$13.99



God's Promises from A to Z

Helen Steiner Rice. This new and delightful devotional offers a look at God's provision, from promises of faith to obedience and wisdom. An encouraging collection of 50 poems and Scripture that's an ideal gift.

K-GPAZ ... \$12.99

Gift Ideas for Graduates



The Story Bible

Help give your children a deeper understanding of the Bible in terms they can grasp. Includes a user's guide to explain how to use this feature-rich Bible with children at different stages of development and reading levels.

BK-TSB ... \$24.99



ESV Seek and Find Bible

This full-color children's Bible contains over 120 vibrant illustrations of major Bible stories. Offers simple, accurate Bible story retellings; key verses to memorize; and more! Will help little hearts develop a love for God!

BK-SFB ... \$27.99



Classic Insights: Grant Me Wisdom

Matthew Henry. Here, in 180 brief and lightly updated readings, are the fresh, renewing blessings of God's Word on wisdom. Read this powerful devotional for both knowledge and joy! (Leathersoft cover)

BK-GMW ... \$14.99



When People Are Big and God Is Small

Eric Welch. A gem about our great God and how we need to stop fearing other people so much! Learn to foster a healthy fear of God to the point that other people have less power over your life. Read this book and you will be encouraged to live only for God!

BK-WPAB ... \$15.99

Order online today at

afbookstore.com

or call 800-538-7275

Shipping Information: Please add **15%** of sales value or **\$5.50** (whichever is higher) for shipping & handling.

California residents please add 8.25% sales tax. For orders shipped outside the U.S. and Canada, add 25% or \$10 (whichever is higher) for foreign postage. Some items may require additional shipping costs and delivery time due to weight.

NOT VERY Exploring God's Nearness FAR

It's ironic but true ... even students at a leading Christian university can end up setting aside God and sacrificing an active church life in pursuit of academic excellence.

As part of an ongoing campaign to help young people stay connected to God, Amazing Facts partnered with Generation of Youth for Christ Southeast (GYCSE) on the campus of Southern Adventist University (SAU) near Chattanooga, Tenn., to provide a unique perspective about God's nearness in everyday life.

Over the two-day event beginning February 17, nearly 3,000 students and community members gathered to hear Pastor Doug offer an array of practical advice and spiritual insight on keeping a close connection with Jesus amidst life's constant string of distractions. He told students, "The greatest adventure life can offer might not be crossing the Andes, but rather discovering that the most powerful being in the cosmos is right beside you. My hope is that you feel God's presence wherever you are challenged. You are at the very peak of life, and God can do so much through you."

The series struck a powerful chord with students and community. Lynnette Allcock explains, "It was a good reminder of how close and personal God really is, as well as how soon His coming is." Jose Dechamps adds, "It pushed me to listen to

God more, to follow Him, and listen to Him without complaining."

Hundreds in the audience responded to an altar call after Pastor Doug's message about how God used even the reluctant

prophet Jonah for His glory. About 30 people requested baptism by the end of the series and even more asked for Bible studies. Priscilla Bernal, an SAU student, says, "The series taught me that God loves me even though sometimes I reject Him. God has a purpose for everyone. ... Like Jonah, in spite of our stubbornness, God still wants to use us."

Dr. Alan Parker, professor of missions and evangelism at SAU and event sponsor, says, "Students have often told me that they know about God but struggle to connect with Him personally. Many feel like their prayers hit the ceiling. But young people can provide the enthusiasm, skills, and energy we need to reach the world in this generation. We need to make sure they connect with the source that makes this possible, and Not Very Far was a relevant way to get that message across."

Not Very Far was a prelude to a more extensive GYCSE Bible series for college-age students scheduled in the fall in the Chattanooga area, with Pastor Doug slated as a keynote speaker. Daniel Arroyo, president of GYCSE, says, "Our purpose is to target the spiritual problems and questions that college students are dealing with. Due to the fact that so many are leaving the church today, we not only want to find the problem but also the solution. Pastor Batchelor's series this weekend was a powerful step forward in the right direction for hundreds."

Archives of the series can be seen at www.gycse.org.



Responding to the altar call

"My hope is that you feel God's presence wherever you are challenged."





Amazing Facts EvangelismTeam

Contact us at 916-209-7220 to schedule an Amazing Facts evangelistic prophecy series or revival weekend in your church!

Our Bible prophecy seminars now feature can't-beat price breaks and a marketing team that will help you advertise your event. This is a great time to book an Amazing Facts evangelist and grow your church! Call today to get more details.



Doug
Batchelor



Emanuel
Baek



Darrin
Bartell



Lowell
Hargreaves



Chuck
Holtry



Tim
Jones



Tyler
Long



Dennis
Priebe



Dave
Steward

Doug Batchelor

May 4, 5

Northern California Men's Retreat
Leoni Meadows, California

May 26

AFCOE Graduation Event

May 31 – June 2

Carolina Camp Meeting
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

July 15 – 17

Central California Camp Meeting
Soquel, California

October 10 – 13

The Ultimate Purpose: Taking
Faith From Theory to Reality
Collegedale, Tennessee

Emanuel Baek

April 13

Miskolc, Hungary

Darrin Bartell

July 20 – August 18

Lynwood, Washington
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

Lowell Hargreaves

Lowell is on assignment in
the Philippines with our
Global AFCOE branch.

May 4 – June 2

San Jose, Philippines
Island of Panay
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

Chuck Holtry

July 20 – August 18

Church Auditorium
10 Belvedere Street
Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Call 717-249-6578 for details.

Tim Jones

April 6 – May 12

School Gymnasium
206 Airfield Road
Libby, Montana
Call 406-293-4674 for details.

July 13 – August 18

Church Auditorium
1912 Conveyor Drive
Joshua, Texas
Call 817-645-3086 for details.

August 31 – September 29

Church Auditorium
16 School Street
Holland Landing, Ontario, Canada
Call 905-235-6744 for details.

October 11 – November 10

Church Auditorium
589 SW Birch Street
Dallas, Oregon
Call 503-623-5872 for details.

Tyler Long

March 16 – April 7

Spokane, Washington
Call 509-327-4400 for details.

April 14 – May 12

Prince George, British Columbia
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

September 14 – October 13

100 Mile House, British Columbia
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

October 18 – November 17

Cicero, Indiana
Call 402-305-8229 for details.

Dave Steward

April 13 – May 19

Church Auditorium
2625 Casper Mountain Road
Casper, Wyoming

September 7 – October 6

Church Auditorium
1897 Trogon Hill Road
Asheboro, North Carolina
Call 336-685-0695 for details.

Dennis Priebe (Revivalist)

Call 916-209-7220 for
additional details.

April 20, 21: Fontana Church,
California

April 27, 28: Laredo Church, Texas

May 4, 5: Texarkana Church, Texas

May 11, 12: Clinton Church,
Arkansas

May 18, 19: Pewee Valley Church,
Kentucky

May 25, 26: Campbellsville
Church, Kentucky

June 1, 2: Hohenwald Church,
Tennessee

June 8, 9: Benton Church,
Tennessee

June 16: Mt. Pisgah Church,
Georgia

(Dennis Priebe continued)

June 22, 23: Wytheville Church,
Virginia

June 29, 30: Charles Town Church,
West Virginia

July 6, 7: Topsham Church, Maine

July 13, 14: Bethel Fellowship
Church, Maine

July 21, 22: Silver Spring Remnant
Church, Maryland

July 24–29: Hartland Institute
Campmeeting, Virginia

August 3, 4: Green Bay Living Faith
Church, Wisconsin

August 11: Menomonie Church,
Wisconsin

August 18: Le Center Church,
Minnesota

August 25: Clark Fork Church, Idaho

September 1: Inchelium Mission
Church, Washington

September 7, 8: Burnaby
Westminster Church, British
Columbia

September 14, 15: Abbotsford
Church, British Columbia

September 21, 22: Seattle South
Center Church, Washington

You are invited to meet the members
of our dynamic evangelism team at our
many seminars and revivals throughout
the year—and please invite a friend! Go
to prophecyseminars.com to get exact
times and locations!

Times and locations are subject to change. Please confirm at prophecyseminars.com prior to attending.



The Harvest Report

MAKING DISCIPLES IN OKLAHOMA

by Tyler Long, Amazing Facts Evangelist

An Amazing Fact: *Oklahoma was the only state in the continental United States to be bombed during World War II. On July 5, 1943, at about 12:30 A.M., a B-17 bomber based at Dalhart Army Air Base dropped six practice bombs on the sleeping town of Boise City. Why? The pilots performing the target practice run became disoriented and mistook the lights around the town square as their target!*

In these last days, the enemy of souls is dropping deadly bombs of twisted Scripture and falsehoods all over planet Earth. To combat this assault, my wife and I travel eight months out of the year holding seminars on the Bible and prophecy. This past fall we were privileged to work with our brethren at the Claremore Church in Oklahoma.

With all our evangelistic meetings, we hold a weekend training seminar that focuses on friendship evangelism, Christ's methods of outreach, and the importance of creating a church database. Our goal is to give the churches we work with the necessary tools to help them have an effective series of meetings. The church also hired Carla Claire, an AFCOE-trained Bible worker, to assist in their outreach efforts.

The seminar opened in their newly built sanctuary, and we had 21 guests come out on opening night. Before each presentation, Pastor Ryan Neill would share an amazing fact about archeology and how it confirmed the authenticity of the Scriptures. The church members could immediately tell that the Lord was doing something great through this series. And by the third week, 20 people had made a decision for baptism!

Pastor Ryan shares, "Working with Tyler Long and Amazing Facts has been a real blessing. We have

worked together for three series now, and each time the Lord has been present. Not only is Tyler helpful in extending our church family here in Claremore, he has also given our church some invaluable training that continues to keep evangelism in the heart of our members."

An Entire Family Changed

I would like to share just one of the many testimonies of how God worked in the lives of those who attended our series. In addition to receiving a brochure in the mail, Jason and Amber were also invited by one of their neighbors. After attending several nights, they knew that God was calling them to take a stand and to recommit their lives to Jesus. Carla and I visited them the day after they had marked on their decision card that they wanted to be baptized. They were struggling with smoking, but seeing how God had already delivered them from methamphetamines and alcohol, they knew that through Him they would be victorious. Wanting to set the right example for their six kids, they knew that in order to live together they needed to be married. So on the day they were baptized, the church threw them a wedding that all girls dream about. With tears in her eyes, Amber commented,



"I had no idea that there were Christians who were this kind." It reminds me of the quote, "A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of the gospel" (E.G. White, *Heavenly Places*, p. 181).

In addition to preaching the evangelistic seminar, I was also blessed to hold a week of prayer

at the Tulsa Academy. What a joy it was to see such dedicated teachers and more than 70 young people on fire for Jesus! The Lord blessed, and several students made decisions to start baptismal classes with the local pastor.

In the great commission, Jesus calls us to go and make disciples. We will never fulfill the commission

by simply attending church once a week and mingling with likeminded believers. God is calling His church and us as individuals to go forth conquering and to conquer. Are there Jasons and Ambers in the community in which you live? Have you sensed the call to go forth? Does your church want to grow? Do you desire to see lives changed by the power of the gospel?

If so, why not book an Amazing Facts evangelist for your church? Call our evangelism department at 916-209-7220 and ask for Nikki Smith. [—](#)

"A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of the gospel."

—E.G. White, *Heavenly Places*, p. 181

Focus Your Prayer Life!

Teach Us to Pray
Prayer is one of our most valuable spiritual assets. In this in-depth look at the Lord's Prayer, you'll learn new, powerful insights about communicating with God through Christ's perfect model.

Perfect for Sharing! BK-TUTP ... \$1.15

See page 18 for ordering info.

AMAZING FACTS NEWS to NOTE

They're Watching!

Pastor Doug has recently received encouraging evidence that people from multiple Christian faiths are tuning in to Amazing Facts. At an event in Sacramento, the popular Dr. David Jeremiah revealed he'd been watching when he spotted Pastor Doug in the crowd and introduced him to the thousands attending. He also explained to the audience that his grandson had been watching Amazing Facts too, saying, "He's on TV more than *Law & Order*," a ubiquitous fictional court program. Shortly after, several ministers and believers from all backgrounds stopped by to tell Pastor Doug they also had been watching and were blessed by our programs.

Then at NRB in Nashville, a group of Catholic priests and nuns introduced themselves and said they'd been watching our programs. They especially enjoyed the *Cosmic Conflict* DVD! God is good, and your support helps us stay on TV so His message can be heard by even the most unexpected people.



Cosmic Conflict 2

In March, Pastor Doug went on a whirlwind speaking tour through Europe, delivering 25 sermons in less than three weeks to youth groups and churches. Churches were full to capacity, and 1,500 young people attended meetings in Bad Windsheim, Germany. Plus thousands more watched these events online!



While in Europe, he also shot footage for *Cosmic Conflict 2*. He says, "It was both inspiring and moving to stand at the very spot in Worms where Luther declared, 'Here

I stand.'" Please pray that God will use Amazing Facts to bring another reformation throughout the world.

Project Opportunities Building His Kingdom Together

Project: Bible Timeline Website

We're developing an interactive online prophecy timeline that spans the history of God's Word! You'll be able to click on a Bible event to see when it happened and how God has worked to fulfill the promises of His Word. Every event will include articles, pictures, and links to more study, helping seekers understand the big picture of God's plan of salvation! **Still Needed:** \$100,000



Project: New Studio

We need our own TV production studio to create high-quality, up-to-date video. Your gift today will ensure we can build our own warehouse studio and create programming that will reach more souls hungering for Bible information.

Still Needed:
\$100,000



Global AFCOE Philippines

AFCOE is now in the Philippines! Our evangelist Lowell Hargreaves and his family have been in the Philippines since December to launch another addition to the AFCOE Global family. Classes have already begun, so please keep this project in your prayers.





AFCOE: HELPING CHRISTIANS BEAR FRUIT

By Nathan Ballard

Raised in a Sabbath-keeping home, I was baptized when I was 12 and even thought I would grow up to be a minister. However, as a teenager, I started hanging out with the wrong crowd. Soon, God didn't mean much to me—nor did going to church or anything else connected with being a Christian. When I was 20, I realized I needed Jesus in my life, but it wasn't until I met my wife that I went to church every Sabbath.

In August 2008, everything had changed for me. I had become a deacon and youth leader, but God had bigger plans. I watched a sermon about the last days and world events, and it woke me up! I realized I was not where I needed to be with God. I hated feeling that way, so I prayed, asking God to forgive me for wasting my life and to show me what I must do to be saved. That was the start of the transformation.

I was still drinking alcohol, so I had to stop and throw it all out. Afterward, I knew I had to stop listening to rock music, so I threw out all my CDs. Of course, I needed to go through my DVDs too. My wife thought I was going through a midlife crisis, but it felt good, and I praise God I am no longer bound by those things.

I also knew I needed more spiritual things in my life, so I started going to prayer meeting. After a few meetings, I was asked to lead out. After three weeks, I was asked to be a permanent leader. I was also asked to teach adult Sabbath school and be an elder. I suddenly realized that God had a work for me.

My pastor was instrumental in bringing me to the point where I could attend AFCOE. I was on fire for God and wanted to do nothing else but work for Him. It took a while for everything to fall into place—we have two kids, we couldn't afford the tuition, and I couldn't take all that time off from work. In fact, there seemed to be an impossible list of things to overcome. But God took care of that list for me, one item at a time. It was incredible to see Him work for me and through the people around me to make it happen.

Finally, in the fall of 2010, I was able to go. It was hard leaving my family knowing I would not see them for four


months, but I needed to go as I felt God had called me there at that specific time.

God's Work Begins Right Away

AFCOE was an awesome experience! I thought I would never be able to remember all the things we learned. After graduation and back at my home church, I befriended new people who had started attending while I was at AFCOE. One of the new couples agreed to study the Bible with me, and they were soon baptized. They also began attending a small group at my home every week, along with other new seekers.

I was also anxious to train church members in outreach and started a class a few months later. By God's grace, seven members are now trained to witness for Christ more effectively with co-workers and going door to door. I taught the same class at a sister church, where 11 people were trained, and many have ongoing Bible studies now. It's awesome to see the

excitement in them as they do the Lord's work! We also have plans this year for addiction recovery seminars, door-to-door outreach, and whatever else we can do to reach our community.

God has allowed me to stay busy preaching and teaching, often at nearby churches, and I hope to have a website soon that will include podcasts and Bible studies. A pastor has also asked me to help his district by preaching at one of his churches once a month or so. I am excited to be able to share Jesus with so many people and disciple those who are on fire for Him. If it weren't for AFCOE, I would not be able to do all that I am able to do now. What a difference four months make! The training is intense, and at times it seems overwhelming, but when you are willing to do the work, God will always bless your efforts. 

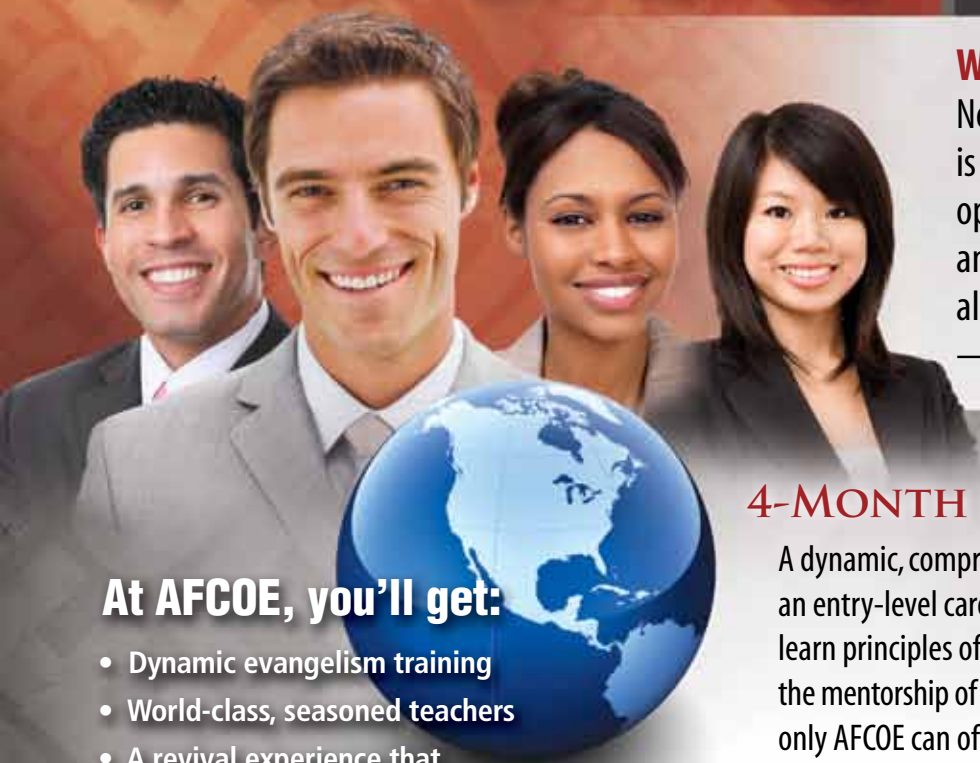


Is God calling you? Jesus is coming soon, so the more laborers in God's field, the better! See our ad on the next page to learn more about AFCOE and call us if you want to become a better witness for Jesus.

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Continued from page 9.

work getting the satellite installed and working for me. As they were leaving, I felt impressed to say something.

“Let me show you a neat website,” I said. I showed them the Amazing Facts website.

They saw my picture and said, “Hey, that’s you! You’ve got TV programs.” We talked a little bit, they asked questions, and I gave them some books and sent them on their way.

What if I had ignored the impression of the Lord, thinking these guys were hopeless potheads? According to Scripture, their blood could be on my hands. (I knew they weren’t hopeless because I used to be just like them!)

Of course, I have also missed many opportunities—neglecting God’s prodding to speak up for Christ. If that happens to you, repent and ask God to help you be a faithful watchman. Don’t be frightened and don’t let it become inconvenient to rescue a soul. Just blow the trumpet!

I’m sure you have felt the impression before: “*Say something for Me to this person.*” So you blow your trumpet and . . . they didn’t read the book. They didn’t accept Christ. Well, that’s not your job. Your job is to blow the trumpet and pray for them. They still must choose as the Holy Spirit prods their hearts. Remember, the Bible doesn’t say that “before Jesus comes, the gospel will be preached in all the world and then *everyone will believe.*” It says only that the gospel “will be preached in all the world as a witness” (Matthew 24:14 NKJV). We just need to do our part.

God has called us to be watchmen on the walls and to warn the wicked to turn from their way. We also have such good news: turn and live! It’s a message of hope, and so many people want to hear it.


WATCHING THE SIGNS

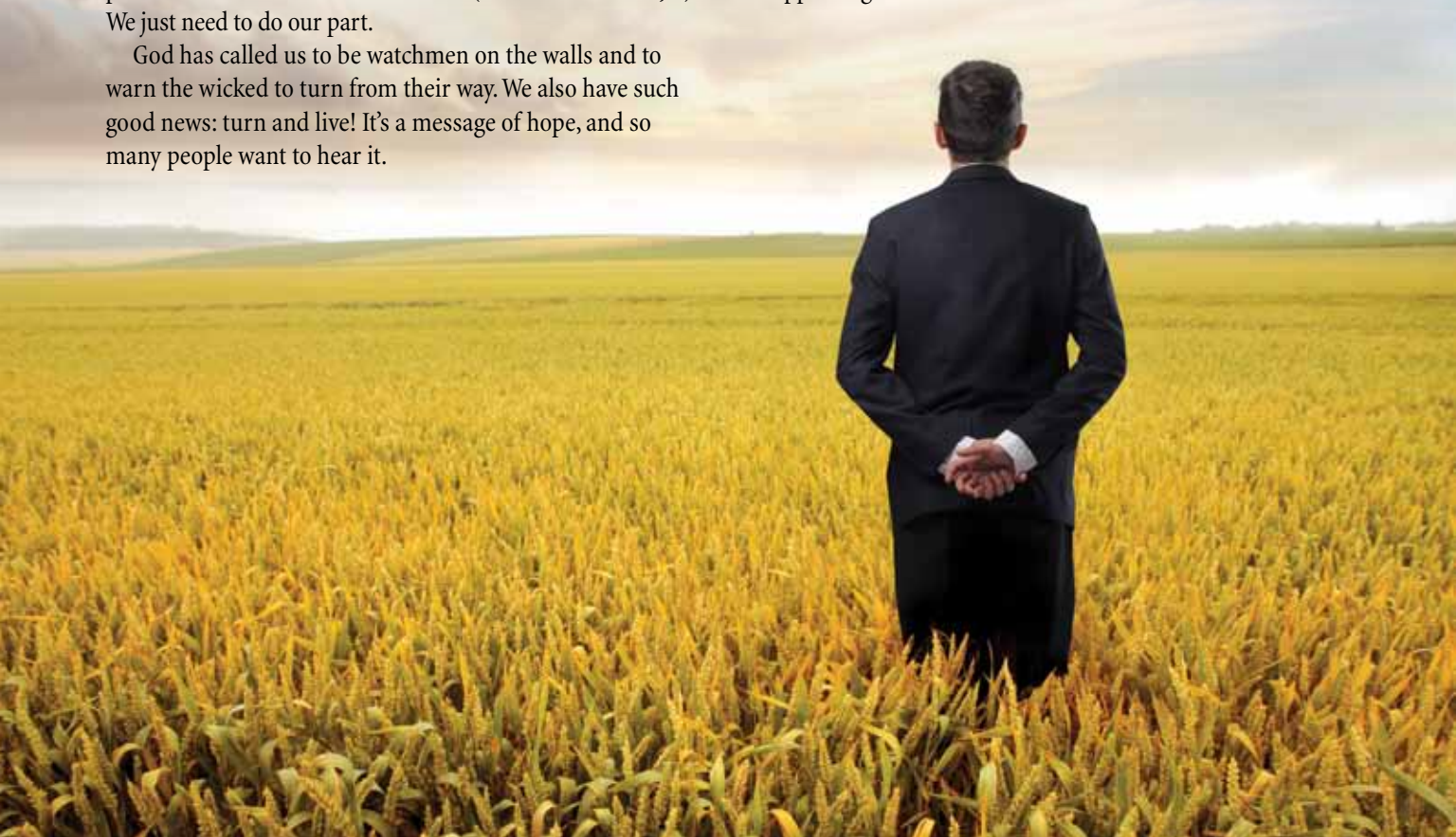
Last but not least, we should be watching the signs of the times.

“He answered and said to them, ‘When it is evening you say, “It will be fair weather, for the sky is red”; and in the morning, “It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.” Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times!’” (Matthew 16:2, 3 NKJV).

God wants us to be watching and waiting for Him. To be alert, to be praying, to be in a sense of expectancy and even joy. “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28 NKJV). But this watching of the signs should motivate us into action—to watch where we are and to watch where others are to make sure that as many as possible are in the kingdom when Jesus returns to this world.

Many of the things Jesus spoke about are coming to pass. Let us not repeat the mistakes of God’s people in the past, of sleeping at the critical moment. If the Lord commands us to be awake and to watch, we can be awake and watch. He wouldn’t ask us to do the impossible. But we do need the Holy Spirit, more now than ever, to wake us up. We need revival.

Be a faithful watchman for the Lord. Watch yourself. Watch out for your brothers and sisters. Watch what the enemy is doing. Watch what’s going on in the world. Watch for the blessed hope and appearing of our Lord. Amen. 



WHEN YOUR WORLD FALLS TO PIECES

BY CURTIS RITTENOUR

Barbara threw the Amazing Facts prophecy brochure in the garbage. She was at the lowest point in her life. Over the last three years, her mother had passed away, her husband died of cancer, and her father died from a stroke. As she tried to cope with family challenges, financial stresses, and deep grief, she thought she was going to go crazy.

Just the night before the brochure came, she had cried out to God for help. She felt like she was at the end of her rope. The Lord gave her a calm to make it through the night. The next day when the mail came, she immediately saw the invitation to our prophecy seminar being conducted by evangelist Darrin Bartell but discarded it. Yet something called to her heart to pull the big colorful mailing back out of the garbage. She was drawn to the pictures. Barbara called a friend, and they both attended the meetings.

A CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE

Barbara shares, "When I heard Darrin preach, I knew God put him on Earth to speak to me! I can still see him holding up a Bible and saying, 'Don't believe everything you are told. Go to the Bible for answers.' When the meetings were transferred to the local church I hesitated to attend. I had always been taught that Sabbath-keepers were a cult. So I asked my friend, 'Should I go?' She said, 'Are you learning more about the

Bible? Are you growing in Christ? If so, then go!'"

She tells of the first time she entered the church in Ashland, Kentucky. "I felt like I was coming home. My best friends in the world are in that church. I have true friends there."

Amazing Facts also has been a significant part of Barbara's

continued growth in Jesus. Not only have our Study Guides helped prepare her for baptism, she has also appreciated the books she has purchased, the *Inside Report*, and our many online resources as well. "I've become a real student of the Bible because of Amazing Facts. If I have a question, I often go to their website to find answers. I've recently started watching Pastor Batchelor on 3ABN."

Barbara gratefully says, "If I had not found the church when I did, I would probably not be alive right now. My health was so bad. I was under so much pressure. I hardly knew how to pray. I am so glad I pulled that brochure out of the garbage. My local church and Amazing Facts have been such a blessing to me because they have helped me to grow in Christ."





SPECIAL Recognition

In Loving Memory of:

Douglas Ackermann from June Ackermann, his wife
Mr. and Mrs. F.P. Adamson from Marlene Leach, their granddaughter
Lyle and Sadye Andrews from John and Lenore Vermeersch

Dorothy Balkins from Floyd and Vosella Scott
Archie and Irma Dolly Barron from Glenda Aijala, their daughter

Micah Batchelor from Don Park
Marion Blanco from Marie Krall
Betty Boyd from Wanda Lackey
Willard (Bud) Bristow from Bette Whitfield-Bristow

Bess Brockmeier from Jim and Judy Culpepper
Helen Geraldine England Brooks from her brother and sisters
Art Bryant from Barbara Bryant
Shannon Burton from Emanuel and Cathy Pavlik, her parents
Glen Byers from Bonnie Byers, his wife

Michael Car from Michael Car Sr., his father
Dr. C. Eugene Chrowl from Nola Chrowl, his wife
Terri Cossin from Hazel Freeman, her mother
Seth Cox from Herbert and Debbie Cox, his parents
Joe Crews from Lu Ann Crews, his wife; from Shelly Lowe; from Don Park; from Barbara Stout
Ronnie Crews from Lu Ann Crews, his mother
Ellen Crowder from Jim and Judy Culpepper
Tom Curtis from the Livingston family

Hazel Daniel from Wanda Davis
Edward Doggett from Nancy Fletcher, his sister
Edith Durham from Anita Lowe, her daughter; from Shelly Lowe, her granddaughter
Myron Durham from Anita Lowe, his sister; from Shelly Lowe, his niece
Warren Durham from Anita Lowe, his daughter; from Shelly Lowe, his granddaughter

Jewell Elliston from Don and Joyce Fortner
Joe Engelkemier from Betty Engelkemier, his sister
Elda Ensminger from John and Irene Keszler
Bud Essary from Juanita Essary, his wife

B.D. Fortner from Don and Joyce Fortner
Archie Fox from Patrick and Gloria Williams
Jerry Freeman from Hazel Freeman, his wife
Steven Freeman from Dorothy Freeman, his mother

Helen Gibbs from Teresa Lynd
Dr. Harold Giebel from Beverly Giebel M.D.
Allen Goede from Jeanette Bigsby, his sister
Michael Guillen from Anna Romero, his sister
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Charline Halliburton from Barbara Stout
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Joseph Herzberg from Debra Fechik, his daughter
Bud Hiele from Delmar and Doris Batch
Joe Horn from Claudie English
Donald Stephen Hunt from Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hunt, his grandparents

Michael Willi Ikeda from Jutta Ikeda-Mackay, his mother

Arnold Jones from Barbara Stewart
Grace Jose from C. Mercer Straw
Kenneth Jose from C. Mercer Straw

Esther Kannenberg from Albert and Patricia Marion
J.R. Kent III from Ralph and Pearl Kent, his parents
Benjamin Kozlakowski from John and Julie Ferraro
Miriam Kramer from Sherilyn Booth
Cloyd and Beulah Kuster from Roger and Jean Ott, their son-in-law and daughter; from Dick and Mary Peters, their son-in-law and daughter

Amazing Facts recognizes contributions made as a tribute to the deceased or as an honorarium celebrating significant milestones in the lives of loved ones. Please type or print legibly to ensure correct spelling; we are unable to verify confusing spellings due to volume.

Robert Letcher from Wally and Geri Dunks

L

E. Kenneth Lewis from Delane and Joanne Isaak

Lloyd Lippincott from Wally and Geri Dunks

James, Pearl, and Norman Livingston from the Livingston family

Evelyn Lockwood from Carol Swart, her daughter

William Lowe from Anita Lowe, his wife; from Shelly Lowe, his daughter

Homer Lynd from Teresa Lynd

Jack Lynn from Floyd and Vonsella Scott, his son-in-law and daughter

Lester Marcussen from Bette Marcussen, his wife

M

Bill May from Shelly Lowe

Larry McDaniel from Al and Pat Marion

Edith McFarland from John and Darla Almida; from C. Mercer Straw

James McFarland from C. Mercer Straw

Alphetta McMaster from Jack Watkins

Winifred Mundt from Keith Mundt

Bill Murphy from Beulah Keeler, his sister

Nancy Neuharth from Ruben Neuharth, her husband

N

Noble Newbanks from Marlene Leach, his daughter

Robert Olmstead from Mark and Kim Swett

O

Geraldine Olmstead from Mark and Kim Swett

Marilyn Opincar from Jackie Abernathy

Kathy Osborne from Beulah Keeler

Adelaide Paige from Marylene Morris

Dr. William Palmer from Don Park

Dr. Lester Park from Jacob and Joyce Joyner

Alice Penner from her husband

Clayton Prusia from Al and Pat Marion

P

Max Qualley from Barbara Qualley, his wife

Q

Earl and Grace Reuss from Barbara Qualley, their daughter

R

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Max Ritchie from Catherine Ritchie, his wife; from Lu Ann Crews

Alice Rodriguez from Joseph Rodriguez

Harry and Irma Rushold from Marlin and Udene Allen

Carmyn Scharffenberg from Albert and Aneva Sanchez

S

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Robert Shipe from Leola Tracy, his daughter

Vesper and Ruth Sias from Steve and Mary Lou Pride

Gerald Silvestri from John and Anita Silvestri

Jim Spach from Olive White

Bill Sykes from Trudi Sykes, his wife

George Tatttrie from Allene Tatttrie, his wife

T

Edna Taylor from Nancy Taylor, her daughter

Louise Tenbrink from Paul Tenbrink

Bud Thiele from English Oaks SDA Church; from Placerville SDA Church

Bud and Irene Thiele from Sandra Beausang

Rose Towsley from Shelly Lowe

Joshua Wall from Wally and Geri Dunks

W

Twylah Fern Wassermann from Glenn and Palmira, her son and daughter-in-law

Frank Waxter from Ruth Waxter, his wife

Jean Welch from Donald and Sue Owsley

J. Drew Whitfield from Bette Whitfield

Dora Wright from Margie Francisco

Paul and Alberta Yeoman from Patrick and Gloria Williams

Y

Happy Anniversary

Roland and Joanne Jensen (50th)

Happy Birthday

Jeannette Baldwin (90th)

Harold Case (89th)

Pat Case (74th)

Amos Crowder (93rd) from Dallas Crowder, his grandson, and family; from Rita and Katy Roberts, his daughter and granddaughter

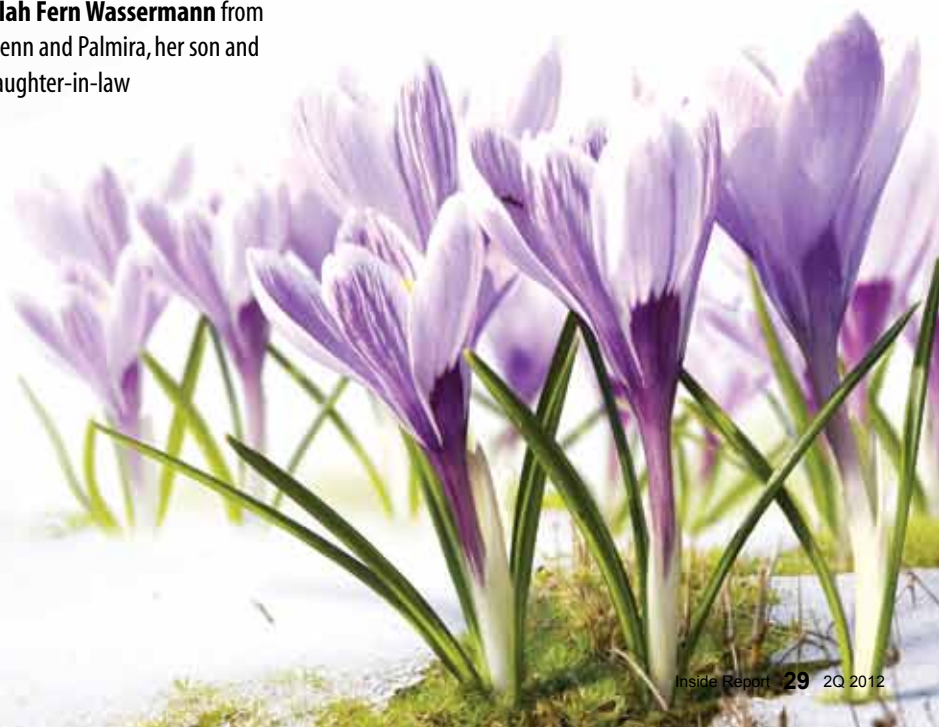
Anna Marie Davis (54th)

Herb Giese (93rd) from John and Darla Almida

Lawrence Leach (87th) from Marlene Leach, his wife

Dr. Bruce Mallernee (89th)

Dawna Sawatzky from John and Darla Almida





How to Get a **Good Night's Sleep**

by Emily Simmons

It's late. The lights are off. The house is quiet. You've snuggled into bed, pulled up the covers, and assumed your usual sleeping position. The steady breathing of your spouse, or pet, as the case might be, signals he or she is sound asleep.

It's later. You turn over. You turn over again. Your usually comfy bed grows less comfortable with the passing hours. Why can't you fall asleep?

Insomnia is the inability to fall asleep or stay asleep through the night. Occasional difficulty sleeping is probably not anything to worry about, and most people are able to overcome it with these good sleep habits:

- **Stay on schedule.** Go to bed and get up at about the same time every day, no more than an hour later or earlier—yes, even on the weekends!
- **Get up.** Once awake, get out of bed. Too much waking time in bed can lead to insomnia.
- **Get outdoors,** especially first thing in the morning. Sun exposure within the first 30 minutes of sunrise regulates your body's natural rhythms.
- **Be active.** Get plenty of exercise—do it in the early morning sunshine, and you'll kill two birds with one stone. An intense workout right before bedtime, though, can perk you up.
- **Have fun.** Studies have shown that people who did fun and interesting things during the day slept better than those who didn't.
- **Avoid long naps,** especially late in the day. If you're too drowsy to make it through the day, take a 10- to 20-minute nap in the early afternoon, preferably lying in a darkened room.

- **Eat light in the evening.** Avoid eating a heavy meal before bedtime. Try to consume the bulk of your calories at breakfast and lunch—this practice helps with weight management too!
- **Make your bedroom a sanctuary.** Reserve your bedroom for sleeping. Don't work, pay bills, watch TV, or use your smartphone in bed.
- **Turn the houselights down.** Use low light for an hour or so before bedtime to signal to your body that it's time to wind down. If your housemates object, wear sunglasses.
- **Take a bath.** A warm bath can be deeply relaxing. Add some herbs or essential oils, like chamomile and lavender, to promote sleep. But a very hot bath can be stimulating.
- **Develop a routine.** Doing the same things at bedtime—brushing your teeth, washing your face, etc.—also signals to your body to wind down.
- **Pray.** Make prayer a part of that bedtime routine. Prayer can calm your mind like nothing else, as you entrust the day's worries to the Omnipotent.
- **Get comfortable.** Make sure your bed is not too hard nor too soft and that your pillow is the correct type for your sleeping position—thinner for back-sleepers, thicker for side-sleepers.
- **Keep it dark and quiet.** Don't underestimate the impact of these simple things; buy heavy curtains



and earplugs if you have to! It seems innocuous, but the blue-spectrum light emitted by gadgets like TVs and smartphones interferes with melatonin production. Some studies suggest a link between this “light pollution” and breast and prostate cancers.

- **Don’t worry.** The stress of insomnia can make the problem worse, so try not to obsess about your sleep loss. Getting up and doing something can be more helpful than tossing and turning for hours on end.

Keep in mind that alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine can cause insomnia. Certain herbs, supplements, and even medications like cold medicines and diet pills might also interfere with sleep.




Teach your kids good sleep habits! The habits they develop today might affect their sleep patterns later in life.

Use sleep medications cautiously. Some are habit forming and compound the problem in the long run. Others, such as over-the-counter medications containing antihistamines, can cause memory problems with long-term use, especially in the elderly. The best natural sleep aids are valerian and melatonin.

Valerian is a sedative

herb that has been used for centuries. Melatonin is a hormone that regulates the sleep/wake cycle. Both can be found at natural foods stores.

If you’re doing all the “right” things but Mr. Sandman still isn’t bringing you a dream, consult with your doctor. Chronic insomnia, lasting longer than three weeks, is associated with a number of medical issues: obesity, thyroid disorders, depression and anxiety, bipolar disorder, stress, and physical pain. If your sleep difficulties are affecting your day-to-day functioning, and/or are accompanied by any of these conditions, it’s probably time to get help from a health professional. 

Emily Simmons is a freelance writer and massage therapist in Collegedale, Tennessee. She owns Poplar Creek Spa, which specializes in customizing the spa experience using handcrafted spa products, made in-house using all-natural and organic ingredients.



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