

January 2001

AMAZING FACTS

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LETTERS

50 Days vs. 50 Years

Amazing Facts has done more for me in 50 days than my lifelong church did in 50 years. Eight years of parochial school and Sunday homilies taught me what man says about God. Amazing Facts is teaching me what God says about Himself in the Bible.

WL
California

I Want to Learn More

I really enjoyed these Study Guides, especially the one about marriage; it is such a powerful lesson. My wife and I are trying to put the past behind us, and it's been hard. The Study Guide helped me to see a lot of our mistakes. That's why I want to learn more.

JH
Oklahoma



Baptized and Serving God Together

I was rebaptized in 1971 in Yonkers, N.Y. My husband couldn't understand my trying to be a Christian. I prayed for many years for his conversion, but nothing happened. After my husband had listened to your 1997 series and many of your other sermons on 3ABN, he was baptized in May of 1999. Praise God! We now try to serve God together.

LF
Pennsylvania

Can't Get Enough

My 95-year-old mother can never get enough of Pastor Doug's messages on video or audio cassette tapes. She has been through his NET New York '99 series twice already.

LS
via e-mail



Not Afraid to Preach the Truth

In recent weeks I have listened to you answer questions about many things on your weekly radio broadcast *Bible Answers Live*, and I was pleasantly surprised by your answers. We are believers in Yeshua and know that He is our salvation. From what I understand, you believe that we are going through the great tribulation and also that we are to obey the Lord's commandments. If I understand correctly,

then praise the Lord for a man who isn't afraid to preach the truth. Do you keep the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week)? We started keeping Sabbath back in October, and what a blessing it has been.

RS
Kansas

Doing a Great Service

I visited your website and read Joe Crews' book entitled *The Brook Dried Up*. You guys are doing a great service for your Master. I've been really blessed by that book.

via e-mail



On TV in Bombay

I belong to the New Life Fellowship Church in Bombay and am enjoying the study that you are giving on the TV channel. My life has been blessed.

DT
India

Accurate, Informative, Fundamental

I have finished your online Bible course and found it to be accurate, informative, and fundamental. It explains things that many preachers tend to stay away from. Thank you for a GREAT course! May you continue to prosper in your work to spread the true gospel.

EH
via e-mail



Emptying Your Library

I'm not very computer literate, but I have learned to download. I hope you don't mind, but I'm emptying your Amazing Facts library. As I read the subjects, I pass them on to my new co-worker, who has just begun downloading on her own.

She is devouring everything she reads and is accepting all of it—the Sabbath truth, the state of the dead, the second coming, and more. The Holy Spirit is doing an amazing work in her life. She and her two little ones have been coming to church regularly. She can't wait to be baptized, but she also wants to be fully prepared and committed to Christ, without any doubts, before she steps in the water to marry her Jesus. She's reading every book she can get her hands on, including *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*. She is truly hungry for God's truth. The great thing about this is that the more she wants to know, the more I must read and study to try to keep a step ahead of her. What a blessing!

BC
Pennsylvania

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BY EDITOR
DEBRA J. HICKS

Spiritual Strategic Planning

A brand new year! I love the thought of starting anew with a fresh, clean slate. Just think; we have 365 days in which to accomplish new goals, learn new skills, and improve existing talents.

Do you have any specific ideas about how you're going to use that gift of time?

If you've vowed that you would never again make a list of "New Year's resolutions" because you've never been able to keep them all, don't turn the page yet.

The goals we set should always be simple, straightforward, and 100 percent achievable. Keep your list simple by limiting it to two or three items that are so important you'd never need to write them down on paper in order to jog your memory later. They should be the types of things on which you'd look back at the end of the year and say, "This is without doubt the most significant thing I did in 2001."

To keep it straightforward, each goal must be specific. Avoid vague generalities. Instead of "Pray more," you should make it something specific like "Pray everyday for my brother to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior." By doing this, you'll be able to look back later and say with assurance that you did what you set out to do.

In addition to making your goals simple and straightforward, I feel strongly that they must be clearly achievable. Don't be afraid to aim high or to do something you've never done before, but make sure each goal is realistic and something that is within your (or God's) power to do. For example, it would not be appropriate to make it your goal to have morning devotions every day with your spouse if that person isn't willing to make the same commitment. The purpose of spiritual strategic planning is primarily to enrich your own relationship with God, not to change somebody else.

Here's how the process has worked for me:

First I pray for several days before the new calendar year that God will show me what I need in order to grow closer to Him. Then I keep my "spiritual ears" open and jot down any ideas He gives me throughout my day. At the end of whatever time period I've set aside, I take a few hours to pick two or three specific and realistic goals. Then I make a firm commitment to pursue those goals with all of my heart and soul. In effect, I'm choosing where to channel the "firstfruits" of my time and energy for the next 12 months.

One thing I'd recommend is to focus on proactive "dos" and avoid restrictive "don'ts." If a bad habit is keeping you from growing closer to God, then ask Him for wisdom to know what to put in its place. For


example, instead of making it your goal to "Stop smoking," you could decide to "Drink a glass of water every time I feel the urge to smoke, and pray for help until the temptation passes."

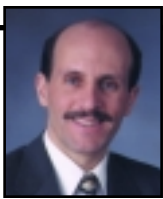
Two years ago my primary goal was to read through the entire Bible. Last year it was to start a home-based Bible study group. For 2001, God is leading me to try memorizing four Scriptures each week and to begin studying the Bible with a lady I've never met before. Each year He takes me a step or two further in my Christian experience and increases my faith in His almighty power.

Your goals should be the types of things on which you'd look back at the end of the year and say, "This is without a doubt the most significant thing I did in 2001."

I've been doing this for several years, and I was thrilled to learn recently that my friend Vincent Tan does the very same thing. One Sabbath Vincent described how the Lord was rapidly expanding his memory in answer to a special prayer request he'd made at the beginning of that year. His petition was simply that God would enable him to remember the name and request of each person who mentioned a specific need during the prayer time at his rapidly growing little church. Vincent felt convinced that God could do this for him and that being free to focus on the individuals presenting their requests (as opposed to scribbling down notes as each person was speaking) would make him more effective in directing those requests to the throne of God.

I grew increasingly excited as Vincent told me that God had not only answered his petition but also had used that gift to bless the entire congregation.

If you choose a couple of spiritual goals based on these guidelines, I guarantee that this year will be one of the greatest you've ever had. By putting your relationship with God at the top of your list of priorities for the coming year, you'll be partnering with your Creator and Savior! The process of asking the Lord what He wants to do in your life this year, and then watching Him make it happen, brings ultimate joy. 



BY DIRECTOR-SPEAKER
DOUG BATCHELOR

God's Great Questions

PhotoDisc



An Amazing Fact:

Did you know that the longest list of questions found in the Bible is made up of questions asked by God?

In Job chapters 38 and 39, God poses query after query to His servant Job, who has daily begged for answers to some tough, heart-wrenching questions of his own.

Instead of providing Job with simple answers, God delivers a string of thought-provoking riddles. They start with words like "Who? Where? When? Have you? Can you? Do you know?" He describes all the miracles of the animal kingdom, and He talks about the weather and the solar system and other mysteries of nature.

It's as if God is talking to Job as a parent would talk to a child. He asks: "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?" (Job 38:31-32, NKJV).

God asked Job questions in order to remind him that His ways are often beyond our understanding. Some people try to melt God down and put Him in a test tube so they can define Him and understand Him, but this is a mistake. The Bible says, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways" (Isaiah 55:9).

W

When we humans ask a question, it's usually because we're lacking information. God, on the other hand, knows everything. He's omniscient; nothing is a mystery for Him. So I started wondering, Why are there so many Scriptures in which God asks a question? As I began looking through my Bible, I found hundreds of them!

What I've discovered is that God does not ask questions because He doesn't know the answers. He asks us deep, penetrating questions because He wants us to think.

The famous philosopher Socrates, who lived about 400 B.C., used the very same teaching method. Rather than merely giving his pupils the answer to a particular problem, Socrates would ask them questions that forced them to analyze the situation and find the answers for themselves, which in turn helped them learn each subject more thoroughly.

When God asks us a question, we really need to sit up and pay attention. When He tells us, "Come now, and let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18), the Lord is inviting us to ponder along with the Almighty! What a privilege.

Where Are You?

The first question God asks in the Bible is "Where are you?"

Adam and Eve had just sinned, and in their fear and confusion they ran away from God. In Genesis 3:9, we read that "The LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?"

If you believe that God knew where Adam was, then you must pause to consider why God asked that question. I believe He wanted Adam to think: "What has sin done to me? Why did I leave God, and why am I running away from Him?"

The question "Where are you?" was posed first to Adam, but it's actually directed to you and me, as well. Every sinner is running from God, and the Bible says that our sins have separated us from Him (Isaiah 59:2). You need to hear God say to your soul, as a sinner: "Where are you? Are you hiding in the bushes, sewing together fig leaves in an attempt to cover your nakedness? What has sin done to you?"

It is probably no accident that God's first question to man in the Old Testament is "Where are you?" while the first question the wise men ask in the New

Testament is “Where is he?” (Matthew 2:2). Humans have been separated from God by sin, and there is a massive search underway. God is looking for us, and we are looking for Him.

The Bible tells us that as soon as we begin to make an effort to return to God, He will draw near unto us (James 4:8). It's like the story of the prodigal son who ran away from his loving father. As soon as the father saw the young man approaching, he ran to embrace his son. God is looking for us, and He wants us to come back.

Who Told You That You Were Naked?

In response to God's question, Adam said, “I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10).

Then God asked, “Who told you that you were naked?”

Here God was prompting Adam and Eve to compare their current condition with the unspoiled joy and peace they had previously experienced. Before they sinned, Adam and Eve had worn no artificial clothing. Instead, they had been clothed with garments of light. It was probably similar to the aura that Moses began to reflect after spending 40 days on Mount Sinai talking face-to-face with God (Exodus 34:28-30). He returned to the Israelite camp shining with a light so bright that the people were afraid to come near him until he had veiled his face.

After Adam and Eve sinned, they lost that unbroke communion with God and felt naked (Genesis 3:7). Nobody had to tell them they were naked. Whenever we sin, our conscience will condemn us. The Bible tells us that if our conscience condemns us not, we have peace with God (1 John 3:21).

When I was growing up, I would brag at times about being an atheist, but I can't honestly say that I was a convinced atheist because I always experienced conviction whenever I did something wrong.

I was raised with almost no moral values. My mother used to take me to Bloomingdale's and show me how to shoplift. She didn't need to steal. For her it was a game, and she liked to see if she could get away with it. She must have been pretty good at shoplifting, because I don't think she ever got caught. If she did, she was an actress and she was probably able to act her way out of it.

In spite of the fact that I had very, very poor moral training, I always knew I'd done something wrong after I broke one of God's commandments. No person had to tell me I had done something wrong. The Holy Spirit convicted me of my sin (John 16:7-8).

What Is This You Have Done?

Our youngest son, Nathan, is learning to ride a bicycle, and I must remind him, “Nathan, put your

shoes on when you ride your bike.”

One day recently he ignored me, and about halfway up the block on the sidewalk, I heard the clanging sound of a bike crashing. I knew he'd hurt himself, so I ran over and saw that he'd torn one of his toenails off halfway back. I said, “Nathan, did Daddy tell you to wear shoes?”

“Yeah,” he replied.

I said, “You need to put your bike away.” So he got back onto his bicycle barefoot and started pedaling back to the house. I said, “No, push the bike back to the house.”

After we put a Band-Aid on his toe, Nathan went back downstairs and got right back onto the bike



An Amazing Fact:

In Job 38:24, God asked Job to explain light, which continues to be one of the greatest mysteries in the world. Even after centuries of scientific study, we still don't know exactly what it is and can best describe it only in terms of what it does.

Like other forms of energy—such as heat, radio waves, and X-rays—light can be measured by the speed, frequency, and length of its waves. It travels at about 186,000 miles per second, which means that in one year a beam of light travels approximately 5,880,000,000,000 miles.

Many theories have been developed to try to explain what light is and how it travels. In the 17th century, Sir Isaac Newton said that light must be made of tiny particles he called “corpuscles,” something like tiny bullets shot from the light source. At about the same time, another man named Christian Huygens developed a “wave theory” of light. His idea was that a luminous particle started a series of pulses, much as a pebble dropped into a pond makes waves.

The debate over whether light was waves or corpuscles raged for nearly 150 years. Scientists now believe that light behaves as both particles and as waves. The only thing that is certain is that we simply cannot give a complete answer to the question of what light is and how it travels.



An Amazing Fact:

Art Linkletter had a very popular program years ago that capitalized on the fact that children sometimes say the most amazing things. Many times the show featured kids asking some really strange questions.

One child asked, "How much deeper would the ocean be if there weren't sponges in it?" Another time during a church service, one little girl was overheard saying, "Mommy, if we give him money now, will he let us go?"

Someone once said, "The uncreative mind can spot wrong answers, but it takes a creative mind to spot the wrong questions." We as parents are often baffled by the questions asked by our little ones, but at the same time it's a joy because we never want them to lose their childlike curiosity.

barefoot, with one toenail missing!

We laugh at children, but are we adults any different? How many times have we broken God's commands, which He gave for our protection? Worse yet, we often continue to return to the very thing that brings us sadness and suffering.

After that first act of disobedience in the garden of Eden, God asked Eve, "What is this you have done?" (Genesis 3:13, NKJV).

At first, Adam and Eve probably had very little comprehension of how far-reaching would be the consequences of that first little choice of rebellion. Part of the ugliness of sin is that it usually causes a chain reaction. Think of all the sin and suffering in the world today. Visit the emergency room of a hospital, and walk down its corridors. Go to a police station and listen to the dispatcher. Take a walk through a cemetery and think of all the misery experienced throughout the ages.

God says to each one of us: "What is this you have done? Do you have any idea how much misery and woe and heartache is going to follow in the path of your one act of disobedience?"

Where Are You Going?

Adam is not the only runaway mentioned in the Bible. In Genesis 16:6, we find that Hagar the Egyptian ran away from Abraham's wife, Sarah. As soon as Hagar had learned that she was pregnant, she started to despise her mistress, who seemed cursed because she was unable to bear children. Alarmed by such blatant disrespect, Sarah retaliated by treating Hagar harshly.

Although there later came a time when Hagar needed to separate from Abraham's family (Genesis 21:5-21), in this case she had decided to flee before the appointed time.

God always seems to ask the runaways why they are running. He said to Hagar, Sarah's maid, "From where have you come, and where are you going?" That is a very good question. You'd be surprised how many people have no idea where they've come from or where they are going.

I am convinced that people cannot be happy unless they understand three basics: where they've come from, what they're doing where they are, and where they're going. If you're an atheist, there's no purpose for life. You think that you've come from nothing and that you're going nowhere. So in the meantime, you're trying to prove to everybody that nothing matters and that everything is relative.

Mahatma Ghandi once said, "I cannot understand atheists, who spend all of their time trying to convince people that a God who they do not believe exists does not exist." I believe the reason they do this is because in their heart of hearts, they know that God exists but cannot bear it. They feel compelled to disprove Him because they don't want to answer to Him someday.

What Are You Doing Here?

Another Bible hero who was caught in the wrong place at the wrong time was the prophet Elijah. He was hiding in a cave on Mt. Horeb when the word of the Lord came to him and said, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:9).

God had just worked a mighty miracle through Elijah on Mt. Carmel; but instead of celebrating, the prophet of God was hiding in a remote desert cave.

Isn't it amazing that Elijah was not intimidated by the 850 false prophets, yet he lost heart and ran away from a single woman? He wasn't afraid to stand up against Ahab, the prophets of Baal, and the whole nation of Israel. However, when Ahab's wife Jezebel sent a threatening message, he ran for 40 days and 40 nights to a cave to hide.

Notice that God sustained him even as he was running in the wrong direction! God sent angels to feed him while he was fleeing the wicked queen.

I've seen some people try to justify their disobedience by saying, "I must be doing the right thing because God is blessing me and taking care of me."

That's not necessarily true. God provides for you because He loves you, even if you're running away from His will. His care and protection are not always evidence that you're doing the right thing. For instance, I've seen people attempt to use the blessings of God as an excuse for divorcing their mate. They say, "You know, since I've separated from my mate and started dating somebody else, things seem so much better. It must be evidence of God's blessing."

We sometimes presume that God is going to curse everybody who walks the wrong direction, yet we would be outraged if humans were that unmerciful. For example, how many parents continue to feed their disobedient children everyday? How strange that we sometimes expect more from people than from God! As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, God loves us to a far greater extent than earthly parents love their own children (Matthew 7:11).

Who Touched Me?

One day Christ was walking through a crowd on His way to heal—and ultimately resurrect—the daughter of a synagogue ruler named Jairus. On the way to the man's house, Jesus passed a woman who

had been bleeding for 12 years. Rendered unclean by virtue of this ailment, she had been barred from worshipping in the temple for more than a decade.

After hearing so many wonderful stories about the great Healer from Galilee, this woman believed with all her heart that if she could just touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed. As Jesus traveled through the crowd, she somehow managed to get past the inner circle of apostles, and her outstretched fingers touched the hem of His garment.

That's all it took. Instantly a flash of vitality passed from His body to her body, and she knew she had been made whole. The woman stopped, beaming with joy that this horrible medical problem, which had drained her bank account and caused so much unhappiness, had finally been resolved. Hardly a moment passed before Jesus stopped, turned around in the crowd, and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" (Mark 5:30).

Jesus knew who had touched His clothes, and He also knew why the woman had reached out to Him. He knew the entire story, yet He stopped the huge procession and asked, "Who touched me?" (Mark 5:31).

Fearful and trembling, the newly healed woman finally spoke up and shared her testimony. If Christ had not asked, "Who touched me?" her story would not have been included in the Bible.

Christ's question remains relevant for you and me today. It reminds us that if we reach out in faith and grasp the hem of His garment, the righteousness of Christ's robe still heals our sins.

Have you touched Jesus? Most people today, like those in that crowd long ago, jostle against Jesus throughout the week but get no lasting benefit because they aren't reaching out and touching Him


in faith. When Christ asks, "Who touched me?" He's asking us whether or not we've reached out in faith and grabbed hold of His righteousness.

The Most Important Question

One of the most important questions you can find in the Bible is "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3). This is a question I cannot answer. In fact, not even the angels or God Himself can answer it. How can any of us justify a decision to reject the gift of salvation that God has provided for you and me? God the Father emptied heaven when He gave His Son. What more can He give?

Perhaps God has recently been trying to gain your attention. Nothing in the Bible commands us to come to Jesus when we are in the mood or when it is convenient. There is no time to wait or delay. If the Holy Spirit is speaking to you right now, then answer Him now. You'll never be sorry that you accepted Jesus.

If you have heard God's voice speak to your soul through this study of the great questions found in His Word, don't run away from Him as did Adam and Eve. Even if you're not currently in the place where God wants you to be and know that you have made some poor decisions, as did Elijah and Hagar and others, remember that God is full of love and mercy and is waiting to welcome you back to Him.

Reach out in faith and grab hold of Jesus Christ, who has promised to forgive us and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Then ask God to help you see the far-reaching consequences of sin and to learn from your mistakes so that you won't keep putting yourself in harm's way. 

An Amazing Fact:

In Job 38:34, NKJV, God reminds the human race that there are many things over which we have no control—including the weather. He asks Job: "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you?"

Repeated failure to manage the elements of nature has never kept people from trying! The Hopi Indians of southwest America to this day perform traditional rain dances in an attempt to secure rain for their crops. By sacrificing golden eagles and dancing with live rattlesnakes in their teeth, they hope to please their gods and win an ample supply of rain.

Others have adopted a more scientific approach. In 1946, Vincent Schaefer and Irving Longmuir began working to prove that rain clouds could be artificially encouraged to produce showers. They showed that small particles, usually of silver iodide, that are added to supercooled clouds could create rapidly growing ice crystals. These particles have been dropped from aircraft, carried by rockets, or even released at ground level for air currents to carry them aloft. As long as the clouds are supercooled, the technique may increase rainfall up to a fifth. But since it is impossible to prove how much rain would have fallen on its own, the method's effectiveness remains in doubt.



PhotoDisc

From the Inside

Church Planter Byron Corbett Weds Adventure-Loving Constance Strahle

Byron Corbett and Constance Strahle were married on July 24, 2000, at the Tacoma Southside Church in



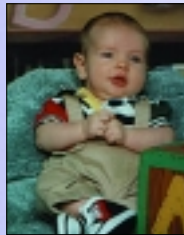
Washington state. They met about two years earlier in this same church, where Byron pastored. Through their active ministries, including time spent together at board meetings, prayer meetings, and on a trip to India, Byron and Constance fell in love. Their early dates often took place in a Cessna, and Byron proposed in April while putting the plane into a spin at 5,000 feet.

As coordinator for the new Amazing Facts church-planting program, Byron has conducted several

evangelistic crusades this fall and will begin his first church planting project early next year.

In November, Constance left her job as the adult immunization coordinator for the Washington State Department of Health so she could help Byron full-time in ministry. A master's degree in public health and specialization in international health give her many opportunities for service. She has worked for ADRA in the Sudan delivering vaccinations to remote villages; in Scotland for a health-improvement center; in Borneo on a clean-water project; and in Singapore teaching English and Communications. Now she looks forward to complementing Byron's gift for evangelism with ministry in health evangelism and music.

John and Melissa Bradshaw Add Son Jacob Nicholas to Their Team



Evangelist John Bradshaw has some good news he's been eager to share. His firstborn son, Jacob Nicholas, was born June 20, 2000, in Charlotte, N.C. Jacob arrived 10 days early and in perfect health after a very smooth delivery.

According to Melissa, lately the youngest member of their evangelism team has been trying to compete with his daddy in preaching the seminars!

"Truly," says John, "Children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is His reward' (Psalm 127:3)."

Amazing Facts Evangelist Completes 20-Day Crusade in Southern India

Amazing Facts church-planting coordinator Byron Corbett just held a 20-day evangelistic crusade southern India, where 20 people were baptized in 1999 as a result of a series he held in Alappuhza (pronounced Alleppey in English). He prays that this most recent crusade will help the church to continue to grow in a city with dominating Catholic, Hindu, and Islam influences.

The Tacoma Southside Church, where Byron was pastor before joining Amazing Facts, raised about \$20,000 to fund this meeting and to work with Maranatha to build a church for the new believers. Sixteen church members from his former district joined him in India for the project.

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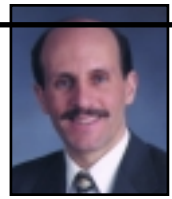
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Bible Answers

With Pastor Doug Batchelor



If I could be cloned, would both of me go to heaven?

Despite what you might have heard, it is impossible to stamp people out with a cookie-cutter mold. Cloning simply means taking the DNA from one living person and using it to make a second human being. The second person would always be younger than the first and would have his or her own unique identity. The cloned person would have completely different experiences and make different choices than the "original," because he would be a different person altogether.

A clone would merely be someone who had the same genetic makeup as another person. As a matter of fact, twins share a similar situation.

Since the clone would be a different soul, he would need to make his own decision to accept God's gift of salvation. He would not automatically go to heaven.

What does the Bible mean in John chapter 3 about being born again by water and the Spirit? Is it essential to be baptized to be saved?

There will be many, many people in heaven who were never baptized. For example, almost all of the Old Testament characters would be in that category.

Notice what Mark 16:16 says: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." This verse does *not* say, "He that believes and is not baptized shall be damned." We have no record that the thief on the cross was baptized. He was saved by grace, through faith.

I've been to hospitals where people gave their heart to the Lord on their deathbed. They could not be baptized because they were attached to various apparatus. I believe Jesus gives people like the thief on the cross, folks dying in hospitals, and prisoners on death row credit for His baptism. Obviously, Christ was not baptized to wash away His sins. John the Baptist told Jesus, "You need to baptize me because You're sinless. Why am I baptizing You?" (Matthew 3:14, paraphrased). Christ was baptized as an example for us and on behalf of those who could not be. They receive credit for Christ's sinless life by virtue of faith.

My question is this: If a person believes in the Word of the Lord and knows that the Bible commands baptism, why *wouldn't* he want to be baptized? A person who knows God's will and refuses to do it is in a dangerous situation.

Are the Egyptians in the Bible the same people who built the pyramids?

Several different races have ruled the land we call Egypt. During the time of Joseph, a people ruled Egypt who allowed a Hebrew to co-rule with them. By Moses' lifetime, the people ruling Egypt were separationists who would not have knowingly allowed a Hebrew to rule with them. These, by the way, were the Egyptians who built the pyramids.

Control over Egypt has switched hands several times so that the country is actually a melting pot of many different races. The area has, at various times in history, been under the control of Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman, Turkish, French, British, and Israeli forces.

Those who rule and live in Egypt today are a completely different people from those who built the pyramids. They are principally an Arabic people, descendants of Abraham's first son, Ishmael.

Why doesn't God stop evil?

I'm a parent. I'm bigger than my children, but I don't want them to listen to me simply because I overpower them with brute force. I want them to listen to me because they love me.

God is love (1 John 4:8). He does have the divine power to obliterate the devil and kill everyone who is evil, but if He had done that as soon as Lucifer sinned, His creatures would have been motivated by fear rather than by love. When Lucifer began to insinuate that God's government wasn't quite fair, the Lord had to stand back in order to let both angels and mortals witness this spectacle (1 Corinthians 4:9). He needed to demonstrate the result of Satan's government to the universe. The Lord grieves more than anyone about the sin and suffering in this world.

Jesus does not force us to love Him; He does not work that way. Love, real love, requires the freedom to choose.

Tune in to Pastor Batchelor's live nationwide call-in radio program, *Bible Answers Live*, on Sunday evenings. Send for a free program guide or visit the Amazing Facts website to get detailed information about the station(s) nearest you.



BY EDITOR
DEBRA J. HICKS

Bible Answers Live Is On!

Family in Mt. Shasta, Calif., Says Sponsorship Is Easy

One day while watching a videotaped sermon from Amazing Facts, Diane Shearer heard Pastor Doug Batchelor say that he was starting a new call-in radio program, *Bible Answers Live*.

From her home in Mt. Shasta, Calif., where New Age beliefs are very popular and where listeners can pick up only one Christian radio station, Diane thought how great it would be to have access to a weekly radio program that gives decent Bible answers to people's questions. "We've always liked Pastor Doug's straightforward answers," says Dick, her husband of 20 years.

Gradually the Shearers began to discuss the possibility of bringing the nationwide radio program to Mt. Shasta. "The people around here need this information," Dick concluded. "Let's give them the straight truth."

A Phone Call Is All It Takes

Diane made the first move by calling the radio and television coordinator at Amazing Facts, who put her in touch with their media liaison at Paragon Communications, a full-service Christian media agency based in Kentucky. To become a *Bible Answers Live* sponsor, Diane learned, she simply had to sign a six-month contract in which she committed to pay for the airtime at the station of her choice. Paragon would make all of the other necessary

arrangements so she could just relax and enjoy the weekly broadcast. This was a great relief to Diane, who had no previous media-buying experience.

Paragon's senior media director, Kim Schneider, first asked Diane about her specific goals and then went to work to help her achieve them. After finding which stations that air in Mt. Shasta had an open slot on Sundays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific time during the live nationwide broadcast, Kim presented Diane with her options and helped her pick the station with the price, coverage, and format that would best meet her outreach goals.

In Diane's case, the choice seemed obvious. KWHO 102.3 FM is a 15,500-watt radio station that not only covers Mt. Shasta and Redding but also reaches west to Weaverville, south to Red Bluff, east to Susanville, and north to Yreka through a repeater translator. In addition, the station's adult contemporary format targets adults ages 18-54, which is perfect for a call-in program like *Bible Answers Live*.

Another plus is that since Mt. Shasta, Redding, and Red Bluff are all located along the main I-5 corridor, KWHO is one of just a couple of stations that people driving through the area on a Sunday evening could choose.

The Shearers' contract started on Nov. 15, 1998, and they asked their fellow church members to let them know if they were interested in making it a team project. For their first six months on the air, Ray and Wilma Mills covered the cost of one broadcast per month, which on KWHO totals \$100. The Shearers have been the sole station sponsors for the past year and a half, and they say they'll continue as long as God provides the money.

Unexpected Perks

Even after hearing the *Bible Answers Live* program hundreds of times, Diane says she still looks forward every week to the broadcast. "Every time we listen, we learn something new," she says. "Sometimes the program has given me texts to write down and look up later and then share with others. I think we benefit as much as the other people listening."

Dick agrees. "When you are constantly listening to a call-in radio program," he says, "some key questions keep coming up. You begin to pick up on how to answer these common questions simply so that they make sense to people biblically."

More than once Dick has been able to share something he's learned from *Bible Answers Live* with

Photo courtesy of Diane Shearer



Every single member of the Shearer family partners with Amazing Facts in one way or another. Dick (third from left) has placed various Amazing Facts booklets in the waiting room of his office for years, and his 15-year-old son Kevin listens to the *Bible Answers Live* radio program over the Internet. Last spring Kelly, age 13, started giving a Storacles of Prophecy lesson each week to her 20-year-old violin teacher. "Both of our children are missionaries in their own ways," observes their mother, Diane. The Shearers have given sacrificially for more than two years to put *Bible Answers Live* on station KWHO in northern California.

either a staff member or a patient at his medical practice. He has operated a private otolaryngology [ear, nose, and throat] practice in Mt. Shasta since 1982.

Steady Response

Without a doubt, one of the most exciting moments the Shearers have experienced since they became *Bible Answers Live* sponsors was the night a lady from Mt. Shasta got on the air with her Bible question. Dick recalls: "When she asked if there is life on other worlds, Pastor Doug answered the question beautifully, and she concluded: "Yeah, this is it. I believe this."

While there is no way to know exactly how many people are listening to the broadcast on any given night, Amazing Facts does keep track of the number of people from each listening area who call its toll-free number to request additional information about a topic that piqued their interest.


An average of two people each month call in after listening to radio station KWHO, and Diane says that's pretty good considering the size of its listening area. "Our county is geographically the largest in California," she explains, "but as far as population size, it's one of the smallest counties in the state."

The Shearers have sponsored *Bible Answers Live* for more than two years, and Diane considers it a group project since the donation impacts the family budg-

et. There have been a few times when it was difficult to meet their financial commitment, but Diane says God sent the money when she needed it.

Sponsoring *Bible Answers Live* is an excellent way to reach people who may never watch a religious TV program, attend an evangelistic series, or read Christian literature. Many of the stations where *Bible Answers Live* can be heard aren't religious stations, which dramatically increases the potential to spread the gospel. Callers frequently remark that they were scanning the radio dial when they heard something from the broadcast that caught their attention.

If you would like to help cover the cost of the radio program in Mt. Shasta or if you want to learn more about sponsoring *Bible Answers Live* in your area, please contact Kim Schneider at Paragon Communications by sending an e-mail message to KASPara@aol.com or by calling 800-451-4300.

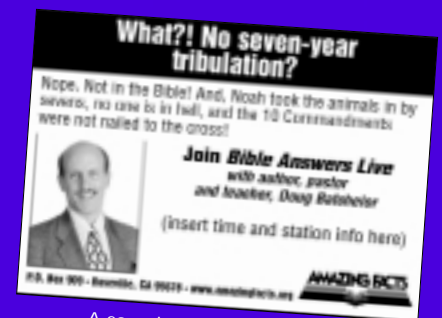
"The Lord will provide when you step out in faith," says Diane. "I can say from personal experience that if the Lord wants to be on a radio station in your area, He'll help you set it up." 



Pastor Doug Batchelor is host of the Amazing Facts radio broadcast *Bible Answers Live*. This weekly call-in program follows in the footsteps of Jesus by reaching people where they are.

Help Your Neighbors Discover *Bible Answers Live*

It's easy. First, contact our friends at Paragon Communications (800-451-4300) to request free advertisements to submit to your local newspaper or to your own church bulletin or newsletter. Next, simply contact your local newspaper for advertising rates and other relevant information (actual ads measure 4" x 3"). Last of all, choose from eight available ads and run them whenever and wherever you can!

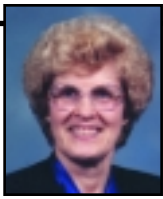


A sample of one of 8 available ads.

If *Bible Answers Live* is not already available in your area and you'd like to sponsor the broadcast in your hometown (or any other unreached area), contact Kim Schneider at Paragon Communications: 800-451-4300.

Pastors Dick Devitt and Doug Batchelor present *Bible Answers Live* every Sunday night beginning at 7 p.m. Pacific time.





BY ANITA
SILVESTRI

The Rest of the Story

Sowing the Word Alumni Share Exciting Updates

People came from several surrounding churches to participate in a Sowing the Word weekend seminar at the Myrtle Creek Church in southern Oregon.

Esther Calvert attended with her friend Ruby McCall and shared how God had moved her from a home of her dreams to an old, ugly, semi-country trailer. Esther had been praying that if she was supposed to live there to win souls, so be it. Shortly after that move, she was preparing to can pears when she saw her neighbor, Ruby, coming across the yard to get acquainted. Ruby came into her home and asked what she was doing. When she discovered that Esther was canning pears, she said, "Give me a knife."

Esther hesitated, but Ruby insisted, so the two ladies spent several hours together canning pears! During their conversation, Esther invited Ruby to church. That day a wonderful friendship began that would include Bible study time together.

During the next nine months, God helped Ruby make many changes in her life; including a decision to quit smoking and using bad language. On her birthday, Sept. 30, 1999, Ruby was married to her boyfriend and baptized on the same day. Esther commented, "Oh, how Ruby loves Jesus!"

Esther brought Ruby to our seminar so she could learn how to share God's Word with her family and friends in order to widen the circle of God's people.

Photos courtesy of Anita Silvestri



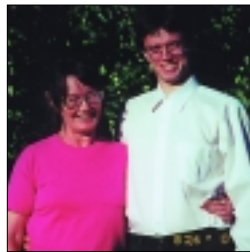
When Esther Calvert (right) had to move out of her dream home into an old trailer, she prayed for God to give her peace if her reason for being in a new neighborhood was to win souls. Not long afterward, Esther met Ruby McCall, who became her good friend and Bible study partner. Nine months later Ruby was married and baptized on her birthday, Sept. 30.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons [and daughters] of God" (Romans 8:14).

Len and Ethel Miller, Sowing the Word alumni, brought a lady to the Friday-night meeting. They are currently giving her Bible studies, and we heard both Ethel and her new friend testify how much they love the Lord and each other. "Love one another, as I have loved you," Jesus commanded in John 15:12.

Son Tells His Mom About Jesus at Just the Right Time

In the August 2000 issue of this magazine, we told you about Scott Lyman's conversion. Ronnie Rowton,



a co-worker at Roseburg Lumber, had witnessed to Scott and given him Bible studies. Soon after his baptism, Scott had come with Ronnie to our Sowing the Word seminar in Roseburg, Ore., in April. During the meet-

ings we often ask members to sign a covenant with God that they are willing to be used to lead one soul to Christ in the coming year. The very next day, Scott had called his mother, Claudia Canada, and talked to her about Jesus.

They were still in the process of doing Bible studies when Claudia accompanied Scott, his wife Allisha, and their little one-and-a-half-year-old son to our seminar in Myrtle Creek. Claudia testified how God had sent her son, Scott, at just the right time to introduce her to Jesus and His holy Word. She had been going through some struggles in her life and needed special direction and love. She loves her son and his family so much—especially because of their willingness to witness to her. Isn't Jesus wonderful? "I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight," He says in Isaiah 45:2.

Husband and Wife United in the Faith

I have one other update from our report in the August 2000 issue of this magazine. We told you about Roberta Minck and her husband, Don, who gave Bible studies to Eva Batchelor. Eva's physician had told her to search for another church where she would find peace in her life. A beautiful friendship developed, and during their weekly studies Eva's husband, Wes, indicated a growing interest. As the months progressed, Eva was baptized.



Don and Roberta Minck (far left and right) met Eva Batchelor at their local senior center several months ago, and Eva decided to be baptized after studying the Bible every week with Roberta. After the two ladies began going through a video Bible study series together, Eva's husband, Wes, developed a growing interest in God's Word. Last August we reported that Wes predicted Pastor Phil Schultz would soon be "dunking him," and sure enough, Wes was baptized into his local Sabbathkeeping church on Sept. 23, 2000.

We are delighted to tell you that Wes was baptized on Sept. 23, 2000. Now, together, they are faithful members of the Stone Tower Sabbathkeeping church family. Isn't God amazing? "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:13, NKJV).


Everything He Needed

During camp meeting in Auburn, Wash., Tim Smith told us about a hitchhiker named Rex Ferguson.

Rex was hitchhiking in the rain, holding a sign that read "Seattle" when a woman came by and told him he would find everything he needed in Tacoma. Rex changed his sign to "Tacoma," and the next driver to come along and pick up this man was a member of the Voice of Hope church in Lakewood, Wash.

As they were traveling, the church member discovered that the hitchhiker felt he "always sought God but never knew Him." The next day, Sabbath, they went to church together, and Rex met a man named Oscar Churchill, who was sporting a shirt that read "Vermont." Soon after Rex told Oscar that he had grown up in Vermont, these two men discovered they had both lived in the town of Richmond, on James Street. In fact, Rex's older brother was Oscar's best friend!

Over the next few weeks, many Bible study discussions took place between Rex and the members of the Voice of Hope church. This story came to a wonderful climax the last weekend of camp meeting, when Rex was baptized. Hearing of God's leading in his life makes me think of Psalm 139:1-10.

Let us continue sowing the Word, the gospel seed, for this is the promise we have in the Scriptures: "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20, NKJV). 

"I Feel Like a Thirsty Sponge"

In a hotel room while traveling on business, I saw an Amazing Facts sermon on keeping the seventh-day Sabbath. It came at a very low point in my life when I was disillusioned with my church, my husband, and life in general.

Praise God for your boldness in preaching the truth! Your sermon really touched me. I had faithfully gone to church every Sunday of my life, but I had *never* heard about the seventh-day Sabbath. I knew you were telling the truth and called to order the tape of the sermon so I could study it further.

After studying the Bible texts, I had so many questions. I didn't know who worshiped on the seventh-day Sabbath except for Jews, so I prayed that if God wanted me to keep His commands, He would lead me to a Christian church that worships on the Sabbath.

I live in the "boonies" on the Oregon coast, and the nearest town has a paper that comes out once a week.

I never read it, but my father-in-law left a copy at my house. I looked inside and saw a *new* box advertising local churches and their worship times. Listed inside it was a worship service at a church in Florence on Saturday! Answered prayer without delay! I was thrilled and decided to go.



On the way to the 11 o'clock service, Satan tempted me with garage sale sign after garage sale sign, but I made it anyway. By the time I walked out of that church, I felt like I was floating about six inches off the ground! It is a very small congregation, but they welcomed me like a sister who had been gone and then returned home to a loving family. They told me about Sabbath School and gave me a study guide and invited me to prayer service on Wednesday. I stayed for their vegetarian potluck, too.

This was about a year ago, and my life has completely changed. I am *excited* about studying the Word again and can't get enough. I watched your NET New York '99 seminars and feel like a thirsty sponge.

Thank you, thank you, a million times thank you for your ministry. I'll pray for you that God will bless you and give you strength to continue to minister not only to the lost, but also to Christians who are seeking truth. (I now check everything I hear against God's Word). I am so excited about all God is revealing to me!

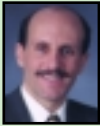
—Liz Breon



The first day Liz Breon (second from left) decided to visit a Sabbathkeeping church in Florence, Ore., the members welcomed her as a much-loved friend. Pictured with Liz at a church campout are her new church "sisters" Vicki, Linda, and Lori.

Meet Amazing Facts

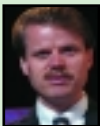
You are invited to meet the members of our Amazing Facts team at any one of the following locations. This schedule is subject to change without notice, so please call Amazing Facts to confirm appointments or get more information.



Doug Batchelor



Rich Cavaness



Steve DeLong



Lowell Hargreaves



Kim Kjaer



Jack Pefley



John Quade



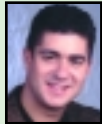
John Bradshaw



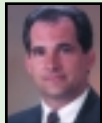
Byron Corbett



Gary Gibbs



Jaime Jorge



Brian McMahon



Dennis Priebe



John Silvestri



Verne Snow

Doug Batchelor

January 12-13
Amazing Facts Faith Summit Weekend
Forest Lake Academy
3909 E. Semoran Boulevard
Apopka, Florida

John Bradshaw

January 12-February 17
American Chinese School
903 W. Parker Road
Plano, Texas

Rich Cavaness

January 12-February 10
Guardian Building
300 E. Spruce Street
(at the corner of Spruce and Fairview)
Gridley, California

Byron Corbett

January 12-February 17
Tukwila Community Center
12424 42nd Avenue S.
Tukwila, Washington

Lowell Hargreaves

January 12-February 17
Cartwright Elementary School
5833 W. Thomas
Phoenix, Arizona

Brian McMahon

January 13-February 17
Auburn Riverside Theatre (Riverside High School)
501 Oravitz Road
Auburn, Washington

Jaime Jorge

January 6
Parkersburg Church
1901 Park Avenue
Parkersburg, West Virginia

January 6
Charleston Church
622 Kanawha Boulevard W.
Charleston, West Virginia

January 12-13
Amazing Facts Faith Summit Weekend
Forest Lake Academy
3909 E. Semoran Boulevard
Apopka, Florida

January 19
Baldwin Park Bilingual Church
13965 E. Ramona Parkway
Baldwin Park, California

January 20
North Hills Church
1717 N. Mountain Avenue
Claremont, California

January 26
Glendale Church
6801 N. 43rd Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

Jack Pefley

January 19-February 24
Best Western Harbor Inn
1250 Halyard Road
(at the intersection of I-80 and Harbor Boulevard)
West Sacramento, California

Verne Snow

January 12-February 17
North Battleford Library
1392 101st Street
North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada

Special Recognition

In Loving Memory

Byron Alexander by Jacob & Joyce Joyner
Lyle Anderson by Kent & Dee Dickinson
Theron Avery by Stanley H. Reesman
Wesley Bartelson by Stanley H. Reesman
Horace Beckner by Lola Genton
Horace Bennet by Stanley H. Reesman
Ruth Bittner by Althea Rowand
Glenn Brenneise by Joyce Brenneise, his wife
Carl & Anna Brockmann by Ethel E. Simeone, their daughter
Vivian Budzin by David & Gladys deFluiter
Bruce Bush by Mr. & Mrs. Homer R. Lynd; by William & Agnes Garrison
Dorothy Butcher by Donald Butcher, her husband
John & Pearl Campbell by William & Agnes Garrison
Mary Carr by Ward & Almetta Versteegh
Derwood Chappell by Jean Chappell, his wife
Herschel Conant by Margaret Conant, his wife
Louis Corwin by Daryl & Aba Roland
Cecil Coult by Stanley H. Reesman
Joe Crews by Lu Ann Crews, his wife; by Matthew Kabson; by Anita & William Lowe
Ronnie Crews by Lu Ann Crews, his mother
Marvin John Davis by Charles & Helen Brown
Marjorie Dickinson by Kent & Dee Dickinson
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Douglas G. Fabel by Amy B. Fabel, his wife
Edward H. Flower by M. Florence Flower
Jewel B. Foutch by Gayle Tyroff, his daughter
Pattie Frances by Margaret Conant
Lester Fullbright by Maryetta Fullbright, his daughter-in-law
McVernon Fullbright by Maryetta Fullbright, his wife
Catherine Gab by Esther Henderson
Lloyd Graf by Margaret Conant
Jelena Grsetic by Wendell W. Gibbs
Esther K. Guyot by her children and grandchildren
Pastor Alex R. Hall by Alyce Hall, his wife
James Harden by Maryetta J. Fullbright, his sister-in-law
John Haskell by Stanley H. Reesman
Royal Hay by Margaret Conant
Lisa Lungu Heldenbrand by John & Helen Lungu, her parents; by Alice G. Merrifield
Esther Herford by Jo Ann Herford
Joseph Herzberg by Debra & Michael Fehcik, his daughter & son-in-law; by Kathy J. Woodhall, his daughter; by Thelma Herzberg, his wife
Marge & Ted Hoffman by Stephen, Donna, Stephenie & Matt Dickie
Everett L. Hopper by Jasper, Tammy, Tonya & Julie Hice
Betty Houghtaling by Stanley H. Reesman
Ellen Howell by Gayle Tyroff, her granddaughter
Martha B. Hudson by Mr. & Mrs. Willard Hudson, Jr.
Ben Johnson by Stephen, Donna, Stephenie & Matt Dickie
Jack Johnson by Edryn Kast, his sister
Vera Johnson by Francis Johnson Sr., her husband
Ryan Timothy Jones by Ronnie & Brenda Jones, his parents
Julet & Mary Judson by Bob & Alice Lively
Elizabeth Kabson by Matthew Kabson, her husband
Glenn E. Kingery by Nellie Kingery, his wife; by Cynthia & Sandra, his daughters
Dorothy C. Kuninobu by Verna Nozaki, her daughter
J. Doris Larsen by Ellen Mae Campbell
Verdene Lawless by J.D. & Wanda Davis
Ed Leboef by Stanley H. Reesman
Mae R. Libby by Bill E. & Eleanor (Libby) Morrison
Mary Louise Lilley by Bert Lilley, her husband
Alan Dean Long by Pauline B. Long, his mother
Pastor J. Murray Long by Pauline B. Long, his wife
Warren Mantz by Chester & Montie Snapp

Amazing Facts is happy to recognize contributions to the ministry that are made, in lieu of flowers, as a tribute to the deceased or as a thank offering celebrating significant milestones in the lives of friends or family members. Listings normally appear three to four months after donations are received. Be sure to include first and last names and please type or print legibly to ensure correct spelling. Due to space limitations, a maximum of five names will be printed per donation per issue.

Bill May by Alma H. May, his mother; by Kent & Dee Dickinson; by Matthew Kabson; by Lu Ann Crews
C. Kenneth McConnell by Mr. & Mrs. Charles McConnell
J.G. McConnell by Mr. & Mrs. Charles McConnell
Marjorie McGann by Dr. James & Bonnie Comazzi
Gary L. McPherson by Darrel & Fay McPherson and family
Frances McWilliams by Carl McWilliams, her husband
Reuben Meier by Esther Henderson
Paul O. & Merle W. Meyer by Ruth & Frank Waxter, his sister & her brother
Harold Moore by Catherine Krauss, his sister
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Marvin A. Peterson by Daryl & Ara Roland
Annie & Isaac Pierce by Gayle Tyroff, their granddaughter
Jeanette Poirier by Alyce Hall, her sister
Donna Marie Porco by Bill & Donna Keehnell
Bobby D. & Dave Reesman by Stanley H. Reesman, their father
Fern Reesman by Stanley H. Reesman, her husband
Pastor Donald Reiber by Patricia Lund
Sam Renk by Helen Renk, his wife
Earl & Grace Reuss by Barbara Qualley, their daughter
Nelson & Ruth Rima by William & Agnes Garrison
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Pastor Richard C. White by Mary E. Hensley
Charles Williams by Virginia Williams, his sister
Henry Wonenberg by Margaret Conant
John Woodhall by Kathy J. Woodhall, his wife
Laurence Zill by Lola Genton

Happy Anniversary **Del & Ruth A. Farr**

Happy Birthday
Holly Joers by Annetta Joers, her mother-in-law

In Thankfulness for
Eugene & Winnie Peek by M. Charlene Ponder, their granddaughter

New Book for a New Year!

At Jesus' Feet

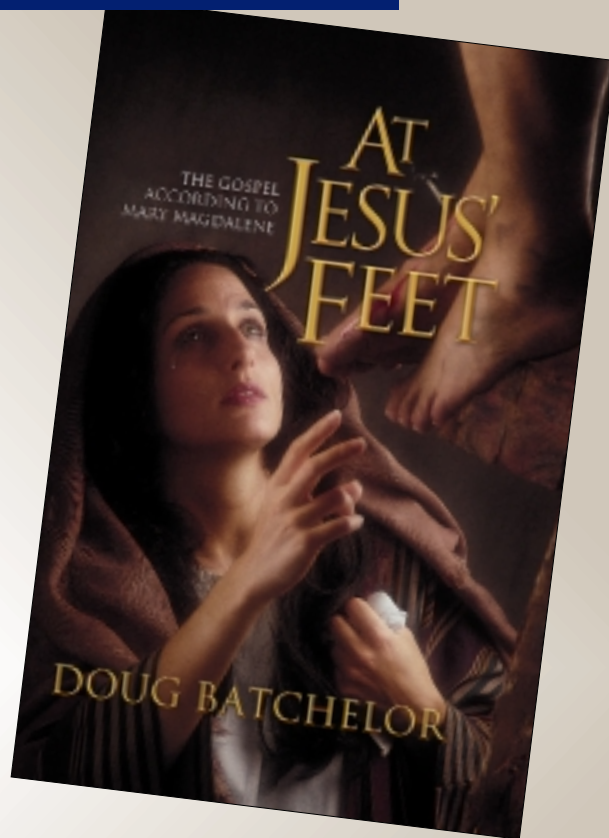
The Gospel According to Mary Magdalene

by Doug Batchelor

All she really wanted was someone to love her—just like anyone else. Mary Magdalene was a prosperous prostitute with a sad and sordid life story—until she met Someone who loved her with a pure, unconditional love.

Doug Batchelor unveils the beauty of the gospel with original insights through the eyes of Jesus' most dedicated disciple. An imaginative and biblical retelling of Mary's experience provides a fresh picture of our gentle, loving Savior who offers forgiveness and hope as we linger at His feet.

Start your new year with a new perspective of our loving Savior!



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