

# AMAZING

*Inside Report* **FACTS**

May 2000

A tombstone with a jagged, broken top is set in a landscape of fire and smoke. The background is a dark, orange-red sky with flames rising from the ground. The tombstone is dark and has the name and dates engraved on it.

WILL I. FRY  
1945-1990  
R.I.P.

**HATH HELL NO FURY?**

# LETTERS

## Thunderbolts of Revelation

Your article in the February 2000 *Inside Report* on the sanctuary service was fabulous! I'm not unfamiliar with the symbolism involved in the sanctuary service, but this article was just thunderbolt after thunderbolt of revelation in plain talk with respect to present-day applications of the sanctuary service.

SL  
Florida



## Pass It On

For several months I have listened to your *Bible Answers Live* radio broadcast each Sunday night on WDNX 89.1 FM in Savannah, Tenn., and I have certainly enjoyed the answers given to all the call-ins. I have six grown children . . . who have their own children. The "amazing facts" I learn from you are passed right on to them.

BE  
Tennessee

## You Convinced Me

Yesterday, as I did my weekly Storacles with you, the subject was "Windows of Heaven." I don't know when I have ever laughed so much. That was a pretty neat flip you did in your bare feet. You are sooooo cool.

You convinced me in your "Windows of Heaven" sermon, as you do in all of your sermons, so here is my offering. On June 1, I will become a retired teacher; I am 66 years old. I've been serving Christ since Sept. 15, 1951, and now I plan to join the end-time church.

JL  
Montana



## A Double Portion

I have listened to Amazing Facts for years, mostly the TV broadcast with [founder] Joe Crews. He had an awesome "holy boldness" about him. I believe that you [Doug Batchelor] are to Mr. Crews as Elisha was to Elijah. You have received a double portion.

DN  
Irving, Texas

## Packed with Power

Please send Study Guide #7 as seen on the Amazing Facts TV program. Thank you so much for a show that is so packed with powerful study in the Word. I enjoy it daily. The facts are truly amazing.

LT  
North Carolina



## Baptized Last June

If it hadn't been for your program, I would still be an atheist. I was baptized last June, about three years after I first saw Pastor Doug Batchelor on television.

JM  
Utah

## Blessed by Your Teachings

For the past two weeks I have been getting the TBN transmission on my TV here in Mumbai City, in India. I have watched your program and am blessed by your teachings on the Word of God. Could you please send me the Study Guide *Is the Devil in Charge of Hell?*

CM  
Mumbai, India



## A Small Light

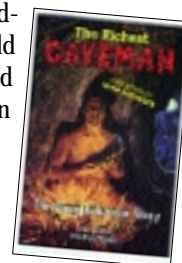
You are such a wonderful organization. It is a privilege to be able to direct others to your fantastic Web site and fantastic Bible guides. I too wrote an online book that you can read right off the Internet. It is designed to help everyone in their need to understand the future, the book of Revelation, and the plan of salvation. I am a small light leading others to the greater light you are sharing with the world.

GW  
via e-mail

## Hopeful for the First Time in Six Years

I just recently attended the "One Night of Your Life" seminar in Minneapolis, Minn., where I heard Doug Batchelor give his testimony. I went home and read *The Richest Caveman* over the next two nights. I was so affected by his testimony; floodgates had been opened. If God could forgive Pastor Doug, then He would forgive me too! For the first time in six years I felt hopeful!

SM  
via e-mail



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Amazing Facts is a non-profit Christian ministry that utilizes literature, radio, television, and public evangelism to bring the saving truths of Jesus Christ to a dying world. For its operation, Amazing Facts depends on the gifts and prayers of concerned Christians who believe in the work it is doing.

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BY EDITOR  
DEBRA J. HICKS

## Something Old, Something New

**“P**ardon me, but you look familiar. Have we met somewhere before?” That might sound like a worn-out pickup line to some ladies, but not to me. I hear it once or twice at nearly every church I visit, and I’ve come to know exactly what people mean. Nine times out of ten, the reason I look familiar is because I edited the *Amazing Facts* magazine for nearly seven years, and they have remembered my picture.

Since the summer of 1998, I’ve been editing two publications and teaching journalism courses at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. My husband and I moved there from California so he could manage the university’s Information Systems department. Leaving *Amazing Facts* was really hard for me because I’d always loved my work, but God’s leading was unmistakable.

And do you know what? I wouldn’t trade the experiences of the past two years for anything. My passion for teaching at the university level ranks right up with editing, and I might not have known about this talent if I hadn’t been willing to step into the unknown.

Now it’s my joy to rejoin *Amazing Facts* as editor, taking over for Alicia Goree, who resigned to pursue God’s will for her life. One of my friends calls me a “virtual” editor because I am working from Tennessee instead of from the ministry’s current headquarters in northern California. It actually works very well, thanks to e-mail, fax, cell phones, FedEx, and a husband who is a technology whiz!

So here I am . . . back after almost two years. I’m not sure how to introduce myself now. Am I the old editor or the new editor? The answer, of course, is a little bit of both.

To be honest, I’d like to be considered the new kid on the block for awhile. I have a fresh perspective now and several new ideas, but I’m also interested in hearing from some of you. Give me some feedback. What is your favorite part of the magazine? Which features do you read on a regular basis? Has *Inside Report* failed to provide any information that would be helpful? If you could make one change, what would it be?

Think it over, then let me know your ideas. You can reach me either by regular mail (it’s forwarded to me from the California office every week) or via e-mail ([editor@amazingfacts.org](mailto:editor@amazingfacts.org)).

For those of you who are relatively new readers, perhaps I should take this opportunity to share a little about myself.

My ties to *Amazing Facts* go way back to the days when the ministry’s founder, Joe Crews, traveled around the country delighting crusade audiences with his powerful baritone voice and soul-stirring sermons. I was a shy 9-year-old living in Lansing, Mich., when he arrived at my school with his singing evangelist, Sid Mills. About a dozen of us youngsters crowded into the kitchen each day for a special class they held to help us prepare for baptism, and we got to seal our decisions along with many adults at the end of the monthlong evangelistic series.

When I joined the ministry as editor on the first workday of 1992, I had just recently celebrated two

### Give me some feedback.

**What is your favorite part of the magazine? Which features do you read on a regular basis? If you could make one change, what would it be?**

other major life events. The first was graduation from college with a journalism and communications degree, and the second was marriage to a bright young computer programmer who had been my good friend for seven years.

The *Amazing Facts* staff was much smaller in those days, so it didn’t take long for Henry and me to feel among family. We both treasure the five years we spent in western Maryland (where the ministry had its headquarters until 1996), getting to know hundreds of people who faithfully supported *Amazing Facts* during its first 30 years.

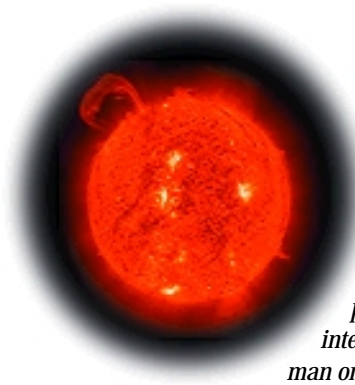
It was a blessing both personally and professionally to work closely with the three men whom God had called to lead *Amazing Facts*. The first was Joe Crews, and the second was Bill May—author of the dynamic Study Guide series that became one of the ministry’s hallmarks. The third man is Doug Batchelor, and practically everybody knows him now! I couldn’t help but laugh as I read the letter from the 66-year-old Montana lady who wrote that he is “sooooo cool” (see page 2).

I hope you’ll take time to share your comments, questions, and kudos. And if you spot me in church one Sabbath, I won’t mind if you tell me I look familiar. Who knows? Maybe I’ll be able to say the same!



BY EVANGELIST  
JOHN BRADSHAW

# HATH HELL NO FURY?



## **An Amazing Fact:**

*The Sun is a fantastically hot cosmic-radiation powerhouse, with a surface temperature of about 11,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Its interior temperature is estimated as high as 18 million degrees Fahrenheit. The pressure at the center of the sun is about 700 million tons per square inch. That's enough to smash atoms, expose the inner nuclei, and allow them to smash into each other, interact, and produce the nuclear fusion that gives us our light and heat. In fact, the material at the core of the sun is so intensely hot that if you could capture just enough to cover a pinhead, it would radiate sufficient heat to kill a man one mile away!*

## **A Hot Topic**

Pope John Paul II stirred up a theological hornets' nest recently when he described hell as "more than a physical place," while at the same time calling it "the state of those who freely and definitely separate themselves from God, the source of all life and death."

Hell, he stated, is "not a punishment imposed externally by God." The pontiff's remarks, in which he said the Bible "uses a symbolical language" when it refers to the heat and flames of hell, came after an editorial last summer in an influential Jesuit magazine declared that hell "is not a 'place' but a 'state,' a person's 'state of being,' in which a person suffers from the deprivation of God."

Howls of protest quickly rose from prominent American evangelicals. The *Washington Post* quoted R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., as saying the pope was "soft-selling hell."

"Jesus Himself spoke of hell as a lake of fire," Mohler said, "where the worms would not die and the fire would not be quenched. It's all very graphic."

## **Who Is Right?**

So who is right? The pope, with his "anguished state of existence?" Or Christians who continue in the tradition of Jonathan Edwards, a Puritan preacher who

traveled throughout 18th-century New England proclaiming that "there will be no end to this exquisite horrible misery" of the ever-burning fires of hell?

*U.S. News and World Report* magazine's Jan. 31, 2000, cover article highlighted this growing debate. It reported that society's views regarding hell have undergone a decided metamorphosis in recent years. While 64 percent of Americans think there is a hell, only 34 percent believe it is "a real place where people suffer eternal fiery torments" (compared to 48 percent only three years ago). A surprising 53 percent view hell as "an anguished state of existence eternally separated from God" (up from 46 percent in 1997). This is the view being promulgated by Pope John Paul II.

## **Room for a Third View?**

Hath hell no fury? Or are sinners suffering right now in eternal torment? A third view on hellfire is current-



As Jonathan Edwards graphically described the torments of the wicked in his famous sermon "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God," one of his listeners sprang up, rushed down the aisle, and cried, "Mr. Edwards, have mercy!"

ly gaining greater acceptance in modern theological thought. Asserting that the belief of eternal torment is based on pagan philosophy, scholars such as England's Dr. John Stott argue that such a view of God is inconsistent with the biblical portrait of His character and with Scripture itself. Stott and other prominent Bible teachers propose that the fires will ultimately put the unsaved out of existence.

The Bible is not ambiguous on the subject. While Jesus did make it very clear that there is a real hell (see Matthew 10:28), He explained something vitally significant in the parable of the wheat and the tares.

"As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire," Jesus said, "so shall it be in the end of this world" (Matthew 13:40). The point is repeated just nine verses later in the parable of the net. The implications of such a position are obvious. First, in sharp contrast to the claims of Vatican City, hell is a real place where the "children of the wicked one" (Matthew 13:38) will be "burned" (verse 40). We also learn that, contrary to the other commonly held view on the subject, nobody has gone there yet.

It is worth noting that for the majority of times the word translated "hell" is used in Scripture, it literally means "the grave." In only 12 of the 54 times we read the word "hell" does the original word mean "a place of burning."

## Hell "on Earth"

I was taught as a child that hell was indeed a real place where the wicked would burn forever and that it was located in the center of the earth. I always wondered what would happen if an oil company drilled all the way down to where hell was. And I remember watching the black-and-white movie *Journey to the Center of the Earth* with great interest!

But this is another area where the Bible leaves nothing to doubt. Revelation chapter 20 says that 1,000 years after the saints are resurrected, the wicked will be released from their graves. "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Revelation 20:9).

According to the Bible, the lost are burned "on the breadth of the earth." One of the great promises of the Bible to the pilgrims here below is that we can, "according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13).

Just as God cleansed the earth in the days of Noah, He will cleanse the earth again at the end of the world, this time with fire. As in Noah's day, sinners will again receive their recompense, and once more it will happen "on the breadth of the earth." God's plan is to recreate this sin-marred earth and return it to its original Edenic splendor. The earth will be transformed into



Don Satterlee and Dane Henas

what the Bible calls a "lake of fire" (Revelation 20:10). Every last vestige of sin will be burned up, and the curse will be obliterated.

## Mary Ellen's Misconception

A few years ago, a young lady named Mary Ellen told me that although she was raised in a Christian home, she had given up on God and was instead practicing witchcraft.

"I was raised in a hellfire-and-brimstone spitting church," she told me. "They would talk about this God who would take sinners and burn them for all eternity, and that God would be happy to inflict torture upon them for as long as time would last.

"I thought to myself, 'If that's what God is really like, I'd be better off without Him.'" Because of the portrait of God painted by the church, this intelligent young woman had turned her back on the Bible and embraced paganism and devil worship.

Mary Ellen was appalled by the idea of a God of love behaving as one would expect the devil to behave. Not even history's most reviled despots—Hitler, Stalin, or

Idi Amim—were as cruel to their victims as Christians accuse God of being. Mary Ellen reacted to the idea as thousands have done: by giving up on God, because to misunderstand hell is to misunderstand the character of God, the awfulness of sin, and the love of God for all of His children.

We cannot deny that some passages in the Bible plainly state that hellfire will burn “for ever” (Revelation 14:11; 20:10). But logic alone tells us that if hell burns forever “on the breadth of the earth,” it would be impossible for God to create a new earth. And if God kept sinners alive to endure an eternal burning, He would fail in His mission to rid the world of sin. Instead, He would perpetuate it.

Can you imagine a new earth where throughout eternity you could hear the howls and screams of the wicked suffering in hell? Or what if you knew that in some corner of the universe those you had loved on the earth were writhing forever in agony because of misdeeds during their relatively short lives on earth?

I have never met anyone who could enjoy heaven knowing that loved ones or family were being tortured throughout all eternity. Thankfully, the Bible states that the new earth will be a place without sorrow or pain (Revelation 21:4).

## What About “For Ever”?

In Scripture, “for ever” is often used in conjunction with an event that has already taken place.

For instance, Hannah pledged to God that she would take her infant son Samuel to serve in the temple at Shiloh, where he would abide “for ever” (1 Samuel 1:22). No student of the Bible would take this to mean that he would remain in that temple for as long as time should last. Hannah herself interpreted the statement as meaning that Samuel would serve in the temple for “as long as he liveth” (verse 28).

Jonah stated that he was in the belly of the fish “for ever” (Jonah 2:6), but we know that he endured his

eerie journey beneath the sea for “three days and three nights” (Jonah 1:17).

More than 50 times the Bible uses “for ever” to mean “for as long as time lasts in that specific case.” The term is used colloquially today to describe a down-pour or a hot summer’s afternoon (or a sermon!) that “went on forever.”

## Death, Not Eternal Torment

The Bible tells us that “the wages of sin is” not eternal life in hellfire, but “death” (Romans 6:23), the same penalty God assured Adam and Eve would be theirs if they ate the forbidden fruit.

Ezekiel states clearly that “the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4), and a plethora of other Bible verses and passages endorse this position. The prophet Malachi wrote that sinners would burn up as “stubble” and would become “ashes under the soles” of the feet of the redeemed (Malachi 4:1, 3). Even the final fate of Satan is explicitly pronounced in Ezekiel 28:18, where the Bible says that the enemy of souls will be reduced to ashes upon the “earth.” Compare that with Psalm 37:10 (“For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be”), Psalm 68:2 (“as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God”), and other similar verses. Soon you get a clear picture that the purpose of the fires of hell is to eradicate sin and to expunge the universe of its awful presence.

Interestingly, it was the devil who was first to suggest that sinners would not die (Genesis 3:4). A hell where sinners never perish would prove the devil right and would make God, who told Eve she would “surely die” as a result of transgression (Genesis 2:17), a liar.

## The Lumber Camp

Some years ago in a lumber camp there worked a giant of a man who was feared by all who knew him. Rumor had it that he had killed several people.

One day he summoned a fellow worker and demanded to know if the man was telling people that nobody was burning in the fires of hell.

“That’s right,” the co-worker answered. “That’s what the Bible says.”

“Can you show me where it says that?” the burly woodsman inquired, betraying a tinge of hope in his gravelly voice. He sat in rapt attention as his Christian colleague showed him text after text from the Bible proving that God is not now torturing anybody in hell and that God will not permit anyone to burn in the lake of fire any longer than necessary.

As they continued to study God’s Word, the man whom others regarded as having a heart of stone dropped his face into his hands and began to weep.

## HOW THE WORD “HELL” IS USED IN THE BIBLE

*The word “hell” is used 54 times in the Bible. It is translated from several different words with various meanings, as indicated below.*

### In the Old Testament

- 31 times from the Hebrew word “Sheol,” which means “the grave.”

### In the New Testament

- 10 times from the Greek word “Hades,” which means “the grave.”
- 12 times from the Greek word “Gehenna,” which means “a place of burning.”
- 1 time from the Greek word “Tartarus,” which means “a place of darkness.”

“My son died 20 years ago in a bar fight,” he finally explained. “I was told that he had gone straight to hell, where God was torturing him and would torture him forever. Ever since that time I’ve been mad with God.”

That day, his heart was softened and his entire life transformed as he came to understand what the Bible really says about the end of the wicked.

## The Rich Man and Lazarus

Another passage of Scripture that many find difficult to reconcile with the truth about hellfire is the story of the rich man and Lazarus, found in Luke chapter 16. But by realizing that this passage is a parable—at the end of a long list of parables—we can understand better the imagery Jesus employs.

Certainly Abraham’s bosom is not the eternal abode of the redeemed, and it seems impossible that the lost in hell can converse with the saved in heaven. When we remember that hell takes place at the end of the world, and that there are no people suffering in hell at this present time, we can determine more exactly three major points contained in Jesus’ remarks.

By representing the beggar as being in heaven and the rich man as lost, Jesus taught His hearers that, contrary to the prevailing view, wealth was not necessarily an indicator of divine favor, just as poverty was not a sign of God’s judgment upon a person.

Jesus was also seeking to educate the Jews that salvation would not be theirs by birthright. The rich man in torments calls out to “father Abraham,” just as the Jews of Jesus’ day were mistakenly pointing to heritage as proof of their assurance of salvation.

Furthermore, Jesus was seeking to lead His hearers to understand that only faithfulness to God’s Word would prepare them to enter into eternal life. He told them, “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead” (Luke 16:31).

To use the parable of the rich man and Lazarus in order to promote the false doctrine of an eternally burning hell is to misuse God’s Word and to misrepresent His character.

## Soft-Selling?

Please understand that regardless of the duration of hellfire, it will be no picnic for the sinner. Although the Bible doesn’t specify exactly how long hellfire will burn, in Luke chapter 12 Jesus made it clear that the amount of suffering endured would be in proportion to the hardness of the individual sinner’s heart. It would be pure speculation to suppose how long the fires of hell may actually burn, but we can be sure the suffering and anguish endured by the lost would be beyond our ability to describe.

For too long the doctrine of hellfire has been little



Don Satterlee

**For the majority of times the word translated “hell” is used in Scripture, it literally means “the grave.” Only 12 of the 54 times we read the word “hell” does the original word mean “a place of burning.”**

more than a tool used to cajole sinners into being saved. We are told in Scripture that we love God “because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Certainly people should have a healthy respect and concern about the punishment due the wicked, but only love for God can motivate them to truly surrender their hearts to a God of love.

## Understand God’s Character

We can know for sure that God is not a despicable, heartless tyrant who will take His very own children and torture them without mercy or relief throughout all eternity. It seems incredible that while society locks child abusers in prison, so many are willing to hold God guilty of the most horrible case of child abuse ever perpetrated!

According to Jesus, hellfire isn’t even meant for human beings. It is “prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). Yet because many refuse to

*Continued on page 13*

# From the Inside

## Byron Corbett to Develop a New Church Planting Program

Byron Corbett, a pastor from Washington state, has agreed to help Amazing Facts develop a new church-planting program. Like the apostle Paul, he will be an evangelist who travels to metropolitan areas to preach for at least six months and to raise up new companies of believers.



In his eight years as a pastor, Byron has conducted one to two of his own evangelistic crusades a year. Two years ago he planted a new church, Voice of Hope, with a core group from his other congregation, the Tacoma Southside Church.

Pastor Corbett is working this month with Kim and Judy Kjaer in Rochester, Minn., and he will hold two evangelistic meetings this fall before launching the church-planting program next year. Amazing Facts is accepting invitations now from churches and conferences that are interested in having Byron work in their areas.

"Many conferences are earnest about planting new churches but simply can't do it without some outside help," said Assistant Director Gary Gibbs, who oversees the ministry's evangelism department. "Now Amazing Facts can meet that need."

## Carolyn Moxley Takes the Helm of the Amazing Facts Bible School

Carolyn Moxley assumed the mantle of Bible School supervisor on March 27. She will direct the team of three full-time employees and 15 volunteers who oversee the ministry's 27-lesson correspondence course.



After working as a property manager for 26 years, Carolyn began last year to pray for an opportunity to become involved full-time in evangelism. Carolyn has been very active in her home church, volunteering there two days a week in addition to her regular 40-hour workweek. As a lay leader, she has conducted Bible studies, led small-group studies, prepared people for baptism, and coordinated several evangelistic events.

Carolyn grew up on the prairies of Alberta, Canada, and moved to California in 1962. Harrold, her husband of 28 years, died nearly six years ago.

An Amazing Facts supporter for the past two

decades, Carolyn loves to sing and also plays piano. "Music has always been the greatest enjoyment of my life," she said, "but my passion is now evangelism, and I count it a wonderful opportunity to be a part of a ministry with a mission that is so near and dear to my heart."

Donna Hutcheson, who has worked in the Amazing Facts Bible School for more than 14 years, requested reassignment in order to work part-time with her husband, Robert, who is a general contractor.

## Bob Curtice Joins Computer Team

As a computer programmer and analyst, Bob Curtice designs software and writes applications and reports for Amazing Facts. He also operates his own computer business, Curtice Enterprises.

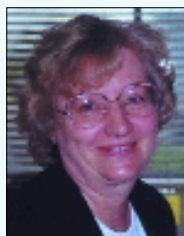


A long-time resident of the Sacramento area, Bob first began helping Amazing Facts as a volunteer videographer several years ago when Doug Batchelor held a series of meetings in Carmichael, Calif. One of Bob's "claims to fame" is that he was featured in the Amazing Facts magazine's *Armor of God* issue (March 1998) as the man inside the armor.

Bob and his family are part of the volunteer crew for the Amazing Facts TV program taped each Sabbath at the Sacramento Central Church. His wife, Sherle, does switching and character generation (typing the words and Bible texts that appear at the bottom of the screen). Bob does camera work, engineering, and occasional directing. Their children, Ricky and Heather, also help by moving television cameras and cables.

## April Cohorst Assists Office Manager as an Administrative Secretary

April Cohorst is the new administrative secretary for Joe Fields, the ministry's office manager. Her responsibilities range from scheduling staff worship and typing minutes to maintaining personnel records.



April became a part-time employee nearly a year ago to help Amazing Facts prepare for the NET New York '99 meetings.

Most recently she was an instructor at a local business college and owned a company that provided secretarial services for businesses.



## Watch Doug Batchelor on May 11

Pastor Doug Batchelor and his colleague Gary Gibbs, assistant director of Amazing Facts, will be guests on the nationwide TV broadcast *3ABN Presents LIVE* Thursday night, May 11, beginning at 9 p.m. Eastern time. During the 90-minute program, they will talk about the new Amazing Facts College of Evangelism and will also take calls from the audience with 3ABN host Danny Shelton.

## Judy Schachten Goes Full-Time as Development Department Secretary

Although she has been working full-time for just a few months, Judy Schachten is no stranger around the Amazing Facts office. She began to volunteer in the Bible School in 1997 and started working part-time in October to help out with NET New York '99. Now she is working in the development department as secretary for Paul Saint-Villiers.



Judy has two children. Her daughter, Kathy, is married to Mark Calkins and lives in Maryland with their 1-year-old son, Christopher. Judy's son, Jeff, is a hospital administrator in Southern California.

## Ruth Willes Joins Bible School Staff

Ruth Willes joined the Amazing Facts Bible School staff full-time in January. She sends out lessons each month and keeps track of new students as well as those who have fallen behind on their studies. That is a lot of work, considering there are nearly 35,000 people enrolled in the Bible School! Before coming out of semi-retirement to help Amazing Facts, Ruth worked as an RN caring for newborns. She and her husband, Kenneth, have four sons and seven grandchildren.



## Lisa Allen Helps in Order Department

Lisa Allen has been working as a data-entry operator in the order department since January. She processes orders received by phone, mail, and the Internet.

When she came across Doug Batchelor's book *The Richest Caveman*, Lisa stayed up all night reading because she couldn't put it down.

Lisa has worked as a literature evangelist and a bank teller, but her long-range goal is to become a nurse midwife.

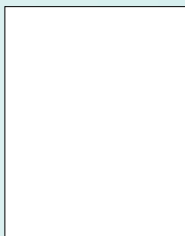


## Gary Coleman Lends Talents to Computer Department

As a new employee in the order and data entry department, Gary Coleman processes orders and donations, returns packages, and is an all-around problem solver. (By the way, he's no relation to the young actor best known for his line "Whatcha talking about, Willis?")

After Amazing Facts evangelist Brian McMahon opened a series of evangelistic meetings at Gary's home church in Ceres, Calif., Gary was inspired to search the Internet to find out more about the ministry. He started volunteering at Amazing Facts not long afterward and then joined the staff full-time at the beginning of the year.

A 1999 graduate of Modesto Adventist Academy, he is hoping to study theology this next school year.



## Karen Clark Now Managing Web Sites

Karen Clark, who has worked as an administrative secretary to office manager Joe Fields for the past two years, is now an assistant in the marketing department. She helps Scott Steward with advertising and promotions and is also managing both the Amazing Facts Web site ([www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org)) and the new Bible Universe Web site ([www.bibleuniverse.com](http://www.bibleuniverse.com)). The Bible Universe site is geared toward non-believers and new church members and is designed to encourage them in their Christian walk and in daily Bible study.

Karen and her husband, Brad, are the proud parents of 24-year-old Nicole Kane, who lives in Australia with her pastor husband, and 10-year-old Ryan.



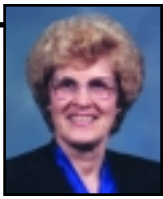
## Cyndee Hufnagel Joins the Ministry's Correspondence Team

Cyndee Hufnagel moved from the accounting department to the correspondence department in

February. When Amazing Facts receives letters containing long, specific questions, it is Cyndee who answers them. Her theology degree serves her well in this new position.

Cyndee is married to Craig Hufnagel, who is a general contractor. They have four children: Owen, CJ, Molly, and Chance.





BY ANITA C.  
SILVESTRI

# Sowing the Word Report

## Large Groups Gather in Las Vegas and Vancouver

For more than two years Tammy Losey had tried to schedule a Sowing the Word seminar for the Mountain View Church in Las Vegas, Nev. In January, John and Anita Silvestri were finally able to go there and hold an Amazing Facts church-growth seminar.

Senior Pastor Dave Gemmell was confident it was God's timing, because this seminar began just a few months prior to the church's scheduled evangelistic meetings, and they had just completed a large mailing of Bible-study invitations. Two days after the last class, Pastor Gemmell met with all of the Sowing the Word graduates. The Silvestris later learned that they received 60 requests for Bible studies!

Pastor John preached for both worship services on Sabbath, January 22. "We were delighted that the Tualatin Valley Junior Academy Bell Choir from Hillsboro, Ore., was visiting and provided special music," said Anita. "They are recognized as one of the best handbell choirs in the nation."

Immediately after fellowship dinner, an excited group of soul-winners gathered to spend the remainder of the Sabbath learning to be even more effective. One young man attended class with his Bible instructor. During the group's last session together, he told Pastor John and Anita that he was just studying Amazing Facts Study Guide #7, had accepted the seventh-day Sabbath, and was going to ask his employer to have Sabbath off!

Allan Eaton



Louis Arcilla (right) attended the Sowing the Word seminar in Las Vegas, Nev., with his Bible instructor, Shawn Moshos (left). Louis studied Amazing Facts Study Guide #7, and that weekend he accepted the seventh-day Sabbath!

During one class period, the Silvestris were discussing what to do if a Bible student does not study the lessons week after week. One of the women in the class shared the following personal experience:

As a young mother who also took care of other children, she was delighted when a nice lady came to her door in response to her request for Bible lessons. Every week for six weeks the lady came, but the mother just didn't get the lessons done. Then, very early one morning, she awoke and felt totally rested so she completed all six lessons! From that day forward, she skipped her favorite soap opera and studied her lessons instead. She praised the Lord for waking her and for leading her step-by-step into the fellowship of Sabbath believers.

Every Sabbath afternoon during the month of February, the Silvestris held another Sowing the Word seminar in their own home church in Vancouver, Wash. This meeting had the largest attendance of any of the four seminars they have held in Vancouver, with 10 churches represented. Pastor Ken Williams from the Gladstone Park Church brought 14 members from his church, and Pastor Ron Wearer came with 13 individuals from his Woodland and Cedar Creek church district.

"At each seminar," reflects Anita, "it seems that people come not only to learn how to share the good news of the gospel with others, but also to boost their own spirituality. In Vancouver, a lovely lady talked with me about her desire to have a better Christian home. We offered to start Bible studies with this lady and her husband. She said she would ask her husband and contact us. Please remember this family in prayer."

As the Vancouver group was studying about leading a person to accept Christ, a class member shared her personal experience. Years ago she was practicing sharing Jesus by talking to her 3-year-old daughter. The girl listened very intently, and when mother asked if she wanted to accept Jesus, the daughter readily said, "Yes." Then they knelt and prayed together about her decision.

From then on, at each baptism this little girl cried and cried, wanting to be baptized. Finally, when she reached 7 years of age, her parents decided they couldn't wait any longer and she was baptized by her pastor daddy. Doesn't that remind you of Matthew 18:3, where the Lord says we must be converted and become as little children?

The Silvestris ask an interest in your prayers as God leads them in Sowing the Word. 

# Bible Answers

With Pastor Doug Batchelor



## Is private baptism without a pastor biblically valid?

The people who baptized in Bible times were men who had been commissioned by God and given authority: the prophets, John the Baptist, and the apostles, for example.

The Bible seems to establish this as a precedent.

Acts 6:3 says that when the apostles set up the office of deacon, they chose seven men who were “of honest report” and “full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.” Then, to make it official, these men were set before the apostles, who prayed and laid hands on them (verse 6).

When Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39), we don’t know if he was still a deacon or if he had been “promoted.” We do know, however, that there is no record in the Bible of the disciples baptizing one another.

Let me tell you why I think that is. I’m a pastor, and if all of my church members believed they could go out and baptize whomever they felt led to baptize, without any kind of clearing process, they could wind up bringing people into the church who had not really been taught. Jesus said, “Go ye therefore, and *teach* all nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: *Teaching* them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20, emphasis added).

I’m not going to make a dogmatic statement and say that God would not honor a private baptism at which no pastor is present. There have been Christians in Communist countries who accepted Jesus and then baptized each other. But they were operating under extreme circumstances.

If you do have Bible-teaching, Bible-believing churches in your community that teach and practice baptism by immersion, why wouldn’t you want to participate in a public baptism and invite your pastor?

## Is giving up all food and water the best way to fast?

Fasting is biblical, and I do believe it’s important. But as a general rule, don’t give up water. The only times people in the Bible went without water was for a severe fast involving life-or-death matters, and even then it was never for more than three days. Paul did such a fast, as did people in Esther’s day.

There are many different ways of fasting. Daniel, for

instance, fasted by eating no pleasant food. He ate very simple food for a period of time to keep his mind clear. I sometimes go on a V-8 juice fast. It doesn’t clog my system, yet it keeps my energy up so I can keep working. The idea is to clear your mind and present your body as a clean, living sacrifice before the Lord.

## How does Galatians 4:9-11 relate to Sabbath observance?

The text reads: “But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain” (Galatians 4:9-11). Paul also refers to this subject in Romans 14.

The Jewish people celebrated two very distinct kinds of holy days: the *Sabbath of the Ten Commandments*, which existed before sin took hold on this planet (see Genesis chapter 2), and the *sabbath days*, which were ceremonial holy days established after sin.

The Sabbath of the Ten Commandments was spoken by God’s voice; the other ceremonial sabbaths were spoken by Moses. The Fourth-Commandment Sabbath was written by God’s finger in stone; the other holy days were written on parchment by Moses. When Jesus came, He fulfilled and nailed to the cross the ceremonial laws. He did not, however, wipe away the Ten Commandments. When we accept Jesus Christ, it doesn’t mean that we have a license to lie, kill, and commit adultery. The Sabbath commandment is part of that same package.

When the apostle Paul wrote this passage, the Jewish converts to Christianity were telling the Galatians and the Romans to start observing the Passover, all of the Jewish holy days, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Trumpets, and so forth. Paul was simply saying, “You are telling these people to observe the ceremonial shadows that pointed to Jesus. It doesn’t make sense to worship a shadow when the real thing has already come.” He wasn’t referring to the Sabbath of the Ten Commandments.

Some have tried to convince people that God was abolishing the one commandment that begins with the word “Remember.” It’s a weak argument. I’ve never heard a Sundaykeeping pastor stand up and say, “Don’t come to church on Sundays, or you’ll be observing days!”

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 Web site to get detailed information about the station(s) nearest you.



BY RICHARD CALDERON

# Update from India

## Baptism in Thaneerkulam Scheduled for May 6

**R**ichard and Michelle Calderon, coordinators of the Amazing Facts work in India, just completed an evangelistic crusade in the small village of Thaneerkulam, in Madras. The purpose of the crusade was to strengthen the congregation of James Manavalan, a newly baptized lay pastor, and to reach out to the people of Thaneerkulam.

As a result of the meetings held March 10-24, there are presently more than a dozen adults studying the Bible. A baptism for those who are ready will be held on May 6.

Enjoy the following "sneak peak" into Richard's journal entries.

### March 10

Michelle and I just got back from the first night of our 15-day crusade. Attendance was very good; there were about 80-100 people present. We had the 10 members from our local church and about 10-15 members from the next-nearest church.

I didn't get an accurate count of those who attended because we're in the middle of a field. The 10 fluorescent bulbs we have cover an area of only 25 yards by 15 or so yards. I could count 60 adults, but at the end when I invited the people to come forward for prayer, they just flocked in from the dark. They had been

there listening all the time. Now I know why God gave this promise in Isaiah 60:1-2: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."

Many teenagers are attending. What impresses me most about them is that they are not ashamed to come for special prayer for their needs. I want to see as many of these youth in heaven as possible.

### March 16

We just completed our seventh night of meetings. Attendance has stabilized to about 50-70 people per evening.

Each night I let James Manavalan, the lay-pastor, present the closing thoughts. I didn't realize until now how frustrated he was over the small attendance. He feels bad because we've put so much time and effort into doing these meetings.

On the third night, I got the impression that his final thoughts were different from his usual winsome ones. Afterward I found out that he had been chastising the people in the village who were hearing us over the loud speaker but were not coming out to the meet-

ings. That was not the worst part. He went on to make a point by way of association. He said: "The only time the pig looks up is when they're carrying it upside down to the slaughtering place. Don't wait until the judgment to look up, because it will be too late!" I had a good talk with him about the correct methods of winning friends and influencing people.

Last night and tonight, I presented the sacrifice of Christ for fallen man and got a very good response to my call. Tonight, over two-thirds of the people stood up to tell God that they accept Christ's death for their sins.



During the church service one Sabbath, Richard Calderon asked for a show of hands to see how many had attended his evening meetings. Notice the fantastic response!



The audience really seemed to enjoy the health talks presented each evening by Michelle Calderon in the small village of Thaneerkulam.

## March 22

Tonight we finished the thirteenth night of our meetings. Attendance has stabilized at 50-60 adults every evening, and the people seem attentive to and receptive of our messages.

Our audience has really enjoyed Michelle's health talks. Villagers commented the other night that they had never heard such a good explanation of why alcohol is so bad for you. On the night she shared the dangers of smoking, a man came up to me and asked if I could pray for him so he could be delivered from his bad smoking habit. These people are realizing that they need to change.

I have been really pleased with the way God has shown me how to present Christ and His power to change lives. I made a call for those who wanted special prayer for victory over some sin or bad habit to come forward. About 15-20 people responded.

Tomorrow night I will present the message of Revelation 14:6-12.

## March 29

The last two nights of our meetings went well. I spoke on the beast of Revelation 13, the mark of the beast, and the end of the world. We had our biggest attendance the last night with more than 80 adults.

On that night I made an appeal for those who wanted to continue studying the Bible to come forward. We took down the names of 27 people, over half of whom were adults.

We are very pleased with the results of the meetings and look forward to the ones who will continue to study with us and to be prepared for baptism in May. We are hopeful that this method of evangelism will help the people to better understand the truths of the Bible and will give them opportunity to demonstrate their conviction by their loving obedience to the requirements they have learned from God's Word.

## Continued from page 7

accept Jesus' great sacrifice for them and choose instead to follow the great enemy of souls, they must share his fate. Satan and all sinners will be destroyed, the earth will be cleansed, and "affliction shall not rise up the second time" (Nahum 1:9). Sin and sinners will be utterly destroyed, forever separated from God, the source of all life.

## The Motorway

Several years ago in Auckland, New Zealand, an 18-year-old woman crashed her car while driving home very early in the morning. She survived the crash unscathed but was trapped in her wrecked car by her feet, unable to escape the fire that was engulfing her car.

A delivery man, two postal workers, and an off-duty policeman came to help; but despite their best attempts, they could not free her. Eventually the heat of the flames drove them back and they had to abandon the young lady, even as she cried out to them, begging the men not to leave her to her fiery fate.


"As we left she grabbed my arm and said, 'Don't go; I'm going to die here.' But we had to get out," one of the men said later.

The police officer was badly injured, having burned away much of the flesh on one of his hands in his desire to free the young lady. But she was hopelessly trapped in the fiery car wreck.

Even today Jesus is doing all He can to save people from the wreckage of their sins and from the fire that will one day burn and destroy all sin. The Bible says, "He that hath the Son hath life, but he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12).

Just as those who are lost do not possess the Son, and therefore cannot have life, those who possess Jesus Christ are assured of life everlasting. Jesus will forever bear the scars He received at Calvary in the greatest and costliest rescue attempt ever conceived.

Unlike the hell conjured up by many teachers today, the end of sin and sinners is assured. It is not arbitrarily imposed by a God of cruelty, but is a necessary act that assures the future safety of the universe. This event will bring intense pain to the heart of Divinity but will also open the door to an assured future for all who love God.

If only Mary Ellen had been told that. 

## Amazing Facts Sells Three Other Books on This Subject

### Absent from the Body

Order code is BK-AB. 75 cents each

### Hell-Fire

Order code is BK-HF. 75 cents each

### The Rich Man and Lazarus

Order code is BK-RMAL. 75 cents each

Add \$3.00 per order for shipping and handling.  
California residents add 7.25 percent sales tax.



# Schedule of Events

*Subject to change without notice. Please call Amazing Facts for further information and to confirm appointments.*



Batchelor



Bradshaw



DeLong



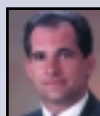
Hargreaves



House



Kjaer



McMahon



Pefley



Priebe



Quade



Silvestri



Snow

## John Bradshaw

**April 15 - May 20**  
Cavanaugh's River Inn  
700 N. Division Street  
Spokane, Washington

**June 4-8**  
Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Camp Meeting  
Highland Academy  
211 Highland Circle Drive  
Portland, Tennessee

## Steve DeLong

**April 9 - May 13**  
Ramada Plaza Hotel  
600 Beltline Highway  
Mobile, Alabama

## Ray House

**April 15 - May 20**  
Sutherlin Community Center  
150 S. Willamette Street  
Sutherlin, Oregon

## Jaime Jorge

**May 6 at 7 p.m.**  
Salisbury Church  
305 Rudolph Road  
Salisbury, North Carolina

**May 9-15**  
Puerto Rico tour

## Kim Kjaer

**April 21 - May 27**  
Mayo Civic Center's Grand Ballroom  
30 Civic Center Drive SE  
Rochester, Minnesota

## Brian McMahon

**April 21 - May 21**  
Maranatha Corrections Institute  
Adelanto, California

## Jack Pefley

**April 21 - May 20**  
Chestertown Church  
300 N. Kent Street  
Chestertown, Maryland

## Dennis Priebe

**May 12, 13**  
Garland Church  
1702 E. Centerville Road  
Garland, Texas

**May 19, 20**  
Oachita Hills Academy  
Highway 8 East  
Amity, Arkansas

**June 2-3**  
Leesburg Church  
508 S. Lone Oak Drive  
Leesburg, Florida

**June 10**  
Plymouth-Sorrento Church  
2844 Ponkan Road  
Apopka, Florida

## John Quade

**May 6 - June 3**  
Enid Church  
1501 W. Purdue  
Enid, Oklahoma

## John Silvestri

**May 6, 13, 20, 24**  
Stone Tower Church  
3010 N.E. Holladay  
Portland, Oregon

## Verne Snow

**April 21 - May 27**  
Benson Convention & Exposition Center  
1008 E. Sedalia Street  
Clinton, Missouri

# IN RECOGNITION OF ...

## In Loving Memory

**Theron Avery** by Stan Reesman  
**Irvin Bainum** by J.D. & Wanda Davis  
**Wesley Bartleson** by Stan Reesman  
**Horace Bennett** by Stan Reesman  
**Leonor Bernal** by Rowena Rick  
**Isabel & Charles Bixler** by Howard & Delores Bixler, their son & daughter-in-law  
**Kathe Bohmer** by the Angels Camp SDA church  
**Darren Booth** by Loretta Barton & Jean Ostlund  
**LeRoy "Buddy" Bradley** by Margaret Bradley, his daughter; by Matthew, Rachel, Holli & Ricky Bradley, his grandchildren  
**Minnie Brigham** by Mr. & Mrs. Percy Lindner  
**Betty Brophy** by Anges Breitigam  
**Lillian Buchmann** by Hilda Dickhaut  
**Bruce Bush** by William & Agnes Garrison  
**Dorothy Butcher** by Donald Butcher, her husband  
**Derwood Chappell** by Jean Chappell, his wife  
**Gustave Charland** by Mark & Kim Swett  
**Kenneth & Brenda Clark** by Robert & Alice Hardin  
**Pastor Roger Clausen** by June & Roy Chapman  
**Keneth Coddington** by Barbara Hansen  
**Anita Collins** by Mim Sievers, her sister-in-law  
**Sarah Cooney** by Sarah Wolff, her daughter  
**Cecil Coult** by Stan Reesman  
**Duane Coult** by Stan Reesman  
**Donnell & Dee Corvin** by William & Agnes Garrison  
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**Arthur Dollinger** by Sarah Dollinger, his wife  
**Maurice Dunn** by William & Agnes Garrison  
**Emma & Austin Dunwoody** by Jane Alvarez, their daughter  
**Claoma (Suhrie) Fearing** by Hattie & William Tyler  
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**Deloris (Kasier) Flemmer** by Hilda Dickhaut  
**Jewel B. Foutch** by Frank Tyroff  
**Lymar Fox** by Drusilla Fox, his wife  
**Evie Fullbright** by Maryetta J. Fullbright, her daughter-in-law  
**Tessie Fullbright** by Maryetta J. Fullbright, her sister-in-law  
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**Tom Good** by Hilda Dickhaut  
**Harold Gray** by Dorothy Gray  
**Cecile Hackler** by Mary Pollack  
**David E. Haines** by Ollie Haines, his wife  
**Warren Halversen** by Evelyn Halversen  
**John Haskell** by Stan Reesman  
**Lillian Hauck** by Hilda Dickhaut  
**Roma R. Hays** by Ruth Hays, his wife of 50 years  
**Annette Hendee** by Mr. & Mrs. James Curtis  
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**Naomi Hodde** by Ruth Braunagel  
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**Greg Holloway** by Ruth Schwarz, his mother  
**Betty Houghtaling** by Stan Reesman  
**Ellen Howell** by Frank Tyroff  
**Benton Johnson** by Steve, Donna, Stephenie & Matthew Dickie  
**Verna Johnson** by Francis Johnson, her husband  
**John F. Kennedy** by Betty Kennedy, his wife; by John A. Kennedy, his son

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## Happy Birthday

**Daniel Haun** by Francis Ahlers

## With Thanks

**Blodwyn Eilertsen** by Robert & June Thorson

## Correction

**Mae R. Libby** by Eleanor Morrison, her daughter