

# Are You Converted?



**BREAKING  
NEWS!**

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# REBELLION and Revival

BY PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR

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On a popular science news website, an eye-opening article suggests that researchers are beginning to understand the psychology of why people continue practicing bad habits even after they learn those habits are harmful to them. For instance, they want to know why a smoker will continue to puff even after he recognizes that cigarettes can destroy his health.

One of the top reasons listed might surprise you, even though it really shouldn't. According to the Canadian study, much of our addiction to bad habits stems from an "innate human defiance." In other words, inherent human rebellion!

Apparently, modern science is finally ready to confirm what the Bible has taught from the beginning: Rebellion against that which is good and holy has infected our DNA. Job says, "Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward" (5:7). Jeremiah explains, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (17:9). And Jesus affirms that our natural bent is toward evil, even if we do good things every so often. (See Luke 11:13.)

Should I go on, it might get depressing. But according to Scripture, we are naturally selfish prior to our conversion. Without divine aid, we will naturally choose to be bad even though we know better.

Interestingly, one of the researchers says, "People aren't changing their behaviors. But it's not because they haven't gotten the information that these are big risks." No, according to the scientists, people "tend to . . . live for now and into the limited future—not the long term."

Sadly, this is true for God's people on a spiritual level. Christians are not immune to rebellion even though they know better than anyone else the destructive force of sin. This is partly because many Christians are forgetting the big picture, the great controversy, clinging to worldly compromise for the sake of "peaceful

coexistence" and the temporary comforts of this world.


So I want to remind you that we need to keep looking ahead, always considering the eternal perspective of our actions. We have to remember that this old earth isn't our final destination. But the evil one makes it easy to forget.

Even after we join God's church, the devil will do whatever he can to inspire our natural bent toward stubborn resistance to the Spirit. He distracts us with fast-paced lives too busy for Bible study and prayer. We tend to convince ourselves that we'll pray and read the Word tomorrow, skipping it for today so we can worry about other problems. In doing so, we're actually forming the bad habits of a lost world.

That's why Amazing Facts is more than just an evangelistic ministry spreading the three angels' messages to the lost. We also want to join God's work by inspiring His church to stand firmly in the last great battle and be beacons of light—obedient children of the Creator.

In next few months, this ministry is going to take a bold stand for Bible truth. For one, we're participating with 3ABN in Ten Commandments Weekend to celebrate the Decalogue.

And beginning September 7, we're presenting a powerful revival series called Here We Stand. I want it to be a wake-up call that reminds believers of the powerful foundations of God's last-day church and how they are worthy of our loyalty. Please see page 10 for details on how you can be a part of this special event that we pray will inspire members to godly living and call wandering sheep back to His fold.

Finally, in light of rebellion versus revival, I want to ask you a very important question. Are you converted? That's a healthy question we all need to ask ourselves periodically, and it's the subject of this month's magazine. I hope it will get you thinking about where you are, and I pray that God will bless you in your day-to-day walk with Him so you will keep standing on the Rock of Ages. 



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### INSIDE REPORT VOL. 25, NO.3

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*Inside Report* is a bimonthly publication of Amazing Facts, Inc. Contributors to the ministry will continue to receive *Inside Report* for six months from the date of their most recent gift.

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Amazing Facts is a nonprofit Christian ministry that utilizes literature, radio, television, the internet, and public evangelism to share the saving truths of Jesus Christ. For operation, we depend on the gifts and prayers of caring Christians who believe in our mission.

### FREE BIBLE STUDIES

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

### FREE CATALOG

Call or write for a color catalog of materials available through Amazing Facts. It contains information and prices on all books, videotapes, CDs, audiotapes, and other soul-winning materials to help you in your walk with Christ.

The *Inside Report* is printed at Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland.

# Mail Bag

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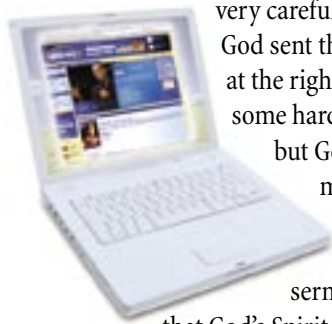
## Found the Right Church

Thank you so much for your teachings. I have faithfully been listening online and doing some studies, and I have learned so much. It is what I have craved for over the years. As soon as I am able, I want to find a Sabbath church and attend services. I am truly excited for the teachings of the Bible! *Georgia*



## Source of Light

I have downloaded your sermons over the past few months, and I listen to them very carefully. I know that God sent them to me at the right time. I had some hard questions, but God gave me answers every time through your sermons. I can say that God's Spirit is working through you. You are saying the Bible truth. You helped me not to give up; you helped me to endure. *Email*



**Editor's Note:** This email comes from a *lightsource.com* listener, a popular Christian website that features streaming Christian audio content. It shows that our growing online presence is making a significant impact in people's lives every day.

## Worldwide Impact

My husband and I had been online only for four months when we discovered Amazing Facts, which is the best thing that has happened to us in the last 25 years. I'm listening every day several times. I appreciate your work very much, and it is so needed. *Sweden*

## Tivo It!

I wanted to record Pastor Doug's sermons on my Tivo through my satellite service. So I put his name in and Amazing Facts came up. Usually on my list of programs to record, the last one I enter is placed at the bottom until I move it up the list. But when I went to look for Amazing Facts, it was not on the bottom as it should have been, but on the top of the list. I didn't move it up myself, so I like to think that God must have wanted Amazing Facts #1 on my list! *Email*



If you have kudos or concerns about the *Inside Report* or other Amazing Facts ministries, please write to [editor@amazingfacts.org](mailto:editor@amazingfacts.org). Comments may be used in whole or in part and edited for content and clarity in future publications. **If Amazing Facts has helped change your life for Christ, please write us today at [testimonies@amazingfacts.org](mailto:testimonies@amazingfacts.org)!**



## Daring to Share the Lord

Every morning, I go to your "Everlasting Gospel" website section and listen to a sermon. Most of the time, I burn them to a CD so I can listen to them in my car on the way to work.

Last week, I was listening to "Creation, Evolution, and Logic." The sermon was so good that I decided to make a copy and share it with a co-worker. He is a Christian that believes in evolution combined with a little bit of creation. I left the CD on his desk with a sticky note saying, "You have to listen to this." After two hours, he came back and told me he was reluctant to play the sermon but decided to listen it. He told me he was convinced that creation was the right conclusion! He even shared the CD with another co-worker and asked how he could hear more sermons from Pastor Doug. I gave him the link to Amazing Facts and now he is listening to other sermons.

I am so happy, because when you dare to share the Lord with others, the Lord takes care of impressing the heart. So please let Pastor Doug know that his message has made a difference in somebody's life and that I am praying for him. Also, I want to thank all the people that are "behind the scenes" that make Amazing Facts possible.

# To Every Nation and Tongue Amazing Facts to Unite with 3ABN

by Anthony Lester, Managing Editor

BREAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS

On April 19, 2007, Amazing Facts and 3ABN announced a bold initiative that will have phenomenal implications for the spread of God's last-day message: The two multimedia ministries are now working together to build a new, unprecedented platform for global evangelism under one unified organization.

Pastor Doug believes the opportunity is a potent reminder that God is working powerfully to reach as many souls as possible with Bible truth in these end-times. "This incredible effort represents a miraculous milestone to fulfill the great commission. I am very excited about this enormous open door to communicate the gospel in a powerful new way."

He adds that this is an especially dramatic opportunity for God's people to embrace timely spiritual counsel, explaining, "Ellen White wrote, 'If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world.' I can't think of a better example of this principle. By joining hands, we will surely see greater effectiveness and economy in spreading the good news to the world."

## Building Toward One Future

For many years, Amazing Facts has been actively seeking how we might use 24-hour mass media for outreach like youth evangelism and training on a much broader scale than we are now capable. It seems the Lord, through this partnership, could be answering those prayers.

Indeed, with 3ABN's global media and satellite positioning and Amazing Facts 40-years of evangelistic and revival ministry know-how, we're now poised to deliver the gospel message and outreach training that will grow God's kingdom at an exponential level.

Meanwhile, Pastor Doug assures Amazing Facts' friends that the ministry's generation of sharing life-changing Bible truth remains the ministry's unfettered commitment. He says, "Our supporters understand that God has given Amazing Facts a crucial last-day message to deliver. Today and always, God's message is our mission. Nothing will

change that, so long as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus."

Although there are a number of structural details to be prayerfully considered, both ministries are confident that an effective plan will be developed quickly and integrated smoothly, leading to more efficient service to the body of Christ and better stewardship of our God-given resources. Danny Shelton, 3ABN founder, adds, "We're very excited about this development, which

will accelerate an array of evangelistic services to reach the multitudes."

In addition, Danny Shelton is recommending that Pastor Doug serve as president of the new organization, subject to approval by a new constituency. However, for the immediate future, Amazing Facts and 3ABN will continue normal operations, with the ultimate goal of forging an exciting new ministry that will optimize evangelistic and revival impact around the world and hasten the return of our Lord.

## Stay informed!


Check [AmazingFacts.org](http://AmazingFacts.org) often for the latest updates.

You can also sign up for *The Facts* e-newsletter, delivering breaking news straight to your inbox!

## Important Days Ahead

Still, Amazing Facts is aware that the devil is threatened by such a bold vision to share the gospel. Pastor Doug asks that ministry friends take special time to pray for this profound opportunity, that God will guide us in His will and for His glory alone.

And now more than ever, we'll need your faithful financial support. Amazing Facts will remain in Sacramento and continue as a self-funded ministry totally independent of denominational or corporate subsidies. Explains Pastor Doug, "This is a crucial time for Amazing Facts. The partnership of friends with their prayers and faithful gifts makes what we do possible. We continue to count on them, but now even more in this next extraordinary step for this end-time ministry. I ask them to keep giving as the Lord leads."

Please continue to partner with us to reach the lost and confused souls who need to hear the good news! Every day, people's lives are being changed for eternity through such ministry outreaches as our Bible schools, television and radio broadcasts, internet ministry, live evangelistic Bible seminars, and so much more. Only through you can this work continue! 

# Are You Converted?

by Pastor Doug Batchelor

I have a simple but important question for you: Are you converted?

From time to time, I've asked that of other Christians and have received a few indignant glances. But even mature Christians need to occasionally ask themselves this probing question. I certainly do.

I base this premise on something the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith" (13:5). That's a challenge, a mandate, from the Word of God to a people who are more often concerned with critically examining other people in the faith than themselves.

Yet if you have to testify in court, your lawyers will test your preparation on how you will react on the stand before the judge. You want to be ready for your date in court. Well, we're going to have a huge cosmic court date someday, and while probation lingers and the door of mercy is still open, it is of value to us to determine if we are ready and truly converted.

And before we go any further, what is conversion? Jesus makes it simple. "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3 NKJV). A converted life is a life that has been reborn in Christ—a new birth for a new creature.

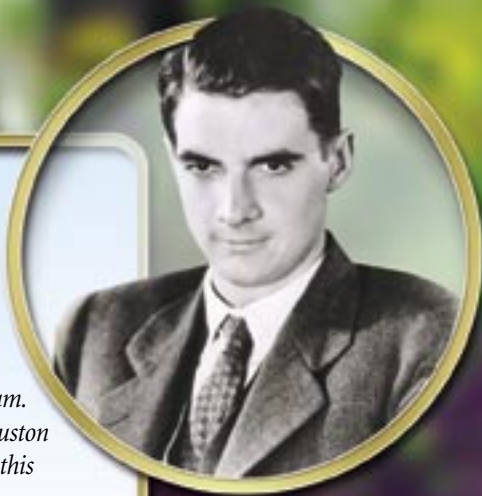
## Free Ticket to Heaven

It's very important to understand that just because a person goes to church doesn't mean he is converted. In Luke 18, Jesus tells us about two men who went to the temple to pray—a Pharisee and a tax collector. Pharisees had a reputation for being religiously fastidious. They outwardly obeyed God's law in great detail. Conversely, tax collectors in those days weren't like corporate-type IRS agents today, but rather more like Mafia party animals who drank, lived lavishly, and were considered otherwise very sinful.

## An Amazing Fact:

By 1966, at the age of 60, Howard Hughes was the world's wealthiest man. However, he also lived in constant fear of contagious disease. He insisted that the people who worked for him frequently wash their hands and wear white gloves. He would even burn his own clothing fearing he had been around someone who had contact with illness. Yet he was personally filthy. He never bathed, and his teeth rotted out because he never brushed them. He wore tissue boxes on his feet, never cut his hair, and his nails grew grotesquely long. Toward the end of his life, he was daily injecting codeine and taking Valium. His once-strapping 6'4" frame shrank to barely 90 pounds. While flying to a hospital in Houston in 1976, he died of kidney failure. The FBI insisted on taking fingerprints to confirm that this pitiful shell of a man was indeed that of the legendary tycoon aviator.

***"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' —and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked ..."* (Revelation 3:17).**



But Jesus' parable takes a surprising twist. The Pharisee stands tall, thanking God he isn't like the adulterers or that tax collector in the back pew. He takes pride in his fasting and tithing, citing his own long list of good deeds. On the other hand, the tax collector, so humbled by conviction that he will not turn his eyes up to heaven, did not present his goodness—but rather acknowledged his badness and begged for mercy.

Jesus observes that the tax collector, not the Pharisee, is the one who left the church that day forgiven. Who was ultimately converted? The sinful tax collector—not the ostensibly perfect Pharisee.

What does that mean for us? Well, for one thing, there is a very real danger for those who go to church, especially those who have been going for years and have generations of family members who have gone before them. You see, they can be as lost as any pagan on the street and not know it, simply because they think they automatically are issued a membership in heaven with their membership in church. They have enough exposure to religious things that they've confused themselves into thinking they're converted. They have been exposed to just enough religious trimmings to inoculate them against catching the real thing.

### Buying a Ticket to Heaven

And sadly, also like the Pharisees, we can sometimes get so involved in doing "good" things that we still have no relationship with God. If we don't have a vital relationship with God, how can we really be converted? It's a dynamic that Jesus and the authors of the gospel were expressly concerned about.

In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus visits the house of His friends, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. There we find Jesus at the table, teaching the apostles while Mary sits close by, mesmerized by His inspiring words. But Martha was busy, scurrying around

the kitchen trying to get dinner prepared. Irritated by her insensitive sister, she says, "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me." I can see Martha folding her arms and stomping her foot. After all, Jesus' words were wonderful, but you can't sit around all day—there is work to be done!

But Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But *one thing* is needful." How much is needed according to Christ? Remember the rich young ruler who sought eternal life? Jesus also told him, "*One thing* you lack."

Do you know what that "one thing" is? True conversion of the heart, not an outward demonstration of good things or obeying the law. It is what Mary was trying to experience at the feet of Jesus. "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

### Real Conversion

So ... how can you know if you're really converted? Assuming you have accepted the teachings of Christ, how do you know if your heart is truly transformed? Jesus said there are wolves in the church who wear His sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15). A wolf is a wolf, even when it wears a Christian fleece. Indeed, are you one person in church, yet someone else entirely at home?

In her book *Steps to Christ*, Ellen White echoes Jesus' challenging insight. "It is true there might be an outward correctness of deportment without the renewing power of Christ." Atheists can quit smoking and drinking. They can "get the victory," even if they aren't doing it for God but rather for themselves.

Likewise, churchgoers can avoid the appearance of evil not because we want to please Jesus, but because we want to



# Every good tree bringeth forth

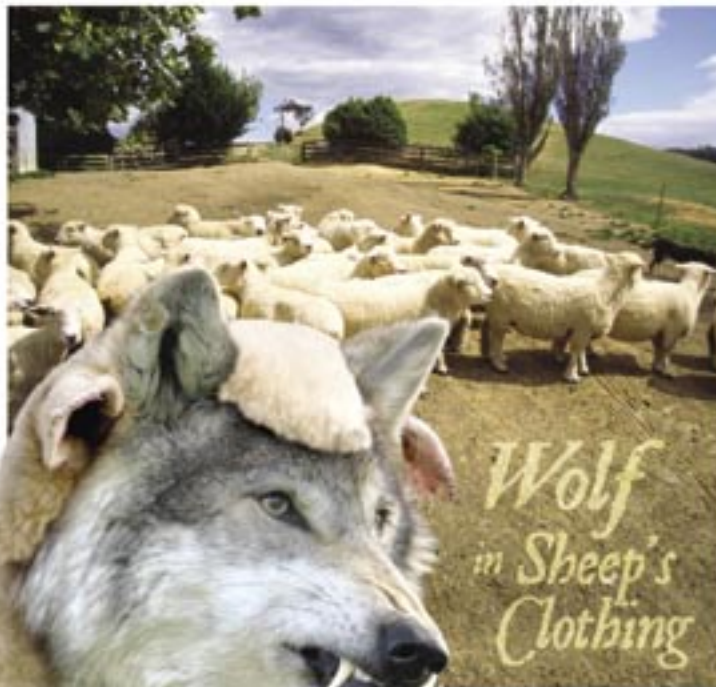
look good in the eyes of others. We might even protest in our hearts, “Why, I’d never do that. What would people think?”

We don’t ask what God would think.

White continues:

“A selfish heart may perform generous actions. By what means then shall we determine whose side we are on? Who has the heart? . . . our best energies? If we are Christ’s our thoughts are with Him. . . . All that we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, to breathe His Spirit, to do His will and to please Him in all things.”

When we are like that, deep in the heart, then Jesus says we will bear fruit. “Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth



evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit” (Matthew 7:16–18).

You can know you’re converted if you are bearing the good fruit of a Christian. Wolves can wear sheep’s clothing and do some good deeds, but after a while, the unconverted can be sure they will bear rotten fruit that will be cast away and thrown into the fire. You can’t fool God.

## The Evidence of Conversion

Some alcoholics say, “I drink, but I’m not an alcoholic.” But they now have a convicting checklist with nine questions about the motives for drinking. If you answer yes to three or

more of the questions, there is a good chance you are an alcoholic. Some people who look at the list say, “I never realized I was an alcoholic until I looked at the list.”

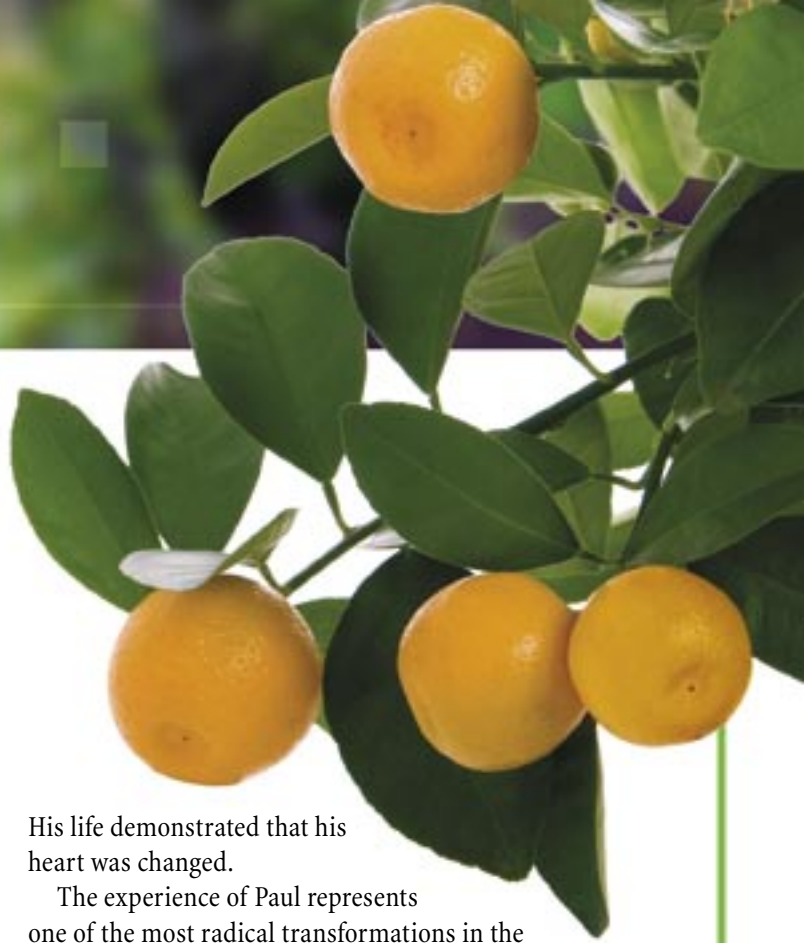
What are the fruits of a converted soul? You can make a list out of Galatians 5:22, 23: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”

I hope that you will stop for a moment and examine yourself with this list. Do you truly love God? Your neighbor?

Are you kind and patient with your brethren? Do you possess self-control? Sometimes I look at this list and worry. When I examine not just what I do but *why* I do it, I sometimes catch myself doing the right things for selfish reasons. I have to ask, “Lord, I’m doing the right thing. But help me do it for the right reason.”

Of course, if you’re doing the right thing for the wrong reason, do the right thing anyway. One day, by God’s grace, you might get your motives adjusted. But eventually, the essence of who we are must be changed from selfishness to selflessness. Love and selfishness are the two great flags that fly over the camps of the converted and the counterfeits.





However, don't misunderstand: We are and can be saved only by grace through faith. But that saving grace, that faith in Christ, will affect a change in the life. It has a sanctifying influence that converts us away from bad behavior. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). If a person says "Lord! Lord!" while living a life of deliberate rebellion, that person is a hypocrite.

## A Radical Conversion

In Acts 9, we read about Saul, a Jew who hated the followers of Christ. He believed Jesus to be an imposter and deceiver, a cult leader. "Breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord," Saul earnestly wanted to eradicate the influence of Jesus from within his church.

Then one day, he was traveling on the road to Damascus, believing in the truth of his mission. Until God changed everything: "Suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

Shocked and afraid, Paul confesses a startling admission when he asks, "Who art thou, Lord?" This man "working" for the Lord admits that he doesn't know his boss. Instead, Paul was working *against* Jehovah.

Could that happen to us? Of course! Because we are often blind to our true condition, deceived with our own outward form of religion. "Then Saul arose from the ground and when he opened his eyes he saw no one." Paul thought he saw the truth, but he was really blind. God was illustrating that to his future apostle, and the Lord wants us to see the same thing. Why? It is dangerous for the blind to be leading. Paul was blind, and he was leading others to kill Christ's followers.

It's a startling and beautiful story. But how do we know that Paul was truly converted? Well, we have to keep reading. Instead of arresting Christians for believing in Christ, he now tells others to believe in Jesus. Moreover, he lays his life on the line by preaching the gospel and inflaming the religious leaders who had paid him to hunt down Christians.



His life demonstrated that his heart was changed.

The experience of Paul represents one of the most radical transformations in the Bible. But I don't think it happened when he first saw the light. Instead, remember when "he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink"? I believe he was carefully examining himself over three days of fasting and praying, and it was during that time he was thoroughly converted.

It is not easy to put your finger on the moment when you were converted. Sometimes people have a dramatic experience like Paul, but more often it is a slow process. Don't be discouraged if you can't say, "That was the day I was converted." You might be able to say, "This is the day I was baptized" or "That was the day I chose to follow Jesus," and if so, that is great.

But that doesn't necessarily mean that was the day you were converted. God changes our minds, which is what conversion is all about.

For most of us, it is a process, a gradual metamorphosis we must all go through, whether it happens over the course of three days or three years. Paul made a radical U-turn, and he never turned back again. His fruit bears witness to that.

## Maintain Conversion

D.L. Moody said, "When I was converted I made the mistake of thinking that the battle was already mine. The victory was

*Continued on page 24.*

# HERE We STAND

by Tanya Huether

## Foundations of Our Faith

Strengthen your faith ...  
re-ignite your passion for outreach ...  
and brace your heart to stand for  
truth in the last days.

**W**hen Martin Luther was accused of heresy, he concluded his defense before the German royal court and pompous religious leaders with these stirring words, "Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me."

More than 480 years later, these words still inspire the faithful. A humble monk dared to defy church tradition rather than ignore his conscience and disobey the truth he found in the Bible. That courageous stand helped spark the Reformation.

### Will You Stand?

We need to take just as firm a stand for truth today as Luther did at the dawn of the Reformation. Millions of people still live in spiritual darkness. Some have been misled in their understanding of biblical truth. The need to stand for truth is all too obvious.

But sadly, many Christians are sliding away from the foundations of their faith toward a compromise with worldly standards and lifestyles. Thus according to Pastor Doug, God's people have an urgent need for revival not only to restore our passion for God and holy living, but to rekindle a willingness to share Him with others.

He says, "It appears today that many of God's people are losing appreciation for the strong biblical foundations of our unique message. I frequently encounter members who seem reluctant and even embarrassed about sharing the beautiful and defining truths God has given to His people. And now a dangerous compromise with the world is siphoning spiritual vitality away from many believers."



## Here We Stand Foundations of Our Faith

September 7 – 15, 2007

Convention Center  
Lansing, Michigan  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. ET

Live Satellite Broadcast on 3ABN

(Check your church and TV listings  
for local presentation times.)

[www.07revive.com](http://www.07revive.com)

# of Our Faith

## A Solid Foundation

This September, Amazing Facts will present a powerful revival series called Here We Stand: Foundations of Our Faith. This live satellite television broadcast will be an excellent opportunity to reclaim former or inactive members, while also providing a way for God's people to introduce their friends to the last-day teachings given to God's remnant church.



Speaker Pastor Doug will bring his energetic passion for Bible truth to millions from the Lansing Convention Center in Lansing, Mich., beginning September 7. The revival will be broadcast live on 3ABN, and more than a thousand church and home downlink sites are expected, bringing revival to tens of thousands across the country and around the globe.


Here We Stand will directly and biblically address many of the crises facing the church today and emphasize the importance of standing firm on the Bible-based doctrines of God's church. Key teachings such as the three angels' messages, the law and the gospel, the Sabbath, sanctuary, health message, spirit of prophecy, and more will be highlighted and affirmed.

If you believe God's people are sleeping and need revival – if you believe that you need revival, call 800-538-7275 or go to [www.07revive.com](http://www.07revive.com) and register your church or home location today!

## Revival Inside and Out

"Revival 2007 has tremendous evangelistic potential," says Pastor Doug. "And it provides an excellent opportunity for church members to bring their Christian friends who want to better understand the powerful end-time message given to God's people."

That's why we're asking our supporters to join us in praying that God will mightily use Here We Stand in the hearts of believers and backslidden Christians to revive and restore their spiritual vitality. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of people to rekindle their fire for God so that the work of the great commission can be completed with power.

By God's grace, this will be a truly unique and inspirational revival that will strengthen your faith, ignite your passion for souls, and brace your heart to stand for truth in the last days. Please join us! 



## Empowering your Life and Church



In conjunction with this powerful revival series, Amazing Facts is hosting a special five-day revival symposium that will benefit pastors and church lay leaders who want to prepare and empower God's church for true revival and exponential growth.

Called "Empowering Your Life and Church," world-class Amazing Facts' trainers and other popular speakers will cover such vital topics as the biblical perspective of evangelism, theological issues facing the church, what makes a healthy church, how to handle objections, determine church needs, ways to enhance personal ministry, health evangelism, and more.

Jean Ross, church ministries director, explains, "Imagine what could happen if God's church were as committed to saving the lost as He is. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, that was His mission—and the symposium will help churches passionately claim that mission for themselves."

Rich and vibrant discussion panels and first-class instruction make this series a vital experience for churches that want to follow the biblical model and become powerful lights for their communities.

Adds Pastor Doug, "This ministry is committed to helping churches launch the largest search-and-rescue mission the world has ever seen, from those who have left the church to those who have never heard the gospel message. This symposium is a vital link in our strategy to help churches become vibrant centers of God's love and gospel."

If you feel your church could benefit from greater Christ-like fellowship and exponential success in your community outreach efforts, then don't miss this exciting event. Plus, this program will not be broadcast, so you will need to make plans to attend!

And hurry, register by June 1 and receive a \$30-off early bird discount! To register and find out more about this exclusive opportunity, go to [www.07revive.com](http://www.07revive.com) today!



# Unshackled

Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides Change Lives

**B**y the time Castro Wilson was 36 years old, he had been an alcoholic for more than 20 years and had been using drugs for about eight. He felt the destructive toll on his mind and body that these addictions had on him and came to the depressing conclusion that he had managed to ruin his life entirely. He says, "I felt the only thing I had to look forward to was my untimely death. I didn't care anymore; I had given up."

Thankfully, the Lord wasn't ready to give up on him. "It was about that time my parents wanted me to go to a tent revival, but I had no desire for that. The last thing I wanted was to be around people, but every night my parents would plead with me to go. I would always refuse."

But on the last night, Castro saw in his father's face grave disappointment as he told his son that the revival was over. He then watched as his saddened father tossed a handful of pamphlet-like literature on a table in the garage. They were a set of Amazing Facts Study Guides.

"I glanced at them for a moment, and they caught my eye," Castro explains. "I really noticed the pictures and titles on the covers. So I decided I would take a closer look." Strangely compelled, Castro put the disheveled guides in order and took them to his room. Miraculously, he then proceeded to begin his very first Bible study.

## A Gripping Revelation


Castro liked the question-and-answer format of the Study Guides. To him they were like crossword puzzles that you solved with a Bible rather than a dictionary. "So I searched my room and found a Bible that my father had given me 20 years earlier

when I left to join the military. I didn't think it was very important back then."

The Study Guides about the Bible's origins and prophecies certainly interested Castro, but the Lord used the guide about biblical health principles to reach his heart. A particular passage pricked his soul especially: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). What stopped Castro in his tracks was the guide's claim that the Bible can change lives, enabling the drunk to be sober and the addict to be free.

"I couldn't believe what I was reading. I kept thinking I was too old. I was dying! But then at that moment, Jesus Christ came into my life." Castro began to weep, and soon he put his hands together in a desperate prayer, "I'm sorry. I'm sorry!" He gave his life to Jesus.

Explains Castro, "When I read the text again, it was crystal clear how the Lord had given me sight. I grabbed my beer and drugs and cigarettes and threw them all away. I could see who was behind them and his plan for my destruction." The one-time addict had felt the Lord's love and knew it was like no other love he had ever felt—a life-changing love.

Castro is now taking classes about how to learn more about Jesus and how to be a better witness to others. But he'll never forget when he first became unshackled. "I thank Amazing Facts for providing these eye-catching Study Guides. They lead a person to the source of truth, which shall set them free." 



Has God changed your life through Amazing Facts? Whether it was through a TV or radio broadcast, magazine or monthly letter, our websites or evangelistic meetings, we would love to hear your testimony. Please write to:

[testimonies@amazingfacts.org](mailto:testimonies@amazingfacts.org)

# Project Opportunities

Building His Kingdom Together

## Project: China Outreach

One of the biggest mission fields on earth is also one of the most difficult nations to reach with last-day truth. But that's about to change as Amazing Facts prepares to reach into communist China with a media blitz that will touch *hundreds of millions* of hearts.

Says Pastor Doug, "Even though sharing the good news is difficult in China, I believe the Lord wants us to proclaim the full three angels' messages there. So over the past year, we have quietly begun exploring what we could do."

The solution is simple, efficient, and incredibly effective. Adds Pastor Doug, "After visiting China last year, I saw how effective the internet and DVDs could be in reaching the young population, opening an incredible doorway that we must step through."

Amazing Facts will develop a special Chinese-language website offering Bible schools and pocket books that explain Bible truth, transforming hearts and preparing Chinese Christians for the final events. These downloadable, printable, and easily copied resources will be a perfect way to evangelize and disciple.

Amazing Facts will also produce Chinese language DVDs, including the *Final Events*, *Everlasting Gospel*, *Prophecy Code* series, and more.

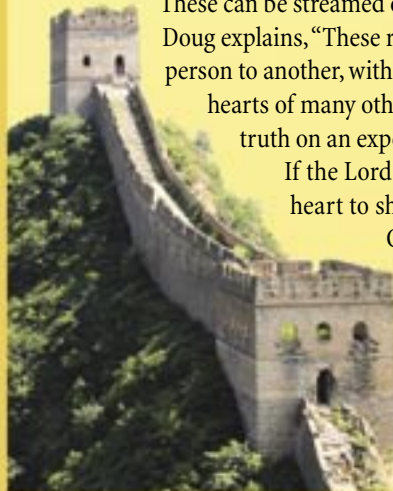
These can be streamed online and copied to DVDs. Pastor Doug explains, "These resources will be passed from one person to another, with each DVD planting a seed in the hearts of many other people, circulating the seeds of truth on an exponential scale."

If the Lord has placed the desire in your heart to share the last-day message with God's precious children in China, please give today.

**Funding Goal:**

**\$300,000**

**Storehouse:** \$25,701



## Project: Here We Stand – '07 Revival

Pastor Doug will present Here We Stand: Foundations of Our Faith to encourage and revive God's church, which is sinking in the spiritual mire of compromise. Your support today will help us reach more people with reformation. Find out more on page 10!

**Funding Goal:**

**\$250,000**

**Storehouse:** \$46,478



## Project: Great Controversy DVD

The production of the *Great Controversy* DVD, a powerful soul-winning resource about God's master plan of redemption, is well underway—so we need funds now to help make this the best evangelism tool possible! See more details on page 26.

**Funding Goal:**

**\$1,500,000**

**Storehouse:** \$625,413



## Project: Colombia Mission

Our brothers and sisters in Colombia are doing all they can to offer hope and new life through Jesus Christ in a country torn by violence and the drug trade. They've asked for our help.

That's why in June, Pastor Doug and Amazing Facts will present a powerful evangelistic series there called *La Verdad Antes Escondida: Ahora Revelada*—Hidden Truth Now Revealed!—which will be broadcast to more than 35 nations! See page 20 for details, and please help if you are able.

**Funding Goal:** \$80,000





# BIBLE Answers



with Pastor Doug Batchelor



**Is 1 Corinthians 14:2 about speaking in tongues, because it seems to contradict other passages about that particular gift of the Spirit?**

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.” Many believe this passage is a confusing and even contradictory passage in the Bible concerning the gift of tongues, but this is not so.

First, we need to clarify that the word “unknown” does not appear in the original Greek translation. He’s not talking about a special language that only God knows, as many churches teach. Instead, the word “tongue” is simply referring to normal human language.

Jesus said we’re to preach the gospel to every tongue—meaning every language—and nation. In the book of Acts, we witness God sending down the Holy Spirit in a special way. One of the powerful gifts He gave to the apostles was speaking in tongues, the gift of language, which enabled a person not formally trained in a language to speak that language for the purpose of spreading the gospel.

It is interesting to note that Paul wrote about tongues only in 1 Corinthians. You won’t find it in any of his other letters; so why Corinth? Because it was a seaport town with two harbors that hosted a wide variety of people from masters to slaves in the Roman Empire. It was a trade route in which speakers of all different languages congregated.

Thus when the diverse people in Corinth converted to Christianity, their church services were something like the tower of Babel. People stood up and testified, prayed, sang, and otherwise praised the Lord in a variety of languages without the presence of a translator. Nobody knew what anyone else was saying. It was disrupting the service, so Paul felt he needed


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

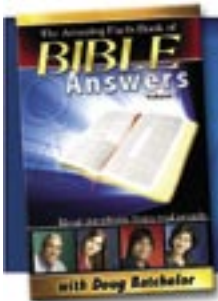
to address it. He wanted a translator there so people could understand what was being said by whoever was speaking.

Let me illustrate. If I’m in a church in America, and I jump to my feet and say a long prayer in Hebrew, most people would have no clue what I was saying. God knows, and that’s why Paul would say that I was speaking only to God, not to men. It’s as if I am praying in my heart aloud: I know what I am saying, but it is a mystery to everyone else. Paul is saying, “When you speak, let it be so that others listening can understand.”

He rather brilliantly emphasizes this in verses 8 and 9. Back in Bible times, they used trumpets, not radios, to give marching orders to troops. If a sounding trumpet made the sound for the all clear when the real command was to attack, it was chaos for the troops. “So likewise, except you utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.” Everyone should underline that verse, because it clarifies everything about which Paul is speaking.

Take a moment to also read verses 13 and 14. People often take these two verses to mean that you can actually speak something intelligible to God or others but have no idea what you are saying. But the passage is directed at those who are listening, not the speaker. “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful” *to those listening!* If I should start praying in Russian, I might be speaking through the Holy Spirit. But in a church full of Spanish-speakers, what I understand from God is unfruitful to those who are listening to me.

When I first came to the church, I visited a congregation in which people sort of babbled these ecstatic utterances while “in the spirit.” I have never agreed that you find that behavior in 1 Corinthians 14 or in Acts 2. These passages are talking about the known languages of the world and how to communicate the gospel and God’s wisdom to one another in a post-Babel world. 



**Book of Bible Answers, Vol. 1**  
Get Pastor Doug’s candid, biblical answers to difficult Bible questions, straight from his popular *Bible Answers Live* radio program. It’s one of our most requested books of all time—find out why today!  
BK-BOBA ... \$10.99

See ordering info on page 19.

# A Lasting LEGACY

When considering the great accomplishments of King David, most people think about his stunning victory over the giant Goliath or his poetic prowess revealed in the psalms he penned. However, one of his most outstanding acts of devotion in his long reign is often overlooked.

During David's eventful life, the Lord blessed him with substantial wealth. But as he looked ahead, he was deeply concerned that after his death, sufficient funds would be available for completing the temple of God. He wanted to return to God the blessings bestowed on him so abundantly.

“Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might gold: for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, . . . wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, . . . and marble slabs in abundance. Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver.”

—1 Chronicles 29:2, 3 NKJV

For more than 40 years, Amazing Facts has been faithfully working to build up the temple of God with living stones—souls saved through evangelism—by preaching a clear and powerful message of salvation from sin through Jesus. “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house” (1 Peter 2:5).

As you look in the future in your estate planning, please remember to make provision for building up the temple of the Lord, just as King David did, by remembering the ministry of Amazing Facts.

## How do I help Amazing Facts in my estate planning?

By designating Amazing Facts as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

## What other means of giving are there in my estate planning?

Gift annuities benefit both your financial future and the many outreaches of Amazing Facts.

## What is a gift annuity?

A gift annuity gives you a guaranteed fixed income for life. It is an irrevocable contribution of money and securities that guarantees payment. The benefits to you are:

- Increases your income for you and/or your spouse
- Immediate income tax deduction
- Avoid capital gains
- Estate tax savings
- Stress-free investment
- Fulfill your charitable intent

If you would like more information, please contact us at **800-436-2695** and ask for Dan Storkamp, planned giving advisor, or Judy Schachten, secretary.

## Single Life Rate of Return

AGE	RATE
55	5.5%
60	5.7%
65	6.0%
70	6.5%
75	7.1%
80	8.0%
85	9.5%
90	11.3%

## Minimum Gift Amounts

Single-Life: \$5,000  
Two-Life: \$10,000



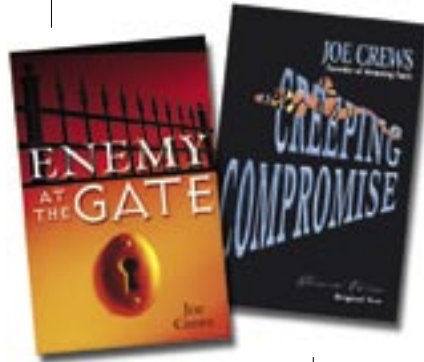
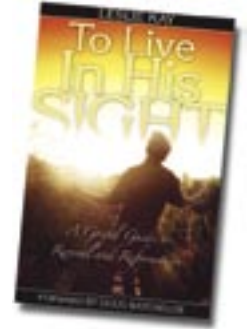
## Desmond Doss: the Unlikeliest Hero

*Frances M. Doss.* Read the incredible story of a man who stood by his convictions under ridicule and enemy fire. As he continued to honor God throughout WWII, God honored him with the highest honor America can bestow.  
**BK-DDOS ... \$7.95**

## To Live in His Sight

*Leslie Kay.* Explore the deeper meaning of revival to help bring back the flourishing and passionate life of your first love, and learn to respond the right way to the saving initiative of God. A skillful interweaving of colorfully penned character profiles and practical how-tos that will lead you into the ever-deepening, gospel-grounded experience in revival and reformation that every Christian needs to have. Perfect for all levels of faith!

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## Enemy at the Gate

*Joe Crews.* In a culture that constantly assaults our senses with every kind of soul-destroying temptation, this amazing book will give you the keys and the inspiration to stay pure for God. A great resource for youth and adults alike!

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*Joe Crews.* With his unique, straightforward style, Crews addresses some of the most sensitive and controversial issues in a bold, uncompromising approach. Sure to challenge and inspire you to the highest standards of Christian living. Memorial edition.

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## The Truth About Mary Magdalene

*Doug Batchelor.* Get the Bible truth on one of the most controversial yet faithful disciples of Christ, and how her legacy is more than just popular culture half-truths, but a road to Jesus we should all be on.

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## Holy Spirit: The Need

*Doug Batchelor.* The Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune God, plays a critical role in the spiritual growth of every Christian. Learn how to prepare for this incredible gift, and what happens to a soul that is filled with the power of God.

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## The Surrender of Self

*Joe Crews.* An important reminder that God has given us all a powerful weapon in combating our selfish human natures.

**BK-SOS ... \$0.95**

## Compromise, Conformity, & Courage

*Doug Batchelor.* Many Christians are playing a dangerous game by compromising with the world. Learn how to avoid this pitfall and remain true to Jesus forever.

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**New!**



## Souls Under Siege

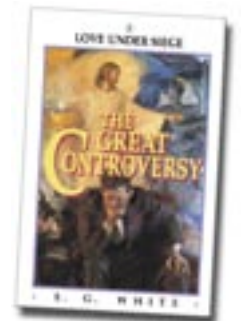
*Joe Crews.* This exciting and inspiring collection of incredible true stories of miracles experienced by individuals who attended Joe Crews' evangelistic seminars will inspire you to reach out and help change lives forever.

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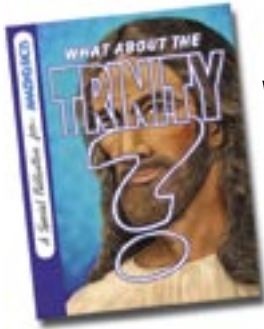
## The Great Controversy Deluxe Paperback

*E.G. White.* Love is under siege in a great cosmic war between good and evil. Learn more of this battle for human hearts with an emphasis on end-time prophecy. A classic unlike anything else you've read.

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Pastor Doug makes an appearance! A great sharing resource for any age!

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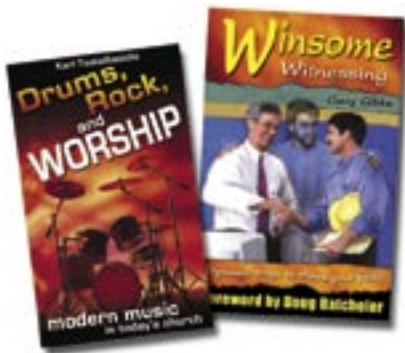
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**Winsome Witnessing**

*Gary Gibbs.* The former evangelism director of Amazing Facts teaches you simple but exciting skills to lead others to Christ, gives insights to revitalize your church, and more. Be an effective, confident, and inspired soul-winner with these proven, life-changing strategies.

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**Drums, Rock, and Worship**

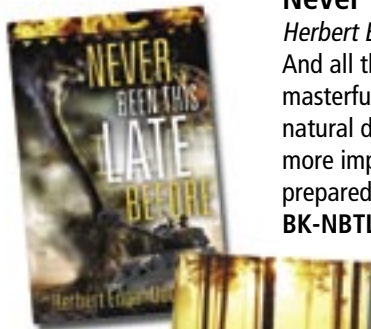
*Karl Tsatalbasidis.* Explore the complex relationship of today's church and modern music in worship, especially the drum set. Is rock music justifiable praise, or is it a dangerous compromise? A call to reform that will change attitudes and win hearts!

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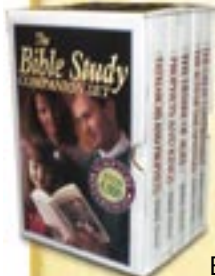


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Draw closer to God every day with this brand-new, beautifully designed prayer journal that will help you communicate with the Creator. The perfect gift for all your loved ones.

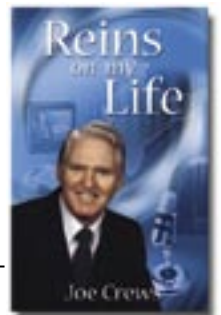
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*Joe Crews.* In this updated classic, journey alongside Joe Crews as he tells his thrilling story of how God prepared him for the assignment of a lifetime—founding of a worldwide media ministry reaching millions with God's Word. The miracles surrounding Amazing Facts since 1966 are truly unforgettable!

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This affordable and attractive full-color magazine presents the most misunderstood biblical subjects in a direct and captivating way. It's so packed with attention-grabbing graphics, intriguing trivia, and fascinating Bible facts, those you share it with won't be able to put it down! Priced for sharing too!

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*Doug Batchelor.* A unique and inspiring message exploring the magnificence of God's matchless glory as revealed in His character and the person of His Son.

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*Doug Batchelor.* In this world, we see but three dimensions. But behind the veil, a heavenly host wages a battle over every soul. Understand the nature of angels, both fallen and heavenly, as the Bible reveals how God has prepared an army to care just for you.

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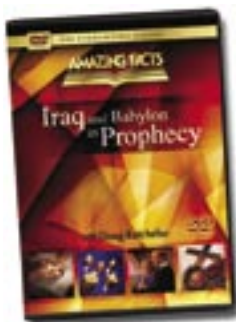
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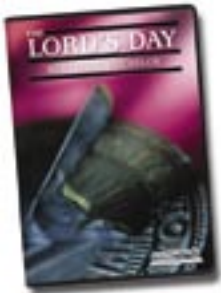
**Wildebeest: The Great African Migration DVD**

*Exploration Films.* The great wildebeest migration is a spectacle of life and death witnessed by few. This remarkable epic of survival comes to you in vivid, riveting detail. Creation friendly. No evolutionary bias. Christian worldview. (60 mins) **DV-WGAM ... \$15.95**



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**Lord's Day DVD SET**

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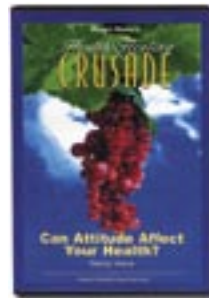
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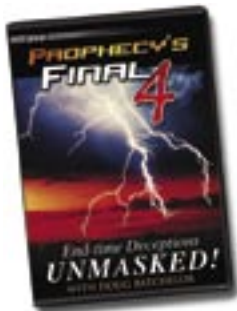
**The Final Events of Bible Prophecy DVD**

This gripping 43-minute documentary on the last-days leads you step by step through seven end-time "events," including signs of the end, Christ's return, the millennium, and more. Includes an incredible, in-depth prophecy Bible study! **DV-FEB ... \$6.99 New price!**



**Can Attitude Affect Healing? DVD**

Modern Manna's Health & Healing Crusade for 2004, held June 24--27 at the Lodi Grape Festival grounds in Lodi, California, was a huge success! It included an incredible line-up of world-renowned speakers! Don't miss this opportunity for a tremendous physical and spiritual blessing! **DV-CAAH ... \$15.00**



**Prophecy's Final Four DVD Set**

Pastor Doug clarifies the popular misconceptions regarding the tribulation, the 144,000, the millennium, and the rapture during the second coming. Each of the four topics is rich with Scripture and illustrated with spectacular graphics, answers tough prophecy questions, and will build your faith. Great series for sharing with friends! **DV-PF4 ... \$24.95**

**The New Covenant: A Better Promise DVD**

Join Pastor Doug as he delivers an uplifting, hope-filled message about the new covenant between Christ and His followers. Understand why the old covenant was cast aside for a better promise relying on God's infinite love and how there is hope for every Christian caught in the snare of sin. **DV-E2547 ... \$14.95**



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Prices subject to change without notice. California residents please add 7.25% sales tax. For orders shipped outside the USA, add 37% of subtotal (minimum \$9.50) for additional foreign postage.

# NEWS NOTES

## AFCOE to Go: Evangelism Training for You

The Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism has always been on the cutting-edge of discipleship training. Our renowned four-month course gives lay people and church professionals the tools they need to be effective and compassionate witnesses for Jesus wherever God leads them.



However, not everyone is able to attend a four-month class—leaving some willing Christians unprepared to share their faith. But now, Amazing Facts is offering a new way to get even the busiest people the resources and skills they need to reach family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors—individually or in concert with the local church!

The result is AFCOE to Go, a short-term intensive discipleship training series for the busy professional or full-time student.

Don Mackintosh, AFCOE director, says, “Christians know that the most important work given them is reaching out to others for the kingdom of God. AFCOE to Go makes it possible for anyone to be an effective part of this work.”



But AFCOE to Go is more than just dynamic evangelism training; it is a revival experience. “People will be given the skills they need to effectively minister with Christ to reach a dying planet,” adds Mackintosh. “But more than that, they’ll come away

with more adoration for Jesus and a stronger desire to proclaim His truth. They will leave with the ability and passion to educate others about His love and with a plan on how to bring restoration to people spiritually, physically, and emotionally.”

The inaugural session will be held at Weimer Institute in Northern California in June, just minutes away from Amazing Facts’ headquarters in Rocklin, California. It will be led by the same world-class instructors who teach at AFCOE, covering essential evangelism topics such as friendship evangelism,

gospel presentation, answering objections, reclaiming lost members, cycle of evangelism, and so much more.

Is God calling you to do more in your church and community? Do you struggle to reach others with Bible truth? Then you need to participate in this incredible training!

Check out our ad on page 23 and contact Amazing Facts today to secure your reservation and learn more about this exciting opportunity! Act fast, space is limited and filling up quickly.

## ¡La Verdad Antes Escondida: Ahora Revelada!

In July, Pastor Doug Batchelor travels to Medellin, Colombia, in South America for an eight-day evangelistic series called La Verdad Antes Escondida: Ahora Revelada—Hidden Truth: Now Revealed! It will reach into millions of homes around the globe and touch lives for Christ!

The local church is already mobilizing for this unique outreach opportunity, with all 50 congregations joining together for an onslaught of pre-work Bible studies. Plus, a huge 400-strong youth movement is leading a month-long effort to generate interest and excitement for Pastor Doug’s meetings.



HopeTV and Esperanza TV will broadcast this series from the El Coliseo El Poblado stadium, which seats 4,000 people, and they are expecting at least 800 downlink sites in 37 countries.

Amazing Facts must raise \$80,000 for this event, so if God is calling you to reach the people of South America and other outreach programs, please give today.

## Special Opportunity for Your IRA

For a limited time, it’s now easier to donate money from your IRA to Amazing Facts. But there is only a small window of opportunity to make this tax-wise gift! In 2007, a person 70-1/2 years or older can take a tax-free withdrawal from their IRA! If the withdrawal is donated directly to a charity, it is excluded from your income. Special conditions apply, so please contact our estate planning specialists at 1-800-436-2695 for more information.

# Do you want to lead people to Christ?

You can by joining Amazing Facts

## PARTNERS IN EVANGELISM



For more than 40 years, Amazing Facts has proclaimed the gospel through television, radio, national and international evangelistic events, and our many Bible schools. The result is a multitude of lives radically transformed through the power of Jesus Christ.

One of our most popular Bible-teaching broadcasts today is *Bible Answers Live*, which can be heard on the airwaves around the world in more than 100 cities and live on the internet. Every Sunday night, seekers and Bible students get faith-affirming answers to some of the most difficult and confusing Bible subjects, giving them a reason to believe.

This would never be possible without the faithful monthly financial support of people

just like you, people who really want to change the world for the Lord.

And now you have a better opportunity than ever to be a part of this work. For a monthly commitment of just \$50 or more—an annual commitment of \$600—you can help the soul-winning ministry of Amazing Facts continue the work until the return of our Savior. You'll share in the harvest of souls won to Christ and have the satisfaction of making an eternal difference!

Simply complete the coupon below and return it with your first monthly Partners in Evangelism gift. And as a special blessing to you, you'll receive a special two-disc DVD set (available only through this program) called *Walk With Christ* for your personal enrichment.

You will also be kept informed of how your gifts are being used through a special Partners in Evangelism quarterly report.

**Yes, I want to become  
a Partner in Evangelism!**

Enclosed is my first monthly gift of

- \$50     \$75     \$100  
 \$150     \$200     Other \_\_\_\_\_



"Thank you for *Bible Answers Live*. It is a real blessing as I let Jesus into my life only a few months ago."

— Switzerland

Please use the envelope in the center of this magazine to let us know your reply.

# THE AMAZING FACTS Evangelism TEAM



Schedule an Amazing Facts evangelistic series or a revival weekend in your church!

You are invited to meet the members of our dynamic evangelism team at our many seminars and revivals throughout the year—and please invite a friend! Go to [www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org) to get exact times and locations!

Contact our evangelism department by phone at **916-434-3880** or by mail.

**Doug Batchelor**

June 29  
Western GYC  
Weimar, California

September 7 – 15  
Here We Stand: 2007 Revival  
Lansing, Michigan  
See page 10 for details.

**Emanuel Baek**

June 20 – July 1  
Oakland, California  
Call 916.434.3880 for details.

July 27 – September 1  
Milwaukee NW Church  
7711 West Lusher  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Darrin Bartell**

July 20 – August 25  
Clarksville, Arkansas  
Call 916.434.3880 for details.

**Byron Corbett**

September 7 – October 13  
Greely, Colorado  
Call 916.434.3880 for details.

**Eric Flickinger**

June 20 – August 25  
Church Auditorium  
10131 - 111th Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
  
September 7 – October 13  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Call 504.755.1629 for details.

**Lowell Hargreaves**

October 19 – November 24  
Poplar Bluff, Missouri  
Call 573.785.1226 for details.

**Brian McMahon**

October 20 – November 24  
Church Auditorium  
1633 North Central Avenue  
Ceres, California

**Jason Morgan**

September 7 – October 13  
Hermiston, Oregon  
Call 541.567.8241 for details.

**Jack Pefley**

September 4 – October 7  
Church Auditorium  
6475 West Port Avenue  
Shreveport, Louisiana

**Adam Ramdin**

July 20 – August 25  
Church Auditorium  
1537 Country Club Road  
Lake Charles, Louisiana

**Jason Sliger**

July 20 – August 25  
Thousand Oak, California  
Call 805-373-0320 for details.

**Dennis Priebe** (Revivalist)

May 25, 26 (Revival)  
Live Oak Church, Florida  
Call 386.497.3041 for details.  
  
June 1, 2 (Revival)  
Forest City Church, NC  
Call 828.245.3802 for details.

*Dennis Priebe (continued)*

June 15, 16 (Revival)  
Martinsville, Virginia  
Call 434.685.1336 for details.

More revivals in North Carolina and Virginia.  
Call 916.434.3880 for details.



Doug Batchelor



Emanuel Baek



Darrin Bartell



Byron Corbett



Eric Flickinger



Lowell Hargreaves



Brian McMahon



Jason Morgan



Jack Pefley



Dennis Priebe



Adam Ramdin



Jason Sliger

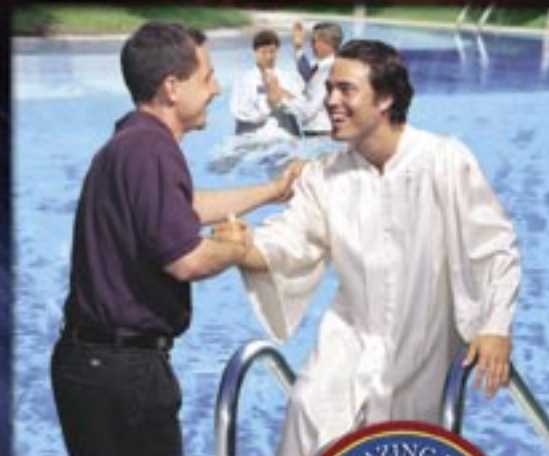
## Upcoming Meeting Locations



Symbols with a black circle are detailed above. Symbols without it will be detailed in upcoming magazines as the dates draw closer. Check our website for more information, as not all locations are marked.

# Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism

- Gain confidence
- Reach the heart
- Teach compellingly
- Preach powerfully



## Complete 4-month Course August 2 - November 20, 2007

This dynamic, comprehensive course will prepare you for an entry-level career in ministry. Come study God's Word, learn principles of effective soul-winning, and work under the mentorship of successful soul-winners. It's an experience only AFCOE can offer!

**Application Deadline: May 17, 2007 - ACT NOW!**

**Can't attend the 4-month course?  
... don't despair!**

# AFCOE TO GO

### At AFCOE to Go, you'll get:

- Dynamic, short-term training focusing on friendship witnessing
- World-class, seasoned teachers
- A revival experience that will energize your faith
- Many awesome, practical resources for witnessing
- Take-home PowerPoint presentations & DVDs!

### Evangelism Training at the Speed of *Your* Life

A new 4-day training experience that gives even the busiest professionals the skills they need to reach family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors for Jesus Christ – *anywhere, anytime!*

Don't miss this awesome opportunity to radically energize your outreach ... AFCOE to Go makes it possible for anyone to be part of the great commission!

## CALL TODAY!

**Next Class**

**When:** June 25 – 28, 2007

**Where:** Weimar Institute in Weimar, Calif.

**Application Deadline:**

June 5, 2007

\$150 application fee\*

**Tuition:** \$500 per person

or \$650 for couple sharing materials

\* \$100 of the application fee is refundable if cancellation made prior to May 28, 2007.

**916-434-3880, ext. 3049** or go online at **www.afcoe.org**



I will give you a  
and put

David as the one who killed Uriah, David's conscious wrenched his heart. He fell on his face and prayed for seven days.

What was he praying about? The baby that he and Bathsheba had made together was terminally sick. He didn't want to see that innocent baby die for his sin. It broke his heart. Did you catch that? Jesus is the Son of David who died for our sins. That should convert us. If it doesn't, perhaps nothing can.

David wrote, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit" (Psalm 51:12 NKJV). In other words, "Forgive me, save me, help me have that experience that I lost. I want it back." It was only then that David could "teach transgressors your ways and sinners will be converted to you." Living like the devil, David couldn't spread the kingdom of God. The same applies to us.

## Being Converted

Is there something that we can do to be converted—not only the first time, but a second time, and on a day-to-day basis? Absolutely. Ezekiel 18:31 says, "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit." We are living during a time in history when mainline churches are saying we can't do anything to facilitate conversion, yet Ezekiel says, "Go. Get converted."

You can do that by cooperating with the work of the Holy Spirit to receive that change of heart we all desperately need.

Take advantage of every opportunity to fix your eyes on Jesus. Isaiah was converted when he saw the Lord. Zaccheus was converted when he saw the Lord. Paul was converted in the

*Continued from page 9.*

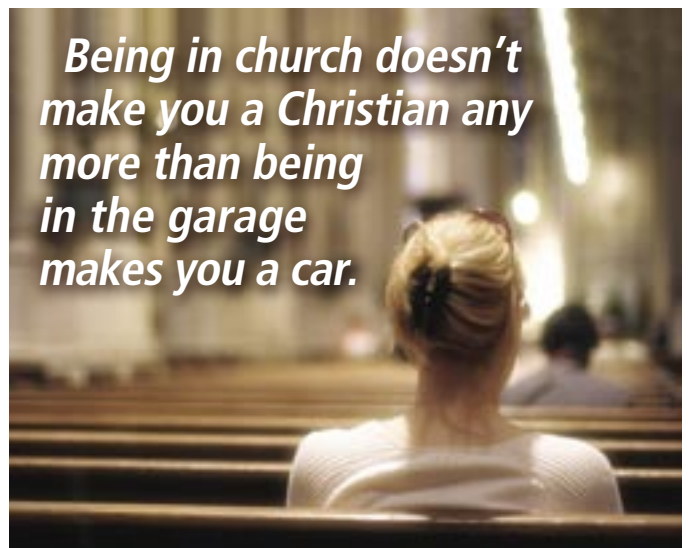
won. The crown was in my grasp. I thought old things had passed away. All things had become new and my old corrupt nature, the old life was gone. But I found out after serving Christ for a few months that conversion was only like enlisting in the army. There was battle on hand."

Be clear: Conversion is something that can unravel—you can backslide; therefore, it is something that must be maintained. "Conversion" could also be called "a love relationship with Jesus." It isn't a vaccine, like something you get for small pox when you are young. Conversion doesn't work that way. Some churches teach it does, but we have plenty of biblical examples that say otherwise.

You can be serving the Lord and your motives can slowly change. How do we know? Because King David, slayer of Goliath, had to be re-converted. He backslid from the will of the Lord. Perhaps it was the power and wealth that clouded his thinking when he decided it was time for a new wife, a wife that already belonged to another man. He sinned big time.

What brought about David's re-conversion? Real conversion and repentance are very similar. When Nathan confronted

***Being in church doesn't  
make you a Christian any  
more than being  
in the garage  
makes you a car.***





# new heart a new spirit within you

same way. Even Joseph's brothers were converted when they beheld their grieving father pining for his lost son.

So search out those places where you can see God—in His Word. There you will see that He first loved you, which will pave the way for you to love Him in return. When you look at the love of God for us on the cross, you will experience its converting influence.

Pray every day, even if you don't feel like it. Spend time on your knees because you need it. Search for good Christian literature that will stir your heart. There is a direct relationship between the amount of time you spend with God, in study and in prayer, and where you are in your relationship with Him.

And the more you do that, God promises, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes" (Ezekiel 36:26, 27).

We all like it when the Lord does His part. "Do it for me, Lord. Convert me." But it may not always happen like Paul on the road to Damascus. Only God can start us on the road to conversion. Without the Holy Spirit, we'd never even pay attention. But we have a part to play—we must surrender our will.

## One in Twenty

Ellen White writes, "Not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as a common sinner. They professedly serve God but they are more earnestly serving mammon" (*Christian Service*).

Not even one in 20! That's a frightening statistic! Churches could be built on a much smaller scale based on that passage. But it is supported by something Jesus said. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name

done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them I never knew you: depart from me" (Matthew 7:22, 23).

Somebody noted, "Being in church doesn't make you a Christian any more than being in the garage makes you a car." It doesn't matter how buried you are in religious practices—going to Christian schools, showing up on Sabbath, tithing, whatever. The question is: Are you converted? Are you really born again? Is your heart truly changed?

Why is it important for you and me to be converted? It's more than for our own salvation. It's much more than that—the many in our own churches who are not converted are crippling the growth of God's kingdom. The gospel spread like a prairie fire in the first generation after Christ because He spent three years with 12 men inspiring a real conversion in their lives.

If you have a church with 240 members, and if only one in 20 is truly converted, then you have only 12 real converts. But that's the point. Twelve men preached a message that spread like wildfire throughout the Roman Empire. One truly converted soul, one Elijah, one Paul, can do wonders for God's kingdom.

Spread your heart before the Lord. Offer it to Him as a living sacrifice. Honestly confess your sins and claim

His mercy. Begin the journey of ongoing transformation remembering that true conversion is an ongoing process and an investment in your eternity.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1, 2).



***Do you ever wonder, "Lord, am I even converted? The things I think about ... the things I do ... am I even converted?"***



# THE GREAT CONTROVERSY REVEALED!

The fact is indisputable: Wherever you go, minds are being bombarded with confusing spiritual messages that lead them away from Bible truth. Popular culture and media cast aside ultimate meaning for the pleasures of the here and now, leading most souls to a horrifying fate.

The truth is that people everywhere—your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, and your family—are being led to give their time and attention to a cruel, deceiving power and to turn away from the only One who can really save them.

And tragically, most have never seen the big picture, the behind-the-scenes events that would open their eyes to ultimate truth. They've never heard of the great cosmic conflict between good and evil. That's why they need to be shaken from their slumber with a resounding message they can't ignore ...

## Power Media Witnessing

With the generous support of our ministry friends, Amazing Facts will share this eye-opening, life-changing truth in an extraordinary project that will shine light on the decisive spiritual battle—*The Great Controversy* DVD project!

This thrilling, high-definition documentary hosted by Pastor Doug Batchelor will bring to life the war raging between Christ and Satan. After the tremendous success of *The Final Events of Bible Prophecy*, we will captivantly present the origins of evil and the great plan of salvation with a media presentation that will encourage everyone who sees



it to make their final decision for eternity!

Imagine the evangelistic power of such a tool! *The Great Controversy* DVD will be an incredible way to share the remnant church's last-day message in preparation for the return of our Lord!


## A New Look at an Ancient Story

The riveting story of the *Great Controversy* will be examined in 10 exciting segments that will give every viewer the answers they need in this dark sin-sick world.

In every chapter, people will get solid Bible truth on confusing issues like the state of the dead, the occult, the origin of evil, and why God permits suffering—but it will be presented in a way unlike anything they have seen before! Finally, the world in which we live will make perfect sense to seekers and skeptics alike.

## Sharing the Truth!

By using high-def technology and the easy-to-share DVD format, this groundbreaking production will be the perfect sharing resource for large or small groups. It will be a whirlwind adventure that makes viewers realize that they are actually a participant in a true story ... they are a part of *The Great Controversy* and have an urgent choice to make.



Starting with the fall of Lucifer and spanning through the ages to the new earth, *The Great Controversy* DVD will highlight spiritually pivotal moments in history, such as the fall of man, the Flood, the Exodus, Christ's first coming, and more—tying today's world and the distant past together in a convincing, captivating way.

- Chapter 1: The Fall of Lucifer
- Chapter 2: The Fall of Man
- Chapter 3: The Flood
- Chapter 4: The Children of Israel
- Chapter 5: The Life of Jesus
- Chapter 6: The Dark Ages & Reformation
- Chapter 7: The Time of the End
- Chapter 8: The Second Coming
- Chapter 9: The End of Sin
- Chapter 10: The New Earth



## The Time Is Now

According to Douglas Garcia, producer, “In scope and presentation, *The Great Controversy* will be much bigger than *Final Events*, a film that has been seen by millions around the world. *The Great Controversy* DVD will be the most exciting media production the church has ever done, and it will be an incredible way to evangelize the lost.”

And the timing couldn't be better. In the next few years, Hollywood will release yet another swarm of spiritual films to dazzle and entertain, including a film adaptation of John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*, which chronicles the fall of Lucifer and man. Hollywood is likely to do everything it can to make a mockery out of Christian themes in the process.

*The Great Controversy* won't be an empty shell of special effects like typical Hollywood fare, full of heretical views that do not accurately portray God's Word. Instead, we will give every viewer the ultimate reality they need to make an informed decision about who they will stand with—Christ or Satan!

Finally, adds Garcia, “In this true epic journey, they'll not only see the love of God like never before, they'll also witness the vindication of His righteous character.”

Explaining the project's potential, Pastor Doug says, “This DVD will give a thrilling but easy-to-understand overview of the most important battle in history. It will also answer tough questions, such as why God allows suffering and how He will ultimately destroy sin.” But more than that, it will lead viewers to take a final stand. “We believe and pray it will be a tremendous soul-winning tool that will prepare people for God's coming final triumph.”

Many treat God's gift of salvation with indifference, but this presentation will help them to realize the truth and scope of the war going on all around them for their souls. Adds Pastor Doug, “They will realize it is the most important decision they could ever make. We'll tell them not to put it off, for who knows what tomorrow might hold. And we'll have a presentation that will emphasize that claim in an amazing way.”

## **BREAKING NEWS!**

Get the latest production news at [www.gcsite.com](http://www.gcsite.com)!

- The Great Controversy will be available in four major world languages and subtitled for the hearing impaired when it debuts.
- The cost of this project is more than \$1.5 million, so please give to this powerful evangelism tool and other soul-winning Amazing Facts outreaches today!





# Special Recognition

## In Loving Memory of:

**Doris Alderman** from Marilyn Gepford, her sister  
**S.L. (Buck) Alvarez** from Jane Alvarez, his wife  
**Bob Anderson** from Al and Pat Marion  
**Gladys Atkins** from Gwendolyn Knight

**Micah Batchelor** from Bonnie and Ed Ensminger;  
from Wanda Hockbein; from Donald Park  
**Marten Bauer** from David and Florence Miller  
**Raymond Bechthold** from Amy and Hans Groschel;  
from June Zannetti

**Ercel Bennett** from June Marks  
**James Blew** from June Marks, his cousin  
**Dr. Glenn Bolton** from Beulah Griffith  
**L.G. Bowen** from the Hamlin family

**Ardys Brown** from Lucille Bush  
**Milford Brown** from Millie Brown, his wife  
**Janet Tanner Burger** from Jane Alvarez  
**Shannon Burton** from Emanuel and Cathy Pavlik,  
her parents; from Spurgeon and Donniss Lail,  
her grandparents

**Bruce Bush** from Lucille Bush, his wife  
**Irene Bushman** from Betty Noe, her daughter  
**Weldon Butner** from Nancy Butner, his wife  
**Glen Byers** from Bonnie Byers, his wife  
**David Byrd** from Enid Henderson, his aunt

**George Cacic** from Elaine Cacic, his wife  
**Joseph Calkins** from Judy Schachten, his grandmother  
**Perry and Bobbie Canton** from Bob and Jojo Hoeckendorf  
**John Carr** from Stanley Chaffee  
**Laverne Cate** from Esther Cate, his wife  
**Donald Chaffee** from Stanley Chaffee  
**Eleanor Chaffee** from Stanley Chaffee  
**Louisa Chaffee** from Stanley Chaffee  
**Roberta Chaffee** from Stanley Chaffee  
**David Chapman** from Mae Chapman, his wife, and children  
**Jennings Coburn** from Mr. and Mrs. Mauk

**Orlo Collins** from Ruth Sackett  
**Lynn Combs** from Karl and Betty Bahr  
**Richard Cottrell** from Eugene and Darleen Strauss  
**Seth Cox** from Herbert and Debbie Cox, his parents  
**Betty Rees Coy** from Jack Coy, her husband  
**Joe Crews** from Lu Ann Crews, his wife;  
from Gwendolyn Knight; from Donald Park  
**Lake Crews** from Gwendolyn Knight

**Ronnie Crews** from Lu Ann Crews, his mother  
**Irene Curtis** from Evelyn Neal, her daughter

**Pastor Tor Dahlberg** from Sylvia Dahlberg, his wife;  
from Annie Taylor

**Jim and Gloria Danforth** from Mary Lou Pride  
**John Daniel** from Hazel Daniel, his wife  
**J.D. Davis** from Wanda Davis, his wife  
**Otis Detamore** from Marion Detamore, his wife  
**Mark Diano** from Paul and Josephine Engel  
**Marjorie Dickinson** from Kent and Dee Dickinson  
**Jeanette and Jewell Dinkmeier** from John Dinkmeier  
**Harold Doss** from Jennie Tattrie  
**Paul Downey** from Jim and Judy Culpepper; from Bonnie Lorenz  
**Edith Durham** from William and Anita Lowe, her son-in-law  
and daughter

**Mary Farrell** from Leon and Vivienne Rich  
**William Fisher** from Dorothy Fisher, his wife  
**Kathleen Fivash** from Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ringer  
**Jewel and Ruth Fouch** from Gayle Tyroff, their daughter  
**Ray Fowler** from Kent and Dee Dickinson  
**Lynn Fox** from Drusilla Fox, his wife  
**Jerry Freeman** from Hazel Freeman, his wife  
**Steven Freeman** from Dorothy Freeman, his mother  
**Bill Fulton** from Edith Fulton

**John Gabrys** from Ed and Sylvia Gabrys  
**Clayton Eugene Garner** from Betty Kundig;  
from Angie Mojica; from Goldine Buxton Rayner  
**Lloyd Gibson** from Adaline Gibson, his wife  
**Carolyn Gold** from Jane Alvarez  
**Sarah Gordon** from Leo and Bobbie Jane Van Dolson  
**Billie Greswell** from Donald and Marjorie Stowe  
**Diana Griffin** from Jim and Betty Griffin, her parents  
**Earl Griffin** from Hazel Griffin, his wife  
**Mode Griffith** from Beulah Griffith, his wife

**Pastor Alex Hall** from Alyce Hall, his wife  
**Anita Hall** from Dr. and Mrs. Paul Genstler  
**Larry Hall** from Albert and Patricia Marion  
**Izell Hamby** from Beulah Griffith  
**Richard Hammond** from Emily Hammond, his wife  
**Ted Hansen** from Phyllis Roehl; from Margie Timm  
**Jim Harris** from Ada Nerness  
**Joe Harris** from Charlotte Harris, his wife

**Richard Harvey** from Victorine Harvey; from Lily Greenwood,  
his mother; from Pastor Henry Feyerabend  
**Rowena Hastaran** from Evelyn Neal, her mother  
**Elmer Hauge** from James and Inez Burdick  
**Truman and Muriel Hendryx** from William and Courtney Seth  
**Joseph Herzberg** from Thelma Herzberg, his wife;  
from Debra Fechik, his daughter  
**Joshua Hicks** from Shelly Lowe  
**Joseph Hillebert Sr.** from Mildred Hillebert, his wife  
**Ted and Marge Hoffman** from Steve and Donna Dickie  
**Robert Holt** from Laura Sutherland, his daughter  
**Wayne Hooper** from Kent and Dee Dickinson  
**Clayton Howell** from Athalia Howell, his wife  
**James and Ellen Howell** from Gayle Tyroff, their granddaughter  
**John Hoyt** from Kent and Dee Dickinson  
**Katie Hryhibcuk** from Ed and Sylvia Gabrys  
**Grace Hudson** from Beulah Griffith  
**Lee Hutchinson** from Don and Marilyn Sisson

**John Janzen** from Agatha Janzen, his wife  
**Helmut and Emilie Jedamski** from Retha Jedamski,  
their daughter  
**John and Lisa** from Helen Lungu  
**Bev Johnson** from Steve and Donna Dickie  
**Blaine Johnson** from Evelyn Neal, his mother  
**Jack Johnson** from Evelyn Neal, his mother

**Louise Kern** from Harriet Bos  
**Milton Kesler** from Yvonne Kesler, his wife

**Timmy and Peggy Lail** from Cathy Pavlik  
**Timothy Lail** from Spurgeon and Donniss Lail, his parents  
**Chris and Anna Lastine** from Rozella Reule,  
their granddaughter  
**Everett and Pauline Lastine** from Rozella Reule,  
their daughter

**Nancy Ann Law** from Stanley Chaffee  
**Cheryl Lawrence** from Rozella Reule, her cousin  
**Benjamin Leach** from Kent and Dee Dickinson  
**Lionel and Melinda Loessberg** from Allene Carpenter,  
their daughter  
**Alan Dean Long** from Pauline Long, his mother  
**J. Murray Long** from Pauline Long, his wife  
**James Lorenz** from Esther Lorenz, his sister-in-law  
**Loved Ones** from Lucille Bush; from Alyce Hall; from Lila Letniak  
**Homer Lynd** from Lucille Bush

**Nadine Mangan** from Carol Morris  
**Joan Marshall** from Robert Marshall, her husband  
**Bill May** from Kent and Dee Dickinson

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

**Marjorie May** from Kent and Dee Dickinson  
**Dean McDonald** from Kathy Cooke  
**Isaac and Alice Meier** from Yvonne and Everett Dickerson, their daughter and son-in-law  
**Milton Meyer** from Arline Goertz  
**Rachel Millard** from Gwendolyn Knight  
**Henry Miller** from Leon and Vivienne Rich  
**Jo Ann Miller** from David and Florence Miller  
**David Milsten** from Lois Lucas, his mother; from Ida Whitmarsh, his granddaughter  
**Mary Minor** from Frances Seabolt  
**Leonard Moore** from Stanley Chaffee  
**Bill Murphy** from Eula Collins, his sister; from Beulah Keeler, his sister

**William Newberg** from Leona Newberg, his wife  
**James Nystrom** from Leon and Vivienne Rich

**Marguerite Otto** from Bertha Wilkinson

**Jennie Palinka** from Ed and Sylvia Gabrys  
**Thomas Pangborn** from Shirley Turner, his mother  
**Raymond Papendick** from Mary Lou Pride  
**A.K. Phillips** from Monty, Max, and Marshal, his sons  
**Robert and Martha Pielaet** from Frank and Ruth Waxter  
**Isaac and Annie Pierce** from Gayle Tyroff, their granddaughter  
**Sara and Donald Pinkney** from Helen Martin Griffiths  
**Merlin Poole** from John and Julie Hetherington; from Ann Kantor; from Jerry and Pam Kantor Jr.; from Margrace Ladd; from Betty Martin; from Dee Mauk, his cousin; from Joseph and Sharon Vargo  
**Peggy Powell** from Lucille Bush

**Max Qualley** from Barbara Qualley, his wife

**Earl and Grace Reuss** from Barbara Qualley, their daughter  
**Bill Rigutto** from Lois Rigutto, his wife  
**Jeff Roderick** from Pauline Long  
**Glenna Rudolph** from Arline Goertz  
**Sophie Rudyk** from Ed and Sylvia Gabrys  
**Harry and Irma Rushold** from Marlin and Udene Allen, their son-in-law and daughter

**Harold Schneider** from Elsie Schneider, his wife  
**Annabel Sevison** from Stanley Chaffee  
**Gerald Silvestri** from Pastor John and Anita Silvestri, his parents  
**Eleanor Sires** from Harriet Bos  
**Clifford Smick** from Barbara Stewart, his sister  
**Duane Smick** from Barbara Stewart, his sister  
**Sam and Leah Smick** from Barbara Stewart, their daughter  
**Stan Smick** from Barbara Stewart, his sister  
**Bob Stewart** from Barbara Stewart, his wife  
**Nora Strawn** from June Marks  
**Roger Strobel** from Jim and Judy Culpepper  
**Robert Swenson** from Alma Swenson, his wife

**Alan Tattrie** from Jennie Tattrie, his grandmother  
**Duane Tattrie** from Jennie Tattrie, his mother  
**Roy Tattrie** from Jennie Tattrie, his wife  
**Edna Taylor** from Nancy Taylor, her daughter

**Earl Thompson** from Audrey Redmer  
**Pearl Thompson** from Betty Dull  
**Bernard Tilton** from Kim Swett  
**Charles Townsend** from Ron and Lenore Roffey  
**Arnold Tyson-Flyn** from Eugene and Donna Dorsey

**Van Unger** from Dorothea Myers, his stepdaughter

**Fred Vettman** from Lola Genton

**Marvin Wahlman** from Nancy and Eugene Wahlman, his parents  
**Marian Wall** from Kim Swett  
**Richard Ward** from Harold Ruppert  
**Angelina Waring** from Ernest Waring, her husband  
**Merle Vande Warker** from Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ringer  
**Al Wasley** from Susan Wasley  
**Jack White** from Keith and Ann Merklin, his son-in-law and daughter  
**Malcolm White** from Olive Holm White, his wife  
**L.F. Wilmot** from Richard and Shirley Warner  
**Peggy (Margaret) Woody** from L.C. Sommerville

**Dr. Roderick Yip** from Jason and Sherri Ann Hopkins; from San Benito County Medical Society  
**Robert and DeWitt Young** from George and Arlene Young  
**Don Yowell** from the Bryner family; from Ken and Ruth Wright; from Gilda Wuerstlin

**Bill Zima Jr.** from Patricia Zima, his mother  
**Bill Zima Sr.** from Patricia Zima, his wife

**In Honor of:**

**Alice Hicks** from Leila Tiede and Dorothy Dodd

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Stephen Batchelor (14th)** from Grandma and Grandpa Ensminger  
**Harold Case (84th)** from Mercer Straw  
**Pat Case (69th)** from Mercer Straw  
**Maxine De Paepe (85th)** from Roger and Betty De Paepe  
**Irene Detamore (106th)** from Marion  
**Jana Ensminger (18th)** from Grandma and Grandpa Ensminger  
**Naomi Fillman (80th)** from Frances Brashears  
**Grace Jose (90th)** from Mercer Straw  
**Bruce Mallernes (84th)** from Mercer Straw  
**Edith McFarland (87th)** from Mercer Straw  
**James McFarland (86th)** from Mercer Straw  
**Mercer Straw (85th)**  
**Bill Thomas (84th)** from Mercer Straw  
**Dorothy Thomas (80th)** from Mercer Straw

**Happy Anniversary to:**

**Dr. and Mrs. Don Bowen (50th)** from Dr. and Mrs. Paul Genstler  
**Bob and Ota Babcock (65th)**

**Thank Offering for:**

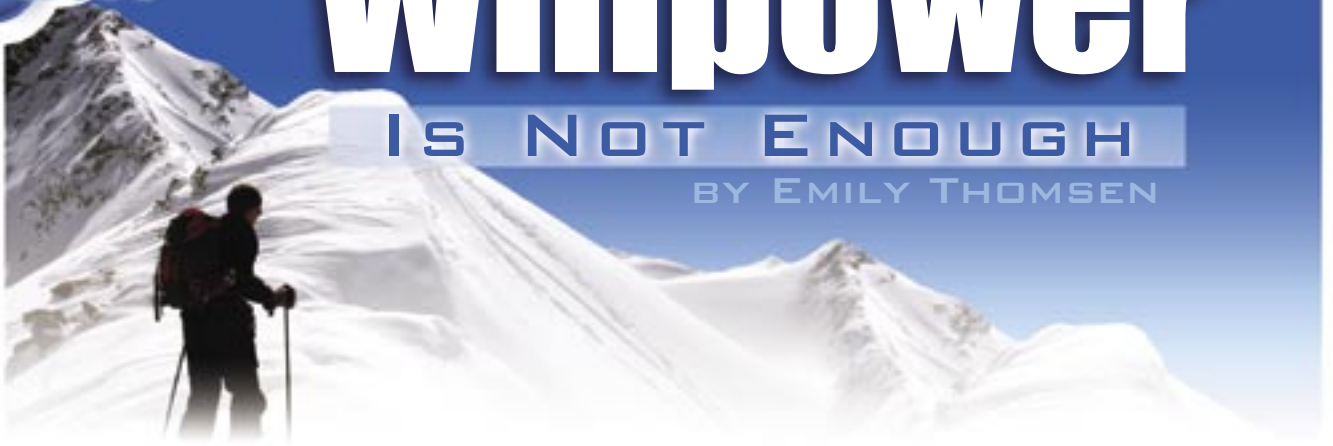
**Lydia Janzen** from Agatha Janzen (special healing)



# Willpower

IS NOT ENOUGH

BY EMILY THOMSEN



## Let's face it. We aren't ignorant.

Health facts appear daily in the news. We'd all have to be living in a closet not to know what's good for us. For most of us then, ignorance isn't the problem. So if we know what to do, why don't we do it? Paul knew this struggle: "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do" (Romans 7:15 NKJV).

"There are individuals whose minds are prepared to recognize the importance of things that unprepared minds ignore or throw away," say James Prochaska, et al., in the book *Changing for Good*. These researchers uncovered a predictable pattern of change by studying thousands of individuals who changed successfully.

Successful "self-changers" followed this pattern whether they were overcoming smoking, depression, low self-esteem, or obesity. *Precontemplators* typically deny their problem and resist change. *Contemplators* acknowledge their problem and, though perhaps not ready to act, know what overcoming it will take. When they begin to contemplate the solution rather than the problem, they progress into *preparation*, intending to act within the next month.



The *action* stage begins when they make the move they've prepared for. However, without *maintenance*, relapses to contemplation or precontemplation often occur. A maintenance plan is crucial to long-term success. Finally, successful maintenance leads to *termination*: the problem is solved when they have reached the criteria that eliminate risk (e.g., smoking cessation, ideal body weight, or cholesterol below 200).

This six-stage program offers hope to previously unsuccessful self-changers. Prochaska and his associates also discovered distinct processes used during each stage, giving the self-changer control over the cycle of change: Learn what stage you are in and apply the appropriate processes for that stage. It's not about having the willpower to say "no"—it's about making use of every available tool. Even those who aren't ready to act can begin the process.

How does this research relate to health? People who feel they have tried everything without success often resign themselves to "fate." Others believe their health is pre-determined by genetics, and their actions don't matter. But this concept is not biblical. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7 NKJV).

Thousands of studies reveal the link between our choices and our health. Heredity loads the gun, lifestyle pulls the trigger! The leading causes of death in America are lifestyle-related. These and many other diseases can be prevented, even reversed, through nutritional excellence and regular exercise.

Your first step is to assess what stage you're in.

1. Did you solve your problem more than six months ago?
2. Did you take action on your problem within the past six months?
3. Do you intend to take action in the next month?
4. Do you intend to take action in the next six months?

Precontemplators answer no to all four questions. Contemplators answer yes only to question 4. People in the preparation stage answer yes to 3 and 4. Those in the action stage answer yes to 2, and those in maintenance answer yes to question 1.

Next apply the appropriate processes. Precontemplators and contemplators use *consciousness-raising* to recognize their problem and learn more about the topic. What risks

does your behavior entail? How have others overcome a similar problem?

Precontemplators begin using *social liberation* and continue through the action stage. Social liberation involves modifying your environment to facilitate change. For example, instituting a no-smoking area at home or work and avoid going into bars.

*Emotional arousal* and *self-reevaluation* are employed during contemplation and preparation. Emotional arousal may be a sudden emotional experience surrounding your problem, alerting you to your defenses against change. Self-reevaluation involves careful analysis of your problem. What might life be like if you overcame it? Does your behavior conflict with your Christian values?

*Commitment* begins in preparation and must be maintained through action and maintenance. Commitment involves stating, privately and publicly, that you are choosing to change. Doing so acknowledges that you, not your circumstances or other people, are responsible for your behavior.

Use *rewards* during action and maintenance to recognize your hard work! A reward could be a purchase made with money you might otherwise have spent on your problem behavior.

*Countering*, *environment control*, and *helping relationships* facilitate your change during action, maintenance, and beyond. Countering substitutes new behaviors for the one you want to overcome.

*Environment control* involves changing your environment to encourage healthy behaviors and discourage your problem behavior. Self-change does not preclude the encouragement and nurturing of a support system. Whether they be your family, friends, church or a formal support group, helping relationships are vital to your success. Even better, seek help from the best source of power, Jesus Christ, through prayer.

Whatever your goals—lose weight, exercise regularly, save money, or floss daily—you have more than “willpower,” you have the tools for success!

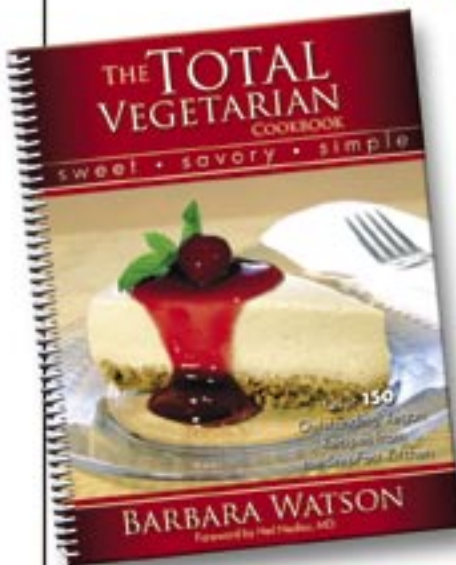
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Emily Thomsen is a wellness coach with Health for You in Tennessee.



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