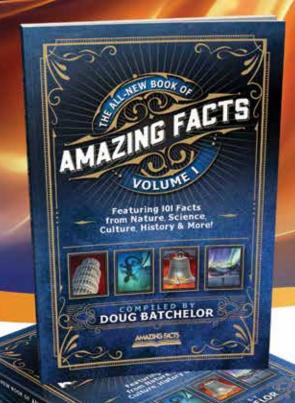


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Captivate your family and friends with these amazing facts—then lead them to a kernel of God's truth that the Holy Spirit can cultivate!



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It's a simple fact that many Christians have been living far beyond our means and are now saddled with debilitating debt. Pastor Doug provides a biblical perspective about the dangers of debt *and* practical steps to get free from financial bondage.









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Young Jonathan was sold into spiritualism as a child, but God had better plans for him. Discover his amazing story of redemption made possible through your loving support.



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



id you know that Amazing Facts first launched as a fifteen-minute, regional radio program produced in a basement? That happened in 1965, and across the span of more than fifty years, God has been continuously growing the impact of this ministry—one founded for the express purpose of redeeming lives for eternity.

That first humble radio program, hosted by Joe Crews, was an instant success, and it was soon heard all across North America. As God continued to bless, He opened the doors for ministry in television, publishing, and evangelism training. After I climbed aboard this evangelistic locomotive in 1994, we expanded in international outreach and Internet ministry. Today, we have official operations in North America and in six other nations—including Australia, the Philippines, and Africa.

Not a single milestone Amazing Facts has reached would have been possible without the faithful giving of His people—souls, like you, committed to sharing the three angels' messages with the world. I thank God not only for you, but for the power of the Holy Spirit in transforming lives.

That's why I'm excited to let you know about our latest step forward in Amazing Facts' expanding mission to reach the whole world for Christ. Because of the growing global impact of the ministry, as of January 2019, Amazing Facts, Inc., has become Amazing Facts International, a supporting ministry of God's end-time church.

Incorporating as Amazing Facts International better aligns us with our global mission and helps streamline the work we do in proclaiming God's Word here in North America and around the world. It's simply overdue recognition of our ongoing expansion of operations, far beyond what was envisioned when Amazing Facts was first formed with just three employees. Did you know that the ministry currently employs nearly a hundred staff?

This is why we are now preparing to move into a new 100,000-square-foot office, studio, and worship

campus, called the W.O.R.D. (World Outreach, Revival & Discipleship) Center, later this year. We've grown so much and continue to expect God's further blessings, that we needed to build. Today, as all the hammers are being swung on the site of the W.O.R.D. Center, we know that every nail driven and every brick laid will provide a powerful platform to expand this ministry's vital work. It is through this new structure, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you and I together will amplify the trumpet of truth so that the entire world can hear it before it's too late.

As always, one of the principal goals of Amazing Facts is to support and grow local churches. That isn't changing. As new believers respond to our broadcasts, Bible School, websites, and literature, we point them to local churches all around the world. Our goal is to support the worldwide church by helping to grow local membership with informed, passionate, and active new believers—which has been reflected in our mission statement for years:

To proclaim to the world the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6–12, to encourage revival in the remnant church through leading people to embrace salvation by faith in Jesus, to establish them in the church, and to disciple all believers in the joy of leading others to Christ by word and example.

We've come a long way since 1966! I praise God for how He has continued to enlarge the evangelistic work of Amazing Facts, and it is my joyful privilege to work together with you in this endeavor. Thank you for your support, which has enabled Amazing Facts to grow exponentially, reaching more people in more places than ever before. And, yes, you can continue to enjoy the same tax-deductible benefits when you contribute to Amazing Facts International.

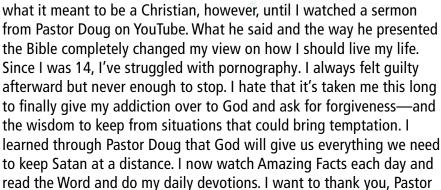
Thank you, friend!

Connect with Amazing Facts

From the Mail Bag

Victory in Christ

"I was raised in a Christian home and attended church for a good part of my life. I never truly knew





Doug, for the work you do in spreading God's Word all across the world and to me personally. My mind and heart have been changed, and it was God's message from you that helped me. Glory be to God, and I hope that one day I'll get to meet you and personally thank you for all that you do. God bless everyone at Amazing Facts!" —David



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INSIDE REPORT VOL. 37, NO. 1

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

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

DELIVERANCE

From By Pastor Doug Batchelor

An Amazing Fact: In 1995, Oseola McCarty surprised the University of Southern Mississippi and received national renown when she donated \$150,000 from her life savings to the university to help struggling students. The community was stunned when they realized McCarty had never attended the school and had acquired all that money by carefully saving from her earnings made washing and ironing clothes over the span of five decades.

ou are probably aware that, as a nation,
America is deeply in debt—to the tune of 21
trillion dollars. But many other nations are in just
as much trouble. China has the second highest national
debt, followed by Japan and Germany. The debt that
countries around the world are carrying is staggering, but
before we point fingers and condemn these governments,
we need to look closely at ourselves. Governments are
not the only ones with financial difficulties!

Here are a few amazing facts about personal debt. According to the Federal Reserve's latest numbers (November 2017), the average American household carries \$137,000 in debt. Yet the U.S. Census Bureau shows that the median household income is just \$59,000. It's a simple fact that many of us, even Christians, are living far beyond our means.

Indeed, total credit card debt in America right now is close to \$900 billion—and close to a cool trillion by some calculations. Debt on auto loans, \$1.2 trillion, climbed \$48 billion in one year. Total mortgage debt is \$9 trillion, up \$380 billion from a year ago. And the one that's growing

the fastest, student loan debt, ballooned to \$1.41 trillion, up \$61 billion from a year ago.

Living in Bondage

Why does any of this matter in the last days? Well, for one thing, debt enslaves a person. You may know from experience exactly what I'm talking about.

A story in 2 Kings chapter 4 illustrates this truth. A woman went to Elijah the prophet with a terrible problem. Her husband, one of the sons of the prophets, had taken out a loan but died before he could pay it back. In those days, if you couldn't pay your debts, your creditor could do more than just repossess your property. He could take you and your family members as slaves.

So this poor woman told Elijah, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons

to be his slaves" (2 Kings 4:1). Because of the debt, her children were going to be enslaved.

Debt remains a type of bondage for many today. Not long ago after a church service, I spoke with a lady who suddenly burst into tears and said, "I'm a church member, but have a gambling problem. Nobody knows except my husband. I am so deeply in debt—\$500,000. And I'm afraid that if I die in debt, I'm going to die lost. Will Jesus forgive me?"

Of course, I attempted to comfort her with the knowledge that God does not save us based on how much we still owe the credit card companies when we die. All the same, that kind of debt affected her family's future and made them slaves to her past mistakes. I told her, "You need to get out of debt. And you've got to stop gambling now."

She said, "But they're having a lottery"—I'm serious, she actually said this—"and if I win, I could pay it all off at once." It broke my heart! Her relationship with her husband was in tatters; she had even stolen from him to gamble—and here she was, looking to gamble some more.

I explained, "You have a better chance of being bitten by a shark in Arizona than winning the lottery. You need to stop buying tickets. Don't lose any more money gambling

it away, especially when you could be using it to pay off debt." According to Proverbs 22:7, "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

Of course, some people are in debt through no fault of their own. Look at the story of Job. He was an upright man who was slammed by circumstances outside his control. But do you know how the book

ends? God performed a miracle and Job was twice as prosperous as he was at the beginning of the story. Likewise, you might think you're so far into medical debt, or credit card debt, that you'll never get out. But by the end of the story, you also might be double-blessed like Job.

And whether or not you are at fault, don't forget the "God factor," especially if your circumstances seem hopeless. God is merciful. I told the gambler, "You can be free if you start following the steps of obedience. The first step is to repent of your sin, turn away from it—and then give God permission to work miracles to rescue you from bondage."

The Root of Debt

Of course, nobody *wants* to be under a burden of debt. However, it often starts when you desire things you should not desire.

There's never been a time in history quite like today—where you have so many things you can buy so easily. I look at my computer screen, click my mouse a couple of times, and the next thing I know my doorbell rings to announce the arrival of a package. *That was so easy!* It's so simple, in fact, it actually seems to encourage us to spend. But we tend to forget the part where PayPal or Amazon charges our credit cards. A debt has been incurred.

The Bible is clear that we should avoid accruing debt. Romans 13:8 tells us, "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law." If you try to live in advance of money that you do not now possess, you're going to struggle loving others. Why?

We become enslaved because we don't want to wait for the mansion Jesus says He's preparing for us. We want our mansion *here*. We want it *now*.

The living standard of the poor in America is much higher than most other places in the world. I often see people getting government assistance who have \$500 smartphones and a pricey car. We just figure that these things are necessities along

with food, water, and shelter.

But the simple matter is that we in America are spoiled. Let's admit it!
Get the car "you deserve," we're told, and we are always looking for ways to live outside our means.

We want instant gratification. We want to click and get it; we





want fast food; we want drive-through wealth. Because we want everything right now, we get ourselves into bondage with debt. But we're counseled that in order to have prosperity in the future, we need to experience self-denial today.

In the book *Christian Stewardship*, page 272, we're counseled, "Shun the incurring of debt as you would shun leprosy." In another place, the same writer says, "Owe no man anything and you'll not have so much perplexity. Live within your means. Shun debts as you would a great evil."

To be clear, the author does say there are appropriate times to take out *manageable* debt.

But let's be honest with ourselves: Reckless financial irresponsibility is a sin.

We will all give an account to God for every idle word that we speak. Have you ever considered we may be giving an account for the money we idly spend? "God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

There are more than 500 verses in the Bible that address finances and property. Of the 38 parables that Jesus tells, 16 of them have to do with money and the faithful management of property.

I don't want to be legalistic, but Christians need to think ahead and be conscientious with their blessings. About faithful stewardship, Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" (Luke 16:10–12).

As Christians, we should want to work hard and save as much as we can so that we can give as much as we can. Millions more souls could be reached with the message of the gospel, but there are not enough missionaries and pastors sent to them. Why? Often because the funds of God's people are bound up in debt due to the abundance of things we don't even need. In this way, the devil has hijacked a lot of souls who would otherwise have heard the gospel by now.

Avoiding Debt 101

I want to share with you some basic principles in managing money and avoiding debt. These are not all original with me. Some of the information is from Dave Ramsey, Larry Burkett, and others; I've tried to simplify them here ...

Open a savings account. You might be thinking, "Uh. Pastor Doug, I have no money to save!" You can open an account with \$10. Open it in a different bank too, so you won't be tempted to treat it like a checking account. That bank is only for depositing funds. Why? As soon as you start putting money away, something happens to your psyche. You start realizing *you are now building instead of continually diminishing.*

- 2. Create a budget. Most people go into debt because their out-go is more than their income. Many of us have no idea what we're spending. If you ask someone to make a list of how much he spends in a week, he'll give you a rough estimate. But does that include his daily \$15 lunch? Does that include his stopping at the store and buying trinkets—or going through the drivethrough for that unhealthy \$5 beverage? Study your receipts to figure out where it's all going. Be honest with yourself. Create a budget and a strategy to live within that budget. If you have debts, allocate how much you can pay on those debts to end your slavery sooner rather than later.
- 3. Rethink your grocery basket. Some people walk down the aisle with their shopping cart and simply grab things and throw them in. No list, no thinking. I've seen kids going down the aisle grabbing Fruit Loops and tossing them in the cart, with nothing more than a shoulder shrug from a parent. But some of that stuff is expensive. There are things you can buy that are healthier and more economical.
- 4. Be faithful in your tithes and offerings. Oh no! That's going to blow my budget. No. Have you read the Bible? It says that if you want your money to go further, be faithful to give God what is His. If you want God to bless the remaining 90 percent, be faithful with at least that ten percent. If you're faithful in tithes and offerings, God says He will open the windows of heaven for you. Some of His blessings won't even make sense mathematically!
- 5. Purge the house. There are a lot of mysterious items we've got hidden away in our attics. Some aren't even open, things that others might want and we're not using. Sell them on eBay or Facebook or some other website. Just snap a picture and put it online. You may have treasures in your house you don't even know about. Eliminate the things you can live without. You might have memberships you're not using and magazines you're not reading. You'd be surprised how much you can save just by whittling a few things down.







6. Learn new ways to earn. Proverbs 13:4 tells us, "The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich." There are things you can do to earn more money. There's a commandment I read somewhere—something about six days you shall labor. Not only does it say you should rest the seventh, it also says you should work on the other six. Now, some people are retired or are physically unable, but there are many things you can

(Continued on page 18.)

Leave your legacy at

Amazing Facts INTERNATIONAL

When Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved Him, the disciple affirmed it was so each time. And each time, Jesus called Peter to feed His sheep. When we love Jesus with all our heart, mind, and soul, we will want to answer the call to feed His sheep. If we should go to our rest before the Lord returns, we can't take our possessions with us, but we can exchange them for souls who will be eternally grateful because we chose to give.

Many friends of this ministry have entrusted their accumulated blessings toward furthering evangelism at Amazing Facts. Why not leave your legacy of soul-winning through a ministry that has been boldly proclaiming the everlasting gospel for more than 50 years?

What are some ways I can remember the Lord's work through my estate plan?

Some of the most popular planned gifts through which friends like you have partnered with Amazing Facts include:

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How can I get started?

It's simple! Contact one of our planned giving specialists today and find out how easy it can be to express your love for Christ through the feeding of His sheep. Connect with us today!

800-436-2695

mylegacy@amazingfacts.org mylegacy.amazingfacts.org

Amazing Facts International Attn: Planned Giving P.O. Box 1058, Roseville, CA 95678 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." —Galatians 5:1

He's been told that the truth would set him free, yet he still feels enslaved to the sins that have plagued him for years. He wonders if he's doomed to walk in sin the rest of his life.

But the truth is, he hasn't heard the whole truth. You can change that by sharing God's Word through Amazing Facts. You'll help show him "go and sin no more" isn't just some pie-in-the-sky ideal, but something real and made possible by Jesus' empowering love and promise to transform him completely.

He's tired of hurting others. He's tired of being a poor witness.

When you become a partner, you will help strengthen struggling souls and set them free from the bondage of sin. Not just the guilt, but the shackles too.

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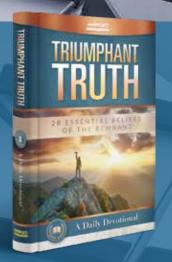
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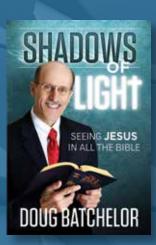
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This engaging, energizing three-part revival with Pastor Doug will inspire the men in your life to become loving fathers and faithful husbands—real men of God. This vital series is loaded with biblical principles that will give men practical tools to live courageously for the Lord. Enjoy watching this series with your sons, in a men's group, or with your whole family!

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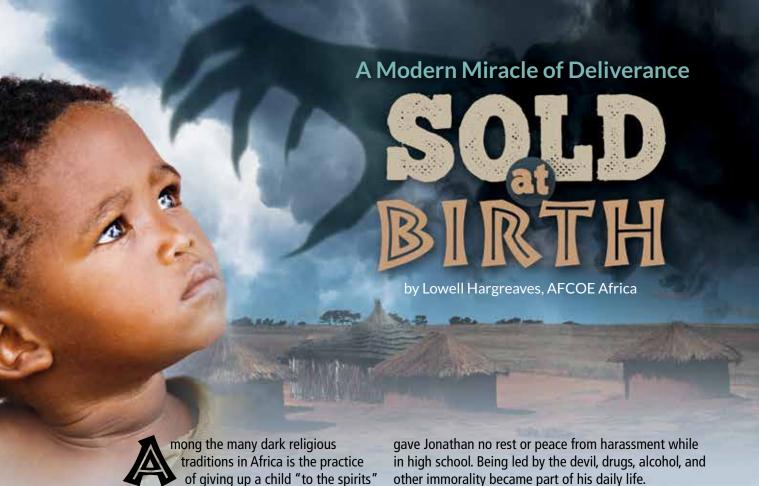
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when he was only three years old. One day, Jonathan's father—who had recently divorced the boy's mom and remarried—took him to

in exchange for worldly desires. Essentially,

a child is sold to the devil so that the parent can

become wealthy. That is what happened to Jonathan

a village for a dark ceremony, during which sacrifices were made to their ancestors. Jonathan was too young to know what was happening to him, but he was quickly possessed by a powerful spirit. He was thrown to the ground and began to scream.

Even after the spirit released him that day, Jonathan still felt its presence in his life. His father explained to him that he now belonged to the spirit. The family would be bestowed with prosperity,

but in return, the spirit demanded that Jonathan did not attend church or visit his mother ever again. Almost overnight, Jonathan's father went from a struggling peasant to wealthy businessman.

A Price to Pay

Growing up, Jonathan enjoyed the most elite schools and had everything he ever wanted. However, the spirit

other immorality became part of his daily life.

Then one day, a friend gave Jonathan his mother's phone number. After a long talk with her, Jonathan felt a happiness that he had never felt before. But it was short lived, as Jonathan's father learned of the call and threatened to kill him if he contacted his mother again, reminding him that their lifestyle was dependent on

obeying the spirit.

However, Jonathan determined to visit his mother in person. It was a joyful reunion, but again, when he returned to his father's house that night, he was thrown out. Jonathan was forced to return to his mother's town-where it just so happened that AFCOE Africa evangelist Michael Wambua would soon begin a one-month Amazing Facts prophecy series.

Finding Freedom

Jonathan attended the first night of the evangelistic meetings, but the evil spirit tormented him. Michael says that he saw the young man lingering as the meeting came to a close and soon approached him asking for special prayer.

As Michael began offering up a prayer, Jonathan fell over and began to scream. At first, Michael thought it was a seizure and began administering first aid. Suddenly,

(Continued on page 20.)

NEWS to NOTE

Ministry with a Personal Touch

Not many people know that Amazing Facts has a dedicated team of staff and volunteers answering tens of thousands of Bible questions from searching hearts every year. In 2018, the correspondence department answered 13,505 Bible questions that came just from emails! Tens of thousands more came by postal mail—many from prisoners desperately seeking the light of hope. It makes such a difference! Melissa in Arkansas writes, "You have no idea how much it meant to me to receive your letter and that you took the time to write me back. I was overwhelmed with joy!" And a prisoner in West Virginia shares, "I cannot thank you enough for taking the time to write me a personal, well thought-out letter. ... This is such a lonely, harsh, depressing place, and I believe I experienced a little Jesus in your ministering to me."

Last year, our correspondence team worked with a prison chaplain at a transfer facility to deliver 100 sets of



Amazing Adventures Bible lessons, 40 copies each of The Great Controversy and The Desire of Ages, as well as devotionals for use in his baptismal classes. In November, he baptized 29 prisoners, each of whom had gone through all the Bible studies. If that weren't exciting enough, he

baptized 36 more souls in December! We are continuing to send literature every month, and the chaplain is now in the process of getting an additional donor to sponsor 300 copies of *The Afterlife Mystery* and *The Day of the Lord* magazines for inmates.

Do you have a Bible question?

Our correspondence team can help you get a solid answer that will deepen your walk with the Lord. You can write us at afbiblequestions@amazingfacts.org or send your question by mail to P.O. Box 1058, Roseville, CA 95678.

Amazing Resources Available at SabbathTruth.com



Would you enjoy a little inspiration to welcome in the Sabbath each week? Have you ever wished for fresh tips on how to make God's day of rest special for you and your family? Look no further! Get all these and more in your inbox every Friday with an email subscription of "The Rest of the Week." This short but

inspiring weekly email will be sent directly to your inbox before the start of each Sabbath. You'll also get timely, interesting links to Sabbath news and features. So don't wait! Sign-up for this free resource today.

PAFCOE

While the Philippines Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (PAFCOE) trains dozens of new students every year to share the gospel, your gifts are helping our team there increase its influence in new ways.

For instance, we've recently debuted the What You Must Know social media video series. These short but solid explanations of Bible truth are intended to reach non-Christians and to capture the attention of millennials with the three angels' messages. We pray that God will use these weekly



clips to spread truth and that His people will share them far and wide. Check them out at our YouTube channel Amazing Facts Philippines or at www.facebook.com/ amazingfactsphofficial today!

PROPHECY SEMINARS

You are invited to meet the members of our dynamic evangelism team at our many seminars and revivals—and please invite a friend!

SPEAKERS



Doug Batchelor



Wyatt Allen



Dakota Day



Carlos Muñoz



Dave Steward

Doug Batchelor

March 26 – 29

National Religious Broadcasters Convention Anaheim, California

March 29 - 31

AFCOE to Go White Memorial Church 401 N. State Street Los Angeles, California Call 323-229-0506 for details.

April 18 - 20

Seychelles Mission Camp Meeting Roche Caiman Sports Center Mahe, Seychelles

April 21 – 27

Hope 2019 Paris, France

August 29 - 31

Asia Pacific ASI Taipei, Taiwan

September 3, 4

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Mission

event. Call today for more details.

or email cathyg@amazingfacts.org.

Wyatt Allen

February 15 - March 16

Church Auditorium 2106 State Road 17 N. Sebring, Florida

September 6 – October 5

Church Auditorium 355 Humphrey Street New Haven, Connecticut

October 25 - November 23

Church Auditorium 13301 Shriners Blvd. Biloxi, Mississippi

Dakota Day

March 22 – April 13

Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni Association 1055 Colony Drive Westerville, Ohio

May 31 – June 22

Church Auditorium 125 Skyhill Drive Clinton, Arkansas

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(Dakota Day continued)

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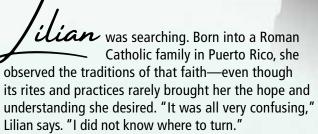
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Seeking | Inswers

Lilian's study of the Bible led her to question the traditions of her church. What happened next?



Despite all her rigorous religious training, the questions and suspicions remained. "All my life," Lilian explains, "I have wanted to follow Christ, but I did not have knowledge. I obeyed the rules of the church but always with much doubt." When she was 25, Lilian visited Avila, Spain, and saw a Catholic saint encased in a glass urn and his finger in a glass container. She was told the other parts of this saint had been divided into relics. "That experience had a negative impact on me," Lilian says, but she didn't know where to go for the truth that could set her free.

"The years passed, and I raised my three children, placing them in a Catholic school. When they graduated, they didn't want to stay in the church." Her two sons joined another faith; her daughter, as it turned out, was also searching for truth.

Deeper Study

While Lilian continued to practice the faith she'd always known, she found time to study with other groups. She even joined a Charismatic prayer group, but she was troubled when members began speaking in tongues, because no interpretation was provided, as the Bible says there should be.

Lilian also took classes on teaching the Bible but was unsettled when she heard the Bible described as nothing more than "a literary genre" and was taught that the first five books of the Old Testament were untrue. She was also concerned when told that some of the words attributed to Jesus in the Gospels were not actually His.

While teaching workshops on prayer, she remained uneasy. "I no longer believed in the intercession of saints; I did not pray the rosary or bow to images," she says. Yet talking with a priest, Lilian was told these traditions were what made the church special.

Doubts Swept Away

When Amazing Facts evangelist Carlos Muñoz traveled to Puerto Rico to present the everlasting gospel during a Revelation series, Lilian's daughter—who was already preparing to join the church—invited her to attend.

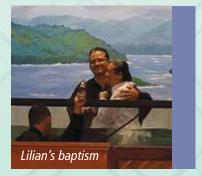
"Hearing about the credibility of the Bible at the meetings swept away my doubts," Lilian says. "When Carlos quoted Jesus in Matthew 15:3 asking, 'Why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?' I remembered the priest's answer to my question about his church being based on tradition."

Through the presentations, everything changed for her. She says, "I saw clearly the path that Jesus left us in the Bible and the error I had been in for so many years. Now I know the coming of Christ is near, and I know I have to share this message with others who are also in confusion as I was."

Ever since the meetings, the changes in her life have been profound. "I was baptized and became a new creature," Lilian says. "I keep the Sabbath because God is my Creator. I changed my diet. I have new friendships. Peace is with me. I thank God every day for clearing up my doubts and for

showing me the way."

Lilian says that
it was Amazing Facts
and the people who
support this ministry
who are responsible for
her new outlook. "The
Amazing Facts programs
were a real answer to
my prayers about my
doubts regarding the



Bible, the commandments, life, death, baptism, the coming of Christ, heaven, and the importance of observing the Sabbath," she says. "I am very thankful for all those who are part of this evangelism ministry."

Thank you for making our resources and evangelists available around the world so that many more souls will hear the last-day message and come to Jesus Christ!

(Continued from page 9.)

do to earn some extra income. However, beware of get-rich-quick schemes, such as multilevel marketing scams that make big promises but can lead you deeper into debt.

The Greatest Mathematician

Whatever happened to that woman who came to Elijah with insurmountable debt—the woman whose sons were about to be taken as slaves? Elijah asked her, "What do you have?"

She replied, "All we have left is a little jar of oil on the mantle."

Elijah counseled, "Consecrate to God whatever you have left and watch what happens."

Following his instructions, the woman filled her house with borrowed vessels and poured out the oil until every vessel was filled. God worked a miracle because she obeyed what might have seemed ridiculous to unbelievers. She sold the oil, paid the debt, and there was even

a surplus that sustained her and her sons.

When we bring our financial burdens to Jesus and say, "Lord, I am determined to obey you.

I don't have much, but I'm going to consecrate myself and all I have to You,"

we give God permission to activate heavenly agencies that can help turn things around.

Even when we can't see any way through our financial problems, God has a thousand ways to answer our prayers. Believe and be obedient!

Canceled Debt

While I've kept everything so far in the context of money, freedom from debt encompasses more than that. Money is not the biggest problem in your life. We have a debt that is deadly: "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Have you ever tried to add up all your sins? How much would that cost, even if you had to pay just 50 cents per sin? Friend, we'd all be bankrupt. It's a huge debt, but God is willing to forgive us that debt because Jesus paid for it with His blood. "You, being dead in your trespasses ... He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses. ... And He has taken it out of the way, having

nailed it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13, 14).

Christ canceled your debt through His death. Think about the cross, about what Jesus did for you, and about how much He suffered because He loves you. He's offering you a way to be free from the debt of sin. Why would you not want to accept something like that? You can't say, "Lord, I'll pay the debt myself."

Why? You can't afford it. But He's offering it, so what will you do? "What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?" David asks in Psalm 116:12. The next verse shares his response: "I will take up the cup of salvation." You simply take it up—grasp it tightly—and thank Him for it. And then you walk in newness of life out of gratitude for Him.

God longs to help us find relief, both from material debt and the debt of sin. If we put our trust in Him, He will help us to not only find a way out of our material debt, but also find freedom from the greatest debt we owe—the debt of sin. What Jesus offers us today is the fullest possible deliverance from debt, one that will bring tremendous relief and joy that will last for all eternity. Don't waste that spiritual freedom by falling into material debt.



TELEVISION AND RADIO

Broadcast Schedule

AMAZING FACTS WITH DOUG BATCHELOR

Daystar Network Wednesday, 6:00 PM ET

Hope Channel Sunday, 10:00 AM, 7:00 PM; Thursday, 6:00 AM;

Friday, 12:30 PM PT

Inspiration Network Sunday, 9:00 AM ET

Lifetime Network Sunday, 8:00 AM (All Time Zones)

Safe TV Monday, 9:30 AM; Wednesday, 9:00 AM CT

TBN Thursday, 10:00 PM PT

The Word Network Sunday, 1:00 PM ET

3ABN Tuesday, 10:00 PM; Wednesday, 9:00 PM;

Thursday, 1:30 PM CT

SABBATH SCHOOL STUDY HOUR

Hope Channel Thursday, 1:00 PM; Friday, 6:00 AM PT Safe TV Friday, 9:00 PM; Saturday, 7:00 AM CT

3ABN Thursday, 7:00 PM; Friday, 5:00 AM; Saturday, 12:00 PM CT

















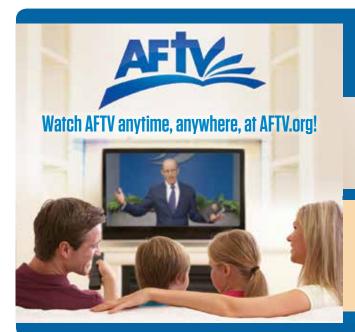




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(Continued from page 14.)

Jonathan stopped convulsing, got up, thanked him for the prayer, and left. It was then that Michael realized it might not be epilepsy, but that he witnessed an actual demonstration of demonic power.

The next morning, Michael was happy to see Jonathan in attendance again, but he also noticed that the young man became more and more distressed as the presentation continued. And once again, Jonathan was flung to the floor.

Michael stopped preaching and began to pray for God to intervene, to deliver this young man from the power of the devil. Many others rushed to Jonathan's side to pray for him; it was a scene of chaos as the demon cried out in anger. Then, almost as quickly as it had started, the incident ended. Church members helped Jonathan get up, and Michael returned to his sermon.

Jonathan became a regular attendee despite experiencing nightmares and threats from the spirit. After a month of the Amazing Facts series, he even decided to get baptized.

The day of the baptism was a beautiful Sabbath; the sun shone brightly on the Nile where the candidates had gathered. Everything was going smoothly as many were immersed in the cool waters, signifying their death to this world and rebirth into God's kingdom.

When Jonathan's turn came, however, he felt the evil spirit become angry. As the pastor pronounced the vow and then lowered Jonathan into the water, instantly a vice-like grip from beneath seized Jonathan. Despite his utmost strength, the pastor could not lift him back up out of the river.

The candidates and spectators watched in horror as the pastor struggled to lift Jonathan from the water. A demon was holding him down, determined to drown him. Michael and others on the river bank

dropped to their knees, pleading with God to deliver Jonathan.

Jonathan and staff

member Stuart

And the Lord surely answered their prayers, as the pastor was finally able to raise Jonathan from the water. Deacons then helped Jonathan to the river bank, and there Michael and others



continued to pray for him. The demon spoke, saying, "We will not come out of this man. He has made a covenant with us." As the group continued praying, they noticed Jonathan's neck was swelling, which began to choke out

air to his lungs. True to its vow, the demon was determined to kill him.

But as the church members kept praying fervently, suddenly Jonathan became calm. Was he dead? As they watched, a smile of peace spread over his face. The demon was gone. Jonathan had been delivered!

Since that day, Jonathan has been a free man, active in the cause of Christ and in his local church! Praise the Lord!

Thank you for your support of Amazing Facts
Africa! Through your prayers, the gospel message of
deliverance in Christ has set Jonathan and multitudes of
others free from the oppression of sin.



Does 1 Corinthians 10:27 teach that Christians should eat anything and everything set before them?

Let's first take a quick look at the Bible verse in question: "If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake" (1 Corinthians 10:27).

When Christians are offered hospitality by non-Christians, it is the spirit of Christ to accept such invitations whenever possible. Jesus regularly ate with those who were not His followers. "A certain Pharisee asked [Jesus] to dine with him. So He went in and sat down to eat" (Luke 11:37). Christianity doesn't require believers to become loners and withdraw from all social contact with others. (See Romans 12:13; Titus 1:8; Hebrews 13:2.)

Many valuable witnessing opportunities are lost when believers are reluctant to enjoy the hospitality offered by unbelievers. Such occasions can be used by Christians to direct their attention to God and the plan of salvation.

But what did the apostle Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 10:27 when he said to "eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake"? This passage needs to be understood in the context of Paul's topic, which is meat that had been offered to idols. Paul is suggesting that invited guests should lay aside this issue and graciously accept food provided by their hosts and to refrain from asking whether the food being served had been offered to an idol. He also said, "Concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing" (1 Corinthians 8:4).

This does not mean that one should ignore the fitness of food from the standpoint of health, for Paul says, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God,

and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

Some have suggested that when Jesus sent the apostles out preaching, He gave them instruction that they were to "remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give" (Luke 10:7), meaning they could eat anything under the sun. However, if Jesus sent the Jewish apostles preaching among "the lost sheep of the house of Israel," their hosts obviously knew the difference between clean and unclean food. (Leviticus chapter 11 outlines specific types of clean and unclean meats.)

However, Jesus' and Paul's instructions were not meant to remove the Bible's guidelines regarding unclean foods. The basic principle being taught is to "give no offense"

(1 Corinthians 10:32); in other words, be a witness for Christ to unbelievers, removing all possible stumbling blocks "that they may be saved" (v. 33).

As a vegetarian who follows the Bible's health counsel, what do I do when invited into a home by a

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Doug give biblical, straightforward
answers to difficult Bible questions.
To get times and stations in your area,
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www.amazingfacts.org.

family who doesn't practice my same diet? I simply let my hosts know in advance that I would love to eat with them, and, while I don't want to be any trouble for them, I'm a vegetarian. I have found in this day and age, letting people know you have some dietary restrictions is not a barrier to enjoying a pleasant meal together. Even better, because people are often curious, it often opens up conversation allowing me to share my faith in an non-judgmental, winsome way.



ere's an amazing fact: Nearly one in ten people in America has diabetes—and one out of four is over age 65. That means you probably know someone who is suffering from this debilitating and potentially lifethreatening chronic disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "People with diabetes are at increased risk of serious health complications including premature death, vision loss, heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, and amputation

of toes, feet, or legs."

Sounds like something we'd all like to avoid!

If you don't have diabetes, or think you don't, you should be aware that "more than a third of U.S. adults have prediabetes [a condition that many times leads to diabetes within five years], and the majority don't

Walter Control of the Control of the

know it."² It's estimated that over 85 percent of those with prediabetes are unaware of their precarious situation. If that doesn't startle you, the CDC reports that well over

100,000,000 American adults have either diabetes or prediabetes.³ It's clearly an epidemic.



While the statistics may sound grim, there is good news: Out of those who have the disease, 90 to 95 percent have Type 2 diabetes—a variety that

can be controlled and even *reversed* in many cases, often with simple lifestyle changes. With the right strategies, it's usually possible to reverse prediabetes. This means the vast

majority of people can defeat these challenges by making intelligent choices.

If you currently have prediabetes or Type 2 diabetes, here are a few things you can do to set yourself back on the road to wellness:

- 1. Eat a whole-foods, plant-based diet. This was humanity's original diet, as seen in Genesis 1. Of course, a plant-based diet can be unhealthy. French fries and corn chips are plant-based, but they won't do your body much good. Instead, focus on eating a colorful variety of plant-based "whole foods"—vegetables, fruits, nuts, and grains—as close as possible to the way they are when harvested. Minimize or even eliminate processed foods and foods with added sugars or fat.
- Exercise. If you're unaccustomed to exertion, get your doctor's approval first. Most people are up to walking, however, and it's one of the very best forms of exercise with abundant benefits for mind and body.
- 3. Maintain a proper weight. Researchers aren't sure why excess weight contributes to diabetes, but it does. If you follow steps 1 and 2 above, you will almost certainly gravitate toward an appropriate weight over time.

If you currently have diabetes, it's important to continue taking your medication as prescribed and let your doctor make adjustments to your medication as you progress in conquering the disease.

Finally, an important key to regaining your health is to ask God for help. After all, He made you, loves you, and wants you to "prosper in all things and be in health" (3 John 1:2). He can give you the wisdom and strength to make changes to your lifestyle that will boost your well-being and lead to greater happiness and a more abundant life. He can help you outsmart diabetes!

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/p0718-diabetes-report.html

² ibid.

³ https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/data/statistics/national-diabetes-statistics-report.pdf

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In Memory of

Vergil Roger Ahlberg by Virginia Ahlberg, his mother **Vernon Roger Ahlberg** by Virginia Ahlberg, his wife **George Akers** by Imogene Akers, his wife **Hurbert and Albaletta Amon** by Mr. and Mrs. Ezell

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