

#### INSIDE REPORT

JAN/FEB/MAR 2013

## Pand the and the

The

**Pictures of Paradise** 

#### THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## HEAVEN Can't WAIT

#### BY PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR

A long with such founding heroes as Joe Crews and Bill May, Cyril Miller was an instrumental partner in the formation of Amazing Facts.

Without him, it's likely that Amazing Facts would not exist today. He was truly a remarkable man of vision. It was Cyril who, in 1966, dreamed up the unique idea of a

religious radio program that would catch people's attention with an amazing fact and then lead them into a biblical truth that could transform their lives.

We're still doing it 47 years later on *Bible Answers Live*, and it's still as popular as ever!

And ironically, 30 years ago, it was Cyril who invited me to become a pastor. He also

encouraged me during some of my toughest times. I walked into his office one day as a downcast young pastor and said resolutely, "I can't do this anymore. I quit." He kindly but boldly answered, in essence, "If God called you, quitting is not an option!" This was a lesson that saved my ministry more than once.

In those first days, Cyril never dreamed that I would someday be the president of

CYRIL MILLER 1928 - 2012

Amazing Facts. I owe much to this man. Sadly, he died this past October—and it's only proper that I should honor his life in this small way for all the Lord has done in my life through his faithful service.

That's why I so much look forward to that great day of the Lord when we will see all our redeemed friends and family.

> In fact, that's what this issue of *Inside Report* is about—the promise of paradise restored. Not only do I hope to see Joe, Bill, and Cyril again, I hope also to see my son Micah, my brother Falcon, and many others. In fact, if you've lost someone that you long to see again in heaven, this magazine is for you ... and for anyone else

who needs a little hope and encouragement in these dark last days.

"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." —Revelation 21:4 NKJV

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testimonies@amazingfacts.org

#### You're Making a Difference

"I recently came back to the church; in fact, when you came to Angwin, that was my first step back after many years. Being raised Catholic, I only knew what I had been taught as a child. My life was spinning out of control. ... Without God, I would be lost. Without you, Amazing Facts, and your

> awesome free offers, well, I don't want to think about where I would be. All I know is that this has all been a blessing. Your book The Richest Caveman was great. I gave it to a fellow student, and she loved it as well. Thank you so much for BibleUniversity.com too." Debbie, California

#### Inside Report: Confusion in the Cemetery

"Thank you so much for clarifying this topic for me. I have been terrified of death for as long as I can remember. I have recently been awakened from the clutches of the devil and have been overjoyed by God's edification. Every day I have a question, and every day I find answers in the Bible. Your article was wonderful. ... I feel at peace with death now. Again, thank you!" Anastasia, web comment



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

#### Worldwide Bible School

"I thank God for Amazing Facts. Through your online Bible School, my spiritual life has been enriched. I have been brought closer to God's indescribable gift-that He loved us before the foundation of the world. I feel humbled and graciously blessed. I want to be a pastor to lead others to Him. Please remember me in your prayers." Momanyi, Kenya

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#### Ultimate Purpose Meets the Need

"Your ministry is reaching so many in so many walks of life.



I also believe reaching college-age people is very important. I grew up in a home with Christian values but was not personally grounded in God's Word. I listened and hung on to every word from my history professor. He was an atheist and, by year's end, I was agnostic and on my way to total loss of faith. My journey back to Jesus was long and painful. Thank you for all you do." *Kareis, email* 

#### More Confident with Amazing Facts!

"I praise God for the way you proclaim His last-day message. I am more confident now than I have ever been of the truths the Lord has given to His last-day church. I pray that God will give you His strength to continue the great work set before you." *Paul, Delaware* 

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

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

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## The LION and the AMM

#### **Pictures of Paradise**

by Doug Batchelor

An Amazing Fact: In the late 1950s, the Westbeau family adopted a lion cub named Little Tyke after it had been attacked by its mother at a city zoo. The family nursed Little Tyke back to health with milk, and she began to gain strength. But when they tried to feed her what lions normally eat, raw meat, they couldn't get her to take a bite. Amazingly, the little lion wanted only vegetables, grains, eggs, and milk. Of course, people said Little Tyke could not live long unless she ate meat. So they put a little blood in her milk, but she wouldn't drink it. She was actually totally revolted by meat. Still, this very peaceful lion ended up living a full

life, growing to full stature, without ever eating animal flesh. A vegetarian lion. Can you imagine that? It would be almost absurd to think something like this could ever happen, but the Bible boldly promises in the new earth this will be the norm: "The lion shall eat straw like the [ox]" (Isaiah 65:25).

I believe God's Word that lions will be vegetarian in paradise, but I also believe that this Bible truth says so much more to us about the nature of the coming eternal kingdom. And in this age of constant disaster and unending death, I think it's good for us to pause a moment to reflect on God's ultimate promise for His people—the heaven to come—for a little encouragement and rest from the dark and sinful world we live in today.

#### The Old Versus the New

In Isaiah 65:17, God promises, "For, behold, I create a new heavens and a new earth." Let's first look at some of the physical attributes of paradise. Revelation says, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea" (21:1).

Right away, John the Revelator wants us to know that there are no more huge seas in paradise as there are today. That doesn't mean there'll be no more water—we know there's a river of water—it means only that there's no more briny, undrinkable salt water that stings your eyes. There'll be beautiful



bodies of water, I'm sure, but they will not be the vast oceans that separate loved ones now. I believe it's going to be watered by lakes and ponds that are irrigated by the river of God—it's going to look like a park everywhere!

As I've already mentioned, all the animals will be tame. "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the [ox]: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isaiah 65:25). The Lord promises the animals will neither hurt nor destroy; none will prey upon others. In fact, one reason why I'm such a proponent of vegetarianism is not only because the science supports it as the best health plan for the human body, but I think it's also a good idea for us to get used to the menu of heaven now!

Of course, I'd be remiss not to mention the splendor of New Jerusalem, God's new

headquarters right here on earth. It is described in Revelation 21 and 22. It's beautiful beyond our imaginations. It has walls made of solid jasper with 12 foundations, each made from a different type of precious stone, such as sapphire and emerald. These gemstones will appear, I imagine, like a beautiful rainbow.

The streets of the city are made of gold on which children will play (Zechariah 8:5). I like how John describes this: "And the street of the city was pure gold, [like] transparent glass" (Revelation 21:21). He must have been searching for the right words to describe what he saw. Gold can be graded by different levels of purity. Evidently, what John saw was the purest form of gold, which looks virtually transparent when burnished.

When I hear the word "city," it doesn't conjure up the very best images for me. I was born in Los Angeles, grew up in New York, and lived in Burbank and London. I actually loathe cities! But God's city, the New Jerusalem, is very different. This is the great city the redeemed will return in after the millennium. It is a city unlike our cities today. You won't have to lock your doors or worry about violence or pollution of any kind.

Some do wonder if there will be enough room in God's city for them, perhaps crowded with so many redeemed through the ages that it will be quite a squeeze. But this city is huge! It's as big as the state of Oregon, with about 375 miles on each side. There will be plenty of room for everyone.

Of course, there will be no more curse. Thorns and thistles first appeared because of sin. Symbolized by the crown of thorns on Jesus' head, the curse that God struck the earth with, as told in Genesis, will be gone forever.

#### **Promises of Heaven**

When you think about all the wonderful things on the new earth, what really gets you excited? Before He went to the cross, Jesus comforted His disciples with this promise: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have



told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1–3).

I am thrilled with the promise that God is preparing a place for each of us. It reminds me of the first place the Lord prepared for mankind—the garden of Eden. This beautiful home was planted by God Himself for Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:8). I believe God will restore things as He meant them to be before the fall of man. This special garden will be like the Central Park of New Jerusalem, for all of us to enjoy in a new sinless world.

It's just a matter of time before this promise comes true, and we should all be looking forward to this wonderful pledge from God. Sadly, many picture heaven as a wispy place where ethereal spirits sit around on clouds, wearing halos, and strumming golden harps. But this is not the picture Scripture promises, not to mention it's rather boring. It's worth our effort to study what God says heaven will actually be like for those who will populate this new home.

There are other special promises we can look forward to in heaven. Let me share with you three special assurances God has given you about your future home.

#### You'll Be Physically Whole

Are you sick? Do you have an injury that never seems to heal? Is there a loved one in your life battling cancer—or who has



already lost the battle against some other terrible disease?

The Bible says that someday "they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall ... not faint" (Isaiah 40:31). I look forward to a time when we'll have eternal energy! More than that, John says, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;

Continued on page 40.

At 105 years old, Sadie Jauch is an inspiring supporter of Amazing Facts.

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When was the average life expectancy in the United States only 47 years old? When did only 8 percent of homes have a telephone ... and only 14 percent have a bathtub? And when did most women wash their hair only once a month, often using Borax or egg yolks for shampoo? The year was 1907, when Teddy Roosevelt was president and the going wage was 22 cents an hour. There were just 8,000 cars in America and only 144 miles of paved road.

It was also the year that one of Amazing Facts' long-time supporters came into the world.

Sadie Jauch of Lodi, California, was born on March 15, 1907, in South Dakota. When she was 12 years old and the great Influenza Pandemic of 1919 was "wiping out people like flies," as she puts it, her younger brother fell ill. The family doctor encouraged her family to move to a warmer climate, so they took the train west to California, where she lives to this day. Sadie will celebrate her 106th birthday on March 15, 2013.

#### The Start of a Wonderful Friendship

Mrs. Jauch first learned of Amazing Facts about 38 years ago (1974) when a friend invited her to listen to the Joe Crews radio program. Since that time she has grown to appreciate

Continued on page 22.

#### "He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6

Amazing Facts is able to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ only through the generous donations from supporters like Sadie and you. Whether through a one-time gift or a regular monthly contribution, every donation makes a difference, enabling the three angels' messages to go throughout the whole world through television and radio, publishing, the Internet, and more.

But there are many other ways you can give to Amazing Facts some that can benefit you in the long and short term! For example,

- Some of our supporters have made a bequest through a will or trust.
- Others have given through a charitable gift annuity by transferring cash or appreciated property to Amazing Facts in exchange for a fixed income for the rest of their lives.

If you are interested in learning about different options for supporting the ministry of Amazing Facts, please contact our planned giving department at 800-436-2695 or find information on the web at amazingfacts.giftlegacy.com.

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# BIBLE ANSWERS





#### **Bible Answers**

#### Some say that in heaven, we'll wear "robes of light." Is this biblical?

A The Bible does talk about angels who appear to be clothed with light, but you won't find the words "robes of light" in Scripture. To answer this question, I think the best thing for us to do is to go back to Eden to get a glimpse of what it might be like for you and me in heaven.

A frequent misconception about Adam and Eve is that they were streaking around their garden home naked like newborn babies. But in reality, the two had garments of light that clothed them, an aura of light if you will, because they were righteous and they dwelled in the presence of God.

When Moses spent 40 days and nights on the mountain talking to the Lord, he came down literally glowing. In fact, the Bible says he was shining so brilliantly that the people said, "Veil your face. We can't even look on you" (Exodus 39:29–35). Likewise, when Jesus was glorified, "His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them" (Mark 9:3 NKJV). Those who dwell in the presence of the holy God, those who are righteous, are surrounded by an aura of light. Revelation 7:9 calls them "white robes."

Jesus said to His church, "You are the light of the world." I don't believe the Lord is going to have cotton or linen robes in the kingdom. When Adam and Eve sinned, this light went out and they were suddenly aware of their nakedness. They had no artificial clothing in the garden; that's why it says they were naked. But after eating the forbidden fruit, they suddenly realized something obvious was missing.

In the kingdom, when it talks about the saints who have these robes, I believe these are living "robes of light." It's based on what angels wear. I don't think they have weaving looms in heaven.

#### Will there be marriage in heaven?

A Regarding marriage in heaven, there is really only one reference on this subject in the Bible, repeated three times, so we are open to much speculation.

Matthew 22:23–33, Mark 12:18–27, and Luke 20:27–40 each give basically the same event and response by Jesus: In heaven there is no marriage. First, we must be careful not to assume this passage means that God will hand divorce papers to the redeemed who have harmonious marriages as they first enter the pearly gates. But most important, knowing who God is, that He is the very essence of love, whatever type of relationships we have now will be even more intimate and fulfilling than anything we have experienced here on a sinful earth.

In the beginning God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and fill the earth (Genesis 1:28). The new earth might have no need for procreation because it will be populated by the redeemed.

I certainly know there is much I don't know about heaven, but the Bible says it's better than we can even imagine. For the full explanation, however, we will have to wait and experience it for ourselves. For now, I can only promise that everybody will be completely fulfilled and satisfied there.

#### Are there multiple levels of heaven?

A There are three different areas Bible writers mean when using the word "heaven." The first heaven consists of the earth's atmosphere, where the clouds float and birds fly. Remember in Genesis, when God created a heaven between the waters? That's the atmosphere. You'll also remember that in 2 Peter, the apostle writes the "heavens shall dissolve." It's talking about the first heaven, the atmosphere around the earth, and not where God dwells.

The second heaven, then, is where the sun, moon, stars, and galaxies hang suspended. The third heaven is the dwelling place of God. When Paul writes he was caught up to the third heaven in 2 Corinthians 12:2, he's referring to paradise, the very dwelling place of God—such as when we pray, "Our Father who art in heaven."

Some churches teach that God has a segregated heaven. For instance, if you were saved but weren't really a good person, you would go to the first heaven. The really good people, however, go to the third heaven to dwell with Jesus. When a person experiences some kind of ecstasy, he might say he was in "the seventh heaven." But that's not biblically based.

Ultimately, this helps us understand when God says He is going to make a "new heavens and a new earth." He is talking about the planet and its atmosphere.

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

# Witnessing

We're thrilled to feature these inspiring reports from two couples making an impact for Jesus Christ through outreach booths they stock with resources from Amazing Facts and other great ministries. If you have witnessing stories featuring Amazing Facts websites, media, or books and DVDs, write editor@amazingfacts.org—we'd love to feature you in our next magazine!

#### A Fair Mission Trip to Topsham, Maine By John and Sheryl Hersom

We would like to share with you how the Holy Spirit was evidenced at the 138<sup>th</sup> Topsham Fair. Rain was predicted on the very weekend we set up our booth, but instead of receiving physical rain, the Lord poured out His latter-day rain!

The crowds were not large compared to previous years, but the Lord showed that when you go forward in His name, He will direct traffic to your booth!

This was our first attempt to bring to Topsham and the surrounding towns the 21st century "leaves of autumn"—DVDs! Jesus said even the rocks would call out if we did not do our job. Did you know DVDs are made of silica, a form of rock? Praise the Lord, the local church responded wonderfully by volunteering their time and energy!

In five days, we gave out more than 5,500 Bible study resources, including *Final Events* and *Cosmic Conflict* DVDs by Amazing Facts. Hundreds of other resources and health pamphlets and books were also given out. Three ministers of other faiths took our materials, as did many people on vacation from as far away as Alaska. One lady came back



"It is all about exalting Jesus, and we thank Him for allowing us to work for Him!" — John and Sheryl Hersom

on Sunday and said she watched the Amazing Facts DVD before bedtime and loved it! This is a seed-sowing ministry, so we appeal to the Holy Spirit to convict those who accepted all the materials to watch and read them. Vitnessing FIELD • Witnessing FIELD • Witnessing F ED • Witnessing FIELD • Witnessing FIE

#### Pet Evangelism in Talkeetna, Alaska By Roger and Dianne Merrill

Thousands of tourists every week pass through the tiny town of Talkeetna, about three hours northeast of Anchorage, to experience a part of Alaska's vast wilderness in the summer. From all around the world, they come to see Mt. McKinley and to explore its glaciers. They kayak and fish these pristine rivers and lakes, take pictures, and eat lots of food!

We have been self-supporting missionary-colporteurs in Alaska for more than 35 years and teach wilderness skills and country living at Sanctuary Ranch, an agricultural-based learning center.

Wanting to reach this multitude of tourists, we set up a table where many pass by on a busy corner in downtown Talkeetna. We displayed an attractive array of free Bibles, health literature, DVDs, and books, then prayed and smiled. While folks would take various materials, it was hard to get them to stop and talk with us.

So the next time we took our exceptionally tame pets: baby Holland Lop rabbits; a petite surrogate mother banty with her adopted chicks; and Ruffles, another banty who loves to model her strikingly beautiful plumage! The tourists flocked to our table, taking pictures and cuddling our pets. Pet therapy had touched and warmed their hearts. This is friendship evangelism at its best! It has been an enormous success ever since! You

and your family could do this at an outdoor market, fair, or wherever people congregate. Many asked us why we were giving *Continued on* 

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### NEW from **Daniel & Revelation** Magazine





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Ivor Myers, and Jonathan Henderson. You'll find deeper purpose to your life and ultimate happiness. AF-DTF \$595

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**Q**95

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the ministry of Pastor Doug Batchelor. "I love to hear Doug preach!" she shares. "I enjoyed reading his life story so much that I bought and shared his book with others. I've also ordered several vegetarian cookbooks and sent them to friends and family members." Sometimes Sadie travels up to Sacramento to hear Pastor Doug preach.

Mrs. Jauch's roots in the church go way back to the 1880s; she once discovered a

picture of her maternal grandparents standing together in front of Battle Creek College in Michigan. Sadie attended Lodi Academy in the 1920s and was baptized when she was about 15. When she became engaged to a fine young Christian man who wasn't a Sabbath-keeper, her pastor discouraged her from

marrying. She broke off the engagement, but Ernie wasn't to be easily swayed. He became interested in Sadie's religious beliefs and was baptized! The day after his baptism, they were married. Ernie never wavered in his newfound faith and served many years as a deacon at their church in Lodi, until he went to his rest in the Lord about 18 years ago.

Energetic About Sharing Jesus Even in her 90s, Sadie continued to feel convicted to share her faith with family and twice, at age 92 and again at 95, she traveled to Europe to visit family and give Bible studies.

Today she lives in a retirement center where she loves to attend a weekly Bible study. Her children and grandchildren enjoy celebrating her birthday every year. And she still listens to Amazing Facts programs

and supports the ministry through a charitable gift annuity.

Sadie is an inspiring example of generosity, continuing to give of her means to help bring more people to Christ before Jesus comes. She shares, "As long as the Lord has a work for me to do, I will be here." Sadie shows by her long and

fruitful life—she still doesn't need a cane that you are never too old to give to the Lord.

Amazing Facts extends our deepest gratitude for the more than two-dozen friends who continue supporting the last-day work past their 100th birthdays—whether through monthly donations or through our planned giving department. But no matter what your age, you're making a tremendous difference in the lives of searching souls all over the world, people of every age whom God is seeking to save.

"As long as the Lord has a work for me to do, I will be here."

### Preparing <sup>a</sup> Path <sup>to</sup> Eternal Salvation!

Steven ran with a crew of gangsters to escape the pain of an empty heart—doing drugs and partying endlessly—and building his own sinful pathway to eternal death. But then one day, a friend convinced him to read Pastor Doug Batchelor's *Richest Caveman*, and soon the path of darkness began to turn around ...

"I read about Pastor Doug's conversion and, to my surprise, I began to cry. God was speaking to me. He was telling me that I needed to have a complete turnaround in my life. I also came across more stories of others who gave their hearts to God as a result of Amazing Facts, and I cried every time. Since I gave my heart to Jesus, He has led me through many experiences to prepare me for my life work, which now includes being the youth pastor for Pastor Doug's church. It's amazing how God brings things around."

With your gifts, you enable Amazing Facts to build pathways of eternal salvation through our many outreach efforts. Not only do we thank you for standing with us to share the three angels' messages, so does Steven!

Now we need to help more people like Steven get on the path to eternal life. Your gift today will help us do that!

donate.amazingfacts.org 877-506-1751

## A LOST SHEEP FOUND

"I nearly died of a drug overdose when I was 23 years old. One night I took a large amount of acid and thought, 'This is it.' Thankfully, it was not the end—because it was during my recovery time that I discovered *Amazing Facts Presents.*"

yan-Kristoffer has always had a deep interest in religious studies. As a child he was fascinated by different world religions, but particularly with Jesus. As he grew older, he was a part of several churches but received his education in Catholic primary and secondary schools.

By the time he was 15 years old, he knew he wanted to be a minister, but he felt confused and even conflicted by the things he was being taught in school. It just didn't match up with the information he was learning during his own personal studies. Soon that confusion led him to abandon organized churches and seek truth on his own about Christ, God, and his place in the world.

#### HEARTBREAK

When Ryan-Kristoffer was 17, his younger brother, afflicted by cerebral palsy, died suddenly due to complications brought on by pneumonia. He says, "I was destroyed. My world suddenly went from a normal teenage world of friends to a very dark and lonely place. However, instead of losing my faith and abandoning the notion of a loving Father, this terrible event drove my search for deeper meaning even harder."

A year later, he joined the army. He looked into officer training and even considered becoming a military chaplain officer. But a back and knee injury during training forced those plans to a screeching halt. Once again he found himself lost and feeling lonely. He couldn't understand what God's plan was for him anymore. Disappointment and confusion drove him to try other avenues drugs, alcohol, and promiscuity.

This lifestyle continued for many years until Ryan-Kristoffer was 23. That's when

he almost died. He shares, "I don't know if it was an unconscious suicide attempt or just the poor thought process of a drug-addled mind, but one night I ingested a large amount of acid. I thought that this was it, and I accepted it. Thankfully this was not the end of me, not quite yet."

#### OPENED EYES

During his recovery from the overdose, Ryan-Kristoffer flipped on the television and discovered Amazing Facts Presents. He says, "At first I watched only because of old interests from my youth. However, as I watched more programs such as Central Study Hour and Everlasting Gospel and started studying along with Pastor Batchelor, my faith slowly regenerated." Soon he was ravenously searching out the Amazing Facts website and studying the Bible more deeply. He especially enjoyed Bible Answers Live. He says, "Since finding Amazing Facts, I've taken part in an online Bible study and have watched every seminar Pastor Doug has ever given. My personal favorite is Most Amazing Prophecies."

He explains, "Concepts that confused me as a young Bible student began to make sense. I felt as if a dark veil that had been over me was starting to be lifted." And the harder he studied, the more he prayed—something he found hard to get back to. Yet the more his attention was on the Word, the less it was on the negative aspects of his life. He doesn't keep all his discoveries to himself either. He owns the *Cosmic Conflict* and *The Final Events* DVDs and has had showings to a few groups of friends.

He shares, "Through trust in God and the words of Christ, I am alcohol free, drug free, tobacco free, and would like to attend the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism. I've also found a church in Toronto. My conversion from being a 'lost sheep' to devotion to Christ has come at a price, but it was worth paying for the peace and joy I now have in my life."

Ryan-Kristoffer asks, "Please give a personal thank you to Pastor Batchelor. I truly believe that if I had not

turned on the TV and found his ministry, I probably would not be here today."

### AMAZING FACTS

#### WITH LAURIE LYON

What special promise about heaven did Jesus give His disciples? Solve the puzzle to find out!



#### BEYOND YOUR WILDEST IMAGINATION

Have you ever wondered what heaven will really be like? The Bible tells us we've never seen, heard, or imagined anything like it (1 Corinthians 2:9). Heaven will be an amazing place, and God's Word gives us many clues to help us understand what it will be like to live there.

The apostle John saw a vision of heaven. In the Bible he describes the multi-color walls of a heavenly city, more beautiful than anything on earth. Inside the giant-pearl gates, he saw streets of pure gold, a crystal-clear river, the tree of life loaded with 12 different kinds of mouth-watering fruit, and the brilliant, awe-inspiring throne of God!

Eventually, God will move His beautiful city to earth and will live with us here.

#### DID YOU KNOW

that you can help bring others to heaven? Start by being kind and helpful to others and telling your friends and family about Jesus and how much He loves us. He wants to see *everyone* in heaven!

## ABOUT HEAVEN!

#### AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

God created us with the ability to create. After Jesus re-creates our planet, we will be able to design and build our own houses, plan beautiful gardens, and grow delicious fruit (Isaiah 65:21).

Just think! We will get to study all of the incredible creatures God has madeanimals, birds, fish, plants, and many other things. We'll travel to other worlds, join in the music, play with animal friends, and learn many new skills.

Of course, our family and friends who trusted in Jesus will be there too. We will have plenty of time to visit with each other, and we'll never have to say goodbye! Best of all, we will get to spend time with the One who loves us the most—Jesus, our Rescuer!

#### IN HEAVEN THERE WILL BE-

NO:

Fighting Sickness Pain Death Sadness Fear

#### YES:

**Happiness Forever** Perfect Health Incredibly Delicious Food Great Music Millions of Fun Things to Do Never-Ending Love

Sounds like a great place to be, doesn't it? Jesus died to buy you a place in heaven, and He will take you there if you accept Him as your King.

The New Earth will be full of animals! Some of them might surprise you. Look up Isaiah 11:6-8, then look at the pictures below. Which animal isn't mentioned in these verses?



#### ANIMAL NEIGHBORS

впэүн (2

Some wild animals are dangerous now, and we can't play with them or pet them. But in heaven everything will be different. Read Isaiah 11:9 to find out why it will be safe to live near a cobra or a leopard in heaven!

Answers: 1)"I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).



#### Amazing Facts EvangelismTeam



Doug Batchelor



Fmanuel Baek



Bartell



Lowell Hargreaves



Martin Kim



Dennis Priebe



Tim

lones

Tyler Long



Dave Steward

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

**Emanuel Baek** February 22 – March 30 **Kiskoros**, Hungary

April 5 – May 11 Hódmezovásárhely, Hungary

May 17 – June 22 Grand Rapids, Michigan Call 916-434-3880 for details

August 31 – October 6 Holland Landing, Ontario, Canada Call 905-814-8262 for details.

October 18 – November 23 Hawthorne, California Call 916-434-3880 for details.

#### **Darrin Bartell**

January 4 – February 2 **Miami Springs Recreational Center** 1401 Westward Drive Miami Springs, Florida

February 15 – March 16 Marrero, Louisiana Call 916-434-3880 for details

April 5 – May 4 Mandeville, Louisiana Call 916-434-3880 for details

**Beginning October 18** Kearney, Nebraska Call 916-434-3880 for details

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

Contact us at 916-209-7220 to schedule an Amazing Facts evangelistic prophecy series or 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 prophecyseminars.com

to get exact times and locations!

#### **Tim Jones**

February 22 – March 30 Church Auditorium 611 Harper Road Kerrville, Texas

April 12 – May 18 New Kensington, Pennsylvania Call 916-434-3880 for details.

#### <u>Martin Kim</u>

March 1 – 30 Church Auditorium 20400 1st Avenue South Des Moines, Washington Call 206-715-8556 for details.

#### **Tyler Long**

January 11 – February 2 Bellingham, Washington Call 360-708-3657 for details.

**February 8 – March 9** McKinleyville, California Call 707-839-3832 for details.

March 14 – April 13 Fort Smith, Arkansas Call 479-646-8567 for details.

April 19, 20 Evangelism Training Weekend Timber Ridge Camp Spencer, Indiana Call 360-708-3657 for details.

April 26 – May 25 Guildford, British Columbia Call 604-575-1597 for details.

September 13 – October 12 Laval, Quebec Call 360-708-3657 for details.

October 25 – November 23 Chestertown, Maryland Call 360-708-3657 for details.

#### **Dave Steward**

March 8 – April 7 Holiday Inn Ballroom 2375 Mayor Magrath Drive South Lethbridge, Alberta

April 19 – May 18 Church Auditorium 1002 21st Avenue Greeley, Colorado

April 19 – May 18 Church Auditorium 328 Walnut Street Windsor, Colorado

Dennis Priebe (Revivalist) Call 916-209-7220 for additional details.

January 15 — Galt Church, California January 18, 19 — Watsonville Spanish Church, California February 1, 2 — Mountain View Japanese Church, California February 25, 26 — AFCOE, Roseville, California

### "I Am the LORD Who HEALS You."

Jill Cobb reports on an exciting new prophecy series in Paris, Texas, with Amazing Facts evangelist Darrin Bartell. To see how your church can grow and reach your community with practical health and Bible presentations, visit www.prophecyseminars.com.

"And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where" (Luke 9:6).

A s a local body of believers in Paris, Texas, we felt convicted by the Holy Spirit to pray about opportunities to reach our community's health needs as well as its spiritual needs. After a season of prayer, the Lord providentially opened the way to conduct an evangelistic Bible series combined with a health seminar.

With the help of Darrin Bartell from Amazing Facts and Dr. Jay Sloop, health ministries director from the Upper Columbia Conference, we launched a four-week outreach effort to touch hearts and heal bodies. However, Darrin explains, "Our series of meetings was something of an experiment. This community has proven itself to be, at least in part, hostile to the truths of the three angels' messages. I was here three years ago conducting a series of meetings. We opened in the civic center and had approximately 90 guests. This time we opened in the same hall and had fewer. This time, it appears other churches scheduled meetings also on Daniel and Revelation to compete with ours."

But what these other churches forgot, Amazing Facts and the local church did not—the outreach methods of Jesus. After the first full week of successful prophecy meetings, a health screening was conducted. Along with a lifestyle questionnaire, the screening tests included height/weight/ body mass index, percent body fat, waist/hip measurement and ratio, hand grip strength, blood pressure and pulse, blood glucose and lipids (total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides, risk ratio), and a timed onemile walk to assess the VO2 max

Dr. Sloop then personally consulted with each participant and offered valuable counsel to several who were affected by diabetes, high blood pressure, and other health issues. To say that this service was life-saving is not an overstatement!

When Christ ministered here on earth, the results were not calculated by the "how many" but in the "how." The divinely ordained combination of the gospel presented with the health message, each strengthening the other, proved powerful for our

Darrin Bartell and Dr. Sloop, a divinely appointed gospel team!

plan of putting together Christ-like work for the body with Christ-like work for the soul. I believe our gospel work should always include both aspects."

Dr. Sloop adds, "When handled from a scriptural background, the health principles that we included in the presentations stand firmly bonded with the spiritual presentations. For example, healing, true personal value, will power, gratitude, positive mental input, time management, and love relationships all reach their full meaning and beauty when explained

> in a spiritual context. Likewise, when coupled with the usual topics of nutrition, exercise, and rest, the typical evangelistic subjects take a lively health emphasis. When wisely planned, health and evangelistic themes fit perfectly together."

Both the attendees and church members received

local series in several ways. First of all, many guests decided to attend primarily to hear the health seminar, but they ended up staying for the evangelistic series as well.

Second, we experienced a remarkable guest retention rate-close to 80 percent! Says Darrin, "One of the most thrilling aspects of this series has been the retention. Though this meeting has been smaller in attendance, people are coming back for more. I have nothing else to attribute this to but that we have tried to follow the divine

tremendous physical benefits from the health presentations, reinforcing our commitment to health and fitness. Even though planning for the series was more in depth and costly, meeting the practical needs of local people and ministering to both the body and soul through Christ's gospel was worth it! The calling for both evangelists and doctors is the same: "to make men whole." If both occupations join the Holy Spirit's team, results are promised. Our job will be completed.



#### Witnessing Field

#### Continued from page 15.

away all these Bibles and books and sharing our pets. We told them how our son Monte died suddenly of a massive heart attack, a horrible shock to us. We got the bunnies and chicks as pet therapy for ourselves. Now we share them one day a week to be a blessing to the tourists passing through. Then we tell the good news of the blessed hope of Jesus' soon return when, if faithful, they too can



enjoy fellowship with their loved ones throughout all eternity. Some then share with us their burdens and we encourage them to write down their names in our guest book so that we can pray for them. Some want us to pray for them right there!

If any passersby seem hesitant or hurried, we take whatever the Holy

Spirit impresses us to grab and press it into their hands, saying, "God bless you; have a wonderful trip. You'll appreciate this—pass it on when finished with it." They seldom refuse.

We also ask questions, such as, "Are you more interested in health or prophecy?" One young lady replied, "Oh! What do you have



on prophecy?" We handed her a *Daniel and Revelation* full-color magazine and told her about an upcoming prophecy seminar in Anchorage.

One sweet family from New York visited and played with our pets for about 40 minutes. The father was a corporate attorney. He had no room in his luggage for our resources, but he gave us his business card so we could mail him a *Great Controversy*!

Another couple from New York were diplomats from Austria. They stayed quite some time while their little one played with the bunnies. They took a health magazine. Many gave donations. One man said he used to keep the Sabbath. He lingered and softly said as he left, "This is very nice."

A local man asked if he could have a Bible and other materials. He said he was new in the area and was lonely. I gave him our phone number, inviting him to call, and we would be glad to pray with him anytime. A few days later he texted us, and we invited him out for lunch and had prayer with him.

Another local young man, homeless, always dressed in black, took a Bible, a *Final Events* DVD by Doug Batchelor, and other resources. The next weekend, he stopped to say, "Those DVDs are really good. I'm sharing them with some of my friends."

A few days later, a lady called me just bubbling over with excitement. "Where can I get the other set of those DVDs? They are fantastic and we are sharing them around." Since then we have kept up a budding friendship as her husband was hospitalized.

Two brothers from Wyoming stopped by just as we had set up. They had been in Alaska on a business trip and were flying home that night. They left a sizable donation. We gave them a *Final Events* DVD. They were so appreciative. Praise God! If we'd gotten there any later, we would have missed them!





One day we were packing up. After ministering to so many people, we were tired and ready to go home. All of a sudden a young lady squeezed in between our van and the nearly empty table, quickly snatching up literature. She said, "May I have these?" Then she was gone as abruptly as she had appeared. We just shook our heads praising God for her soul hunger.

A seemingly affluent young man stopped by with his Spanish girlfriend whom he was visiting from out of state. As they enjoyed our

#### Witnessing Field



"There is something for every one to do. Every soul that believes the truth is to stand in his lot and place, saying 'Here am I; send me' (Isaiah 6:8)." —Ellen White

pets they looked over the literature. When he saw that we had a Spanish *Great Controversy*, his eyes lit up and he asked if he could take it for his girlfriend to read. She seemed so pleased. That was the only Spanish book we had that day. Praise the Lord!

As we see the signs fulfilling all around us of the soon return of our Lord, God is urging each of us to be ready and to encourage others to prepare for eternity.

"Golden opportunities occur almost daily where the silent messengers of truth might be introduced to families and to individuals.... Many are making a great mistake in not putting their talents to use in seeking to save the souls of their fellow men" (Ellen White, *Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 388–392). As we sacrifice unnecessary indulgences and live simply, we each can have the means to invest in a variety of attractive literature to share with all who come within our circle of influence. When others hear of the work we are doing, many will donate funds to help.

Someone once told us that when we get to heaven, Jesus will take us by the hand and introduce us to all the people we have had a hand in helping to be there. That thrills our souls, and we trust it will give you impetus to boldly, consistently, habitually share truth-filled books and literature. You and your family will never be the same once you begin this exciting ministry.

Think of it! This little table ministry is reaching around the world! If you would like to join us this summer in Talkeetna, Alaska, we need tactful, people- and petloving families to help run our evangelism table May 15 through September 30. We also need truth-filled literature and books, some appropriate for Muslims, Hindus, and persons of other faiths, as well as literature in various languages. Any would be appreciated to lead these souls to accept Christ as their Savior. Call Roger or Dianne Merrill at 907-733-1844 or 907-841-1301 to help.

You can do it too! See page 20 for sharing ideas for your booth ... and visit www.afcoe.org to learn how lay-evangelism training can help you reach souls for the kingdom!

# AFCOE

# MPACT YOUR WORLD

Next session begins January 24, 2013 AFCOE.ORG

#### Amazing Facts

## NEWS tonote

#### Philippines Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism

Twenty-three students are currently completing on-the-job training at our AFCOE program in the Philippines. Lowell Hargreaves, director, reports that after completing a five-week training series in Iloilo to plant a new church, these soldiers of Christ are now spread out over 19 different sites throughout the tropical islands



conducting outreach prophecy meetings—with more than a thousand adults attending!

The next PAFCOE training program will be conducted in metro-Manila. Hargreaves shares, "We see God's leading in that place. When we started

PAFCOE, it was our vision to make the school mobile so that different areas of this country could take advantage of the outreach training. God is fulfilling that vision with power!"

He adds, "Thank you to all who support the evangelism work of AFCOE and to those who have sponsored worthy students. Each of the 22 outreach meetings costs about \$1,000. Your support is impacting the Philippines for Christ!"

#### Counting What's Important: Bible School Students

The heartbeat of Amazing Facts is our correspondence Bible School, which keeps pumping life-giving lessons to tens of thousands via mail and online. Here are a few quick stats, through November 2012, on how your giving has brought these Christian lessons to people hungering to know more about the Bible.

- 934 people said "Yes!" to being baptized
- 881 students were excited to learn about the Sabbath
- 805 interests were connected to their local church
- 140,261 Bible study lessons were graded
- And 4,173 precious souls graduated!



Imagine that everyone currently enrolled in our Bible School standing in a line; it would stretch over 10 miles—54,924 students! That is a huge number of souls you are touching by supporting Amazing Facts. Let's keep this heart beating!
# A Short Report on **BIG** Plans for 2013

Here is just a quick sample of some of the exciting plans your giving will help accomplish in 2013:

- Launch AFCOE for Europe in Darmstadt, Germany
- Release *Revelation's Hidden History*, a new DVD documentary, and distribute 200,000 units
- Boost web evangelism by 20 percent in 2013
- Release the new *Bible Prophecy Timeline*, providing a powerful tool for deeper Bible study



- Grow our Arabic website to be an effective online presence in Islamic countries
- Increase the number of online videos to reach the 1.3 billion people in China
- See half-a-million people complete our Bible study program

### Water of Life

Amazing Facts is working with Water for Life ministries to provide clean drinking water and the Water of Life to the people of



Guatemala. Using Christ's method of reaching people, we're laying plans to reach Guatemala for Christ by first ministering to basic needs and then presenting the everlasting gospel and building churches. Will you join Amazing Facts in making an impact in Central America? We need partners like you to bring clean and living water to the dying and the lost!

### What Must I Do to Be Saved?

We're planning a new 13-part gospel program called *What Must I Do to Be Saved*?, based on the acclaimed book *Steps to Christ*. Pastor Doug will host

the new series, to be filmed in our new media studio. Your investment will make it possible to reach hurting souls with the gospel in an intimate, personal setting that will move them deeply.



### International Translation

Amazing Facts is expanding our translation work in order to reach the unreached in nations all over the world. We're taking our best materials and translating them into Russian, Korean, Turkish, Hindi, and more. Your partnership in this project will be a direct fulfillment of Christ's great commission.



You can help support any project on these pages by calling 1-877-506-1751 or visiting donate.amazingfacts.org!

# TV AND RADID BROADCAST SCHEDULE

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

### AMAZING FACTS PRESENTS

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

### JANUARY 13 & 20 MIRACULOUS MEDICINE, PARTS 1 & 2

The Creator of the universe truly cares about how you treat your body. Want to know how to do it right when things go wrong? Pastor Doug gives remarkable information you don't want to miss!

### JANUARY 27 WHO NEEDS THE CHURCH?

Do we really need to go to church? Does not going mean we aren't saved? Pastor Doug makes the biblical case that God wants His family to come together in peace to serve Him and others.

### FEBRUARY 3 FORGIVING FRIENDLY FIRE

Have you been hurt by members of your Christian family? You are not alone. God has plans to help you overcome the pain and once again joyfully fellowship with likeminded believers.

### FEBRUARY 10 DEADLY DISTRACTIONS

If you're like most people, your life is a blur of activity—work, family, friends, even finding time to rest and relax. Pastor Doug offers practical ways to find balance and to ensure God is always first in your life.

### FEBRUARY 17 HOME FROM A FAR COUNTRY

No matter how far you've travelled from the foundations of faith, you've never left the loving hands of the Lord. There is a way back! Don't miss this stirring and inspiring message of hope and grace.

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

### FEBRUARY 24 THE DRAGON'S EGG

It's a mystery of mysteries—how did evil get started in a perfect universe? Discover how the great controversy between good and evil began and get answers that make sense and offer hope.

### MARCH 3 & 10 FINAL EVENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY, PARTS 1 & 2

Pastor Doug leads you step by step through seven end-time events, including signs of the end, Christ's return, the millennium, and more. Features stunning special effects and loaded with Scripture!

### MARCH 17 & 24 COSMIC CONFLICT, PARTS 1 & 2

How did sin come to this earth? Did God create the devil? Pastor Doug gives amazing Bible answers in this documentary special—don't let you, your family, or friends miss this!

# RADIO

### **BIBLE ANSWERS LIVE** — Airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 P.M. Pacific. A live call-in radio program where you can ask Pastor Doug any Bible

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





Watch Bible programming you can trust at www.amazingfacts.tv. Streaming online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on your computer, iPhone, iPad, and more!



You can enjoy Amazing Facts radio and TV broadcasts at www.amazingfacts.org anytime, day or night!

## FREE PODCASTS!

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

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

### Continued from page 9.

and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4). Just think: no more sickness, no more funerals, no more hospitals, no tragedy, or disappointments, or trouble. There'll be no more cemeteries.

In some ways, it seems silly to even speculate about all the amazing things we will enjoy with our new bodies. We can't imagine

> what God has prepared for us. I think He's got special

upgrades in mind for everybody. Some who can't sing now will someday be leading heaven's choirs. Those who have trouble walking now will be the fastest runners. Some who have trouble hearing will be able to hear the faintest of sounds.

The Bible says, "Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the [silent will] sing" (Isaiah 35:6 NKJV). Every saved person will be physically whole in every way. The deaf will hear, the blind will see, the lame will be able to run. I'm pretty sure I will have thick hair like Absalom when I get to heaven. Any of the physical deficits you have in this life will be more than compensated for when you get there.

# You'll Be Mentally Whole

What about our attitudes? Will there be any of the relationship problems that plague this world? John says, "The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars" will not be there (Revelation 21:8 NKJV). He adds, "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles" (v. 27). There will be nothing evil in paradise—no sinister notions or treacherous backstabbing like we have here.

Again, a lot of people have the impression that heaven could eventually become a boring place. Yet the Bible says, "At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11 NKJV). Paul writes regarding heaven, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV). So many people have misconceptions that they'll be transformed into little fat baby cherubs strumming on harps. I don't even know if I would want to go to a place like that.

Instead, "They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat.... My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands" (Isaiah 65:21, 22 NKJV).

We'll also be able to study the entire cosmos; we'll never cease learning. The closer you look through a telescope or a microscope, when you look at what God made, you see





more perfection. And through the eternal ages, we'll be looking at the awesome creative genius of God. Our minds will never be able to stop praising Him for the wonders that He's made.

On a personal level, I'm looking forward to singing in heaven. I'm reluctant to sing sometimes because my voice wavers and I go off key. But in heaven, we'll sing with the angels. We'll have so much to sing about!

We'll also get to visit with our loved ones; we'll have many blessed reunions. You probably have loved ones you long to see again. Even though my grandpa was Jewish, he believed in Jesus. I prayed with him and kissed him goodbye the day before he died, and he said, "Doug, I'll see you in heaven." I'm hoping to see him there with his new glorified body!

People often ask me, "If we have new bodies, how will we recognize anyone?"

I always respond, "Will our power of discernment be less there or more than it is here?" Yes, your grandma will have a glorified body, but you'll still know it's *her*. We'll still have our experiences and memories to share with one another and to unite us in common bonds.

And beyond that, we'll have the angels and patriarchs to talk with. Won't it be awesome to speak with King David and hear what it was really like to stand before Goliath? Did he tremble at all? Or how about asking Abraham what it was like when he

heard God say to sacrifice his son? We're going to have a lot of questions in paradise, and they are going to be answered.

# You'll Be Spiritually Whole

Heaven is going to be bigger and brighter than anything you can imagine. Everybody will have perfect health and vigor; everybody will be good

and loving. There will be no lack of trust. But none of these things are even the best thing that could happen in heaven. One thing will stand out above all others as our greatest privilege—to be with God.

The Bible says, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God" (Revelation 21:3 NKJV). Jesus and the Father will make their homes with us. "But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple" (v. 22). God Himself is the temple, and we will come together to worship Him. We will hear the Word of God from His own lips. Have you ever wished you could have lived back when Jesus lived and hear Him preach, to sit at His feet as Mary did? You will in heaven! In fact, you'll be able to have quality, uninterrupted time with Jesus. It might take a million years



for you to get your turn, but it will happen. That's worth the price of admission alone, don't you think?

The Bible tells us that God will sing. "The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will ... rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17). It'll be something to hear the angels sing. But then they'll all silence their harps and God will sing. Can you

imagine how that will thrill your soul?

How I long to look upon the face of my heavenly Father. Paul tells us this will become a reality someday. "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known" (1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV). We think it is so much better to move from emails to video chatting with our friends. But nothing can compare with seeing God face to face!

## A Flaw in Heaven

There will be one flaw in heaven. You might ask, "How could that be? Heaven will be perfect!" Yes, it will be. But we will have a reminder of sin—the scars in the hands of our Savior. Some in heaven, perhaps those who lived during Old Testament times, might come to Christ and ask, "What happened to your hands?" Jesus will sit down and explain to them the plan of redemption.

Do you want to be assured a place in the eternal kingdom? The Bible says, "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20 NKJV). Jesus is standing at the door of your heart asking to come in right now. You don't need to wait for the second coming of

Christ in order to be with Jesus. You can be with Him right now. Heaven is wherever Jesus is. Even though we will someday go to a special place prepared for us, we can begin enjoying a taste of heaven in the present.

My wife, Karen, and I have traveled to many foreign countries. One of the things we enjoy



is studying the customs of the different places we travel. We like to learn a few words, find out how the people dress, and discover what they enjoy eating so we can be prepared to enjoy the new cultures.

Friend, we are getting ready to travel to another world. I think we should begin to learn about heavenly culture in preparation to be with Jesus and all the angels. Getting ready is being ready. That happens when we look at the scars

> in Jesus' hands and realize that He has paid the price so that we can enjoy eternity with Him. Jesus wants you to be there. He's prepared a very special place for you. Will you accept God's free gift of salvation?

> > Want to know more about heaven? Order our Study Guide, "The Colossal City in Space."

# Special Recognition

Margaret Devoir from Jerry and Elaine Snyder Donald DeVries from Elaine DeVries, his wife Everett Dickerson from Yvonne Dickerson, his wife Aurelia Dimaculangan from Regina Fuller, her daughter Lorenzo Dimaculangan from Regina Fuller, his sister Barry Doles from Joyce Doles, his mother Don Doles from Joyce Doles, his wife Robert Dunn from Audie Dunn, his wife Myron Durham from Anita Lowe, his sister Warren and Edith Durham from Anita Lowe, their daughter

Larry Eckstein from Liz Eckstein

Marvin Fehrenbach from Dr. and Mrs. Eldon Stratton Peggy Fleming from Al and Pat Marion Bob Fogg from David and Audrey Wrate Jerry Freeman from Hazel Freeman, his wife Steve Freeman from Hazel Freeman

Bill Garrison from Ruth Sackett Sharon Garver from Ruth Sackett Frank Giesen from Doris Giesen, his wife Emma Gillard from Wayne and Angela Scott

Vernese Halley from Jeralene Boggess, her mother Christopher Hayden from Cedric and Marilyn Hayden Elmer Heinbaugh from Karen Johnson, his daughter Joan Heinbaugh from Karen Johnson, her daughter Joseph Herzberg from Debra Fechik, his daughter Lawrence Hewitt from Gloria Hewitt, his wife Donna Hopkins from Howard Hopkins, her husband

Michael Ikeda from Jutta Ikeda-Mackay, his mother; from Andrew Ikeda, his brother

Thomas Jaueh from Leta Knipper Irene Jensen from Eleanor Schultz, her sister Rhonda Johnson from Larry and Mary Ellen Collier, her parents

Clayton Johnson from Jerry Johnson, his son

Debbie Kirby from Marty and Debbie Pastor Tom Kopko from Doris Kopko, wife

Bud Langs from David and Audrey Wrate Dr. John Leland from Floreen Leland, his wife Emlee Lester from Anthony Lester, her son

### In Loving Memory of

Douglas Ackermann from June Ackermann, his wife Chloe Acuff from Bill and Donna Keehnel, her cousins Otabea Antwi from Kofi Antwi-Sefa Paul Arct from Geneva Arct

Pastor Ray Bailey from Barbara Wallace Joseph Bates from Claudie English John Becher from Terrie Dawn Becher Orlev Berg from Al and Pat Marion Leslie Bergstrom from Jim and Judy Culpepper Mildred Shannon Bishop from Mary Taft Ed Bleuer from Orville and Ellen Bleuer, his brother and sister-in-law Bill Bloom from David and Audrev Wrate Roe Boone from William Boone, his son Karen Bowes from Jim and Judy Culpepper John and Nellie Brewer from Al Wiggens, their nephew Maj. John Briggs, Ret. from Carol Briggs Willard "Bud" Bristow from Bette Whitfield-Bristow, his wife Art Bryant from Barbara Bryant Ronald Burnett from his mother

Elissainte Cadet from Mireille Jean-Louis, her daughter Robert Chase from Ruth Chase, his wife Cecil Chasten from Donald and Deverne Schlegel Terri Cossin from Hazel Freeman, her mother Joe Crews from Lu Ann Crews, his wife; from Sandra Johnson Ronnie Crews from Lu Ann Crews, his mother Ken Cunningham from Shirley Cunningham, his wife Ida Loftin from Troy Whitaker, her grandson Frank Losey from Dr. and Mrs. Eldon Stratton William Lowe from Anita Lowe, his wife Homer Lynd from Teresa Lynd

Lester Marcussen from Bette Marcussen, his wife William May from Charles and Glenda Williams Lovana McCarthy from David and Audrey Wrate Joyce McCoy from Jerry McCoy, her husband Alphretta McMaster from Jack Watkins

Cyril Miller from Richard and Mary Atwell; from Doug and Karen Batchelor; from Betty Crowder; from Georgia Giberson; from Kenneth Inscoe; from Chester Kalinowski; from Emma Leeks; from Dianne Maharaj; from Tera McDonald; from Hattie Miller; from Christine Nelson; from Linda Pritchett; from Meleta Seher; from Gary Southern; from Segundito and Caroline Tortal; from Florence White; from Roderick Williams; from Therissa Young John Miller from Therissa Young, his wife Bill Mulske from Frances Mulske Bill Murphy from Beulah Keeler, his sister.

Lois O'Dell from Charlie Richards, her son

Clare Pfeiffer from Christine Allison, her mother Thomas and Regina Pope from Robert and Joyce Dubose

Max Qualley from Barbara Qualley, his wife

Ralph Ragle from David and Audrey Wrate Earl and Grace Reuss from Barbara Qualley, their daughter Leon Rich from Vivienne Rich, his wife Stephen Ringstaff from Mildred Fernsel, his mother Max Ritchie from Catherine Ritchie, his wife; from Lu Ann Crews Marie Rojas from June Ackerman Harry and Irma Rushold from Marlin and Udene Allen

Sal Salamone from Peggy Salamone, his wife Carmyn Scharffenberg from Carolyn Stuyvesant Leo Schreven from Sarah Guernsey Gerald Silvestri from John and Anita Silvestri, his parents Arnold Sparks from Ruth Sparks and family Rose Stoia from her loving family Harley and Ada Stotts from Edith Stratton, their daughter Ruth Strargalies from Esther Tomac, her sister Floyd and Edith Stratton from Eldon Stratton, their son Juanita Swensen from David and Audrey Wrate Bill Sykes from Trudi Sykes, his wife

Jacob Teske from Mildred Teske, his wife Chandler Tooke from Doris Giesen, his grandmother Mr. and Mrs. T.E. Tunison from Eleta Sandstorm, their daughter

Dr. Ellwood Voorhees from Lee and Marlyn Sheive

Lela Louise Weaten from Robin Joseph, her daughter J. Drew Whitfield from Bette Whitfield-Bristow, his grandmother Arlene Wiggins from Al Wiggins, her husband Cleo Wightman from Roy Wightman, her husband Dan Wildman from David and Audrey Wrate Earl Victor Williams from Diane Ostrowski, his wife Patrick Williams from Betty Williams Mary Wygant from David and Audrey Wrate

Thomas Yanagihara from Margaret Yanagihara, his wife Amy Youmans from Roy and Celia Dunning Stephen Young from Bonnie Young, his wife T.D. Yu from Michael Yu, his son

Everett Zoerb from his wife

### **Happy Anniversary**

Pastor Doug and Karen Batchelor from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger Mr. and Mrs. Jones from Jolene Jones

### **Happy Birthday**

Ben and Colette Ferris from Robert Stevens Thelma Herzber (90th) from Debra Fechik, her daughter Pam Lascoe from Helen Thompson

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# by Emily Simmons

**The days** have grown shorter; a crisp chill fills the air; the holidays are over; perhaps snow covers your yard. It's officially winter, and something sinister is lurking, unseen and not felt, plotting to attack when your defenses are down.

While flu season is unpredictable, it can begin as early as October. And according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people should consider getting the flu vaccine as soon as it's available.

However, if you'd like to avoid the flu with a more natural approach, the first step is to "eat the rainbow." In other words, to boost your immune system, eat a wide variety of fruits and vegetables to ensure you are getting the most you can of the necessary vitamins and minerals. Unrefined foods, as close to their most natural state as possible, contain high levels of immune-boosting vitamins A, B<sub>6</sub>, C, and E, as well as zinc, iron, copper, and selenium.

In particular, garlic is known for its antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal properties. Two raw garlic cloves a day will provide you with these healthy benefits. (To avoid garlic breath, cut the cloves into swallowing-size pieces and take them like a pill with a glass of water or herbal tea.) Two kinds of mushrooms, shiitake and maitake, have also been found to boost the activity of white blood cells, increasing your chance of fighting off infection. Grill fresh mushrooms, or add slow-dried ones to soups and sauces, stir-fries, casseroles, or rice.



Exercise and proper sleep also play important roles. Exercise not only reduces stress—a factor in up to 90 percent of disease and illness—it also gives your immune system an extra kick. A study performed by Appalachian State University found that those who walked regularly for 12 weeks had half the number of colds and sore throats than those who were less active! Don't overdo it though; more than 90 minutes of exercise a day could make you more susceptible to the flu. Eight hours a night of good, solid sleep gives your body the strength it needs to recharge itself.

Use water too; drink your eight (at least) glasses daily to clean out your system. (Do juice, soda, or coffee leave your dishes clean?) Externally, frequent hand washing greatly increases your odds of avoiding the flu. Additionally, alternating hot and cold water in the shower increases circulation and boosts white blood cell activity. Use hot water for three minutes and cold for 30 to 60 seconds, and repeat three times, always ending with cold. It doesn't have to

be straight cold water; a temperature difference of as little as 20 degrees is enough to affect change within the body. Ending with cold causes your body to work from the inside to warm you up, resulting in an invigorating glow as you towel off.

Finally, as much as possible, avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes to prevent the virus from entering your system.

If you still get sick, follow these precautions from the CDC to keep from spreading germs:

- Use a tissue to cover your mouth or nose when you sneeze, and dispose of it properly.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand gel.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, unless seeking medical attention.
  - While sick, limit contact with people as much as possible to avoid infecting them.

Proper self-care will reward you with a lifetime of good health. Don't let the flu virus get you down this year!





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