

AMAZING FACTS

INSIDE REPORT

JULY/AUG/SEPT 2015



STORIES *of* SALVATION  
*for the* WHOLE FAMILY

# THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

PASTOR DOUG  
BATCHELOR



**A**s an adventurous, rambunctious kid, I once tied a towel around my neck, pretending it was a flowing cape, and jumped off a rooftop. Why? I wanted to be like my hero Superman.

Someone once said, “Be careful the friends you choose for you will become like them.” While I sadly never developed Superman’s power of flight, try as I might, people really do need good heroes. We tend to imitate the people we look up to, and over time, we become more and more like them.

According to the dictionary, a hero is a person distinguished by his or her courage or ability, admired for his or her brave deeds, sacrifice, or noble qualities. Unfortunately, these days, multitudes of people admire the wrong heroes. Whether the idol is a powerful athlete, famous singer, or glamorous actor, more often people are attracted to pop-culture stars whose personal lives are exposed for their violence, cheating, drug abuse, and sexual immorality.

This is nothing new, of course, as the Bible says the crowd chose Barabbas over Jesus. And it seems to me there is a serious shortage of godly role models for God’s people today. Perhaps it’s about time we shut off the TV and open our Bibles to behold the lives of worthy role models who point us heavenward. Don’t you agree?


One reason I feel so strongly about spending time focusing on the heroes of Scripture is because I know that their lives were transformed by looking to God. The great

Bible heroes, in reality, point us to the only one who really deserves our complete adoration, Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul said it perfectly: “Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus” (Hebrews 12:1, 2). A Bible hero is a witness who helps us fix our eyes upon Christ so that our lives will be radically changed.

So I’m very excited to tell you about a new 10-part revival and evangelistic series *Amazing Facts* is broadcasting from Lansing, Michigan, one I believe will help your church, friends, and family rediscover salvation and Christlikeness. *Heroes of Faith: Inspirational Stories of Salvation for the Whole Family* will begin on Friday evening, October 2, and will be a paramount opportunity for you and fellow church members to experience a lifesaving dose of

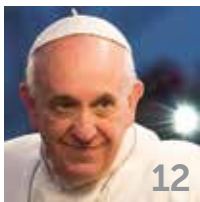
revival, while inviting Christian friends who are unfamiliar with the three angels’ messages to encounter the real Jesus.

Along the way, I’m going to lift up true heroes of faith—Rahab, Elisha, and, of course, Jesus Christ and others—so we have genuine heroes to model in a time they are so hard to find. Though these Bible heroes were imperfect men and women, they became champions of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit. We’ll even introduce you to one of them in this issue of *Inside Report*, which I hope blesses your walk with the Lord. 





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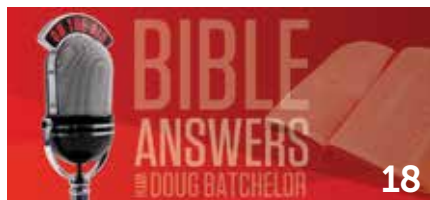
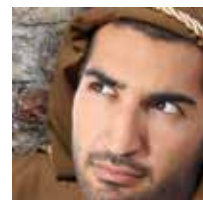
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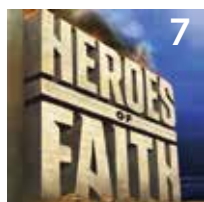
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Want Bible answers in your inbox? Inspiring articles? Latest ministry news? Testimonies showing how your support is making a difference? Or how about exclusive deals on our best products? Then sign up for our email specials and the *Inside Report*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



# Mail Bag

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

## Worldwide Evangelism

"I was so excited when I found your free booklets and biblical teachings that it is now 3:49 in the morning—and I haven't gone to bed yet! I just want to thank you that I can study the Bible to my heart's content more deeply with your help, and also some of what I have read confirms I am on the right track. God bless!"  
Deborah, United Kingdom



"I thank the Lord and you guys who make up this wonderful website for inspiring me to grow spiritually. I was a Christian for many years whose faith didn't progress, but since I found your website, I've noticed significant changes in my faith. I'm spending more time with the Lord and in prayer. I am beginning to hate my old habit and don't want to be its prisoner anymore. Thank you for bringing me closer to God every day." Fritz, United Arab Emirates

## A Young Life Changed

"I am 12 years old, and I want you to know that you changed my life. It all started when my dad was looking through sermons on YouTube and I saw one of Pastor Doug's messages. Ever since I started watching your videos, I have been drifting closer and closer to God. Before I found out about Amazing Facts, I was so obsessed with the worldly lifestyle and I never even read the Bible that was sitting on my desk. I never opened my eyes to see what signs God was putting in front of me. Now that I started reading your online lessons and watching your messages, I gave up all my worldly lifestyles and sat down with my family for worship. I can never thank you enough for all you have done to change people's lives, including mine." Pranuthi



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## Holding Firm

"I want to express a big THANK YOU to the Amazing Facts team for holding firm to biblical truth. I also would like Pastor Batchelor and Pastor Ross to know how much my husband and I appreciate their clear teachings and their courage in standing for the truth as found in the Word of God. Many blessings to you all!" Yumay

## No Coincidence

"I recently found a DVD in my post box here in South Africa about your teaching on the Millennium Man. I just want to let you know that the wisdom you shared could have only come from God. I don't know who put your DVD in my post box, but it was an amazing teaching. I don't believe in coincidence or luck; I know that it was put there for a reason. Thank you!"  
Desiree



## Clarity

"I really appreciate your insight into a lot of biblical related topics, such as your segment on 'blaspheming against the Holy Spirit.' It was not only well thought out, but it also helped me grow in understanding of some confusing passages. Thank you for your continued good work!" Matthew

## It's Never Too Late

"It's taken me 45 years to be baptized. . . . A little over a year ago my husband and I decided we needed to start studying the Bible. I had no idea where to start, so we started watching videos on Amazing Facts. After a few of those videos, I completed the Bible lessons on your site. I learned so much that wasn't just biblical but historical. Things that were taught in history class were being brought up, and it amazed me how intertwined it all was. I have since been baptized as my family stood near me on the stage. I know I still have much to learn, but I know that I am free. Thank you for providing the truth."  
Shandra, Texas

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](mailto:testimonies@amazingfacts.org)!**



AMAZING FACTS PRESENTS



**OCTOBER 2 - 10**

**STORIES *of* SALVATION  
for the WHOLE FAMILY**

**HOSTED BY DOUG BATCHELOR**

# MEET THE HEROES OF HIS-STORY!

## HOW TO JOIN HEROES OF FAITH AND GROW

*Heroes of Faith: Stories of Salvation for the Whole Family* is a brand-new 10-part revival and evangelistic series created by Amazing Facts



to ignite a deeper passion for Jesus Christ in current church members *and* to draw the world to His last-day church. This fresh, innovative event hosted by Pastor Doug will inspire people of all ages to grow in faith by looking closely at the lives of real Bible heroes.

You can be an active participant in *Heroes of Faith* by getting the word out about this series and even hosting the event in your church, home, or office. Here are four easy steps:

- 1. PRAY.** Does your church need revival and reformation? Ask God to impress your heart and others to gather together and watch this series. "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).
- 2. PREPARE.** You can attend this event live if you live in the Lansing, Michigan, area. You can also watch by satellite or on the Internet. You can broadcast the series in your church or open your home and invite friends to watch. Remember, revival doesn't happen in a vacuum. Gather with others and grow together!
- 3. PROMOTE.** Once you decide where to meet and how to watch the series, start advertising *Heroes* to co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family. We've made it easy by providing free promotional materials you can download at [www.theheroesoffaith.com](http://www.theheroesoffaith.com). Be a champion for Christ and invite others to hear Pastor Doug share stories of genuine Bible heroes who faced challenges like us.
- 4. PRESENT.** Open your home or church each evening and livestream the program FREE online or on the air. Provide light refreshments if you choose. Warmly welcome each person, then let Pastor Doug do all the talking! And remember to order the *Heroes of Faith* follow-up workbook so you can continue to meet, study, and grow with others!

## THE DETAILS ...

**WHEN:** Begins October 2, 2015 @ 7:00 PM ET

**WHERE:** Broadcast live from Lansing, Michigan

**WEB:** [www.theheroesoffaith.com](http://www.theheroesoffaith.com)

### WATCH:

- Live TV broadcast on AFTV or 3ABN
- Live webcast on [www.aftv.com](http://www.aftv.com), [www.youtube.com/amazingfacts](http://www.youtube.com/amazingfacts), or [www.facebook.com/amazingfacts](http://www.facebook.com/amazingfacts)
- 7:00 PM ET / 6:00 PM CT / 5:00 PM MT / 4:00 PM PT

### LOCAL EVENT ADVERTISING

Go to [www.theheroesoffaith.com](http://www.theheroesoffaith.com) and download artwork for posters, bulletins, and more. It is all free of charge for those hosting an event at church, home, or business.



### BULLETIN INSERTS

Use these to spread the word about your *Heroes of Faith* event in your local church bulletin.

### HANDBILLS

Use these professionally designed handbills to spread the word in your community. They can be used as part of a mailer, delivered door to door, or passed out by hand.

### POSTERS

Post these eye-catching posters on bulletin boards or in other public areas, with approval.

### E-CARD PERSONAL INVITATIONS

Send a personalized e-card note to your friends and family inviting them to register to attend this life-changing series.

### WEB BANNERS

Post these ready-to-use web ads on your website to drive traffic back to [www.theheroesoffaith.com](http://www.theheroesoffaith.com). We've even included the HTML code to make it easy!

### ADDITIONAL ADVERTISING RESOURCES

30-second TV and radio spots, billboard ads, newspaper and magazine ads, and more!



# RAHAB

## HERO OF FAITH

**An Amazing Fact:** The largest rope made from all-natural materials measured 823 feet long and 7 feet, 2 inches around. Made from rice straw, it was used for a game of tug of war by citizens of Uiryeonggun, South Korea, during the Righteous Army Festival on April 22, 2005. But even weighing an immense 120,000 pounds, it was still not as strong as the cord of genuine faith.

*“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace” (Hebrews 11:30, 31).*

### A Hero of Faith and Works

When addressing the link between faith and works, the apostle James mentions two people: “But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? . . . Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:20, 21, 25, 26).

No one would be surprised to see James’s reference to Abraham, the father of the faithful, but who would think to include Rahab the harlot? Yet in Hebrews 11, where Paul chronicles the heroes of faith, he writes, “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace” (vv. 30, 31).

Two women are called on by name in Hebrews chapter 11—Sarah and the harlot Rahab. Did you know





that Rahab was one of the ancestors of Jesus mentioned in the first chapter of the New Testament? (Matthew 1:5). Furthermore, she was the great-grandmother of King David. Obviously, the story of Rahab deserves our serious consideration!

## No Surprise Ambush

“Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men ... to spy secretly, saying, ‘Go, view the land, especially Jericho’” (Joshua 2:1). Jericho was a crucial city in the conquest of Canaan, and it became the site of a beachhead battle to enter the Promised Land. When Joshua had surveyed Jericho with the 12 spies 38 years earlier, they noticed its massive, menacing walls looming up to heaven, but Joshua was not intimidated.

Jericho was situated near the Jordan, and the Canaanites could plainly see the nearly three million Israelites camped on the plain just across the river. The people in the city likely understood that their new neighbors intended to dispossess them and reclaim the land God had promised to their ancestors. They had heard how God miraculously delivered them from slavery in Egypt and parted the Red Sea for their escape. They had heard the stories of how the Israelites conquered other pagan nations. At night they could see the glowing pillar of fire rising from the camp of Israel. By day they watched

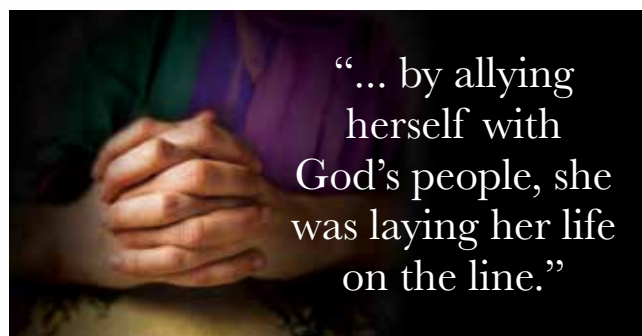
the pillar of cloud hover above the tabernacle, shading the camp from the desert sun while the people gathered the manna that had fallen from heaven the night before.

No wonder the people of Jericho were anxious about Israel’s presence across the river!

## Unwelcome Visitors

Joshua told the spies to go view the land, especially Jericho. “So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there” (Joshua 2:1).

Now, don’t think these spies went on a pleasure-seeking jaunt into the red-light district of Jericho. In these pagan cultures, big houses by the city gates would often serve as the city hotel for traveling caravans. Rahab and her family



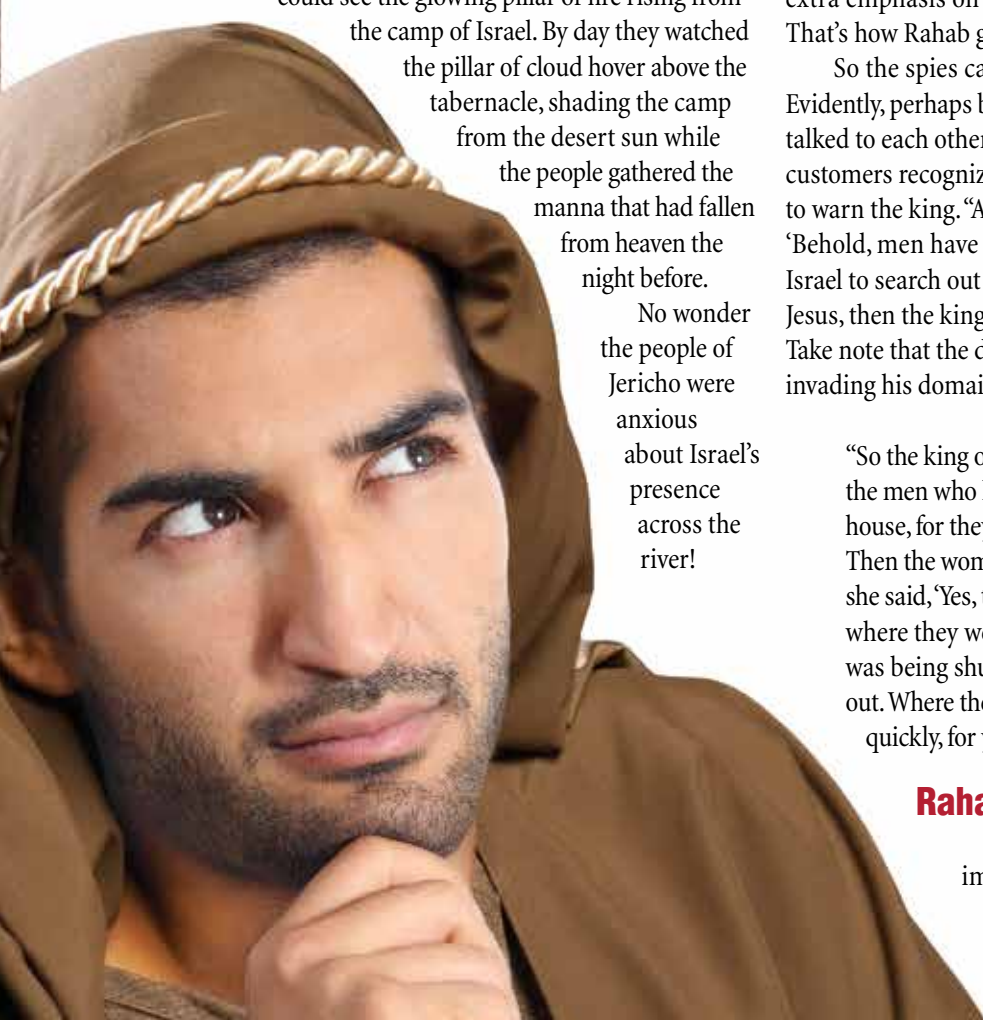
operated one of these inns right on the wall where wayfaring travelers would pass. Often these establishments had a little extra emphasis on the “bed” available for the right price. That’s how Rahab got her title.

So the spies came to Rahab’s inn and lodged there. Evidently, perhaps because they dressed a little differently and talked to each other in low tones with foreign accents, other customers recognized them as Israelites and made a beeline to warn the king. “And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, ‘Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country’” (v. 2). If Joshua is a type of Jesus, then the king of Jericho naturally represents the devil. Take note that the devil knows when God’s messengers are invading his domain.

“So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, ‘Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country.’ Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, ‘Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them’ ” (vv. 3–5).

## Rahab’s Risk

This is one of the acts for which Rahab is immortalized. Rahab lived in Jericho, and by allying herself with God’s people, she



was laying her life on the line. What made her do that? Jericho was situated on a main highway at the crossroads of three continents. People from many different religious backgrounds would stop at her hotel, and she would observe their peculiar customs. Yet none of these other religions had impressed her so deeply as the God of the Israelites.

In her heart, Rahab believed that the religion of Jericho was just as foolish and futile as the others of which she'd heard. All of her life she'd been hearing reports about how this nation of slaves had been saved from Egypt and of the hundreds of miracles they'd experienced. Any God who could do such powerful things—and who loves His people that much—was the God Rahab wanted to serve!

I believe Rahab began praying to the God of Israel to spare her and her family from the certain impending judgment on Jericho. When the two spies came through, she believed it was the providential opportunity for which she had been praying, and she began to demonstrate her faith by action. It's what we are called to do when we accept Christ as our Savior.

When Rahab realized that her king intended to harm the spies, she found a perfect hiding place for them. "But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof" (v. 6).

Flax was a plant of which the finer parts were used for making a soft linen cloth. The coarser parts of the plant were woven together into twine, and the twine was eventually braided together into rope. Like many in her day, Rahab probably had a little family business on the roof of dyeing cloth and cord. She specialized in red, just as Lydia was a seller of purple (Acts 16:14).

When the soldiers went out to search for the spies, the city gates were locked (Joshua 2:7). It didn't seem as if there was any escape for Joshua's spies; the Canaanites were swarming the city and countryside looking for them. These two Israelites had to trust their deliverance to a pagan prostitute. The Lord often uses humble instruments to do great things.

You might wonder how God could bless Rahab—after all, she lied, and lying is always a sin. However, the Bible record is faithful and records even the failings of God's people. (For instance, in 1 Samuel 19:12–17, David's wife Michal told her

father, Saul, that David was sick in bed and, in reality, she had let David out the window to save his life.)

Yes, Rahab was dishonest. She might not have known better at such an early stage in her experience with God. Yet her action came from faith in Him, and the Lord looked on her sincere heart. "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked" (Acts 17:30).

In the Bible, a woman represents a church, and Rahab is a symbol of God's church. Have there been times when God's church has been unfaithful? "When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: 'Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the LORD'" (Hosea 1:2).

Unfortunately, God's church has a record of sometimes playing the harlot. As a baptized Christian, you are symbolically married to Jesus. You make vows when you commit your life to Him. If you turn from Him and deliberately follow the temptations of the devil, you are committing a form of spiritual adultery.

The good news is that God can forgive and change someone like Rahab. She ended up being an ancestor of Jesus. And if God can change the hearts of people like Rahab, He can change ours as well.

## Making a Covenant

After Rahab diverted the soldiers, she returned to the roof to commune with her refugees. After expressing faith in the God of Israel, she said, "I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death" (Joshua 2:12, 13).

Rahab wasn't concerned just with her own salvation, but also with that of her family. This should be a characteristic of God's church. As soon as we say, "Lord, save me," our next prayer should be, "Lord, save my loved ones."

"So the men answered her, 'Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal





kindly and truly with you.’ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. And she said to them, ‘Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way’” (vv. 14–16).

## A Visible Sign

What sign would be given to Rahab to assure her safety?

“So the men said to her: ‘We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household to your own home’” (vv. 17, 18).

What line were they talking about? She had just lowered a red rope out the window, a scarlet cord, with which the men would safely descend from the high window to the ground outside the city. And unless the red rope was hanging from her window when the Israelites came to conquer the city, no one in her house would be saved. The rope by which she delivered the messengers would be the same rope that delivered Rahab and her loved ones. What might this red rope represent?

Read carefully the words of the spies: “So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him” (v. 19).

Like the Passover blood on the Israelites’ doorposts that indicated their trust in God’s mercy, the red rope symbolized Rahab’s covenant with Joshua through his messengers. This is the story of salvation! It is through faith that we cling to the red “rope” of Christ’s sacrifice for sin and escape eternal death.

When Joshua and his troops later came to Jericho, they marched around the city 13 times—once each day for six days. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times. Then they blew the trumpets, shouted, and the walls fell down flat (see Joshua 6).

There were probably many people hiding in their houses when those mighty walls fell. Was it enough to be saved? No. Just as the Israelites needed the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their homes for the angel of judgment to pass over them, so it was crucial to be in Rahab’s house with the red rope in the window when the walls came down.

The spiritual significance of this story is multifaceted. Not only does it tell the story of salvation, but it also has practical

application for Christians today. Does it matter if we gather in God’s house? Yes! It’s very important, as we approach the end of time, that we do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. If we do not have enough faith to get us to church once a week, how can we expect to have enough faith to get to heaven?

As soon as Rahab sent off the spies, she didn’t delay a moment and bound the scarlet line in her window (Joshua 2:21). She made certain that her salvation was secure before she spread the news to her family.

Now, back to our spies. After three days of hiding in the mountains, the two men returned to their camp and reported to Joshua, “Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us” (Joshua 2:24).

The spies knew they were going to win the battle because the people in Jericho had lost heart. They did not come back and report on Jericho’s fortifications, armaments, or soldiers. Instead, they said, “The Lord’s going to give Jericho to us because we have faith and they don’t.” Remember, we are saved by grace

*(Continued  
on page 30.)*



## PROPHECY WATCH

# THE POPE

## STRIVING TO BUILD BRIDGES, FULFILLING ANCIENT PROPHECY

By Mark A. Kellner

**T**he photo was a stunner: Pope Francis, one day after his March 19, 2013, inauguration as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, happily greeted General Linda Bond, at the time the international leader of The Salvation Army, a very Protestant organization. It was during a reception at the Vatican attended by dozens of leaders representing many Christian and non-Christian religions.

For most of the past five centuries, ever since Martin Luther posted his arguments against Catholicism in 1517, the idea of a pope and a Protestant leader smiling and greeting each other was as likely as oil mixing with water. Things are changing now, however.

The world's secular press noted the cordial tone of Francis' welcome. He promised "friendship, respect and continued dialogue" to leaders of non-Catholic faiths during the Vatican meeting, even praising the Eastern Orthodox churches, which split from Rome a thousand years before. He had kind words for Jewish and Muslim leaders. And while *The New York Times* said the "symbolism of the event outweighed the substance," the newspaper also took note of Francis' conciliatory tone at the event. After all, the paper said, Francis' predecessor, the now-emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, had "made several high-profile decisions and statements that inflamed Jews and Muslims."<sup>1</sup>

About 18 months later, the pope explained his high opinion of the evangelical movement. As a four-year-old boy growing up in Argentina, the young Jorge Mario Bergoglio was walking with his grandmother when they saw two Salvation Army women in their distinctive uniforms. Were they nuns, he asked his grandmother. "No, they are Protestants, but they are good," she replied.

"This," said Pope Francis, "was the first sermon I ever heard about ecumenism, and [it] has influenced me in my ecumenical walk."<sup>2</sup>

And what a walk it's been! One of the pope's unofficial titles—it's carved into Roman buildings, however—is "pontifex maximus," or "supreme bridge-builder." Indeed, Francis uses @Pontifex as his Twitter name, which is followed by 6.69 million people as of July

2015. "Supreme bridge-builder" might not be an official title for this pope, but he appears to believe it's an important one!

### UNPRECEDENTED OUTREACH

For most of the many centuries in which there's been a "supreme pontiff" in Rome, cordiality has not been a hallmark of the Vatican's relations with other religious groups, especially the dissidents known as Protestants. After all, the very name "Protestant" derives from those protesting the policies of the Roman church. Martin Luther answered a threatening edict from Pope Leo X by writing, "I ask thee, ignorant Antichrist, dost thou think that with thy naked words thou canst prevail against the armor of Scripture?"

That's not exactly the most friendly of responses, is it? Then again, Leo, in writing to Frederic III, the Elector of Saxony, had called Luther a "son of iniquity." There was, in those days, no love lost between the sitting pope and those who dissented from his views. In that same message, Leo referred to "the old heresies of the Wyclifites, Hussites and Bohemians, already

condemned by the universal Church."

During those five centuries after Luther, Protestantism grew and eventually became a global force. The lamps lit by Wycliffe, Hus, the Waldensians and, yes, Luther and Calvin, spread the heart of the Christian message. By the mid-19th century, there were millions of hearts eager to hear an undiluted presentation of the gospel and Bible prophecy.

Though the late 18th and early 19th centuries had significant setbacks for the papacy, including the 1798 capture of Pope Pius VI by French General Louis Alexandre Berthier and the effective end of Italy's so-called Papal States when Italian King Victor Emmanuel II took action against Pius IX, the Vatican maintained its tough stance against those who would not submit to Rome.

Although the attitude began to soften under John XXIII and his successors—in January 1964, Pope Paul VI met

**"... dost thou think  
that with thy naked  
words thou canst  
prevail against the  
armor of Scripture?"**

**—Martin Luther**





Photo by Buda Mendes/Getty Images

Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras in Jerusalem in a major step in healing the thousand-year rift between the two communions—it wasn't until Pope John Paul II's tenure, which began 14 years after that Jerusalem encounter, that the thaw truly began. John Paul II was the first pope to visit a Jewish synagogue, and he was actively engaged with leaders of many religions, receiving Protestant evangelist Billy Graham "several" times, for example.

In March of 2000, already suffering the ravages of illness, a then-79-year-old John Paul II apologized to many who'd felt the Vatican's sting: "We are asking pardon for the divisions among Christians, for the use of violence that some have committed in the service of truth, and for attitudes of mistrust and hostility assumed towards followers of other religions."<sup>3</sup>

## FRANCIS UPS THE ANTE

Pope Francis, however, has dramatically increased efforts at reconciling with other religions, particularly Orthodox and Protestant leaders. His friendliness to other religious leaders is often matched by dramatic action. In May 2014, Francis visited Israel in part to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Paul VI/Athenagoras meeting that broke the ice between Rome and the Orthodox churches. In July 2014, two popular American television preachers, Kenneth Copeland and James Robison, met with Francis at the Vatican, with Robison giving the pontiff a "high five" after the pope's greeting.

Francis, for his part, is willing to "accept" evangelicals within a broader Christian framework: "I'm not interested in converting Evangelicals to Catholicism. I want people to find Jesus in their own community. Let's be about showing the love

of Jesus," Britain's *Catholic Herald* magazine quoted him as saying.<sup>4</sup> The magazine noted that a joint finding of common ground in "justification by grace" in 1999 between Catholic and Lutheran leaders meant "the protest is over."

Perhaps the most dramatic gesture by Pope Francis so far came on June 22, 2015, when for the first time a Roman Catholic pontiff visited a Waldensian congregation during a visit to Turin. The Waldensian movement was founded in 1200 by Peter Valdo, and eventually many of its members were executed for "heresy" because they rejected Rome's teachings.

According to the Catholic News Agency, Francis declared, "I ask forgiveness for the non-Christian ... attitudes and behaviors which, through history, we have had against you. In Jesus Christ's name, forgive us!"<sup>5</sup>

That June declaration likely will not be the last time we hear from Pope Francis on getting along with other religions. The papal "supreme bridge-builder" will be the first in history to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress in late September. While his exact words are not known at press time, it's widely expected Francis will call for reconciliation among disagreeing political factions. Might a call for religious unity not be far behind? "And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast" (Revelation 13:3). 📖

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*Mark A. Kellner is a veteran journalist who contributed to The Washington Times for 23 years. He is also the author of three published books, including "God on the Internet."*

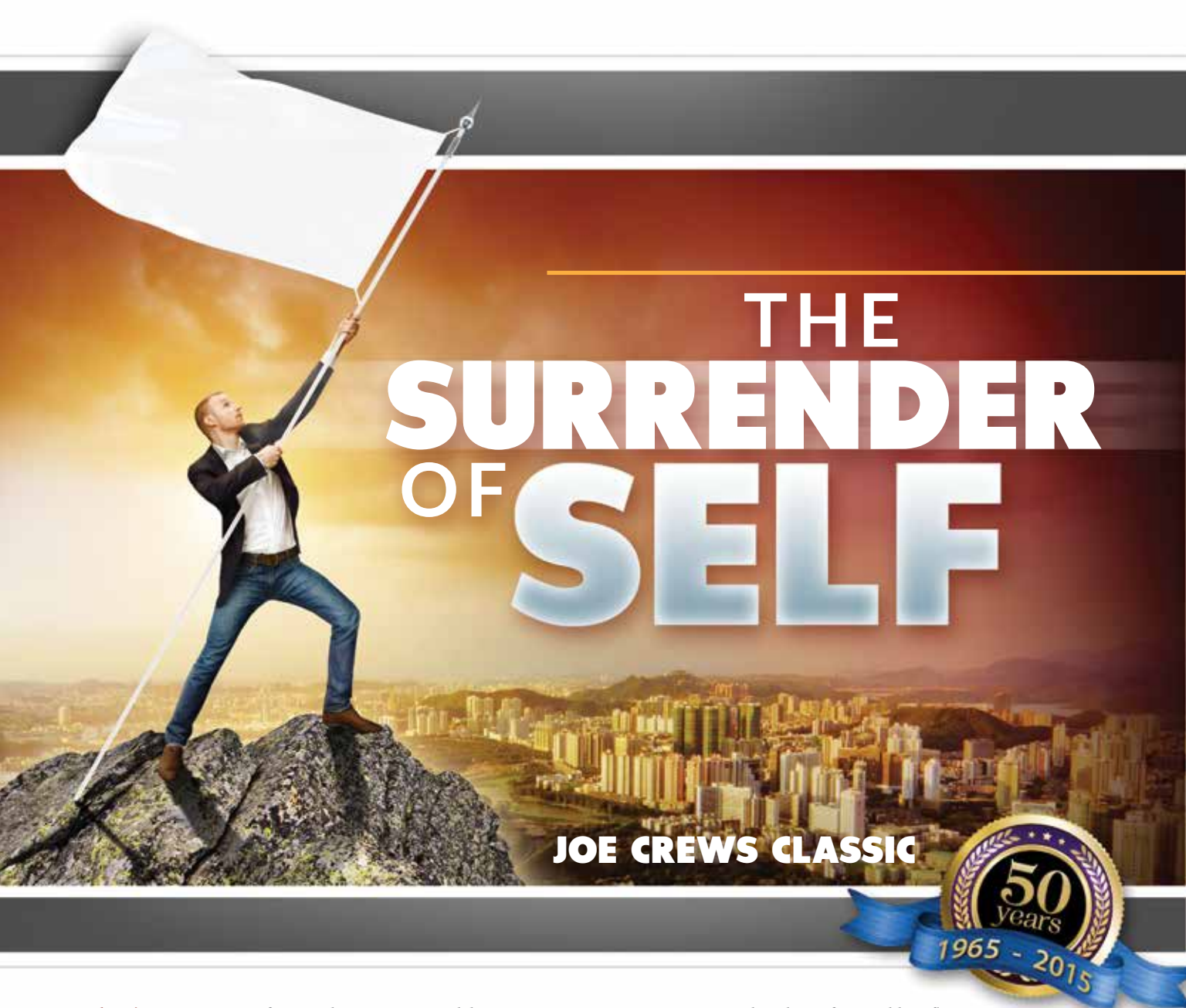
[1] "Pope Meets Other Religious Leaders, Pledging Respect," March 20, 2013

[2] "The General and Pope Francis Share in Prayer," The Salvation Army International Headquarters, December 2014, <http://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/news/inr161214>

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# THE SURRENDER OF SELF

JOE CREWS CLASSIC



**Editor's Note:** As part of our 50th anniversary celebration at Amazing Facts, we remember the unforgettable influence of Joe Crews, the ministry's first speaker. This classic and bold article reveals his passion for genuine revival in God's remnant people.

**W**ould you look into your heart right now and respond to a very personal but important question? Do you judge yourself to be stronger in the things of God than you have ever been before? I hope so. Every day with Jesus should be sweeter than the day before. Each moment should find us moving up in our experience with a deeper faith.

Yet no one should be satisfied that God has finished His work of growth in his or her life. This very moment He wants to lead us deeper into the waters of surrender and consecration. There are still victories to be won, sins to be put away, and a drawing together that needs to be accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

Does God really mean what He says in the promises of Romans 6? No other chapter of the Bible is so lavish in

giving assurance to a struggling Christian. Consider these extravagant phrases:

"Shall we continue in sin? ... God forbid" (verses 1 and 2).  
"We that are dead to sin" (v. 2).  
"Henceforth we should not serve sin" (v. 6).  
"Freed from sin" (v. 7).  
"Dead indeed to sin" (v. 11).  
"Let not sin therefore reign" (v. 12).

There is nothing ambiguous about these promises. Is there some secret meaning that might not apply to us? We are often tempted to believe so because of the element of certainty in every verse.

Some are frightened simply because it describes the perfect work God wants to do in sanctifying us from sin. Many



are afraid of that word “perfect.” They are fearful that God will ask them to do something they are not willing to do.

Of course, God will never coerce our will into taking any action to which we have not given consent. But now we come face to face with the basic weakness that has led millions into discouragement and defeat. They simply have not been reconciled to giving up the enjoyment of their sins. There is a certain shallow, short-lived pleasure in sin that dances over the emotions and seeks to capture the mind through our sensory pathways. In every case there must be a decision of the will to forfeit those temporary “pleasures of sin for a season.” Until that choice is made and acted upon, there can be no real victory over sin.

Are you prepared to accept the results of a complete surrender to Christ? I am convinced that there are only two possible reasons for a person holding back. Either he or she is not willing to give up the enjoyment of the sin or else does not believe that God can give deliverance from it. Being willing, of course, is our problem, but seeing it done is God’s part alone. We must be willing, but we can never be able. Let us look at two mental blocks that have stolen victory from so many of God’s people.

## **Self: The Greatest Enemy**

Self is our greatest enemy. Once we have settled the score with that old man of the flesh who seeks to rule over us (Romans 6:6), all the other victories will come in their course.

God has given every one a powerful and personal weapon to use in combating the self. The will is our only natural reserve weapon; everything depends on the right action of this resource. We become whatever we choose to be. We are not what we feel or what we might do or say in a single impulsive moment. We are what we will to be. We cannot always control our emotions, but we can control our will.

It is not your fleeting feelings that make you a child of God, but the doing of God’s will. Perhaps you had a headache when you woke up this morning, but does that change the fact that God loves you? Does it alter the truth of the Sabbath? No. Whether you feel good or bad, the truth remains the same.

However, we must recognize that our will and God’s will, at some point, must come into collision. Either we let Him have His way or we choose our own course. And when it happens, many are not willing to admit the true cause behind the raging conflict.

I have heard hundreds of “reasons” for not going all the way with Christ. Some cite work or the opposition from relatives. But none of these are the true reasons; it goes much deeper. The truth is that God wants something that self is not willing to give up. They love something more than they love God.

In Matthew 16:24, Jesus says, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”? Why didn’t He specify the sins we’re to deny? He knew that self was behind every battle. Once that victory is gained, all other victories will be won also.

Many thousands are in the church and are miserable because something in their life has been fighting the will of God for years. Yet to be a true Christian requires surrender.

Do you recall a time that your desire and God’s will met in conflict? There was a titanic struggle. The old self resisted every impulse to turn away from sin. Under deep conviction you wrestled and agonized to no avail, until, finally, you surrendered your will and the battle was over. Peace flooded into your heart and glorious victory was realized.



What happened? Did you finally manage to drive back the devil? Definitely not. Your battle was with self, but when you became willing, God gave you the victory. “Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). It might sound foolish to the world, but before you can live, you must die; before you have the victory, you must surrender.

## **Is Trying the Answer?**

We also need to admit that we fight a spiritual enemy who is stronger than we are. In the weakness of our flesh, we struggle to extricate ourselves from the bondage, but the harder we try the deeper we sink into the mire. When we are totally exhausted from the effort, a well-meaning friend comes by and advises, “You need to try harder.”

If that is the only answer we have to the sin problem, we’re in trouble. Millionaires will give away all their wealth and

spend the rest of their life feeding on scraps—all in an effort to earn salvation. But “trying harder” will not break the chain of sin. Why? Because we are brought into this life with inherent weaknesses that predispose us toward sin. Furthermore, we have all yielded to those propensities. Jesus is the only One who never gave in to those weaknesses. He lived a totally sanctified life of obedience.

We do not need instruction in theology to acquaint us with the facts about our fallen nature. All of us have struggled with memories of failure and compromise. We have desperately tried to blot out scenes of unfaithfulness from our minds, but every such effort has ended in defeat.

Some time ago, a holy man in India traveling from village to village laid claim to a special creative power. As a result of his Himalayan pilgrimage, this sadhu professed to hold the secret for making gold. He would fill a large caldron with water and then stir the contents vigorously while uttering his sacred incantations. But in the process of stirring, he slyly slipped some gold nuggets into the water without being detected.



The headman of one village wanted to buy the secret for making gold, and the holy man agreed to sell it for 500 rupees. After explaining the stirring and the prayers to be repeated, the priest took his 500 rupees and started to leave. Then he turned back and gave a final word of warning. “When you are stirring the water and uttering the prayers, you must never once think of the red-faced monkey, or the gold will not come!”

As you can imagine, the headman never could make the formula work, because every single time he stirred the water, there was the red-faced monkey sitting at the edge of his mind, grinning at him.

Likewise, we have no natural ability to keep our thoughts and imagination under control for the simple reason that they are rooted in our sinful natures. Only when the mind has been




regenerated through the process of conversion can we subdue it and bring it under the control of the Holy Spirit. Only in this way may the intents of the heart be brought into harmony with Christ. Without the transforming grace of the new birth, “the carnal mind ... is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Romans 8:7).

For three years I studied the language in India under the tutelage of a Hindu priest who came to my house daily. This gave me the opportunity to ask questions about various aspects of Hindu worship. Only after many months of classroom camaraderie did I feel clear in asking my teacher about one puzzling feature of his religion. “Why,” I asked, “did most all the temples have obscene carvings all over the front of the buildings?”

My pundit seemed shocked and denied that any such carvings existed, but I invited him to walk down the street a block or two where a new temple was being constructed. The teacher could not deny the obscenities were there. But once again he professed surprise and stated that he had never seen anything like it before. He would find out the reason for it and tell me the next day.

On the following afternoon, I asked him about the carvings again. “Oh, yes,” he said, “I found out why they put them on the front of temples. You see, when the people go in to worship the gods they are not supposed to think of those evil things, so we place the carvings to remind them not to think of those things while worshipping inside.”

I chuckled at his explanation, realizing that none of us need reminding about the intrusion of such thoughts. Without the restraining power of God, they are ever with us. What we need is divine grace to subdue and conquer them. The mind renewed by Jesus Christ holds the only answer to both the inside and outside factors that lead to true victory. 



# POWER

## *in Puerto Rico*

— by Gwen Simmons

When the witnesses of a baptism are themselves drawn into the water just to be near the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit in those being baptized, something extraordinary is happening! That's what took place in the celebration that followed Amazing Facts prophecy meetings in San Juan, Puerto Rico, this past June.

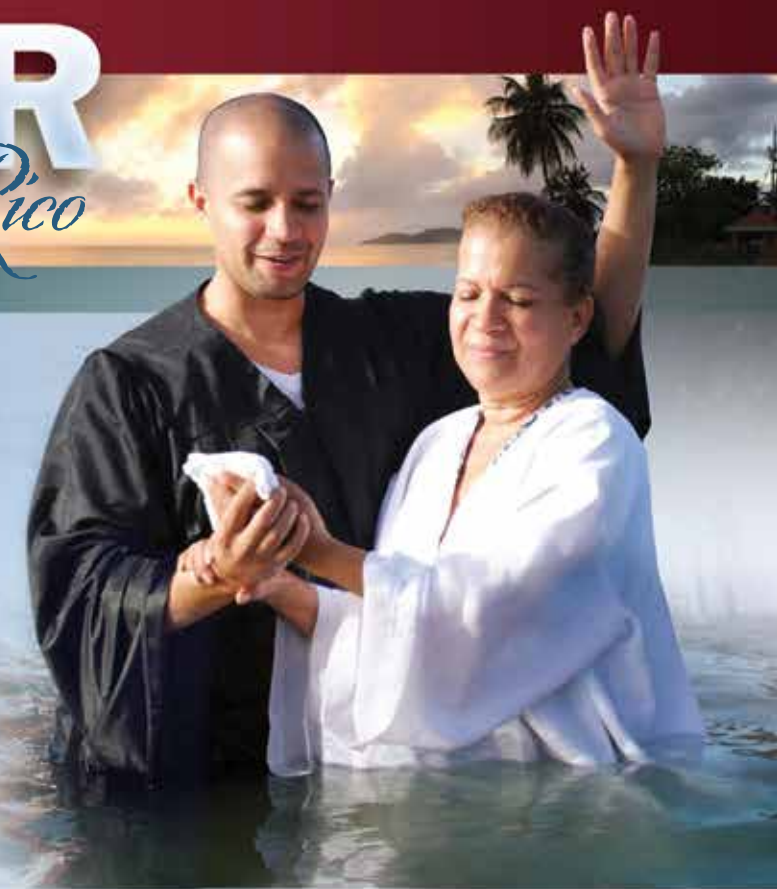
Evangelist Carlos Muñoz says that the response to the Bible series exceeded all expectations, as the Roosevelt church was overflowing with up to 80 guests each night in attendance. "People from all backgrounds and all ages just kept coming," Carlos says. "We even ran out of materials!"

Twenty-eight precious souls were baptized that day, and eight joined by profession of faith. Before the *Unveiling Revelation* meetings, attendance at the small local church was low each Sabbath, but now this church is filled with new life and joyful activity. In addition, eight more baptisms took place a few days later in nearby churches as a result of these meetings.

### A Deeply Personal Blessing


Often, just when it seems God has fully blessed, He comes through with even more. That is what happened for Carlos when his mother, a former Catholic, stepped into the waters of baptism as a result of his meetings! Carlos, a Sabbathkeeper for seven years, had preached in previous meetings that his mom, Indiana, attended. She enjoyed listening to Carlos, but his presentation on the Antichrist challenged her. She couldn't believe what she had heard and kept asking her son, "Are you sure? I can't believe I didn't know that!" She couldn't forget this message, and she studied the topic further.

When Carlos came to Puerto Rico to preach, his mother faithfully attended every meeting. Listening to each presentation



brought it all together for her, and when the call for baptism was made, Indiana was among those who stood. When asked how it felt to know that his mother's life was transformed by the Spirit through his preaching, Carlos says, "It didn't really sink in until we were in the water together. When I walked up to baptize her, it was very emotional for both of us."

With bystanders transfixed by the scene, Carlos prayed to God, "This is the woman you chose to bring me life. I now have the privilege of seeing her reborn into a new life in Christ." In this new life, Indiana emerged from the water not only as Carlos' mother but also as his sister in Christ. Carlos explains that his mom is on fire for the Lord and is sharing the same Amazing Facts Study Guides and pocket books that she received as part of the series. Originally, Indiana was concerned there might be friction in the family as a result of the meetings; instead, Carlos also had the privilege of baptizing three other family members too.

How inspiring it is to see a fading church come to life again! Though they were small in number, faithful members prepared for *Unveiling Revelation* by holding a health clinic in the community, attending outreach training sessions with Carlos, and going door to door. They shared Amazing Facts pocket books, health magazines, Bible studies, and *Cosmic Conflict* DVDs, as well as giving away copies of *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*. They also utilized the resources from the Amazing Facts website. Whether in Puerto Rico or any other part of the world, when God's people commit to sharing His love, amazing things happen! 



# BIBLE ANSWERS

WITH DOUG BATCHELOR



Tune in to **Bible Answers Live**, Amazing Facts' live, nationwide call-in radio program, and listen to Pastor Doug give biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To get times and stations in your area, or to listen to answers online, visit [www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org).

## Q. How can I make my faith in God stronger?

**A.** Faith is a word we don't typically use in our everyday vocabulary; it's often relegated to the field of theology. However, everyday faith should be the foundation of our walk with God. Simply put—faith is trusting in the Lord. Every time you sit in a chair, you have “faith” that it will hold you up and not collapse beneath you. Faith is trusting that God will hold you up through the thick and the thin.

Many people have strong faith when everything is going well in their lives, but when a storm comes through, they lose their grip on God. It reminds me of a simple illustration from the field of aviation. As a pilot, one of the expressions I'll sometimes use is “flying blind.” It means that when your outside visuals are obliterated by clouds, bad weather, or darkness, you fly the airplane solely by the instruments. It's a bit scary when you first learn to trust what's on the panel in front of you and not worry about the darkness outside. But without faith in your instruments, you are destined to crash and burn!


Exercising trust in God when things are dark and gloomy helps our faith grow stronger. As we develop a relationship with Jesus through daily Bible study and prayer, we learn that He truly loves us and has our best interests in mind. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). The more we come to know of God's love, the more we'll trust Him.

Every Christian is given a measure of faith by God (Romans 12:3). It's amazing what even a little faith can do. Remember, Jesus said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20).

## Q. How do I start doing what God wants me to do when I don't really want to do it?

**A.** Once we know what God wants us to do, we need to take action and do it. Remember, though, that no one can make themselves ready to serve God. Only God can make you ready to do His will. Pray, then, that He makes you willing to obey, to be filled with His love, and for His Spirit to work in your life. Then choose to obey Him right away!

Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21–23). Many feel they will be saved at Jesus' return, but they will, instead, be lost because they haven't obeyed God. They haven't known Jesus as their Friend or kept His commandments. They've only followed their feelings.

For the safety of our souls, we should never depend solely upon feelings, because they are often deceiving. The devil can even influence our feelings. So if we depend on our feelings alone, he can more easily lead us on a destructive path. God would guide us through the unchanging words of Scripture. Our feelings, which can change on a whim, often lead us astray. Never listen to anything that contradicts the Holy Bible. 



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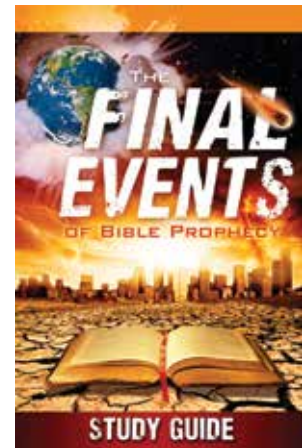


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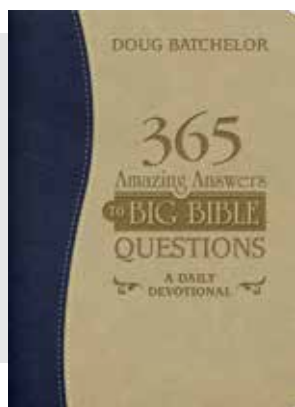
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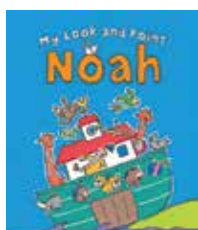
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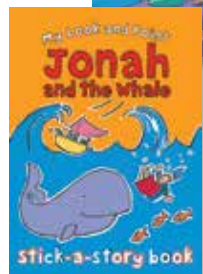
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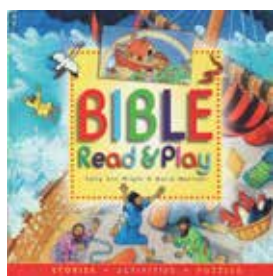
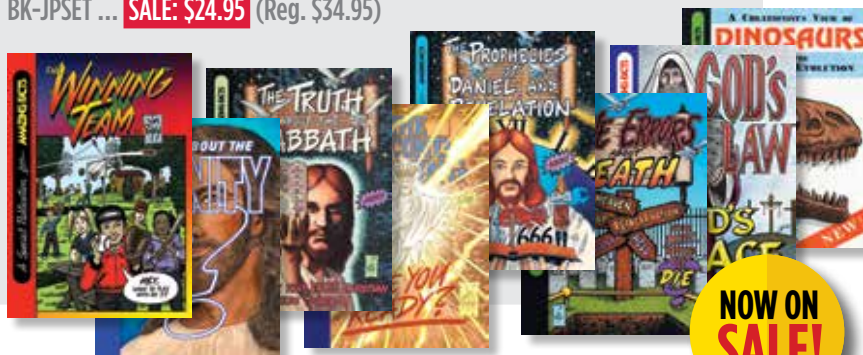
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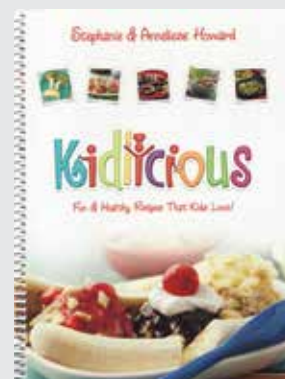
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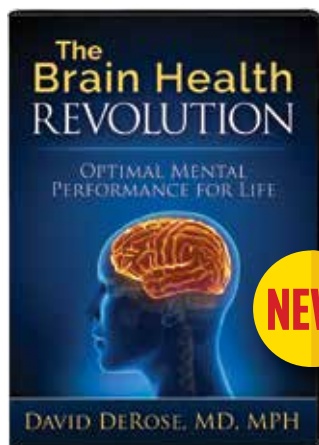
From breakfast through dessert, these good-for-you recipes will bring the whole family cooking together. There’s a huge lunch box section, colorful pictures, and easy-to-follow instructions. BK-KID ... \$24.95

## The Activity Bible

Bible stories, word searches, puzzles, prayers, and other activities for children come in this action-packed book that will occupy and teach truths from the Bible. BK-ABFO ... \$10.95 (Ages 10–12)  
BK-ABFY ... \$10.95 (Ages 7–9)



# HEALTH FOR MIND & BODY



**NEW!**

## The Brain Health Revolution DVD

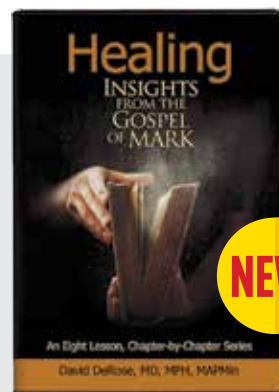
Modern science has unleashed a revolution when it comes to naturally optimizing brain health. In this two-hour mini-series, Weimar's Dr. David DeRose walks you through key steps to enhance brain performance without relying on drugs or expensive therapies. Learn the simple lifestyle factors and nutritional keys to lower your risk of depression, stroke, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's. Understand life-changing ways to improve dietary choices to improve brain health!

DV-BHR ... \$19.95

## Healing Insights from the Gospel of Mark

*Dr. David DeRose.* This series offers a way to reinforce health principles right from the Bible. Use in groups; view one program each week for eight weeks. 2 DVDs and 4 hours of run time.

DV-HI ... \$39.95

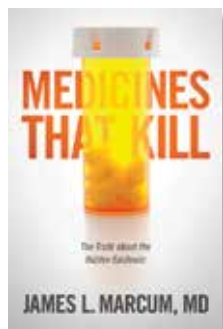


**NEW!**

## Medicines that Kill

Dr. James Marcum sheds light on the addictive power of prescription medications and how you can protect yourself and your family by practicing healthy habits.

BK-MTK ... \$14.95



## Too Few Cooks in the Kitchen

Take a mouth-watering journey into the kitchen with Chef Michelle and learn how to make nutritious, plant-based, dairy-free, and gluten-free meals. Leave processed foods behind!

BK-TFCK ... \$19.95



## Sugar-Free Raw Desserts

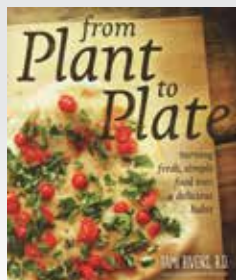
*Michelle Irwin.* Nothing artificially sweetened or cooked in this delightful cookbook that will leave you feeling satisfied *and* guilt-free. It provides desserts that are raw, vegan, sugar-free, dairy-free, gluten-free, soy-free, low glycemic, and diabetic friendly.

BK-SFRD ... \$19.95

## From Plant to Plate

Tami Bivens shows you that eating healthy has never been easier or tastier in this cookbook featuring 125 delicious, healthy recipes. Provides practical tips for the busy person.

BK-FPTP ... \$19.95



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# NEWS to NOTE

## Who You're Reaching

The Amazing Facts marketing department regularly conducts research to identify the demographic groups you're helping to reach through this ministry. We've recently learned that nearly 75 percent of our contacts are those who weren't previously exposed to the last-day message. And last year, we experienced 21-percent growth in the number of seekers contacting us after watching one of our TV programs. That's pretty awesome, isn't it? Thank you for making it possible to share the truth with the confused, lost, and lonely!



## Amazing Facts Social Media

Did you know that Amazing Facts has more than 450,000 fans following us on Facebook? That's a massive audience receiving a variety of posts that minister to them every single day, all while connecting them to powerful, life-changing resources that make an incredible impact on their spiritual walk with the Lord. If you're on Facebook, we hope you become a fan today at [www.facebook.com/amazingfacts](http://www.facebook.com/amazingfacts) and share the news with others. Amazing Facts is also using Twitter and even Pinterest as a gateway to deeper spiritual truth!



## Evangelizing More Nations

Pastor Doug Batchelor will be traveling to Fiji and New Zealand at the end of October to present the everlasting gospel to brand-new audiences who have never heard the three angels' messages before. Thank you for making these special mission trips possible, and we ask for your prayers that God will bless these meetings, cover our team with traveling mercies, and win souls for His eternal kingdom.



## A New Four-Month AFCOE Class Has Begun

An energetic group of 30 students, ranging in ages from 18 to 69, who want to become better witnesses for Jesus Christ began in early August. It's exciting to see how God is bringing students from all over the world—Australia, Madagascar, New Zealand, Mexico, South Africa, and across the United States—and what they will be doing to minister as AFCOE students. These students will be getting practical experience in outreach during their studies, building relationships in the community, meeting mental and physical health needs through bridge events, and leading people to saving relationships with Jesus! They will be working with the AFCOE team and Amazing Facts in the Granite Bay and Lincoln communities as part of a major prophecy seminar, so please keep them in your prayers. Visit [www.afcoe.org](http://www.afcoe.org) today!



## A New Way to Give

Amazing Facts has a creative new way for you to give to God's work powerfully—and it's sitting right there in your garage! You can now donate your unused vehicle, which will be sold and used to send God's message to people hungering for truth all around the world.

You might not think that little-used boat in the shed or that automobile in the carport could be used to introduce someone to Jesus, but it can! Now, with a simple phone call, you can arrange to have your car, RV, ATV, and even a jet ski turned into soul-winning resources for Jesus Christ. Don't worry ... we'll do all the heavy lifting, and you'll even get a receipt for your tax-deduction purposes! See the ad on the next page!

## Heroes of Faith Update

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the *Heroes of Faith: Inspirational Stories of Salvation for the Whole Family* has been relocated from Sanford, Florida, to Lansing, Michigan. Please visit [www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org) for additional information about this exciting and unique revival and evangelistic event!





## ***Donate Your Vehicle*** **AND WIN SOULS!**

Not everyone has cash to give ... but did you know that extra car you are not using could amount to far more than the cash?

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Amazing Facts

# Prophecy Seminars



Doug  
Batchelor



Wyatt  
Allen



Darrin  
Bartell



Ryan  
Day



Lowell  
Hargreaves



Tim  
Jones



Carlos  
Muñoz



Dennis  
Priebe



Dave  
Steward

► Our Bible prophecy seminars feature very low fees 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.

## Doug Batchelor

**September 4 – 6**

GYC Southwest  
Pine Springs Ranch and  
Conference Center  
58000 Apple Canyon Road  
Mountain Center, California

**October 2 – 10**

Heroes of Faith:  
Stories of Salvation  
for the Whole Family  
Visit [www.theheroesoffaith.com](http://www.theheroesoffaith.com)  
for details.

**October 30, 31**

Suva, Fiji

**November 6, 7, 8**

Auckland, New Zealand

**November 9**

Christchurch, New Zealand

## Wyatt Allen

**September 11 – October 10**

John C. Harris Community Center  
350 Sycamore Street  
Fulton, Missouri

**October 23 – November 21**

Truman Hotel  
1510 Jefferson Street  
Jefferson City, Missouri

## Darrin Bartell

**September 11 – October 10**

Church Auditorium  
10915 Lockwood Drive  
Silver Spring, Maryland

**October 23 – November 21**

Church Auditorium  
279 Eastchester Drive  
High Point, North Carolina

## Ryan Day

**September 11 – October 3**

Valley View Church Auditorium  
3677 South Stage Road  
Medford, Oregon

## Tim Jones

**September 11 – October 17**

Vista Church  
701 Kimbark Street  
Longmont, Colorado

**October 23 – November 20**

Covina International Church  
2003 E. Cienega Avenue  
Covina, California

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](http://prophecyseminars.com) to get exact times and locations!



For more information or to schedule a seminar, visit our website at [prophecyseminars.com](http://prophecyseminars.com), call **916-209-7286**, or email [cathyq@amazingfacts.org](mailto:cathyq@amazingfacts.org).

### **Carlos Muñoz**

**August 18 – September 5**

Wright Robinson College  
Abbey Hey Road  
Gorton, Manchester, England

**September 11 – October 3**

Vista Fellowship Church  
701 Kimbark Street  
Longmont, Colorado  
Spanish-language Seminar

**October 9 – 31**

Poulsbo Church  
1700 Northeast Lincoln Road  
Poulsbo, Washington

**November 7 – 21**

Federal Way/Everett, Washington  
For more details, call  
479-619-9367  
Spanish-language Seminar

**January 29 – March 5**

Iglesia de Guaynabo  
Urb. Munoz Rivera  
Calle Acuarela #23  
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico  
Spanish-language seminar

### **Dave Steward**

**September 11 – October 10**

Lincoln High School Auditorium  
335 6th Street E  
Eureka, Montana

**October 16 – November 21**

Cariboo Memorial  
Recreation Complex  
525 Proctor Street  
Williams Lake, British Columbia

### **Dennis Priebe** *(Revivalist)*

**September 11, 12**

Burnaby Westminster Church, BC

**September 18, 19**

Seattle South Center Church, WA

**September 25, 26**

Red Bluff Church, CA

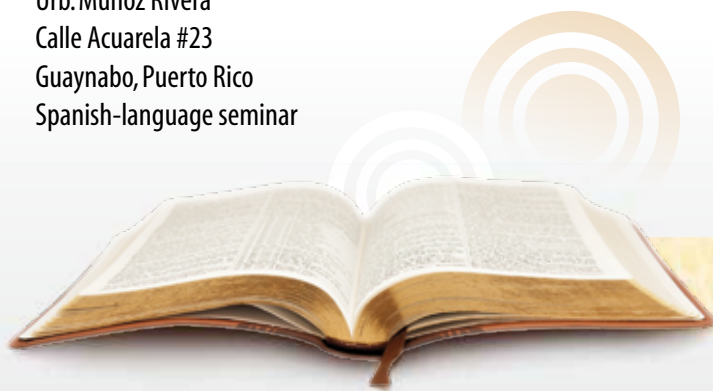
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Times and locations are subject to change. Please confirm at [prophecyseminars.com](http://prophecyseminars.com) prior to attending.





# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

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## In Loving Memory

**Edna Abrams** from Paul Abrams, her husband

**Douglas Ackermann** from June Ackermann, his wife

**Lola Alexander** from Harold and Mary Cady

**Ralph and Jean Aliff** from Barbara Ellis

**Zeke Allen** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Pastor William Ambler** from Delane and Joanne Isaak

**Marjorie Arrington** from Janice Hardy

**Marion Austin** from Don Austin

**Katie Baird** from Jerry and Sue Rice; from Joshua Scott

**Alan Baldwin** from Farrel and Bobbi Brizendine;

from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger

**Brad Barton** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Micah Batchelor** from Don Park

**Myron Baybary** from Delphia Baybary, his wife;

from Donald and Ann Arnson; from Alvin Haunch;

from Dorothy Holm; from Doris Wareham

**Dr. Dexter Beary** from Clint and Sandy Washam

**Howard Bernier** from Dona Lauer, his sister-in-law

**Sidney and Wynn Boskind** from Andrew and Helen Boskind

**Jane Bowe** from Vernon and June Nightwalker

**Edwin Bowen** from Joan Bowen, his wife

**John and Nellie Brewer** from Al Wiggins

**Col. Gilbert Raymond Bullock** from Carolyn Meeks, his sister

**Larry Busch** from Freddie and Leila Busch

**Jo Byrkit** from Shelly Lowe

**Vernon Calloway** from Kevin, Judy, Rachel, and Jonathan Otto

**Arthur Chaput** from Rollande Chaput, his wife

**Deryl Chistensen** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Melanie Christianson** from Don and DeVerne Schlegel

**John and Dorothy Coffee** from Gary Coffee, their son

**William Conway** from William and Emily Nase, his uncle and aunt

**Terri Cossin** from Hazel Freeman, her mother

**Frances Cowne** from Mary-Linda Hampton, mother

**Royce Crary** from Wallace and Gerion Dunks

**Joe Crews** from Lu Ann Crews, his wife; from Don Park

**Ronnie Crews** from Lu Ann Crews, his mother

**Forrest Cross** from June Cross, his wife

**Henderson Crowder** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Watt and Irene DuBose** from Robert and Joyce DuBose

**Everett Dickerson** from Yvonne Dickerson, his wife

**Herbert Douglass** from Rich and Susan Kollenberg;

from Anthony Lester and Haley Trimmer

**Elijah Duncan** from Barbara Duncan, his wife

**Dr. Marlin Dunker** from Susan Dunker, his wife

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



**Edith Durham** from Anita Lowe, her daughter;  
from Shelly Lowe, her granddaughter

**Myron Durham** from Anita Lowe, his sister;  
from Shelly Lowe, his niece

**Warren Durham** from Anita Lowe, his daughter;  
from Shelly Lowe, his granddaughter

**Dorothy Eastwood** from June Ackerman, her sister-in-law  
**John Egolf** from Cindy Williams

**Jerry Eller** from Don Park

**Versie Ellis** from Vernon and June Nightwalker

**Betty Engelkemier** from Betty and Henry Craig

**Judy Evans** from Wallace and Gerion Dunks

**Sandy Farley** from Marty and Debbie Varsubsky

**Beth Felter** from Farrel and Bobbie Brizendine

**Deputy Finnin** from Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hampton

**Fred and Eva Flemmer** from Olga Lang, their daughter

**Jewel and Ruth Foutch** from Ann Tyroff, their daughter;  
from Frank and Gayle Tyroff

**John Francis, Jr.** from Gwenevere Crockett

**Carlton Freeman** from Claudie English

**Jerry Freeman** from Hazel Freeman, his wife

**Tony Fritz** from Dale Harris

**Walter and Elizabeth Gallner** from Barbara Adams,  
their daughter

**Jerry Gibbs** from Marty and Debbie Varsubsky

**Ona Lee Glidden** from Arnold Glidden, her husband;  
from Connie Ross

**Allen Goede** from Jeanette Bigsby

**Edna Haas** from Dick and Carol Hanson

**Catherine Halden** from Ruth Haller

**George Hall** from Al and Margaret Marion

**Pastor Ron Halverson** from Elder Arden and  
Dorothy Mote; from Mildred Solstad

**Linda Haney** from Priscilla McNeily, her sister

**Paul Hanson** from Loren Nelson

**Ralph Harmon** from Lois Good; from the Pampa Church

**Dr. Ray Hefferlin** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Louise Hemmer** from his brother

**Larry Henarie** from Al and Margaret Marion

**Wilfred Henderson** from his wife

**Annie Hendricks** from Alice Hendricks, her sister

**Paul Henton** from Wallace and Gerion Dunks

**Warren and Eleanor Hewes** from Bill and Connie Corrigan

**Carolyn Jane (Barron) Hickman** from Glenda Aijala,  
her sister

**Carl Hobson** from Karen Lemon

**Robert Hoffer** from Jane Hoffer, his wife

**Donald Hovland** from Jean Stivers

**Doris Howie** from Al Wiggins

**Michael Ikeda** from Jutta Ikeda-Mackay, his mother

**Dr. John Irvine** from Clint and Sandy Washam

**Judy Johnson** from Sean Morgan-Bell

**Ann Keeler** from Laurie Lyon, her granddaughter  
**Pearl and Ruth Kellers** from Roger Kellers, their son  
**Crystal Kennedy** from Deloris Kennedy, her mother  
**Leonard and Virginia Keppler** from Leonard and  
Marita Keppler

**Cloyd and Beulah Kuster** from Mary Kuster Peters,  
their daughter

**Ernie Lauer** from Dona Lauer, his wife

**Terry Lauer** from Dona Lauer, his mother

**Dottie LeFare** from Margie Francisco

**Charity Lewis** from Gwenevere Crockett, her mother

**George Lewis Sr.** from Gwenevere Crockett

**James Lewis** from William and Carol Onuska

**Ray Litchfield** from Vernon and June Nightwalker

**Cassano Loqui** from Dr. and Mrs. Leiske

**Bill Lowe** from Shelly Lowe, his daughter

**William Lowe** from Anita Lowe, his wife; from Shelly Lowe

**Ron Lutman** from Farrel and Bobbie Brizendine

**Homer Lynd** from Teresa Lynd, his wife

**Lester Marcussen** from Bette Marcussen, his wife

**Filomena Mastroianni** from Deborah Tompkins,  
her mother

**Bill May** from Charles and Glenda Williams

**Lyle and Ruth McCoy** from Farrel and Bobbie Brizendine

**Dr. Richard McClusky** from Clint and Sandy Washam

**Dr. James McHan** from Wallace and Gerion Dunks

**Franklin Messinger** from Albert and Margaret Marion

**Claradeen Miller** from Wallace and Gerion Dunks

**Henry Morsett** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Eileen Newman** from Al Wiggins

**Elsie Newman** from Dudley Sang, her brother-in-law

**Esther Oliver** from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger

**Don Oltman** from Jeanne Oltman, his wife

**Roger Ott** from Mary Kuster Peters, his sister-in-law

**Dr. William Palmer** from Don Park

**Eleanor Park** from Don Park

**Jack Penner** from John and Marilyn Gepford,  
his brother and sister-in-law

**Rachel Polston** from Micah Polston

**Chalmers Poole** from Alice Poole, his wife

**Merlin Poole** from Alice Poole, his mother

**Mary Powell** from Dr. Lewis Sommerville

**Dr. Jack Powell** from Dr. Lewis Sommerville

**Darlen Gerking Prusia** from Albert and Margaret Marion

**Linda Paulsen Ramos** from Donald and DeVerne Schlegel

**Glendolyn Rees** from Dan and Cindy Rees

**Esther Reeseaman** Moore from Arlene Bliesath

**Donna Roberts** from Craig and Shay Allred, her nephew  
and niece; from Mr. and Mrs. William Biggs;  
from William Moon; from Priscilla Thompson

**Gene Ronning** from Ruth Sackett

**Alberta Rowe** from Marilyn Fields

**Harry and Irma Rushold** from Marlin and Udene Allen

**Robert Schlegel** from Donald and DeVerne Schlegel  
**Violet Schlosser** from Allan Todd Smith, her grandson

**Harold Schull** from Sonja, his wife

**Elsie Schwartz** from Al Wiggins

**Robert Seath** from Leona Coutts

**Pastor David Seymour** from Paul and Norma Niemi

**Madeline Shampo** from Geraldine Hollis

**Dr. Frank Shearer** from Al Wiggins

**Gerald Silvestri** from John and Anita Silvestri

**Clarence Singbeil** from Anna Singbeil, his wife

**Gunnar and Nelly Sjuren** from Marita and Leonard Keppler

**Dr. Leslie Smart II** from Dr. Lewis Sommerville

**Roda Steed** from Ruth Haller

**Mark Swett** from Kim Swett, his wife

**Alma Tachenko** from Eldon and Evelyn Allram

**Martin Tarangle** from Adeline Tarangle, his wife

**George Tattrie** from Allene Tattrie, his wife

**Edna Taylor** from Nancy Taylor, her daughter

**Pauline Templeman** from June Vogt

**James Thomas** from Mary Ann Jimenez, his sister

**James and Evelyn Thomas** from Mary Ann Jimenez,  
their daughter

**Pastor Jim Thurmoud** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Doug Turner** from Jean Burleson

**Steven and Charlene Vitrano** from Betty Weakley

**Evie Warram** from Don and Cindy Rees

**Drew Whitfield** from Bette Whitfield-Bristow

**Bruce Wickwire Sr.** from Bruce and Adele Wickwire

**Arlene Wiggins** from Al Wiggins, her husband

**Del Wiggins** from Al Wiggins, his brother

**Elmer and Ruth Wiggins** from Al Wiggins

**Iris Wise** from Margie Francisco

**George Woffenden** from Wayne Nazareus

**Rod Wright** from Albert and Margaret Marion

**John Young** from John and Perle Westerberg

**Betty Zanes** from June Ackermann

**Betty Zapara** from June Ackermann

**Lawrence Zeigler** from Al Wiggins

## Happy Birthday

**Vivianna Georgiev** from Kristian Georgiev, her daughter

**Tom Pearson** from Matthew Pearson, his father

**Donita Massengill Shaw** from Dorothy Massengill,  
her daughter

**Lee Welch** from Brenda Welch, her daughter

**June Wesner** from Bonnie Ensminger, her sister

## In Honor

**Lorraine Ellis**, for the loss of her daughter Suzanne, from  
Jean Fenton

**Bernice Hartzel** from Al Wiggins, for years of  
service to the church

(Continued from page 11.)

through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8). However, if that faith is real, it will be demonstrated by our actions.

## Faith for Today and Tomorrow

Let's look ahead a bit further. The Israelites were getting ready to blow the trumpet, the wall was about to fall, and everyone in Jericho was going to be destroyed. Joshua, who represents Christ, had some final words of counsel for them:

“The city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction [a representation of the second coming], it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house [a symbolism of God's church], because she hid the messengers that we sent” (Joshua 6:17).

When the walls of Jericho fell, there was a mighty shout, trumpets blew, and a great quake shook the earth. It was a deliverance for God's people that the Bible says will be repeated in the future: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Those two messengers sent from Joshua represent the Word of God, the law and the prophets. Like the two witnesses in Revelation and the sword with two edges, these two spies represent God's message of salvation found in the New and Old Testaments: “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11 KJV).

When Christ was nailed to the cross, a rope of blood flowed from His body. It's only those who have received His Word and are in the body of Christ when Jesus comes back that will be spared that final destruction. Only those who cling by faith to the “rope” of Christ's righteousness will survive.

## Hang On


In 1936 the Germans built an enormous, 804-foot-long airship called the *Hindenburg*. As they were getting ready to maneuver the blimp into the hanger, about 100 men on the ground were hanging onto the zeppelin's ropes. Unexpectedly, the huge airship rose up with tremendous force.

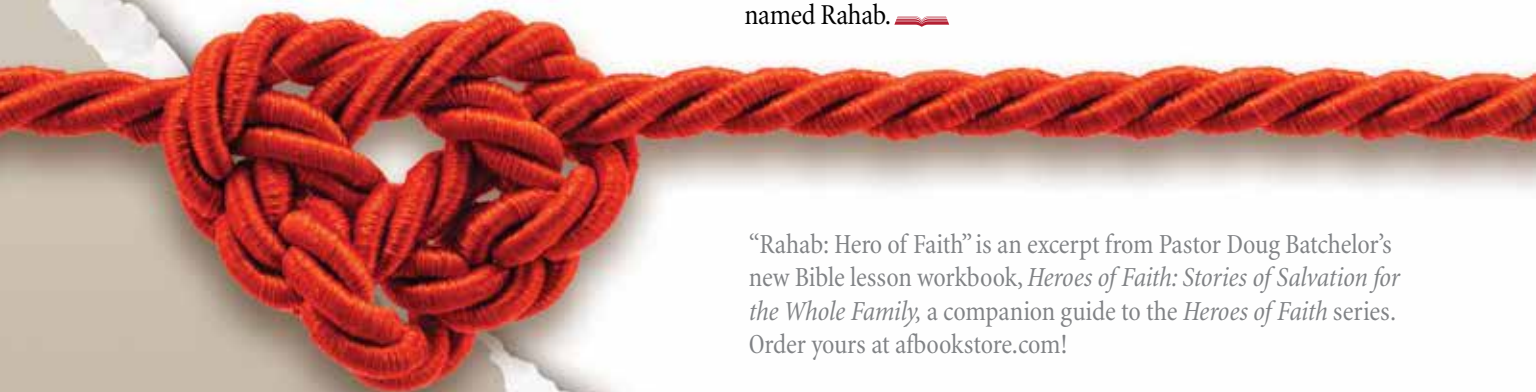
As soon as it lifted, some of the men let go of the ropes, dropped to the ground, and didn't get hurt. Others waited until they were 50 or more feet off the ground before they let go, and when they fell they broke their ankles and legs. A few others panicked and instinctively tightened their grip. They went up with the balloon but couldn't hang on forever. Their arms and hands grew weak, so they let go and fell to their deaths.

Soon the *Hindenburg* began to hover and drift with the breeze several hundred feet up. Yet one man remained hanging from the airship. The people on the ground wondered how long he could last. They chased the *Hindenburg* for about three hours. Eventually it lost altitude, landed, and the lone man was able to let go and walk away.

The stunned onlookers asked, “How did you hang on for so long?”

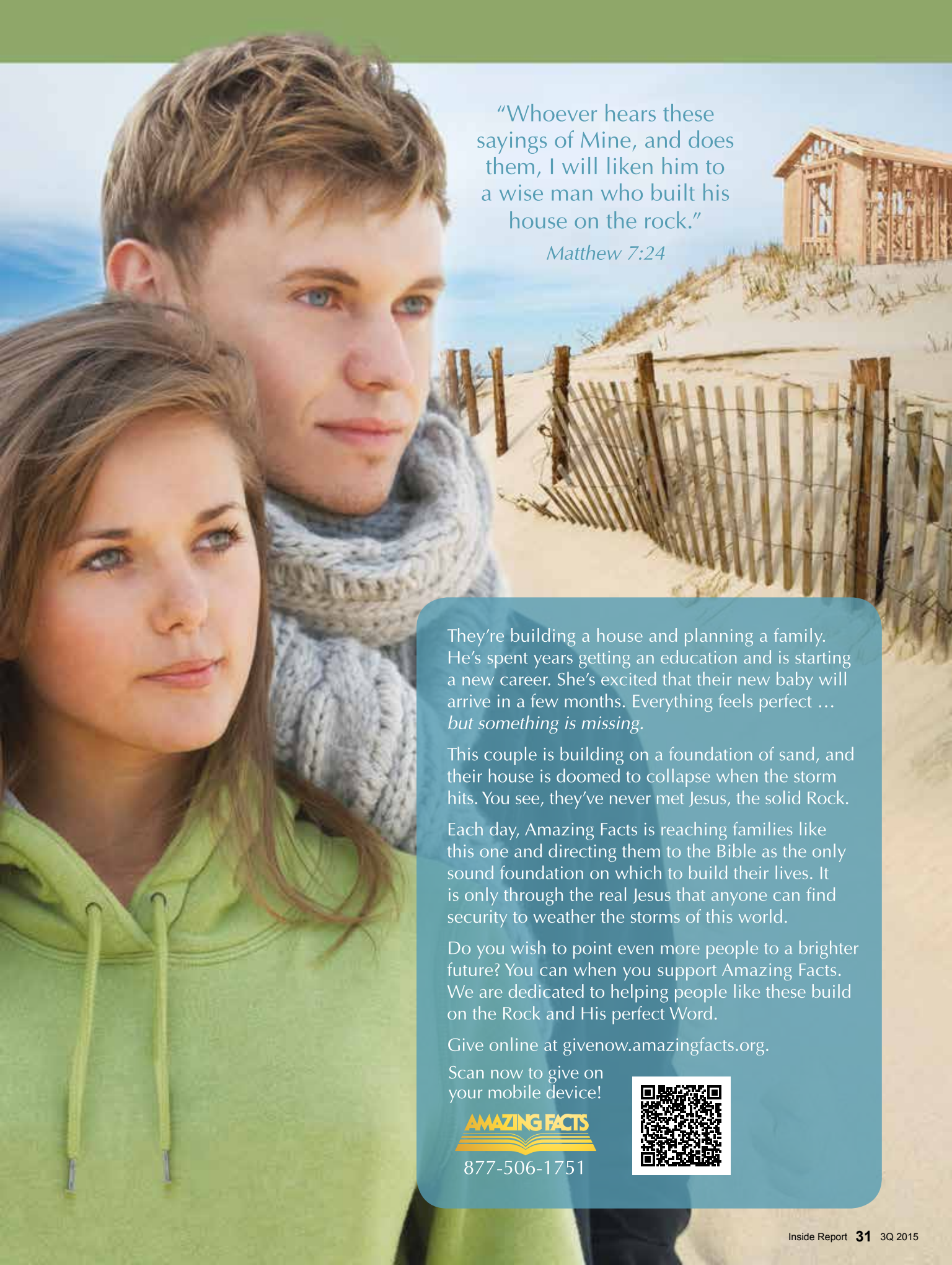
He replied, “Once the blimp took off, I tightened my grip. I soon realized that I couldn't hold on forever. So, while hanging on with one arm, I used my free arm to wrap the remaining rope around my waist and then tied a knot. For three hours I just hung there, trusting the rope, and enjoyed the view!”

Rahab's red rope is ultimately a symbol of faith. We must tie a knot in the promises of God and hang on. It is also a symbol of the blood of Christ. We have to tie the rope in our window, then tell our friends and family to get into the house, because Joshua (Jesus the Savior) is coming back soon with an army of angels to deliver those who have stretched out a red rope of faith, just like an unlikely hero named Rahab. 



“Rahab: Hero of Faith” is an excerpt from Pastor Doug Batchelor's new Bible lesson workbook, *Heroes of Faith: Stories of Salvation for the Whole Family*, a companion guide to the *Heroes of Faith* series. Order yours at [afbookstore.com!](http://afbookstore.com!)





“Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24

They're building a house and planning a family. He's spent years getting an education and is starting a new career. She's excited that their new baby will arrive in a few months. Everything feels perfect ... *but something is missing.*

This couple is building on a foundation of sand, and their house is doomed to collapse when the storm hits. You see, they've never met Jesus, the solid Rock.

Each day, Amazing Facts is reaching families like this one and directing them to the Bible as the only sound foundation on which to build their lives. It is only through the real Jesus that anyone can find security to weather the storms of this world.

Do you wish to point even more people to a brighter future? You can when you support Amazing Facts. We are dedicated to helping people like these build on the Rock and His perfect Word.

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# 50 Years of Bold Evangelism

God did it all ... through you! For half a century, the Lord has been using the ministry of Amazing Facts to transform thousands of lives through television, radio, literature, the Internet, Bible training, and public evangelism. Till Jesus comes again, God's message is our mission. Thank you for your tremendous support and faithful prayers, and to God be the glory!

## Amazing Facts

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