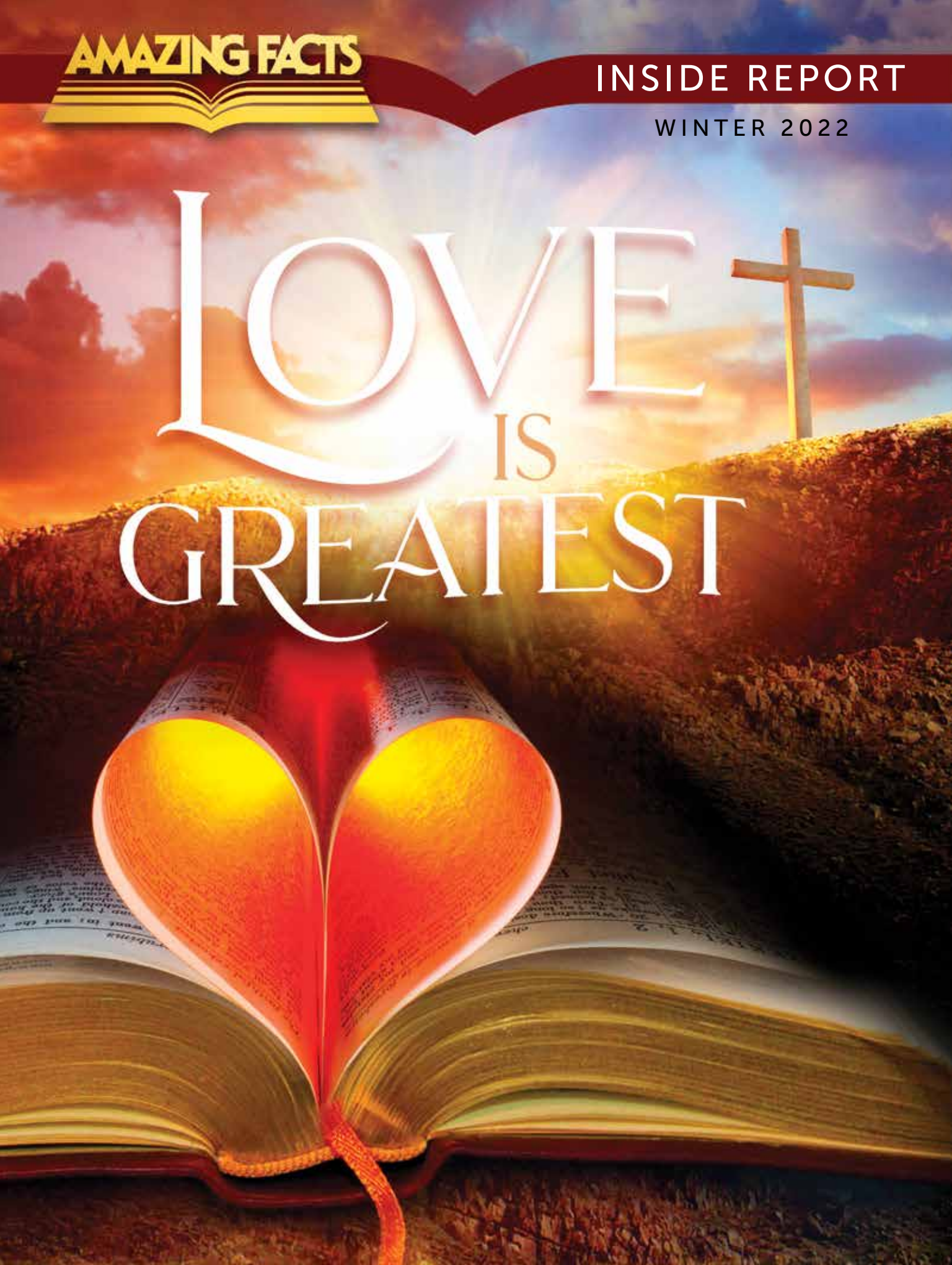


AMAZING FACTS

INSIDE REPORT

WINTER 2022

# LOVE IS GREATEST





**AMAZING FACTS**  
PRESENTS



# INSPIRATION

## THE BIBLE'S GREATEST STORIES!

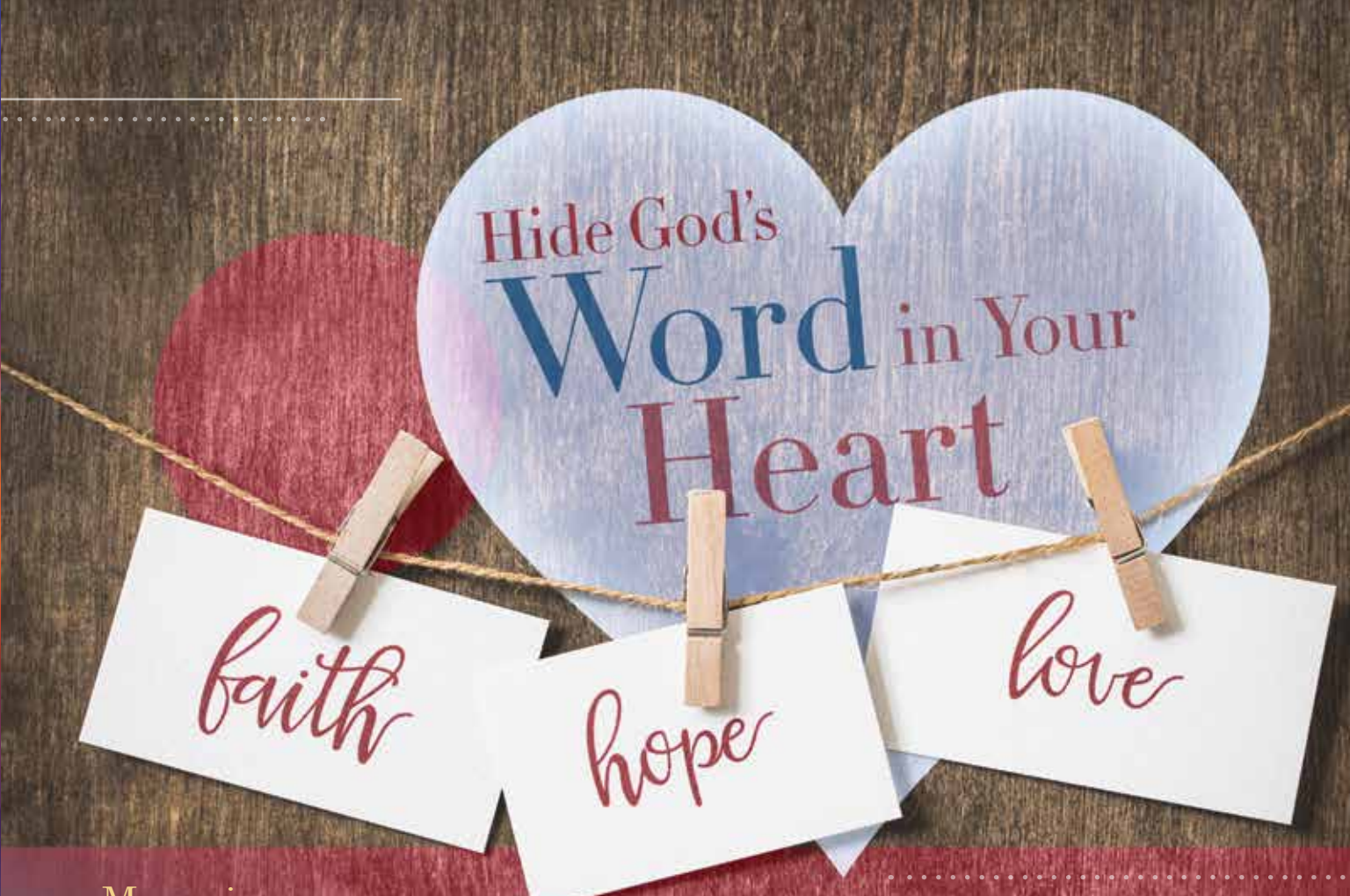
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# Hide God's Word in Your Heart

faith

hope

love

## Memorize:

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13).

**H**as someone ever asked you what it means to be a Christian? Answer with this simple verse, which lists the nuts and bolts of Christianity. Faith, hope, and love are the wheels of the Christian life. They exist in tandem and for eternity.

The first is faith. In what do you have faith? “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). You have faith that God is who He says He is.


The second is hope. In what is your hope found? “The riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles ... is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). You have hope that God will do what He says He’s going to do.

The last is love. “Above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection” (3:14). The greatest of the three, love is the culmination of your faith and hope: “Now the purpose of the commandment is love ... from sincere faith” (1 Timothy 1:5); “now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out

in our hearts” (Romans 5:5). Our faith and our hope are built on God—and “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Through faith and through hope, both exercised continually in the life, you become the express image of God.

It is reported that Napoleon, shortly before his death, stated, “Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded His empire upon love; and, at this hour, millions of men would die for Him.”

The classic hymn asks, “What wondrous love is this?” It is this love that propelled Christ to brave the ignominy of the cross to give life unto the dead, this love which moves us to give up our most precious possession, this love that is the agent of transformation! Though weak in the world’s eyes, this love is actually the most powerful force in the universe.

Find out more about why “Love Is Greatest” in this quarter’s main feature by Pastor Doug. 



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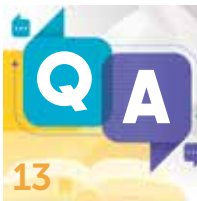
## 18 The Long Haul of Faith

One of the longest-serving employees of Amazing Facts has recently retired. We look back on an unusual life of commitment to the ministry and the contributions he made to the vital work of salvation.

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The supreme directive for every Christian is to experience the love of God, which can be clearly seen throughout the Old Testament and in the life of Jesus Christ. Pastor Doug Batchelor uncovers the profound meaning of love in the Christian life and why we need it—especially when facing the last days.



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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](https://subscribe.amazingfacts.org)!

# Connect with Amazing Facts

## From the Mail Bag



### YouTube Outreach Works

I hadn't planned on watching your video on YouTube, but it came up when I searched "Under the Ten Commandments?" I've been confused regarding the "not under the law but grace" debate. In my quest for the truth, I went on YouTube to watch as many videos as I could. I heard a variety of perspectives from various Christian teachers. After long and careful consideration, I've concluded that your video is correct. Had your video not come up in the search, I would've been brainwashed by misinformed doctrines. Thank you. Your videos clarified everything for me. Please keep making videos to refute false doctrines. Always remember that one correct voice is louder than a crowd. One correct video can save a soul. —Steve

### Never Too Late

I was raised a Sabbath-keeper and have attended church most of my life. Recently, I've been on the Amazing Facts website. This afternoon, I read your article "Is It Possible to Live Without Sinning" and it all came together for me—all the Bible promises! It's wonderful. Oh, and I'm 67! God is patient and not willing that any should perish. —Janis

### Revelation Now Inspires

I wanted to send a heartfelt message of gratitude for *Revelation Now*. Your ministry has truly impacted our lives on a personal level. Our daughters love watching Amazing Facts. My 11-year-old was baptized because of Pastor Doug's messages. We are truly grateful for the way each message is presented. It's simple. It's direct. It's Bible-based. Everything we needed. Thank you for igniting a revival in our hearts! —Jillayne

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Roseville, CA 95678-8058  
916-434-3880  
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### INSIDE REPORT VOL. 40, NO. 1

PRESIDENT  
DOUG BATCHELOR

MANAGING EDITOR  
ANTHONY LESTER  
[editor@amazingfacts.org](mailto:editor@amazingfacts.org)

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
MICHELLE KISS

WRITER  
CURTIS RITTENOUR

COPYEDITOR  
LAURIE LYON

ART DESIGN/LAYOUT  
HALEY TRIMMER

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The background of the entire image is a landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare effect that radiates across the upper half of the image. In the foreground, an open book lies flat on a dark, textured surface. The pages of the book are turned in such a way that they form a heart shape. The inner edges of the pages are illuminated with a bright, warm glow, transitioning from yellow at the top to a deep red at the bottom, mirroring the colors of the sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and inspirational.

# LOVE IS GREATEST

By Pastor Doug Batchelor

The love of God is  
an experience that  
every Christian  
must have.





**An Amazing History** The term “bucket list,” a list of things a person would like to do before he or she dies, harkens back to the phrase “kicking the bucket.” In medieval times, criminals were executed by hanging. On the gallows, they would often be made to stand on a bucket as the rope was tied around their necks. The executioner would then kick the bucket out from under their feet. A Stanford survey found that more than 91 percent of respondents had a bucket list.



**T**he top 12 items that people put on their bucket lists are: see the Northern Lights, run a marathon, go on an African safari, spelunk caves in Central America, climb Mount Everest, visit the Great Wall of China, learn to play an instrument, zip line through a rainforest, snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, skydive, see the Great Pyramids of Giza, and raft the Colorado River.

I’ve been blessed to do many of these things. But the prime thing on my bucket list is actually none of these things. It’s a Bible passage:

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:17–19).

You can have hobbies; you can have goals. But the supreme directive for every Christian is to experience the love of God. Nothing is more important. But it is just as important to know why love is the greatest.

## Defining Love

One day, I was walking through a parking lot, and a lady called out to me, “Don’t you love it?”

I looked around, confused.

“Your car,” she explained. “I’ve got one just like it! Aren’t they great?”

Nowadays, we utter the word “love” so casually that it has nearly lost its impact.

Different terms interpreted as “love” in Scripture are used more than 500 times! The first time it appears in the

Bible is the Hebrew term *ahab*, when God said to Abraham, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, ... and offer him there as a burnt offering” (Genesis 22:2). This means that the first time we encounter the word love in the Bible is in sacrifice. To God, what constitutes love is anything but casual. And as we will see, this verse is but an introduction to God’s own expression of love.

“Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”  
—1 Corinthians 13:13

The Greek language has four words to express different types of love:

- **Storge:** a feeling of affection, such as between parent and child or a strong friendship
- **Eros:** romantic feelings or sexual desire
- **Phileo:** a feeling of loyalty or attachment to friends, family, and community
- **Agape:** selfless, unconditional love

The two primarily used in the New Testament are *phileo* and *agape*. There’s a big difference between *agape*

and *phileo*. Whereas *phileo* tends to be an involuntary feeling, *agape* is voluntary. It's the choice to love someone.

## The Love of Jesus

Though rarely used in ancient Greek and only a few times in the New Testament, *agape* is nonetheless the essence of our Christian doctrine.

In Galatians 5 is a list of "the fruit of the Spirit": "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (vv. 22, 23). The very first one is "love," *agape*. All the other fruits come after it; I believe it's because all the other fruits are produced from it. And in Peter's second epistle, the apostle lists the growth of a Christian like climbing a ladder, and love is the top rung:

For this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love (2 Peter 1:5–7).

Love, *agape*, is the last one listed. It is the ultimate culmination, the end goal. The Bible is defining *agape* as the zenith of what you can experience as a person.

So it follows that *agape* is the love championed by Jesus; it is the basis of His character. *Agape* is the word

used throughout 1 Corinthians 13. The Bible's famous "love" chapter describes God's unconditional love for you. (Try this: Read the whole chapter and wherever you see the word "love," exchange it with "God.")

You will discover

that God's love for you is an unending love: "The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you'" (Jeremiah 31:3). In our relationships, our love for one another often changes. The feelings can go up and down due to the weather, to hormones, even to diet. But God's love is not like that. God didn't say, "When you start behaving better, then I'll love you"; He didn't say, "When you're saved, I'll love you." God loved us "while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8)—which means He loves us *now*. God's love for us is consistent, unchanging,





eternal. He “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:7).

Look at the apostle Paul. God loved him even when he was a killer. And the understanding of that led Paul to write:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35, 37–39).

Wow. No one else in the universe can promise that.

## Experiencing His Love

So how do we experience this matchless love of Christ? As you would with any relationship, get to know our God. Communicate with Him. Spend time with Him. Learn what He does and what He doesn’t do. If you are not doing this, that very well may be the reason you are struggling in your relationship with the Lord.

How do you spend time with God anyway? No, you can’t just call God on the phone, but in a way, you have a direct line to Him through prayer. Prayer is the soul’s conversation with the Almighty.

Read His Word. God gave us the Bible so that we could get to know Him. Through the Bible, you will learn the best expression of love ever given: the life and death of Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

In Christ was manifested the love of God toward us: “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). Christ said, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself” (John 12:32). Realizing what Christ did for us elicits a response from us. Abraham never had to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:12–14)—because God Himself took his place; Christ took the death we all deserve.

What were Christ’s apostles like before the cross? And what were they like after? Once arrogant (Matthew 26:35), ruthless (Luke 9:54), quarrelsome, and competitive (22:24), these men, excepting Judas, were transformed by

the experience of their Savior lifted up on that object of death. Notice how the apostles are described after Christ’s ascension into heaven: “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14).

## Beholding Love

It works the same way today. Even though we were not eyewitnesses during Christ’s time upon this earth, the same power of His life and death reaches us just as effectively.



It is a plain fact that people become like what they look at. People, even professed Christians, are watching graphic violence, pornography, unimaginable sin at an alarming rate. What is that doing to their hearts and minds? In contrast, what happens when we behold the Savior, “the Word [who] became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14)? It produces love in us. “We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). The more you get to know Christ—the more you get to experience His love for you personally—the more His transformational love begets love in you.

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (3:1). Notice what a personalized, individual experience it is to behold God. John can’t even describe it; all he can do is invite you to do the same. “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (4:8). A well-known Christian author put it this way: “To know God is to love Him.”<sup>1</sup> Love for God is not just emotion—it’s cerebral. You have to be the one who makes the choice—daily. You have to be the one to devote the time—daily.

Only then can God do His work. You “are ... transformed into the same image from glory to glory, *just as by the Spirit of the Lord*” (2 Corinthians 3:18, my emphasis). You don’t

*(Continued on page 16.)*

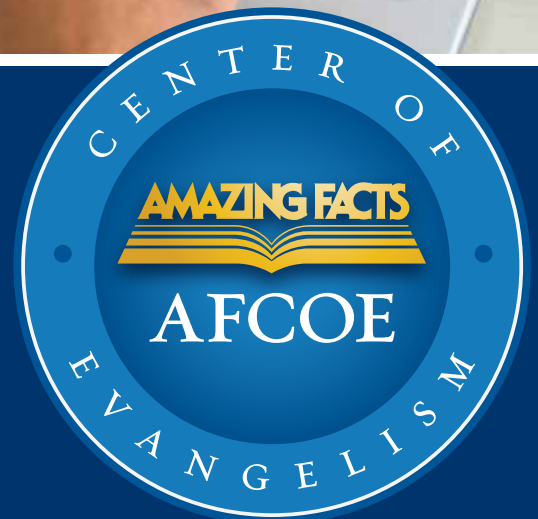
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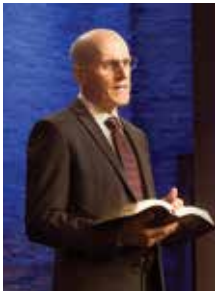
# Amazing Facts News to Note



## Amazing Facts Youth Conference in May

Last year, during our first-ever youth conference, the W.O.R.D. Center hosted more than 1,200 young people seeking to become effective, empowered disciples for Christ. This year's youth conference, "The Power of the Story," will be coming this May. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

## Pastor Doug's Upcoming Events



As the pandemic continues to affect our local church evangelism, our team of evangelists needs your prayers: May God open the door to this powerful means of evangelism soon! To stay up to date on our Revelation seminars, visit [prophecyseminars.com](http://prophecyseminars.com).

Pastor Doug does have some noteworthy speaking engagements coming up. He'll be at ASI in Northglenn, Colorado (near Denver), beginning April 7. And, God willing, Pastor Doug will fly to Ireland to share the gospel from April 29 to May 7.

## Publishing Prepares for an Amazing Year

Our Amazing Facts publishing team is working hard on writing and designing several new projects for 2022. You're going to love all the new resources for sharing and for your spiritual growth.

For instance, look for our next sharing magazine, which will cover the vital messages of the three angels found in Revelation 14. We're planning to have it completed in the second quarter, and as an *Inside Report* subscriber, you'll receive a complimentary issue.

We're also expanding our digital downloads at [afbookstore.com](http://afbookstore.com). Be sure to check it out today. Soon, we'll include new "Amazing Facts Digi-tracts." You'll be able to buy a digital tract online for a one-time fee and then share

it as many times as you want through texts, social media, and emails.

Also look for our new edition of *The Desire of Ages*, titled *The Life of Jesus Christ*. Additional titles include Pastor Doug's book *The Amazing Power of Forgiveness*, a new card game centered on Bible study, and our upcoming daily devotional covering every verse of the book of Revelation!



## China Ministry Facing Unprecedented Challenges



Our faithful team in China is facing another crackdown on evangelism, especially with our printed materials. While web outreach is also under intense scrutiny, our team still welcomed 534,333 web visitors in 2021, nearly 75 percent for the first time. Almost 48,000 web surfers signed up for our Chinese-language Bible studies online.

One visitor revealed that after a year of personal tribulations, he decided to kill himself: "But before committing suicide, I wondered, if America's technology is more advanced than China's, why do most Americans believe in God? So I decided to study the Bible myself and bought one online. I also went to the internet to find more information and found your videos. I finally found the meaning of life. The most gratifying thing I found was Jesus." This new brother in Christ has embraced the Sabbath and says, "I speak of God's love to those who do not have Jesus in their lives." Please pray that God moves on the hearts of Chinese leadership and that He protects our outreach work in China.












# TV & RADIO Broadcast SCHEDULE

**Amazing Facts with Doug Batchelor** (Times marked in black)

**Sabbath School Study Hour** (Times marked in blue)

**Bible Answers Live** (Times marked in orange)



	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	4:00 AM PT 10:30 AM PT 12:00 PM PT <b>7:00 PM PT LIVE</b> 10:30 PM PT	12:00 AM PT 6:00 AM PT 3:00 PM PT 6:00 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 11:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT 11:00 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 3:00 PM PT 8:00 PM PT	3:00 AM PT 8:00 AM PT 2:00 PM PT 4:30 PM PT 8:00 PM PT	4:30 AM PT 6:00 AM PT 9:00 AM PT 2:00 PM PT 5:00 PM PT 6:00 PM PT	5:00 AM PT 9:30 AM PT 10:00 AM PT 4:00 PM PT 9:30 PM PT
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		6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	
		1:00 PM ET	1:00 PM ET	1:00 PM ET	1:00 PM ET	1:00 PM ET	
	8:00 AM (All Time Zones)						
		9:30 AM CT		9:00 AM CT		9:00 PM CT	5:00 AM CT
					10:00 PM PT		
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Watch Bible programming you can trust at AFTV.org. Streaming online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on your computer, iPhone, iPad, ROKU, and more!

## RADIO

**Bible Answers Live** airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 PM PT. It is a live call-in radio program during which you can ask Pastor Doug a Bible question and get a biblical answer. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate. You can also watch live on AFTV!





# Bible Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



Why did God create humans if He knew we would fall into sin?



It is true that God is all-knowing. "Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?" (Job 37:16). "Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite" (Psalm 147:5).

I was once asked if the Lord created our planet as some sort of cosmic experiment. I replied, "Do parents who choose to have children recognize that their kids will have free wills and will certainly make bad choices along the way? Of course! Yet love takes risks. God has demonstrated that all of us were made free. He even made creatures that He knew would choose to rebel."

What would it be like if the Lord only made people who were "pre-programmed" to love Him and never consider other options? That would not be love. True love can only be given willingly. It was important to God that humans be free moral agents who could make their own choices.

Some suggest that God's knowledge about what will take place in the future interferes with history and people's choices. But just as a weather satellite can forecast hurricanes without interfering with those storms, so God's foreknowledge does not ever violate human freedom.

When our world has run its course and Jesus comes to destroy sin, the entire universe will acknowledge, "Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!" (Revelation 15:3). All will agree that the plan of God to create the world and permit sin to enter was handled with absolute fairness and love. The most incredible part is that God was still willing to come to Earth and die to save people who rebelled against Him. That shows me that the Lord can be trusted.

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 [amazingfacts.org](http://amazingfacts.org).



Why does the Bible say the Lord is a "jealous God" when jealousy is wrong?



"For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me" (Exodus 20:5). There are different types of jealousy. One type is driven by selfishness and control; the other is motivated by exclusive love.

For instance, parents can be "jealous" for the lives of their children. Many would give up their own lives to ensure a child's well-being. Watching over your children and being sensitive to evil influences around them is the type of jealousy that is good.

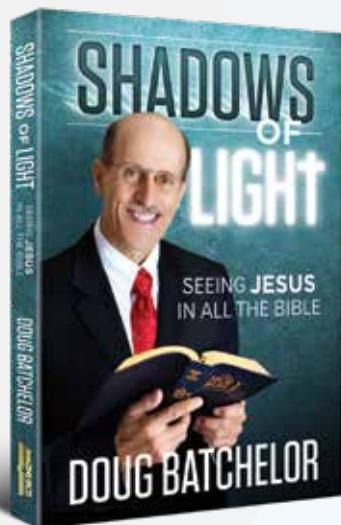
In the same way, our heavenly Father is jealous over us. He watches over and protects us. When you think of how the devil hates us and wants to harm us, it's good to know that we have a jealous God who will stand up in our defense.

What would we think about spouses who weren't jealous if their husband or wife committed adultery? We could conclude they don't really care about their relationship! The Lord is righteous; He isn't tainted

with sin like our emotions are. He knows that we cannot serve Him with a divided heart, so He does not want us to split our affections between Him and the devil. "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. But you shall destroy their altars ... and cut down their wooden images (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods" (Exodus 34:12-15).

I'm glad God loves us enough to be jealous of our relationship with Him!

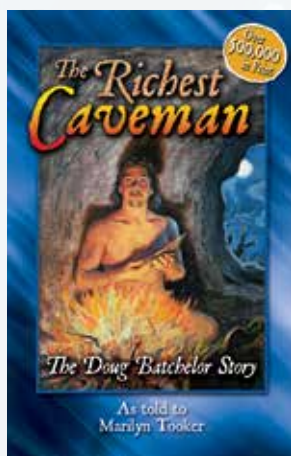
# Pastor Doug's CLASSIC BOOKS



## Shadows of Light: Seeing Jesus in All the Bible

Discover how Christ can be seen in stories from Genesis to Revelation—and get refreshing new insights into being a disciple of Jesus.

BK-SOL ... \$14.95



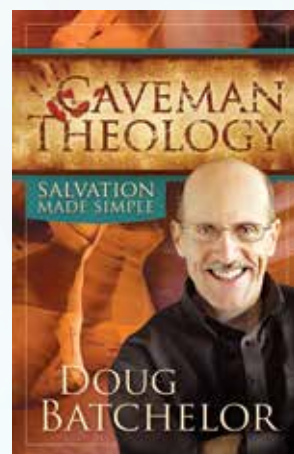
## The Richest Caveman

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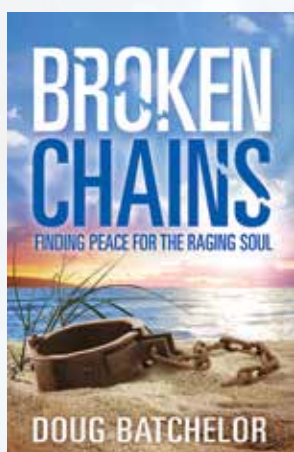


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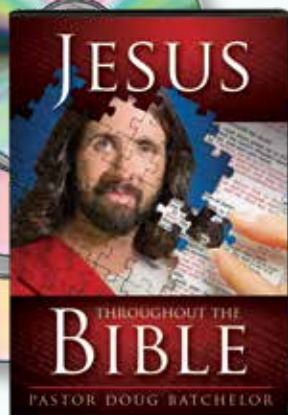
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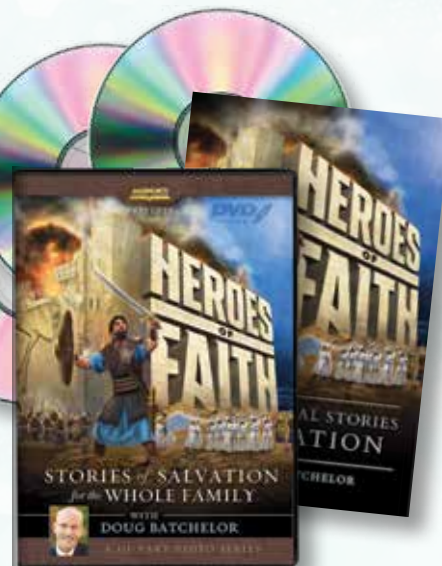
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(Continued from page 9.)

change your own heart; you allow God to change your heart. It is then that “you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

## It’s All About Love

But beholding Christ doesn’t just end with you. Before His ascension into heaven, Jesus asked Peter one question three times: “Do you love Me?” (John 21:15–17). One of the Savior’s final conversations with His disciple was about love. Each time, Peter responded, “You know that I love You.” And each time, Jesus told him the next step, the result that came from loving Him: “Feed My lambs”; “tend My sheep”; “feed My sheep.”

If we love Jesus, it leads us to love other people.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of

God; and everyone who loves is born

of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7). We are to love one another

in the same way that we love

the Lord. It is, in fact, the way

we demonstrate our love for

God. Loving others is the

criterion to knowing God.

“Come to Me,” Jesus said

(Matthew 11:28). Learn

about the love of God

from Christ Himself, then

tell it to the world (28:19,

20). This is God’s great

commission to us.

Jesus was once asked,

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” (22:36).

He answered:

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (vv. 37–40).

This is Jesus’ synopsis of the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments concern our love for God; the last six, our love for our fellow men. You cannot keep the last six without keeping the first four. Love for God begets love for people. The entire Ten Commandments is really all about love; it’s the great commission in written form. This is the full experience of God’s love.

## Wear It on Your Sleeve

And so it follows that love is how we are to be identified as believers. Love—not the steeple on a church or the cross on a neck—is the badge of a Christian: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

There once was a boy who started showing up regularly to renowned evangelist Dwight Moody’s church in Chicago. The boy was notably poor, dressed in rags, but without fail, he would trek a full four miles on foot to make the service, passing at least a dozen other churches on the way. One day, Moody asked him why. The boy replied, “I want to come here because this is where they know how to love a fella.”

People will go out of their way to experience genuine *agape*. They will come to church if it’s a place where God’s love is demonstrated.

Have you noticed that it’s easier to be more confident in God’s love for you than it is to be confident in your love for others? If anything, the polarization during this past year has made abundantly clear the lack of love some people have in their own homes, at work, in our society in general. Jesus predicted that in the last days, “The love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12). Indeed, it has.

Haven’t we at times seen this behavior even inside our own churches? “For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?” (1 Corinthians 3:3). “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there” (James 3:16).

Nothing grows a church faster than

when members put away their differences and make up their minds to love others, starting with their church family. That love naturally grows from the inside out into their community. Take the prime example of the early Christian church. After Christ’s ascension, the apostles continued to cultivate the love of God among themselves. The Bible records that these early Christians “[continued] daily with one accord in the temple, ... having favor with all the people” (Acts 2:46, 47). What was the consequence of such behavior? “The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Just like loving God is a choice, so is loving others. Loving your church family can seem difficult at times. It’s not always natural; it’s not always *phileo*. It means choosing to behave in a certain way even though you may not feel the emotion. And







when you do choose to exercise that *agape* love toward those you don't get along with, you might be surprised at the outcome. They might just change how they act toward you. That's what the love of God does to people. It transforms them—and you. But it starts with the decision to love one another, not with the character change.

The Bible tells us, "The end of all things is at hand" (1 Peter 4:7). As we draw ever nearer to the end of time, here is what is prescribed: "Above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins'" (v. 8). Soon, we are all going to reach the end of the road, wherein each person will be judged either saved or lost. The world is not going to get better; there will be only more sin and less love. But our course as God's last-day people has already been charted in the Word. We need this lifesaving, life-giving love. We need to choose it *and* use it because it will be the difference between life and death.

## The Greatest Love

During World War II, a group of Scottish prisoners of war was tasked with building a railroad bridge over the River Kwai, an Axis effort to connect Thailand to Burma, now Myanmar. The conditions at the camp were notoriously inhumane, sometimes producing a similar evil spirit in the POWs.

One day, the Japanese guards took an inventory of the tools and came up short one shovel. The guards lined up all the Scotsmen and demanded to know who stole the shovel. No one answered. The chief officer flew into a rage and ordered the execution of the entire group unless the thief confessed. Finally, one man stepped

forward. The captain grabbed a shovel and beat the man to death right then and there.


Not long after, the POWs learned that none of the shovels had actually been stolen. The guards had simply miscounted. That man, their fellow prisoner, had been innocent and had sacrificed himself so that their lives would be spared. That knowledge transformed the behavior of everybody in the camp. Where there had once been a self-serving antagonism, there was now brotherly love. Everything changed because of that single act of *agape*.

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends (John 15:13).

So many are filling their bucket lists with "the best," most exciting experiences the world has to offer. But in so doing, they are really planning their life around their death, as though this life were all there is. And in the end, what was it all worth? What value is climbing the highest mountain or taking a zip line through the forest compared to knowing God and His love for you?

The love of God is the greatest objective of life because it is the cornerstone upon which the plan of salvation was built. You can know that love brings you eternal life and infinite time and opportunities to fill the most ambitious bucket list.

If the only thing you accomplish in this lifetime is to experience the love of God, you would live a life wider, longer, deeper, higher than anything else this world has to offer. You would

experience the greatest love, the one that lasts for eternity. 



# The Long Haul of Faith

By Shenalyn Page

## A Tribute to One of Our Longest-Serving Employees

“Joe, we’ve got to get Amazing Facts on TV. It’s an audience that needs to hear the truths that we’re sharing!” That was the passion of Allen Hrenyk, who has recently retired after 36 years of dedicated service to the ministry.

That year was 1985, and Amazing Facts was still a small organization with just 12 employees. Back then, its outreach efforts were primarily focused on sharing the gospel on radio and through local church evangelistic meetings. Joe Crews, the ministry’s first director and speaker, had just hired Allen to oversee the ministry’s finances—but the influence of that energetic new employee would go far beyond a job title.

Allen wasn’t content to simply crunch numbers. Pastor Doug Batchelor says, “From the beginning, Allen was a visionary; he saw the need to reach people on a much larger scale.”

At first, Joe was hesitant to move to television. “I don’t think anyone would watch,” he said.

But Allen was insistent. “Sure, they will,” he said. “People come to your Revelation seminars in churches. Why wouldn’t they want to watch one on TV? We can record a seminar and televise it. I already have a TV station that will air it.”

After months of Allen relentlessly pushing the idea, Crews agreed to give it a shot. In the fall of 1986, Amazing Facts filmed its first full-length prophecy seminar. “We had so many positive responses from the beginning,” Allen shares. “People started sending in donations, and so many people responded wanting Bible studies.”

During Allen’s tenure, one of the longest in Amazing Facts’ history, the ministry grew exponentially, attracting believing professionals in all areas of the organization, growing its budget 20-fold and expanding its reach around the world. “I can’t take any credit for this,” Allen says with conviction. “I’ve always had a sense of mission and urgency, but the Lord made all this happen. He gives us the vision and the ideas.”

### Lifelong Dedication

Allen first heard Joe speaking on the radio; he was a teenager living in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. The program intrigued him, but he had no way of knowing that 18 years later, he would attend an Amazing Facts prophecy seminar and become good friends with Joe.

A third-generation believer in the three angels’ messages, Allen began teaching and preaching as a teenager. His college professors assumed that he would enter the mission field in some capacity, but he pursued a business degree instead. In the years before joining Amazing Facts, he managed personnel at a hospital, attended seminary, taught university business courses, worked in publishing, and managed a Christian book center.

His penchant for having wide-ranging interests didn’t go away when he joined up with Amazing Facts. Over his years here, Allen adapted to the changing needs of the ministry, teaching himself new skills to fill in wherever needed. At times, he worked as an editor, designer, photographer, and computer repairman. Much of this was done during his evenings and weekends. All the while, Allen faithfully managed the ministry’s finances in his primary role. “I just did whatever was needed to help the ministry succeed—and save money,” he says.



Joe Crews and Allen Hrenyk – 1986





## Staying the Course

Allen's dedication to Amazing Facts has been a consistent beacon to other staff throughout his time here. Instead of taking early retirement as he had planned, he chose to spend a few more years ensuring that the Amazing Facts W.O.R.D. Center was completed.

The journey to a new headquarters began in 2004 when Amazing Facts purchased land for the W.O.R.D. Center. It took 13 years to obtain the needed building permits, but Pastor Doug's vision never wavered. In 2017, construction began, even though Amazing Facts did not have all the funds yet.

Today, Allen says with a smile, "We finished debt-free. It was a miracle. Don't give too much credit to us—the Lord was impressing people to help."

Allen was also instrumental in getting the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism off the ground in the year 2000. Since then, thousands around the world have been trained as Bible workers and evangelists. "Amazing Facts is a soul-winning organization," Allen explains. "We believe in evangelism, in bringing people to Christ. Everything we do here is to bring people into contact with Christ so that they can fall in love with Him. That's our purpose, and we do it in many ways."

## Missed but Not Forgotten

Allen's sacrifice and commitment to the ministry are deeply appreciated by the Amazing Facts team. He has profoundly impacted our work for God around the world.

Among Amazing Facts staff, Allen will be remembered as someone who always had time to visit with anyone who stopped by his office. He is said to be quite the "renaissance man" and "storyteller." He will be dearly missed by all those who worked with him

during his 36 years. "Allen really helped to set the tone and direction of the ministry," shares Jean Ross, vice president of evangelism.

"Over the past 56 years, I don't think there's been anybody, next to Joe, who had a bigger impact on shaping Amazing Facts than Allen," adds Pastor Doug.

Allen has seen both challenges and miracles during his tenure. "We've always had struggles," he notes. "Nothing comes easy, so we've had to work to stay focused on our goal of soul-winning. God has called us to be a living testimony to the world. Our

mission is to declare the three angels' messages to the world and help people come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.

"We always need to ask God, 'What do You have in mind? What do You want to accomplish?' When we do that—as a ministry and as individuals—God will be able to write His character into our lives and use us in ways we can't even begin to imagine now. I'm convinced that what we've done thus far is going to be dwarfed by what God is going to do through this ministry in the future."

Please join us in thanking Allen for his influence and spirit of passion for God's work—and please pray that the Lord will continue to bless him and use his influence and insight to win more souls while there is still time.

*Thank you, Allen!*



*Allen (right) with the leadership at the new Amazing Facts headquarters.*

# WWII War Bride Leaves a LEGACY for the GOSPEL

By Shenalyn Page

**As** a young war bride, Doris received the surprise of her life when she arrived in America. She had married a U.S. soldier in England during World War II, but only now had she discovered that he had become a Christian and was preparing to be a pastor. Furthermore, he had enrolled her in a Bible course.

Doris didn't fight her husband on it. Instead, she carefully studied the lessons and accepted every Bible truth she encountered in them. She soon became an ardent supporter of evangelism. When her two daughters, Gayle and Lynn, were small, she took them to an evangelistic meeting in an open-air tent. Today, her daughters recall, "Our little hearts beat so fast as we sat awestruck by God's truth."

Many years later, Doris's daughters now carry on their mother's legacy of active Christian service. Gayle serves as a missionary, ministering to the health and spiritual needs of the Karen people in Thailand. Lynn actively loves the people around her for Jesus, sharing Scripture and studying the Bible with them in their homes.

But the two sisters wanted to go even further, so in honor of their mother and her lifelong passion for outreach, Gayle and Lynn recently set up a named memorial fund—"Doris's Gospel Legacy Fund"—through Amazing Facts International. The two have also partnered with us by each establishing a gift annuity. These gift annuities will not only provide Gayle and Lynn with fixed lifetime payments, but upon their passing, their annuities will also undergird "Doris's Gospel Legacy Fund" through the remaining annuity balances. "This gift is for God's glory," the sisters share. "Our prayer is that these funds will be the means of reaching the world with the truths for this hour. We want to see this gospel of the kingdom go to all the world so that we can all go home to be with Jesus."

Gayle and Lynn share that the entire family was drawn to Amazing Facts because of its "dedication to the pure

Bible truth and its zeal to present that truth in as many ways as possible." Their mom especially appreciated Pastor Doug's "open, honest faith and his example of immersing himself in the Bible," as well as his *Bible Answers Live* radio program and his book *The Richest Caveman*.

## The Impact You Can Make

Amazing Facts is deeply grateful to Gayle and Lynn for establishing a memorial fund. Their significant donation will be used just as their mother would have wished: to spread the joyful news of Jesus' soon return to people all around the world.

With a minimum gift of \$25,000, funded immediately or through a gift annuity, you can also establish a named fund in honor of your loved one's dedication to Jesus. And you can know that such funds will have an impact on the soul-winning mission of Amazing Facts. You can also set up a named fund, which can be used to support your family's evangelistic priorities. Additionally, your named fund gift may also provide you tax savings through a charitable deduction.

If you want to set up a named fund with Amazing Facts, please contact our office of estate and gift planning. Our advisors are ready to assist you in building *your* legacy for God's kingdom. Call **800-436-2695** or email [mylegacy@amazingfacts.org](mailto:mylegacy@amazingfacts.org) today!



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# Volunteer Spotlight

By Brandon Tygret,  
Director of Publishing

*At* Amazing Facts, we are blessed with many talented volunteers whom God has called to help finish His final proclamation to a lost and dying world: the three angels' messages.

When one of our employees was out several weeks due to COVID-19, a faithful volunteer went the extra mile. Her name is Juanita, a retiree who is passionate about sharing her faith.



Juanita

During her years of volunteer work, she has helped prepare the literature and DVDs mailed out to searching souls responding to our many free offers on our media programs.

Juanita used her natural leadership skills to make a huge impact, directing

other volunteers to prepare and mail out the truth-filled materials. We are so grateful for her dedication to the Lord's work!



Another courageous volunteer, Dr. Stone, stepped up to fill the gap during the initial four-month pandemic shutdown. During that time, the W.O.R.D. Center campus was open only to employees. Faithfully, Dr. Stone would



Dr. Stone

come by and pick up thousands of our free-offer materials. At home, he had help from his wife and his in-laws, who are in their 90s, to prepare them for shipping. Dr. Stone would then bring the materials back for mailing. He was the only volunteer we had in publishing during this difficult time. We are so

grateful to him and his family for their dedication during one of the planet's darker times in recent memory.

Sometimes in life, the little things turn into big advancements for the Lord's cause. Without passionate and dedicated volunteers, it would be difficult to accomplish all the work needed to bring in the harvest for the Lord's soon return. Because of your faithful support for the mission of Amazing Facts, we were able to get millions of pieces of literature distributed across the world. The Amazing Facts publishing team thanks our volunteers for their commitment to the cause of Christ!

# PROPHECY REPORT



*"He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads" (Revelation 13:16).*

The Canadian province of Quebec began the new year with "15,845 new COVID-19 cases," and as a result, enforced the "closures of non-essential retail stores"<sup>1</sup> for the first three Sundays of January. Only "pharmacies, convenience stores and gas stations" were exempted. Some raised objections, including Quebec's Federation of Chambers of Commerce, whose president, Charles Milliard, stated, "We must leave the choice to businesses to open or close at the time that makes the most sense for them, their employees and their customers." Others, however, were simply relieved that there weren't more severe restrictions.

This regulation should come as no surprise. The Canada Labour Code already slates Sunday as "the normal day of rest."<sup>2</sup> Indeed, in the early days of this pandemic, beginning in April 2020, Quebec previously shut down on Sundays "to give employees a chance to rest in a time of duress."<sup>3</sup>

Sunday is coming to be seen as the standard day of rest in the secular world. Does the passing of a universal Sunday law seem ever more probable? For a refresher of this Bible prophecy, we offer our free, online Study Guide "The Mark of the Beast."<sup>4</sup>



*"No one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast" (Revelation 13:17).*

On December 7, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced a modification to its calendar: a longer weekend. Since January 1, the UAE government has had off every "Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday."<sup>5</sup> The majority of the country's private institutions, including its entire education sector, chose to follow the government's lead. In fact, "84% of surveyed firms believe the new weekend will have a positive impact on transacting internationally."<sup>6</sup> Interestingly, the UAE previously defined its weekend as did the rest of the Arabian Gulf: as Friday and Saturday only.

The government's reasons for doing so are to improve "the economy, social and family ties and people's overall well-being." For example, "the UAE's financial sector [will now be in] ... closer alignment with the global real-time trading and communications transactions that drive things such as stock markets, banks and financial institutions."

The UAE of its own accord desisted from working on Sunday to conform with the world's practices. Are "the kings of the earth" (Revelation 17:2) laying the groundwork for a sanction of those who refuse the mark of the beast?

1 Virginie Ann, "Quebec reports 15,845 COVID-19 cases, starts Sunday store closures," *Winnipeg Free Press*, January 2, 2022, <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/health/quebec-reports-15845-covid-19-cases-closes-stores-on-sundays-as-of-today-575999562.html>.

2 <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/labour-standards/reports/hours-work.html#h2.12>

3 Philip Authier, "Most Quebec stores will close on Sundays as coronavirus cases mount," *Montreal Gazette*, March 30, 2020, <https://montrealgazette.com/news/quebec/most-quebec-stores-will-be-closed-on-sundays-as-coronavirus-cases-mount/>.

4 <https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/study-guide/e/4997/t/the-mark-of-the-beast>

5 Rachel Treisman, "The UAE is adopting a 4.5-day workweek and a Saturday-Sunday weekend," *NPR*, December 8, 2021, [https://www.npr.org/2021/12/08/1062435944/uae-work-week-change-saturday-sunday-weekends-global-markets?fbclid=IwAR3Sn56HHdUBUCjTc2f-wJHoRkN92dts24oo2XGe3GsHai\\_PDWZbKCVckQA](https://www.npr.org/2021/12/08/1062435944/uae-work-week-change-saturday-sunday-weekends-global-markets?fbclid=IwAR3Sn56HHdUBUCjTc2f-wJHoRkN92dts24oo2XGe3GsHai_PDWZbKCVckQA).

6 "UAE's private sector is signing up for new weekend change—but not the 2.5-day break, says Mercer study," *Gulf News*, December 28, 2021, <https://gulfnews.com/business/markets/uaes-private-sector-is-signing-up-for-new-weekend-change---but-not-the-25-day-break-says-mercer-study-1.1640673407474>.



## Boost Your

BRAIN  
POWER

By Laurie Lyon

**H**ave you ever wished for a more reliable memory, improved creativity, or greater reasoning ability? Most of us have, and it's certain we'd all like to avoid cognitive decline.

Though many accept cognitive deficits as part of the aging process, we all know people who have stayed "sharp as a tack" well into their 80s and 90s. While heredity plays some part in this, there are numerous factors that can have an even stronger impact on brain health—including many within our control. And making changes that may seem insignificant can add up to a big difference in brain function. Let's look at several of them.

**1 SLEEP.** It's during sleep that brain cells are repaired, toxic waste is cleared away, and neuronal networks are restored to optimal performance, yet more than one-third of American adults are chronically sleep-deprived.<sup>1</sup> As a result, many suffer cognitive deficits, like difficulty focusing and memory lapses.

**2 EXERCISE.** It's not everyone's favorite topic. But the fact is, exercise doesn't have to be excruciating or intense to have a positive impact on brain health. A brisk 30-minute walk several times a week can make marked improvements in cognitive function. In one study of stroke survivors, a single moderate-intensity walk increased the brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a neurotransmitter regulator critical to proper brain function.<sup>2</sup>



**3 CHALLENGE YOUR BRAIN.** Reading and solving puzzles can produce some benefit, but for the best payoff, learn something *new*. The concentration and effort required in mastering an unfamiliar activity—learning to play a musical instrument, for instance—tends to

increase neuroplasticity, or brain adaptability, which enhances cognitive powers.<sup>3</sup>

**4 EAT A PLANT-BASED DIET.** Berries, nuts, and leafy greens are some of the foods particularly beneficial in slowing cognitive decline.<sup>4</sup>




**5 DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.** Most Americans are chronically dehydrated, and even a two percent loss of water can lead to a significant deterioration in reasoning ability. Keeping yourself well-watered allows the brain to receive more blood, which delivers the nourishment and oxygen that brain cells need in order to thrive.

**6 AVOID HARMFUL SUBSTANCES.** Alcohol and tobacco are obvious culprits, but most people are unaware that excessive refined sugar can be a powerful neurotoxin as well.<sup>5</sup>

**7 KEEP SOCIAL CONNECTIONS ACTIVE.** While isolation and loneliness can lead to decreased brain function, regularly joining in activities with friends and family can improve memory and cognition.<sup>6</sup>

**8 MAINTAIN A STRONG DEVOTIONAL LIFE.** The Bible engages the mind at the highest level. Scripture describes itself as "living and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12). Its rich layers of wisdom, its narratives and promises, and its offer of salvation involve complex thought and demand interactive responses that can expand the mind like nothing else.

Naturally, our brain is essential to relating to others and, most important, it's how we connect with God. With His help, we can make simple changes today to boost our brain health and increase the probability of living healthier and more abundant lives in the future. 

1 <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p0215-enough-sleep.html>

2 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29078742/>

3 <https://accelerate.uofuhealth.utah.edu/resilience/neuroplasticity-how-to-use-your-brain-s-malleability-to-improve-your-well-being>

4 <https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/foods-linked-to-better-brainpower>

5 <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/neuronarrative/201204/what-eating-too-much-sugar-does-your-brain>

6 <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-minute-the-benefits-of-being-socially-connected/>



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—Pastor Doug Batchelor

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