### SPECIAL EDITION

#### **INSIDE REPORT**

APR/MAY/JUNE 2015

FOUND

Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry!

1965

- 2015

### THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

#### PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR

*"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" — Psalm 11:3* 

t is unsettling to be in an earthquake, when the ground beneath your feet suddenly starts to shake and there is absolutely nowhere to run for stability. But what's even scarier is to be in a building that starts shifting, groaning, and twisting. Lamps swing wildly, bookcases tip over, water sloshes around in the sink, dishes crash to the floor, and sometimes the entire structure collapses.

Can you tell I've been in a few earthquakes?

Engineers have drawn up many

varied blueprints in an attempt to create earthquake-resistant buildings. Some incorporate flexible beams that allow the structure to sway. Others minimize ground vibration through what is called "base isolation." The oldest structure in the world using this method is the ancient Tomb of Cyrus in Iran, built in the 4th century BC.

The best method available to ancient

architects for earthquake-resistant buildings was for them to construct massive, landmark structures, such as the El Castillo pyramid at Chichen Itza in Yucatan, Mexico. Yet all builders know that no manmade structure can be entirely earthquake-proof. The goal of engineers is simply to create buildings that minimize damage during seismic activity.

Well, many people today feel as if our world is shaking out of control. Signs in nature remind us that our planet is wearing out (Romans 8:22). Political strife, disease, wars, and crumbling moral values are quaking the ground base that will survive the upheavals of our planet? This is why the theme for this issue of *Inside Report* is "A Solid Foundation." At Amazing Facts, we believe there

beneath us. Is there a firm place to stand? Is there a solid

is a compact, sure footing to be had that is completely resistant to the seismic shifting of culture and politics in our world—the Bible, God's Word. Regardless of unstable changes in society or even within the church,

the Scriptures provide a safe and secure refuge on which to stand.

In this issue, you'll also get to read how God has blessed Amazing Facts for the past 50 years in sharing the everlasting gospel with thousands looking for the Rock-solid truth found in the Bible. It's been a thrilling adventure to be a part of this movement and a blessing that you have joined us.

Jesus told the disciples, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will

by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Our world will not last. Everything we cling to will be shaken loose and burned, except one thing—God's Word. Let's put our faith in Christ and His Word alone.

A giant earthquake will bring destruction to our world before Jesus comes. The Bible says, "And ... there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth (Revelation 16:18). Only those who wisely build on the rock of God's Word will be able to stand through it all.



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### A World of Light

"I thank Almighty God for touching my heart one night to go to the Amazing Facts website. Listening to Pastor Doug's teaching of the Bible wakes me from the world of the dead. I was lost and didn't know where to go, but now I'm in the world of light. I've been praying to God to lead me to the right

> place. One night I called and talked to Danielle from Amazing Facts and she helped me find a church that's my home now." Amie, New York

#### **Exciting News!**

"I have some exciting news to share with you. I have been watching Amazing Facts for several months. I gain several new insights weekly that I can apply to my life. After a recent program, I got down on my knees, confessed my sins, repented, and asked Jesus to be part of my life. Thanks to God's grace and mercy, you showed me His love. I am a new Christian because of your efforts. God loves and cares about you, and so do I. I am very grateful that you led me to the Lord. You are a blessing and encouragement to me." *Roger, Nebraska* 

#### **Center of Evangelism**

"I just want to say a big thanks for an amazing AFCOE. Our folks were blessed, we heard God's voice through the speakers, the presence of the Holy Spirit

was felt, and Christ was preached. We have initiated our own evangelism cycle. We will not let this training/knowledge go to waste!" *Baba, New Jersey* 



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

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## Visit our website at www.amazingfacts.org!

#### **FREE BIBLE STUDIES**

To enroll in our free 27-lesson Bible study, visit our homepage at amazingfacts.org and click on "Enroll in Our Free Online Bible School." Or to take the free course by mail, send us your name, address, and phone number and specify that you would like to begin the course. (Printed lessons are in English and are available only in Canada, the United States, and their territories.)

#### **ONLINE BOOKSTORE**

Visit **afbookstore.com** to discover all the great Christian resources available through Amazing Facts, including books, DVDs, and other products to help you in your walk with Christ and share the good news with others.

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#### YouTube Rescue!

"Thank you so much for your ministry and the hard work of everyone there! Amazing Facts changed our lives by spreading the gospel truth. My wife and I were baptized April 4, 2015,

on God's holy day. We had been going to a Sunday church, but when I searched the topic "end of the world" on YouTube,



your sermons popped up and caught my attention. From that time on, I have been watching all of your videos. It opened my mind and heart, especially to the Sabbath and the truth about death. ... I am now one of the members of God's remnant church. Praise the Lord!" *Dennis, Hong Kong* 

#### **The Foundation**

"God is real and alive. The ministry of Amazing Facts has helped me focus on keeping the foundation of Jesus Christ as the center of my life. Thank you for keeping the message clear and honest." *Michael, Email* 



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#### Wakening the Slumbering Saints

"Thank you for such a fitting reminder and call to awake. I am energized to

continue to share the Word more earnestly. I must admit I was growing tired because sometimes it seems that individuals are unresponsive, but I will press on." *Dean*, *Web comment* 

#### **Truth at Last**

"I loved being at my church until I started to read the Bible for myself. I had faith, but the Bible contradicted what my church was teaching me. I started to research and came across

666truth.org and Pastor Doug's teachings at amazingfacts.org. I really liked that he based his teachings on biblical facts and not assumptions. I've accepted Jesus, and I know I must follow His commandments. Today I write this testimony on a Sabbath as I wait for the second coming of my beloved Lord, Master, and Savior Jesus Christ." *Luis, Mexico* 

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!** 



# **INTERVIEW OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT.**

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# An Amazing Fact

The Gutenberg Bible was the first major book printed in the West using movable type. More than 150 copies were made in the 1450s in Germany, each at 1,272 pages in length. Only 48 copies or large portions of copies survive today, and these are considered to be among the most valuable books in the world. Eleven Gutenberg Bibles can be found in the United States, including in Austin, Texas. Since the time of the Gutenberg Bible, over 6,000,000,000 Bibles have been printed. Still, while more than 500 languages have the complete Bible translated, about 180 million people still don't have the Word of God available in their native language.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

-2 Timothy 3:16, 17

#### BY PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR

#### **An Amazing Fact:**

The new One World Trade Center is the tallest skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere, reaching a height of 1,776 feet. The massive tower rests on solid bedrock in Lower Manhattan. It took two months of blasting to clear the foundation area. About 40 trucks then dumped 400 cubic yards of concrete to provide solid footing for the 40,000 metric ton structure.

he Gospel of Luke records, "As some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, [Jesus] said, 'These things which you see the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down'" (21:5, 6).

When Jesus predicted the total and complete destruction of Herod's temple, His disciples must have been shocked. Any event so catastrophic as to unseat the massive stones of the temple would have indicated the end of the world to them. How large were these foundation blocks? When archaeologists excavated the Western Wall tunnel near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, they discovered one monolithic rock called the Western Stone that measured 44.6 feet long, 9.8 feet high, and 10.8 feet wide. This giant rock weighs 570 tons and is one of the largest building blocks in the world. That's equivalent to the weight of two fully loaded Boeing 747s. Yes, that's just one stone in the temple! If the disciples were stunned by Jesus' statement about the temple, the religious leaders were outraged when He said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). We know that Christ was not referring to the literal temple, but to His own body. The church is also called "the body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:27). While the earthly temple could be destroyed, there is a building that will never fall: God's church built upon Christ. When the church, by faith, stands on Jesus, who is revealed to us in the Bible, it rests on a sure foundation.

#### Built on the Rock

Jesus spoke with His disciples about building on a firm rock. "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" (Matthew 16:13–15). Notice the response of one Simon Peter: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven' " (vv. 16, 17). The term "Bar" in this name means "son of." So his name is Simon, son of Jonah. Peter was a nickname given to Simon by Jesus, and it means "stone" (see John 1:40–42). This is the type of rock you would pick up and throw.

Christ next said something profound: "I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). What "rock" is Jesus speaking about upon which He would build His church? It certainly cannot be Peter, the little stone, since a few verses later in this chapter Jesus called Peter "Satan" (see verse 23).

The rock on which the church is built is found in Peter's *declaration* that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is upon Jesus, the Word of God made manifest (John 1:1), that the church was founded. It is in Him that the church finds a sure foundation against which the forces of hell will not overcome. The Scriptures are the basis of God's true church.

#### We All Need Foundations

Foundations are everything. We need them for building. We need them in our families. Even our country requires a foundation, which is supposed to be our Constitution. The United States was built on foundational truths that are being relentlessly attacked. They are being eroded little by little, called "outdated" by millions. The Bible says, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3). However, what's true for our nation is even truer for the church.

The word "foundation" is defined by one dictionary as: "The basis or groundwork for anything." Just as a building has a prepared footing on which to rest the full structure, we need an underpinning in our lives and in our church. Have you thought about the foundations in your life? On what ground have you built your future?

While conducting a prophecy series in New York City back in 1999, our team went to the top of the World Trade Center and prayed over the city. It was an especially emotional experience to watch, on September 11, 2001, those buildings implode. Two months later I visited Ground Zero in person, and smoke was still rising from the great cavities where the original towers once stood.

How do they build skyscrapers so tall in New York? Well, Manhattan is basically sitting on a giant rock. It's been said that if you would build high, you must first go deep. That's also true in the Christian life. If you want to reach heavenly heights, you must first go deep in the Word. The deeper you dig into the Bible, the higher you will go in your walk with God. Just as dynamite was used to blow away rock and rubble to prepare for the new Freedom Tower, we need the power of the Spirit to clear away the sin in our hearts so we can live freely by God's Word. Jesus explained,

Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, *who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock*. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great (Luke 6:47–49, my emphasis).

I've quoted from Luke's version of this parable because it highlights just how important it is to dig deep when laying a foundation. It is true wisdom. Matthew refers to the one who builds on the sand as

"foolish." The foolish person hears the Word of God but doesn't believe it's a worthy foundation. Wise people dig deep into the Scriptures and base their values and choices on the Bible alone.

#### Surviving Storms

We desperately need the solid foundation of the Bible in our lives because a storm is soon coming to our world. Unless we are firmly grounded in the Word, we will be shaken and unprepared for catastrophic events striking our planet.

I recently attended a religious broadcasters convention in Nashville where I heard John Bolton, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, speak on just how dangerous a world we live in right now, loaded with frightening nuclear developments. He said world peace is hanging by a thread with the problems happening in the Middle East.

I also heard other speakers describe how the foundations in our culture are being threatened. Basic Christian values are being tossed out the window. Sex before marriage is considered acceptable. Narcissism is applauded. Lying is celebrated. Marrying someone of the same gender doesn't matter. "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3).

Amazingly, there are even movements in our very church today that claim the Bible is not a dependable foundation because it doesn't keep up with our evolving culture. The Bible

> needs to conform to our culture, they say,

not the other way around. Well, we're seeing now the devastation, the infighting and mean-spirited debates that can happen among Christians when the cornerstone of our faith, the Scriptures, is pushed aside even over a single doctrine. It's extremely dangerous, even deadly, counsel, because it's telling the faithful that when it comes down to it, a Bible foundation cannot really be trusted. I fear that with this same spirit, once the storm hits, the sheep will scatter. They already are scattering, looking for a foundation.

Jesus warned us that a great tribulation is coming, "such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21). We are on the brink of extraordinary events, yet this is also a time of extraordinary opportunities. God is not surprised, and He has raised a movement "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). This is a time to share the foundational truths of Scripture to seekers around the world. Many of them are in churches that do not adhere to the entire Word of God; their foundations are weak and wobbling.

Yet there are believers who love the Lord and want to know truth. They are searching their Bibles, and they will soon become part of God's remnant people waiting expectantly for Christ's return. Let's keep offering them the solid foundation of Scripture so they can stand firm.

#### The Cornerstone

One of the primary illustrations in Scripture about foundations is spoken of by Christ. "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is



marvelous in our eyes'?" (Matthew 21:42). Christ is referring to Psalm 118:22, 23. The rabbis were familiar with this passage and knew that it referred to the Messiah.

Two other Old Testament verses expand on this: "Thus says the Lord God: "Pehold Llavin Zion e

'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation" (Isaiah 28:16). "The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel" (Isaiah 8:13, 14).

These verses refer to an experience briefly mentioned in Scripture. (The whole story is found in Jewish history.) When Solomon built the temple, the Bible says, "Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens, and eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains. ... And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation of the temple" (1 Kings 5:15–17). Notice, "The temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built" (1 Kings 6:7). This was very unlike building today, where you hear jackhammers and explosions at the build site. It was sacred work at the temple.

Architects carefully drew blueprints for Solomon's temple and gave engineers precise specifications for all the stones for the foundation, including the cornerstone. Today we use concrete for footings. In Bible times they used large stones that were perfectly plumb. The temple cornerstone might have looked unusual because part of its face sat on the bedrock of the temple mount and the rest of it was square. It was likely one of the first stones prepared and brought to the site. The hewers probably assumed the construction crew knew about it.

But somehow there was a miscommunication. The temple builders kept bumping into this large oddly shaped stone. Perhaps they thought it was a piece of leftover rubble from work done by the Jebusites, who built there once before. As the crew cleaned and prepared several acres for the foundation of the temple, workers chose the wrong rock for the chief foundation stone. They chose stones that cracked. In the meantime, they had pushed the true cornerstone out of the way, and it tumbled down into Kidron Valley.

> When the construction crew finally asked the men at the quarry to provide them a cornerstone,

the hewers told them, "We already sent the perfect stone. It was the first rock we delivered." After some searching, they discovered it was indeed the stone they had shoved out of the way. Workers gathered together and dragged it back up and into place. It fit perfectly.

The story of the rejected cornerstone became an analogy used throughout the Bible. Peter wrote:

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed (1 Peter 2:4–8).

Peter understood that Jesus Christ was the Rock who was rejected, just as the church today begins to reject His Word. He knew that it was upon the true Cornerstone that the church would be built. We are living stones built on that foundation. Paul explained:

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in

(Continued on page 30.)

## Years of Amazing Facts

Celebrating a big vision with small beginnings

In early 1965, a small group of clergymen gathered together in Baltimore to talk about the ineffective outreach efforts that were stagnating churches in their area. Among those meeting were visionaries Cyril Miller and Bill May. The latter had been recently hired by the church to develop new and innovative ways of soul-winning.

Over the next few weeks, during sessions of earnest prayer, the idea of Amazing Facts was born. And for the next 50 years, this multimedia, international ministry has delivered a distinct last-day message to every corner of the globe. And God has surely blessed!

From a small basement office in Maryland to a bustling office complex outside Sacramento, California, Amazing Facts has changed in size and scope, but its Christ-centered mission is still the same. In every facet of ministry, Amazing Facts, by the power of the Holy Spirit, exists to introduce people to Jesus in a way that speaks directly to their lives and needs.

#### **Innovating Evangelism**

"Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible'" (Mark 9:23). As these pastors met, Cyril Miller felt impressed to start a new radio broadcast that would grab the attention of people lost in a mire of secularism and materialism. It seemed like a strange idea since they had no equipment, experience, or money for such a venture. But God

was leading, so they moved forward in faith.

The first step was to find a convincing, energetic host for the groundbreaking radio broadcast. They decided on a faithful pastor out of Louisville, Kentucky. But when May called Joe Crews about spearheading the new program, his answer was an emphatic "No."



Crews was a successful pastor and evangelist but was unconvinced of his ability to host a radio program. But May was sure that Crews was the man whom God wanted. So he continued to press the humble worker. Eventually, May's vision for a new approach to evangelism caught Crews' heart and he, along with wife Lu Ann, moved to Maryland in October 1965.

1965 - 2015

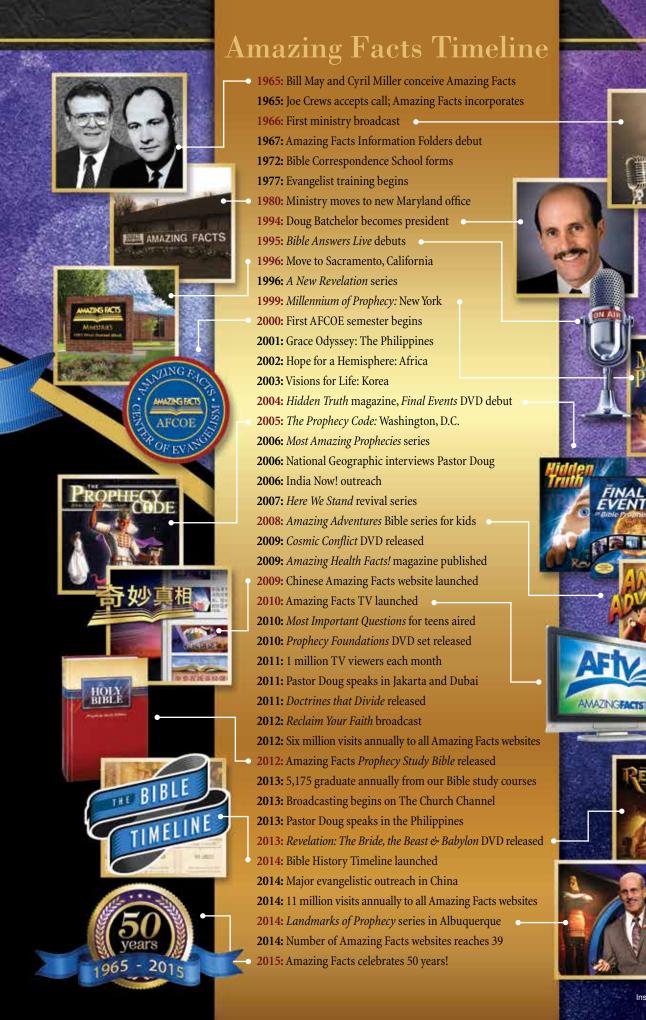
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#### **Overcoming Obstacles**

Soon after, the Amazing Facts 15-minute radio format was developed. Crews used interesting historical and scientific facts to grab the attention of listeners and then work in an important Bible message. They knew they had a winning format but still lacked equipment. The leaders found themselves on their knees, asking God to intervene. The Lord did not disappoint. A few days later a local physician offered the use of his personal recording studio, absolutely free!

So on March 7, 1966, the first Amazing Facts broadcast hit the airwaves in Baltimore on WBMD. On that day, a car salesman in Essex, Maryland, happened to hear the broadcast. Convicted with truth, he contacted Amazing Facts and became the ministry's first baptism. Since then, untold thousands have been brought into the church by the Holy Spirit's work through Amazing Facts.

Bill May next developed a pioneering series of Bible studies called "Information Folders." Still one of Amazing Facts' most effective ministries today, the initial development and printing



costs were a staggering \$20,000—a figure far beyond the means of the burgeoning ministry. Yet God provided, as He has consistently for 50 years, when a local camp meeting raised the money in a matter of minutes. Within a few months, Crews was offering free Bible studies at the end of each program to encourage people to study the Bible for themselves.

#### **Expanding the Reach**

Step by step, God opened doors and Amazing Facts expanded its literature ministry. It published dozens of pocket-sized books, including Joe Crews' "Library of Sermons." The ministry also began a Bible correspondence school based on a redesign of the Information Folders, called the *Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides*. In the late 1970s, Joe Crews started training Bible workers, which led to the soul-winning ministry of public evangelism. By the mid-1980s, the ministry expanded its media outreach to television.

More ministries meant the need for more space. Having outgrown its basement office, Amazing Facts struggled to find funding to expand. After a day of fasting and prayer, however, a generous supporter donated a large plot of land in Frederick, Maryland. Just a few months later enough donations came in to construct a debt-free building.

For nearly 30 years, Joe Crews led the ministry of Amazing Facts by innovating evangelism, overcoming obstacles, and expanding into new areas of outreach—all in faith that God would provide so long as Christ was the ministry's focus.



#### New Leadership, Same Principles

In 1994, tragedy struck when Joe Crews died suddenly. The ministry was in deep mourning as Bill May took over as interimdirector. Yet Crews had already chosen a successor after his own heart—Pastor Doug Batchelor. As the new

president of Amazing Facts, Pastor Batchelor was an innovative speaker who could communicate with both churchgoers and secular-minded skeptics, compassionately presenting firm truths that could change lives.

Driven by his deep devotion to share the gospel, Pastor Doug has brought immense growth and opportunity at Amazing Facts. In 1996, he moved the ministry to Sacramento, California, and under his dynamic leadership, the ongoing work of Amazing Facts now spans the entire world.



#### A Variety of Ministries

Today, Amazing Facts is a multifaceted, soul-winning ministry committed to proclaiming the gospel and the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. We believe in the imminent return of Jesus Christ and in doing our part to lift Him up to the entire world. Our many different ministries include:



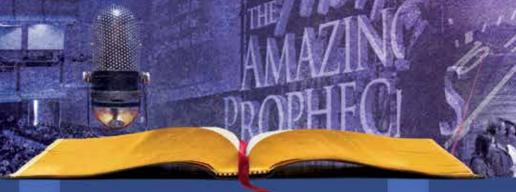
*Television:* Amazing Facts TV programs, such as *Amazing Facts Presents*, broadcast on cable and satellite networks all around the world, including Daystar, Discovery Channel, Lifetime Network, The Church Channel, The Word Network, SAFE TV, 3ABN, the HOPE Channel, HCBN Philippines and Indonesia, Lifestyle TV in Sweden, and Firstlight Broadcasting in New Zealand. We reach more than a billion households worldwide!

**Radio:** A live call-in program hosted by Pastor Doug, *Bible Answers Live*, is carried on more than 100 stations around North America, including Sirius XM satellite radio. It can also be heard around the world on the Internet every Sunday night at 7:00 PM Pacific Time.



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**Training:** Amazing Facts offers dynamic training for lay people and churches wanting to become effective soul-winners. The Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AFCOE) includes classes on how to give Christ-centered Bible studies, mastering Bible doctrines, turning churches into vibrant growth centers, leading seekers to baptism, methods to disciple and retain converts, evangelistic preaching, and much more! We also provide AFCOE to Go and Empowered Church intensive weekend training seminars.





*Internet:* At www.amazingfacts.org you can study the Bible, stream video and audio, watch Amazing Facts TV, listen to our radio programs, and read inspiring articles and books. At www.afbookstore.com you can order powerful Christian DVDs and books for sharing. For more great Bible study and dependable spiritual resources, you can also visit many of our other websites, including www.bibleuniverse.com and www.sabbathtruth.org!



*Bible School:* More than 100,000 students have enrolled in our Internet and mail-based Bible schools, reaching many not open to personal Bible study. Scores of Bible questions, requests for referrals to local churches, prayer requests, and praises are received each day. The virtual mountain of mail we receive each week tells story after story of blessings and miracles in the lives of the students.



*Correspondence:* Our goal is to personally respond to each letter and email we receive to let people know we truly care for them. We also have prayer warriors who lift up every prayer request that comes to us. A large portion of our work is for prison ministry. We write many letters of encouragement and supply inmates with literature, Bibles, devotionals, and other study materials.



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**Publishing:** To provide seekers in-depth information on a variety of Bible topics, Amazing Facts publishes hundreds of resources. These include books that address the most commonly asked Bible questions and an ever-growing library of DVDs and CDs. Recently, we've distributed more than a million *Final Events of Bible Prophecy* DVDs and the brand-new *The Rest of Your Life!* sharing magazine.



*Inside Report:* This quarterly, full-color magazine you are now reading provides updates on the ministry, reports on the evangelists' thrilling seminars, discusses current issues, and offers inspiring stories of people who have accepted Christ. You'll also find resources to enhance your walk with Jesus.



*Local Evangelism and Revival:* Our highly trained and experienced team of evangelists hosts dozens of gospel, revival, and prophecy seminars each year throughout North America. They strive to turn new and established members into successful disciples and soul winners too. Amazing Facts also serves the church with programs designed to revive God's people to be on-fire for the gospel and evangelism and to live holy lives.



**Worldwide Evangelism:** Amazing Facts has set the standard for large-scale worldwide evangelism outreach via satellite. International programs such as *Landmarks of Prophecy* and evangelistic outreaches in India, China, Jamaica, Africa, Korea, South America, and more have reaped thousands of baptisms worldwide.

#### God's Message Is Our Mission

In every area of outreach—whether radio or TV programs, publications, prophecy seminars, training programs, the correspondence Bible School, or the Internet—Amazing Facts remains committed to giving people the biblical answers they need to make an intelligent and heartfelt decision for Christ *and* to equip them to lead others to Him.

After 50 years of miracles and ministry, a new generation of Amazing Facts provides answers to those lost in spiritual darkness. By God's grace, and through self-sacrificing donors past, present, and future, the ministry will continue to work until Christ returns for His people.

At 83 years old, Bud had already turned away many religious people who came to his door over the years. But one man was invited regularly into Bud's living room. He was an "interesting fellow" who preached about the Sabbath.

It might be quite common for people in their teens and twenties to change their religious beliefs, but Adrian "Bud" Hageman was well into his retirement years when he first heard the message of the Sabbath and decided to follow the truth of the fourth commandment.

leve

Bud grew up in a Catholic home in Wisconsin. He later married and set a course to become an engineer. His job led the family to move frequently, and he worked long hours and traveled a lot. Religion never interested Bud very much at all, but he would occasionally attend mass with his family when he wasn't drinking or partying. His wife, Lynn, faithfully brought their children to church and sent them to parochial schools.

Still, through the years in his quiet moments, Bud thought about the meaning of life. He often questioned things he'd been taught. For instance, confessing his sins to a priest didn't seem to help him because he would be "forgiven" but end up going back to his same old ways. There were other inconsistencies in his church that bothered him, and God seemed far away.

Eventually Bud and Lynn moved to a neighborhood in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where

they have lived for the past 40 years. "Church people used to knock on our doors," Bud shares, "but we always would say 'No thanks; we're Catholic!' We were taught not to associate with those who didn't share our religious background."

#### **Breakthrough**

However, there was one preacher who got into their home on a regular basis. They welcomed him each week on television. Pastor Doug Batchelor paid a visit through our *Amazing Facts Presents* program. Bud was fascinated by what he heard. "When I retired at age 76," Bud recalls, "I had more time to watch TV. Amazing Facts was my favorite." It all made sense to him. "I soaked up the biblical truths I heard." He eventually requested and went through the *Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides*.

Bud admits that even though he attended church on Sunday through the years, he never really learned much about the Bible. "Listening to Pastor Batchelor was different because he taught directly from the Bible," he explains. "I felt God speaking to me through His Word. I was also convinced that the Ten Commandments were important." Studying the Bible lessons also opened his eyes to a new world.

Bud's wife, Lynn, always watched Amazing Facts programs with him. Afterwards the couple would have long talks about the practices in their church that didn't seem to match up with the teachings of the Bible." I was especially convicted that the seventh day was the right day to worship,

so I began attending mass on Saturday mornings," he shares.

This went on for several years until one month the local priest cancelled "... he taught the Saturday services twice. "It didn't seem directly from the right to me," Bud Bible. I felt God remembers,"so I decided to look for speaking to me a Sabbath-keeping through His church in the phone book." Fortunately, an active group of members had planted a new church in the East Ridge community only a few years earlier. But the building is tucked away in a difficult-to-find neighborhood.

"The first Saturday I tried to find the church, I drove around for 15 or 20 minutes, but couldn't find it," he says. "I finally gave up and went home to check the address again." The next week he tried again and finally saw the church signs. When Bud pulled up to the front of the church, he rolled down his window and asked a greeter if they had mass on Saturday mornings.

Word."

"We sure do," someone told him. "You are welcome to come in!"

Bud told him he had already been to church that morning. "If I went to church twice in one day, God would faint!" he joked. But the next Sabbath he was back in church. A year ago the church held a prophecy seminar and the foundation laid by Pastor Batchelor's sermons led Bud to be baptized.

## A Growing Family of Faith

Bud's wife, Lynn, came to his baptism and hasn't missed very many Sabbaths since."Bud never pushed me. Discovering this truth has been one of the best things that has ever happened to me," she explains. Now Lynn is studying with a Bible worker and is planning to get baptized. Bud is also sharing his newfound faith with their daughter. Bud and Lynn, who have been married for 65 years, now watch Amazing Facts TV on cable." I wish I had learned this earlier in my life," he reflects. "I've never been happier and am so thankful for the way God has led me."

At 84 years old, Bud's life is a heartwarming testimony that people of all ages are touched by the Holy Spirit through the ministry of Amazing Facts. Bud's story also shows that you are never too old to discover God's truth in the Bible and to make a decision to follow the Lord.

A big thanks to Carol Reynolds at the East Ridge Church in *Tennessee for her contribution to this story.* 



# BIBLE ANSWERS





#### **Bible Answers**

#### Why should we trust the Bible, which is filled with customs from ancient cultures, as a foundation for our lives in the 21st Century?

A While the stories and teachings found in the Bible do occur in the context of ancient cultures, the moral principles they communicate were written to apply universally to people living in all ages. No matter the location or time period, the Bible says it has always been wrong to lie, steal, and covet. In His special relationship with ancient Israel, God



revealed truths about Himself that people existing in all time periods could grasp.

Moreover, the age and durability of the Bible speaks to its timeless dependability. The divine preservation of Scripture is one of the many proofs of its inspiration. The Bible's internal consistency stands as an enduring rock that cannot be moved or destroyed by mankind. Nations and people have tried to burn, ban, and discredit the Bible. Some have even determined to eradicate the Word of God. These people are long gone, but the Bible abides as the bestselling book of all time. Someone once said, "The Bible is an anvil that has worn out many hammers."

And according to 2 Timothy 3:16, we can also trust every part of the Word. The 40 different authors, all from different walks of life and writing over a span of 1,500 years, were directly inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21) to share God's messages. When we are tempted to snip out those passages that we don't like, or believe are "outdated," we place ourselves above Scripture. We start judging the Word of God rather than letting the Bible be our judge.

Some believe there are "degrees of inspiration" in the Bible. They feel some stories are exaggerated, some histories glorified, and some narratives mere symbolism even though they might not be presented that way. They reject the story of Adam and Eve, question the worldwide flood, and doubt that a huge fish swallowed a man and then later spewed him out on a beach. But if we don't believe the Bible, we also can't rely on the teachings of Jesus, who said, "Your word is truth," and, "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" (John 17:17; 5:46, 47).

Often, in their times of difficulty, people set aside the issues that seem most important and begin to reflect more deeply on matters that press on their hearts. It is in these moments that many turn to the Scriptures and discover the Word is very applicable to their questions about the future. They find real meaning in texts such as, "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).

Read the Bible. Study its stories. Claim the promises. You will find God's Word is as up-to-date as the latest technology in your pocket.

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.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

## Broadcast Schedule

#### Watch Amazing Facts Presents on one of our family of networks!

NATIONAL	
3ABN	Wednesday, 7:00 ам & 6:00 рм СТ
The Church Channel	Monday, 7:00 рм; Saturday, 5:30 рм ЕТ
Discovery Channel	Sunday, 7:30 AM (All Time Zones)
Hope Channel	Sunday, 7:00 рм; Friday, 12:30 рм РТ
Lifetime Network	Sunday, 8:00 AM (All Time Zones)
Safe TV	Monday, 10:00 ам; Tuesday, 2:00 ам Wednesday, 9:00 ам; Saturday, 2:00 ам СТ
Total Living Network	Wednesday, 7:00 рм CT
TBN	Tuesday, 10:00 рм РТ
The Word Network	Sunday, 1:00 рм ET

#### LOCAL (All Times Local)

KAZQ Albuquerque Friday, 8:00 pm; Mon. thru Fri., 8:00 AM & 10:30 pm KTXL Fox 40 Sacramento Sunday, 7:30 AM

#### SABBATH SCHOOL STUDY HOUR

3ABN	Thursday, 7:00 рм; Friday, 5:00 ам; Saturday, 9:00 ам СТ
Hope Channel	Friday, 9:00 рм РТ
Safe TV	Friday, 9:00 рм; Saturday, 5:00 ам & 7:00 ам СТ

#### EVERLASTING GOSPEL

Hope ChannelSunday, 2:00 AM &10:00 AM; Saturday, 2:00 AM PTSafe TVSunday, 2:00 AM & 11:00 AM; Saturday, 7:00 AM CT



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

## RADIO

#### BIBLE ANSWERS LIVE

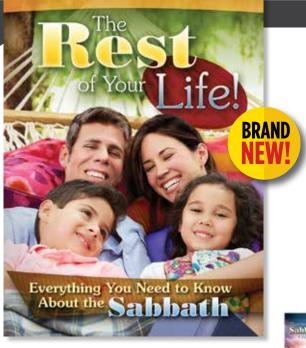
Airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 PM Pacific. A live call-in radio program where you can ask Pastor Doug any Bible question and get a biblical answer in return. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate.

## WEB

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



## SHARING RESOURCES



#### 5 Sabbath Facts Bookmark (25/pack)

A beautifully designed, colorful bookmark to awaken interest in the Sabbath, this affordable sharing tool is a great gift and conversation starter. BK-5SF ... \$3.95

#### Heaven Bookmark (25/pack)

People are seeking the truth about heaven. Here's a simple and effective way to open a discussion to share what the Bible says about heaven. BK-SMH ... \$3.95

#### Signs of the Times — Truth Matters Series

Life-changing magazines for sharing Bible truths with friends!

The Great Controversy: MS-TGC ... \$0.55 Our Amazing Universe: MS-OAU ... \$0.55 Spiritualism and the Occult: MS-SATO ... \$0.55 When Life Is Unfair: MS-WLIU ... \$0.55 The End of the World: MS-TEW ... \$0.55 History's Greatest Hoax: MS-HGH ... \$0.55 What Happens When You Die?: MS-WHWD ... \$0.55



## The Rest of Your Life!

Loaded with vivid, full-color graphics and fascinating facts, this oneof-a-kind magazine reveals the astonishing truth about the Sabbath, including its history from ancient times to the present! Discover the origin of the Sabbath, how religious leaders have distorted it, and how elements within God's church have tried to change it. Learn how it is meant to be an incredible blessing for all mankind forever and how Sabbath-keeping can improve your life and health. It's critical for you to know the future of God's holy day! Perfect sharing magazine! (48 pages) **BK-RYL ... \$2.75** 

\*Quantity discounts available



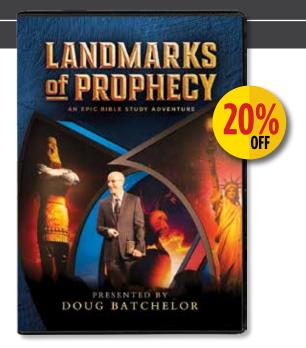


Daniel & Revelation Magazine This full-color, 84-page sharing magazine takes you in-depth through the Bible books of Daniel and Revelation. BK-DRM ... SALE: \$2.95 (Reg. \$3.95) \*Quantity discounts available

## **DEEPER STUDY**

## Landmarks of Prophecy 6-DVD Set

Join Pastor Doug Batchelor for this exciting, contemporary Bible study adventure that offers clear answers to life's most pressing questions. Discover the significance of Bible prophecy for our time and how recent world events are harbingers of the end. Features 21 presentations on 6 DVDs! Using the latest media technology, *Landmarks* is designed for today's audiences and presents the landmark themes of the Bible in a bright and compelling way helping you understand the Bible better and face the future with confidence! Comes with a set of *Landmarks of Prophecy Storacles*. **DV-LOPS ... SALE: \$89.95** (Reg. \$109.95)





#### Landmarks of Prophecy Storacles Set

Learn timely, life-changing lessons about God, prophecy, and the Bible in an easy-to-understand way. This fully illustrated, 24 Bible-lesson set, complements Pastor Doug's *Landmarks of Prophecy* DVDs. **BK-LOPS ... \$5.25** 



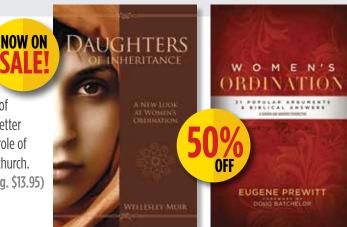
#### **The Adventist Ordination Crisis**

The culmination of a two-year study of church leaders, including concerned pastors, professors, conference administrators, physicians, teachers, and lay leaders—men and women alike—from around the world who are dedicated to presenting biblical truth regarding women's ordination. Provides clear, calm, and concise answers for anyone considering this crucial question. AF-AOC ... \$4.00

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#### Daughters of Inheritance

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#### Women's Ordination: 31 Popular Arguments & Biblical Answers

Biblical Authority or Cultural Conformity

Eugene Prewitt carefully tackles questions about women's ordination in this concise but practical book. AF-WO ... SALE: \$7.45 (Reg. \$14.95)

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## PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

#### 365 Amazing Answers to Big Bible Questions A Daily Devotional

This daily devotional covers the most frequently asked Bible questions from Pastor Doug's *Bible Answers Live* program. The direct, concise answers cover topics on lifestyle, doctrine, history, prophecy, and specific passages of Scripture. QR codes are included to link you to related content on one of our many Amazing Facts websites! Enhance your devotional time and find big answers to questions in your life. A valuable addition to your study library for years to come! **BK-AADD ... SALE: \$14.95 (Reg. \$19.95)** 

#### God's Promises for Your Every Need (NKJV)

Features more than 2,000 verses from Scripture arranged into 81 topics for finding encouragement and peace. A must-have spiritual resource! **BK-GPR0 ... \$14.95** 

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DOUG BATCHELOR

Amazing Answers

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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#### Wisdom for Life Devotional

Begin and end each day searching the wisdom of King Solomon in Pastor Doug Batchelor's 31-day devotional in the Proverbs. AF-WL ... SALE: \$9.95 (Reg. \$14.95)

#### **Our Daily Bread Journal**

OFF

If you love to journal, you'll adore this brand-new book arranged by the popular themes of faith and prayer. Plenty of lines for journaling and an appealing package, making it a great gift! **BK-ODB ... \$14.95** 





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## **CHILDREN'S RESOURCES**

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This beautiful hard-bound set of 12 full-color volumes is designed to give today's young readers an exciting, immersive experience in God's Word! It features bold, contemporary artwork coupled with an easy-to-read format. The books tell the classic Bible stories that inspire faith, hope, obedience, and a deeply felt love for God—from Adam and Eve, Noah and the Flood, David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lions' Den, the Miracles and Parables of Christ, and all the rest. Take your loved ones on an emotional and heart-felt walkthrough of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

BK-BJS ... SALE: \$99.95 (Reg. \$149.95)

#### Wipe Clean Activity Books (1-4)

Help children improve learning and fine motor skills while discovering favorite Bible stories. Encourage learning and spiritual development at the same time with these fun, reusable activity books! BK-WCAB1 ... \$5.95 BK-WCAB2 ... \$5.95 BK-WCAB4 ... \$5.95



#### Big Thoughts for Little Thinkers (4-Book Set)

Using simple language, Joey Allen presents the most foundational teachings of the Christian faith for preschool and elementary children, ages 4 to 7. BK-BTS ... SALE: \$22.95 (Reg. \$25.98)



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These vivid, full-color pages will help children learn of God's purpose for creating bugs. A beautiful, full-color book for children. **BK-BUGS ... \$14.95** 



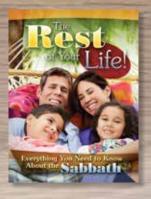
#### 44 Animals of the Bible

All animals are important to God, and He cares for each one of them and wants to do the same for us. A beautifully illustrated book for children. **BK-AOB ... \$9.95** 

# NEWS TO MOVE THE MENTION OF THE MENT

#### The Rest of Your Life!

We hope you have received and are enjoying our latest sharing magazine, *The Rest of Your Life!*, a colorful and inspiring 48-page resource that proclaims Bible truth and the joys of the biblical Sabbath day. Unfortunately, we noticed too late an error on page 13, which inadvertently mixes up the days of creation. We want you to know



that only supporters received this version of the magazine and that a new version with the correct text is already available for purchase and sharing. We apologize for this gaffe, and we thank you for your understanding and for making this all possible. Amazing Facts is now offering steep bulk discounts so you and your church can share this truth far and wide!

#### Sabbath School Study Hour



Our new Granite Bay church is now the new home for *Sabbath School Study Hour*. We've finally moved out of the studio and into the sanctuary—praise the Lord. Please visit www.amazingfacts.org to watch the live stream and to view archived

programs. Welcome to our Sabbath School family!

## 

#### New National Broadcast Partners

Amazing Facts is now broadcasting on the Discovery Channel on Sundays at 7:30 AM, reaching more than 97 million homes in the United States. We're also on the Daystar TV Network on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM (EST), with a potential international audience of over 575 million and an additional 108 million U.S. homes. Thank you for making this outreach possible!

#### **Amazing Facts Australia**

We're thrilled to report that Amazing Facts is now airing on TV in Australia! After Pastor Doug received an overwhelmingly positive response when visiting the Down Under last year, our friends there asked us to start broadcasting on national television. Our programs are now edited specifically for viewers in

Australia. Beginning April 5, 6:30 AM, *Amazing Facts Presents* can now be watched weekly on Channel 7TWO. You can also visit and share our Australian website at www.AmazingFacts.com.au. Please pray that the Lord uses this new outreach to touch hearts all across this heavily secularized land.



#### Building a Highway to Heaven

Alvin and Nora Hurd prayerfully decided to store up some of their treasures in heaven when they sold their beloved, one-ofa-kind '71 El Camino and cheerfully donated the proceeds to



Amazing Facts. Did you El Camino means "the way"? Jesus once said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). You can also now donate an unneeded car, RV, motorcycle, or other vehicle to save souls and receive

a tax-deduction. Just call 800-436-2695 to get started. Every donation to Amazing Facts is used to lead people to Christ!

#### AFCOE

Our next AFCOE Complete Course will be held August 13 – November 22, 2015, in Rocklin, California. Don't miss this four-month comprehensive evangelism training program and become an empowered disciple. It's life-changing! To register or learn more, call 916.209.7249 or visit www.afcoe.org.



## WATCH & BE READY!

Leave Your Legacy for Christ's Work Through Amazing Facts

> "Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Matthew 25:13

Many are watching for Christ's soon return, but God also wants us to be *ready*. One way is through a planned estate gift to Amazing Facts. Through your will, trust, or charitable gift annuity, you can multiply the means God has blessed you with and reach more souls for Christ!

For help in leaving your legacy of faith, contact Amazing Facts' planned giving department and find out just how fulfilling it can be to have your estate ready to maximize your blessings for Christ. Visit **mylegacy.amazingfacts.org** or call **800-436-2695** to speak to one of our friendly planned giving professionals.

## Amazing Facts ProphecySeminars

M



Doug Batchelor



Wyatt Allen



Rvan

Day

Lowell

Darrin

Bartell



Jones



Hargreaves

Carlos Muñoz



Dave Steward



#### Doug Batchelor

July 29 – August 1 Redwood Camp Meeting 2437 Dyerville Loop Road Redcrest, California

September 4 – 6 GYC Southwest Pine Springs Ranch and Conference Center 58000 Apple Canyon Road Mountain Center, California

October 2 – 10 Heroes of Faith: Inspirational Stories of Salvation Spring Meadows Church 5783 North Ronald Reagan Blvd. Sanford, Florida

**October 30, 31** Suva, Fiji

November 6, 7 Auckland, New Zealand

#### <u>Wyatt Allen</u>

September 11 – October 10 Holiday Inn Express 2205 Cardinal Drive Fulton, Missouri

**October 23 – November 21** Truman Hotel 1510 Jefferson Street Jefferson City, Missouri

#### Darrin Bartell

June 5 – July 4 Three Angels Church 11808 East 121st Street North Collinsville, Oklahoma

**October 23 – November 21** Church Auditorium 279 Eastchester Drive High Point, North Carolina

#### <u>Ryan Day</u>

**June 5 – 27** West Helena Church Auditorium 756 W. Highway 49 West Helena, Arkansas 72390

**July 24 – August 15** Forrest City Church 1350 Newcastle Road Forrest City, Arkansas 72335

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



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For more information or to schedule a seminar, visit our website at prophecyseminars.com, call **916-209-7286**, or email cathyq@amazingfacts.org.

#### <u>Carlos Muñoz</u>

**October 9 – 31** Poulsbo Church 1700 Northeast Lincoln Road Poulsbo, Washington

November 7 – 21 Federal Way Church 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S. Federal Way, Washington \*Spanish-language Seminar

#### **Dave Steward**

September 11 – October 10 Eureka, Montana For more details, call 406-293-2335

**October 16 – November 21** Williams Lake, British Columbia For more details, call 778-961-0166

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

**June 26, 27** Acton Church, CA

**July 3, 4** Santa Barbara Church, CA

July 17, 18 Mentone Church, CA

July 24, 25 Loma Linda Romanian Church, CA

**August 7, 8** Pagosa Springs Church, CO

August 21, 22 Diamond Lake Church, WA

August 28, 29 Deer Park Church, WA

September 5 Inchelium Mission Church, WA

September 11, 12 Burnaby Westminster Church, BC

September 18, 19 Seattle South Center Church, WA

September 25, 26 Red Bluff Church, CA

#### PROPHECY SEMINARS.COM CHRISTIAN INSIGHT INTO BIBLE PROPHECY

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Speed is relative. When early pioneers crossed the Great American Desert to seek gold in California, they rode in wagons pulled by oxen. It took them about five months to travel from Independence, Missouri, to Sacramento. With the arrival of the Transcontinental Express railroad in 1876, however, a trip from New York to Sacramento took just 83 hours and cost \$65. And today, we can fly that same distance in five hours! Before 1876, a trip across the United States in 83 hours would seem unbelievably fast. Conversely, in 2015, a five-month trip over that same distance would seem incredibly slow.

PROPHECY WATCH

by Curtis Rittenour

What's true in physics can also be true in theology. Our experience in observing prophecy can be impacted by how close we stand to the final events in earth's history. Sometimes it appears that the apocalypse is just around the corner. That was the feeling of many on September 11, 2001, when the two World Trade Center towers crumbled to the earth. Yet, within months, the temporary spike in church attendance quickly fell back to normal levels. Walking *toward* an event, as we learn in classical mechanics, gives us a different perspective than walking *away* from an event.

For 50 years Amazing Facts has been dedicated to the proclamation of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14, calling the world to prepare for the soon return of Christ. Central to knowing we live in the last days of earth's history is to consider the signs given by Jesus and to study the prophecies of Scripture. Two elements impact our perspective on prophecy, the passing of time and our focus. Yet, regardless of where we stand on the prophetic timeline, God's prophecies continue to move toward their sure fulfillment.

#### THE PASSING OF TIME

What was life like 50 years ago in America when Amazing Facts was founded? In 1965, General Foods introduced Cool Whip. This was also the year the New York Jets signed quarterback Joe Namath. The hottest toys were skateboards and the super ball. It was a time when women's skirts began to get shorter and men's hair longer. The United States was in the thick of the Vietnam War, and civil rights protests were in full swing. In 1965,

2013



you could buy a gallon of gas for 31 cents or a Hershey bar for a nickel. The U.S. population was 194 million, and the movie *The Sound of Music* became a smashing success.

Fifty years ago ... That sounds like a long time for some folks and just yesterday for others. But for those awaiting the advent of Jesus, we can know that we are 50 years closer to the coming of Christ. But are we really moving closer to the second coming? Do the signs in our world truly tell us we are "near—at the doors!" (Matthew 24:33) to the final events?

Physicists tell us that motion is relative to the observer. If you watch a speedboat traveling at 25 miles per hour while you are standing on the shore a quarter mile away, it will appear to be going slower than if it passes 10 feet in front of you. As

we stand closer to the coming of Christ, the signs of His coming will intensify, not only because we are near the return, but we are also watching and waiting for the final day.

Think of it like this: How were you feeling the day before you got married? Most brides and grooms felt excitement and anticipation. Some might have slept a little fitfully thinking about the big day. But how did those who were planning to attend the service sleep the night before the ceremony? Probably most of them slept quite normally. For couples living with the

expectation of being forever united, the passing of time raises their level of focus and interest. Even for those who wait months to tie the knot, there is a sense in which it will *soon* happen.

There is a difference between those who await Jesus' coming and are looking for His appearing and those who are caught unaware. People who pay no attention to the signs of the times may know that someday the world will end, but if their focus is on other things, they will be surprised when the day comes. That's what Jesus meant when He stated, "Know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into" (Matthew 24:43).

If we study prophecy with a focus on how soon we will be united with Jesus, the passing of time only increases our anticipation of being with the Lord. But if we are indifferent to His return and wrapped up in our own selfish affairs, prophetic events will appear to us distant and unimportant, even if they are happening all around us.

#### THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

Peter wrote a letter to people who struggled with apathy about prophecy. He foretold that "scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, Where

> is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation'" (2 Peter 3:3, 4). The passing of time did not create anticipation for some people, but indifference. What changed their perspective? They were "walking according to their own lusts."

In order to sharpen the prophetic outlook of these early believers, Peter explained, "But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is

longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (verses 8, 9).

The speed with which we see prophecy being fulfilled is impacted by our own hearts. When we turn away from "holy conduct and godliness" (verse 11), then "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (verse 10). But for those who search the prophecies of Scripture and look for the promise of His coming, the final events will happen with incredible speed.

Amazing Facts is committed to helping you understand these events and preparing you for the glorious return of our Lord.



#### (Continued from page 11.)

whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:19–22).

#### **Careful** Construction

One of the most devastating earthquakes in U.S. history was in 1906 San Francisco. About 3,000 people died, and more than 80 percent of the city was destroyed.

A few years before this quake, a Memorial Arch was erected at the main entry to Stanford University in memory of Jane and Leland Stanford's only child. The massive arch was 100 feet tall, 90 feet wide, and 34 feet deep. A 12-foot high frieze adorned the top with carved stone sculptures representing the "Progress of Civilization in America."

But the magnificent arch, that was to last for hundreds of years, stood for fewer than four. Like most buildings that crumbled in the quake, the arch had a poor foundation. The construction crew thought a layer of gravel would substitute for a rock-solid foundation. The arch was eventually dismantled, and only the remaining columns stand today.

When it comes to building up God's church, Paul gave us wise counsel. "According to the grace of God which was given



to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it" (1 Corinthians 3:10).

How about you? Have you laid a sure foundation in your life on God's Word? Someday we will be tested by a time of shaking. Unless we have wisely built our homes, our churches, and our values on the Bible, the edifices we've constructed will surely collapse. I pray that your faith will be built on Christ, the solid Rock revealed in Scripture. Jesus is the only foundation on which we can survive the storm in these last days.

# New Radio Program

FEATURING DOUG BATCHELOR

Wonders in the Word is our brand-new half-hour radio program featuring prominent Bible topics from the Sabbath and hellfire to the mark of the beast and health. As we begin to roll out this vital broadcast hosted by Pastor Doug across the country, we ask for your prayers and continued support. *Wonders* is currently targeting the Monday through Friday morning and evening commute hours on the following stations:

> WWNL 1080 AM WBRI 1500 AM KERI 1410 AM KKIM 1000 AM WBXR 1140 AM KWDF 840 AM WLMR 1450 AM WFAX 1220 AM

Pittsburgh, PA 3:30 PM Indianapolis, IN 12:30 PM Bakersfield, CA 5:30 PM Albuquerque, NM 4:00 PM Huntsville, AL 3:30 PM Alexandria, LA 7:00 AM Chattanooga, TN 5:00 рм Falls Church, VA 7:30 AM

Inside Report 30 2Q 2015

"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.

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