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PRESIDENT DOUG BATCHELOR

Managing Editor
Anthony Lester
editor@amazingfacts.org

COPYEDITORS ARLENE CLARK LAURIE LYON

Assistant Editor Curtis Rittenour ART DESIGN/LAYOUT HALEY TRIMMER

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Amazing Facts, Inc.

P.O. Box 1058 Roseville, CA 95678-8058 Phone: 916-434-3880 Fax: 916-434-3889

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THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR



ot long ago a pedestrian in San Francisco was struck by a trolley. It knocked the man over and then, quite gracelessly, proceeded to run over him. The victim was not only injured by the collision, he was trapped under the streetcar.

Before the police or ambulance arrived, curious onlookers gathered around. Some stood on the outskirts, shook their heads, and said, "What a shame." Others peered under the trolley and could see the man was still conscious. They told him, "You'll be okay. Help is on the way."

One man in the crowd, however, was a bit different. Even though he was wearing a new business suit, he got down on his belly, crawled underneath the streetcar, and put his hand on the man's shoulder. The broken, jagged concrete was painful and stabbed at his flesh, but the man said, "You're going to make it. I will stay here with you."

This is one difference between pity and compassion. Pity *looks* down; compassion *gets* down. When you and I were dying under a streetcar named sin, God didn't just look down; He got down. The Lord didn't just peer down from heaven and say, "What a shame." He came down to Earth, crawled under the crushing load of sin to be with us, and rescued the lost. His heart had been moved with compassion.

What about your heart? Peter asked Jesus, "How often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?" (Matthew 18:21).

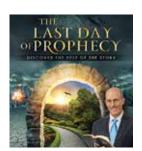
The parable that follows reveals the heart of our God. Jesus said that one of the king's servants could not pay back an unimaginably large debt, so he begged for mercy. What happened next? "The master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt" (verse 27). The king's heart was touched. He felt for this desperate man trapped under a load of debt that would otherwise destroy him.

Yet instead of simply taking out a giant eraser to remove the man's debt, the king released the guilty man and absorbed the loss. The king paid the debt. That's something beyond compassion, isn't it? That's something special. That kind of compassion should motivate us. After all, we've all hurt someone and we've all been hurt by someone. Each of us has a debt to pay to another.

This issue of *Inside Report* is about "The Power of Forgiveness." In these last days, I believe every Christian needs to spend special time contemplating Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant. It is a vital key to the genuine revival of God's church in these last days. I hope we are all moved with compassion for those trapped beneath the weight of sin.

The Last Day of Prophecy

"Thank you for *The Last Day of Prophecy* seminar! We've been able to attend every session and have thoroughly enjoyed it. What would the world do if there weren't an Amazing Facts ministry? ... We are grateful that God is leading you all in a powerful way to teach the truths of His Word! Thank you, everyone, for coming



to Charlotte, for loving the Lord and the truth of His Word, and allowing Him to work through you! We will continue to pray for God's blessings on all of you and for your good health to continue this most important work. Surely, the Lord is returning soon!" Kim and Donovan, North Carolina

"I am a student at Asia-Pacific International University in Thailand. I organized a *Last Day of Prophecy* screening every night on campus, and we were blessed with around 50 students. We had students attend from 17 countries—South Africa, Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Laos, Thailand, China, Malaysia, Botswana, United States, Myanmar, Vietnam, India, Singapore, Taiwan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. Some were Buddhists, and all were blessed by Pastor Doug's presentations. Many are interested in studying the Bible more, and some are doing the *Storacles of Prophecy* with me to prepare for baptism." *Armin, Thailand*

The Conquering Spirit

"I wanted to let you know that thanks to Pastor Joe Crews and his sermons, which I've just about memorized, I'm finally a non-smoker! I was listening to one of his sermons when he was preaching about showing God that you love Him by taking care of your body, and how smoking wasn't something God wanted. So as of December 11, 2015, I haven't had a single cigarette! I haven't cheated. Best of all, the Lord has made it so easy that I don't even want one. Thing is, I *loved* smoking. . . . I went to my heavenly Father and told Him there was no way I could quit; it would have to be Him in me to take the urge away. I laid them on top of my fridge with my ashtray and never had another! After about a week,



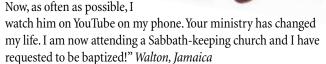
I threw the pack away and I put money in my ashtray! Praise the Lord for saving me and my lungs! I watch AFTV all day long. Watching my 'real TV' seems so icky. Bless this ministry and thank you!" *Tracey, Email*



No Borders

"It is with great happiness that I send you this letter. . . . I had been saving for months for a smartphone. Sometime after I bought it, I was at a friend's house. I was passing through her living room and stopped to listen to a preacher on television. The man spoke some very interesting things about Sabbath, but in a matter of minutes the program was over. I wanted to hear more!

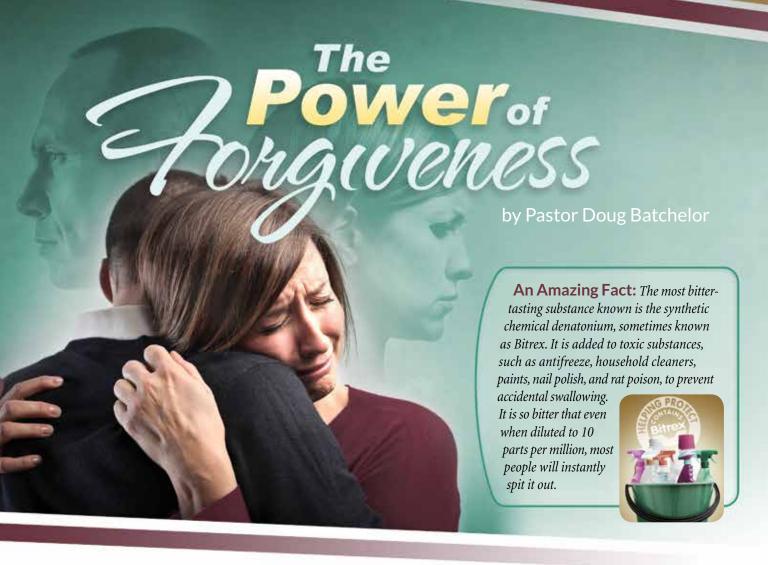
I happened to be by another friend's house and shared with him the things I had heard, and he said, "You haven't heard anything yet!" He hooked my phone up to his WiFi and introduced me to Doug Batchelor.



The Good News About Hell

"The message 'The Good News About Hell' literally changed my life. I was brought up under the doctrine of never-ending torment in hell and, consequently, I had a 'fire escape' salvation as a teen, which I knew later to be no love at all. My first true understanding of God's real nature is a result of your presentation, and that's the day that led to my true salvation through God's love, patience, and grace. I've listened to, read, and watched something on the Amazing Facts website every day since. Had your ministry not been sent to me, I'd still be confused, frustrated, and lost. Someone made it possible for *Amazing Facts Presents* to be on the air when I desperately needed it. I hope I can help pass that blessing on to someone else." *Dale, Email*

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!**



years before a treatment had been discovered for rabies. When it was determined the dog was indeed rabid, a kind doctor told the man he had only a short time to live. Upon hearing this distressing news, the unfortunate man asked the doctor for some paper and a pencil and then commenced writing furiously. After a few minutes, the doctor Henry interrupted."If you are Dave E writing out your will, you have time. Think carefully about your estate; you still have a few days." The patient replied sharply, "I'm not making out my will. I am making a list of all the people I'm going to bite before I die!"

once heard a pastor share a chilling illustration about a

man in France who was bitten by a rabid dog. This was

Bitterness. Some people are controlled by it. They have been treated cruelly and wish bad things would happen to their offenders. Some brood for years, tormented by memories of the wounds they received. Sometimes they are so angry that they make sure something bad does happen. But the Bible says that this is the very worst possible "solution" to resolve the hurt in our lives.

The real solution to dealing with injustice from others is not vengeance, unchecked anger, or bitter brooding. It's forgiveness. If you want to experience an abundant life in Jesus, you must learn how to forgive those who have hurt you. The Bible says, "The devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time" (Revelation 12:12). Satan is the rancorous, angry, and vengeful one—and he is the instigator of our thoughts of revenge.

Seventy Times Seven

Jesus' parable about forgiveness is one of the most essential Bible stories for our time. Peter asked his Savior, "How often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" (Matthew 18:21).

You might think Peter was a bit stingy with his mercy. Forgive someone only seven times? We often have to forgive our spouses that much in a single week! But in the time of Christ, religious

leaders taught that God was willing to forgive you only three times. It was "three strikes and you're out"—long before baseball was invented.

Peter, knowing Jesus was indeed merciful, bravely doubled the number of times he had been taught to forgive someone and even added one for good measure. But Christ's response shocked not only His disciple, but—tragically—shocks most professed Christians today. "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (verse 22, emphasis added).

Now, most Bible scholars agree that Jesus wasn't setting a literal limit. God isn't sitting up in heaven checking off the number of times He has forgiven you; otherwise, all of us would have already exhausted our quota. God's mercy doesn't run out at 490 allotments of grace. As long as we are willing to repent, the Lord will forgive.

The issue is that God asks the same of His people. Don't keep track of how many times you've forgiven your friend, co-worker, or spouse for his or her unkind words or actions. God claims—and has proven time and again in your life and mine—that He is "merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). The Lord does not quickly give up on us. Seven times Jesus cast devils out of Mary. Solomon said, "A

righteous man may fall seven times and rise again" (Proverbs 24:16). The Gospel of Luke adds, "If your brother sins against you ... seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him" (Luke 17:3, 4).

The Bible is full of promises that connect forgiveness with the number seven—a number representing completeness and perfection. In Daniel chapter 9, when the prophet prayed for his

people, God sent an angel to declare that seventy weeks (70 times 7 for 490 literal years) of additional mercy would be extended to the wayward Jewish people.

The Unmerciful Debtor

Jesus next shared the parable of the unmerciful debtor, in which He addressed two kinds of forgiveness—between yourself and God, and between yourself and your neighbor.

Jesus explained, "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents" (Matthew 18:23, 24).

A talent was the largest currency in New Testament times, anywhere between 56 and 75 pounds of metal. Can you picture a giant heaping pile of bags of silver? It was a ridiculously large

sum. Indeed, it is the largest sum of money mentioned in Scripture. You could never pay back this kind of debt, not even over many lifetimes.

The king's servant must have had a royal credit card and, evidently, had been freely spending the king's money—perhaps going on expensive business trips, staying in luxurious hotels, and feasting lavishly with friends at posh restaurants. He might have even had a drinking or gambling habit that drained precious government resources. As he amassed this mountain of debt, surely he lived in constant fear, knowing that a day of reckoning was coming. But he could not help himself.

As it always does, judgment day finally caught up to this debtor. "As he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his

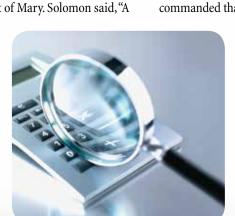
wife and children
and all that he had,
and that payment be
made" (verse 25). In
America, if you get into
a financial crisis, you
can declare bankruptcy.
In Bible times; you were
thrown into prison and your
family could be sold into slavery.
It was an unmitigated disaster.

When the servant saw all his possessions being carried from his house

and his wife and children being hauled away, in desperation he fell on his knees before the king and cried out, "Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all" (verse 26). Of course, the servant could never repay his master, and the king knew it.

Yet the heart of the compassionate and understanding king was touched by his wayward servant's pleading. "The master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt" (verse 27). Amazing! The king didn't set up a payment plan or negotiate a settlement with this debtor. He simply forgave it all.

How does God deal with our sins? Does He calculate our balance due, divide it into a certain number of installments, and then enroll us in a payment plan? Not at all! God has compassion and freely forgives all, just as the king forgave his servant this enormous debt.



An Ungrateful Response

Now, this would be a nice place to end the story, but Jesus went on to make His most important point. "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'" (verse 28).

This man's heavy-handed actions are shocking in light of the mercy he had just experienced. He didn't leave the presence of the king with appreciation; he walked away mad. He convinced himself that his buddy still owed him what amounted to a few weeks' wages. Why was he so harsh, demanding that he be paid back immediately? Evidently, his own forgiveness from the king did not sink in.

Think about the vast difference between 10,000 talents and 100 denarii. It took 6,000 denarii to equal one talent. It's as if our debt to God is like the distance from the earth to the sun, a 93-million-mile divide. By comparison, the debts others owe us are at most a few yards. The Lord said that He is willing to forgive us the vast distance between the earth and sun, yet we struggle to forgive each other a measly 12 inches! Jesus contrasted these absurdly differing amounts of money to show how much God has forgiven us in comparison with how little we're sometimes willing to forgive each other.

I often meet people who have quit attending church. I ask them, "Why don't you go anymore?" Many tell me stories of how they were treated poorly or how a church member or pastor was

unkind to them. They feel that if they stop going to church, they will somehow get even with the other party. But how does moving away from God's house teach anyone a lesson? It just doesn't make sense, and it is exactly what the devil wants us to do.

Don't ever fall into the devil's trap by withdrawing from the church. There will always be noxious weeds mixed in with the good grain. Even Jesus had a Judas in His church, so don't let Satan scare you away because of stiff-necked people. Indeed, those who wound others have often been wounded themselves. If we could see the pains from their pasts, we might have more empathy toward them. It is easier to forgive others when we know what is going on in their hearts.

Jesus continued. "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all'" (verse 29). Notice that the servant who owed a much smaller amount gave the exact plea as the servant who owed a much larger amount. "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt" (verse 30).

Pause before you point an accusing finger at this man's coldhearted response; consider that Jesus might be speaking about you. Have you ever been unwilling to forgive others? Is that happening in your life right now? Each one of us has a debt that Jesus willingly suffered to take off our plate—He was beaten, spit upon, denied by His friends, and nailed to a cross. Look at your Savior hanging there. Listen as He tells you, "I forgive you."

How can you then say, "But Lord, I just cannot forgive that person at church who gossiped about me or took over my church office"? What does that say about your Christian experience?

Difficult but Necessary

As a pastor, I have heard terrible stories of people who were abused as children for years by unrepentant family members. Should they forgive these evil perpetrators? This is a very difficult—and fair—question.

Let me clarify—forgiveness does not mean we let offenders off the hook for their bad behavior. Some people need to be held accountable for their actions by the laws of the land. Nor does forgiveness mean we let people constantly use us as a physical or emotional punching bag.

Rather, forgiveness is giving up bitterness and resentment. It is choosing to release malice, putting the other person into God's hands, and being willing to pray for your enemy.

When you refuse to forgive others who have hurt you, you are giving them permission to keep hurting you. You continue to be a slave to their offense. Jesus told us to love our neighbors and our enemies. Sometimes the people who hurt us most deeply are those closest to us. It was Abel's own brother, Cain, who slew him. David's son tried to murder him. As children of God, we have turned our backs on Him repeatedly. We should never forget that "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, emphasis added).



Let's face it—even after you forgive somebody you might not be able to forget what happened. But Martin Luther said, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair." When you are tempted to ruminate on some individual who offended you and relive the feelings, try praying for him. It might be hard at first, but remember, until a person is converted, it is perfectly normal for him to act like a selfish devil. Pray for the person's conversion!

Results of Resentment

What happens when we indulge an unforgiving heart toward others? Jesus delved into this consequence as He went on with His parable. "When his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" (Matthew 18:31–33).

When we receive Christ's forgiveness, it softens our hearts. We will have compassion on others, even toward those who have offended us. The apostle Paul taught, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). We should generously forgive just as the Lord has generously forgiven us.

Jesus emphasized this pattern in the Lord's Prayer. "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Christ's only commentary on this important prayer addressed the act of forgiveness. He explained, "If you forgive men their trespasses,

your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (verses 14, 15).

An old, crusty general once told great Christian preacher John Wesley, "I never forgive, and I never forget." Wesley responded, "Then you are burning the bridge over which you must pass."

An unforgiving heart brings serious consequences. After the king rebuked his servant, the Bible says, "His master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him" (Matthew 18:34). Christ's sobering point concludes, "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses" (verse 35). Forgiving others is not optional; it is mandatory. But for a Christian, forgiving others shouldn't feel like an obligation, no more than keeping the law should feel like an obligation; you will know you are converted when you do both as a natural outflowing of Christ's love in you. Forgiveness opens heaven's doors to great blessings.

When was the Holy Spirit poured out in great measure on the early church? The disciples had bickered about which of them would be greatest and who would sit next to Jesus in the kingdom. But when they saw their Savior dying on the cross, they realized that they were all guilty of forsaking Him.



After Christ ascended to heaven, they gathered in an upper room and prayed. There were many tears and apologies. They forgave one another. *Then* the Holy Spirit came upon them. Just as they came together in one accord, so will the church in the final days receive the latter rain when God's people repent and forgive one another.

From the Heart

To be clear, Jesus' parable does not teach that God forgives us *after* we forgive each other. Quite the contrary, the Lord forgives us *first*. Indeed, you have no power within yourself to forgive others except as Christ has first forgiven you. The parable tells that the king

(Continued on page 20.)

BIBLE ANSWERS DOUG BATCHELOR





Tune in to *Bible Answers Live*,
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Doug give biblical, straightforward
answers to difficult Bible questions.
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When we come to Christ, does He really forgive all our sins—even future ones?

When we accept Jesus into our lives, He promises to wash away all of our sins. Some teach that by making just one confession at one moment in our lives, Jesus also forgives all future sins. It is the belief that if a person repents that one time, he forever secure in his salvation and that nothing can change that—a teaching called "once saved, always saved." I don't believe the Bible supports this view. While we can always be assured of God's undying love toward us, we have the freedom to turn away.

"If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" (Hebrews 10:26). This text affirms that we must guard against the idea that we can willfully sin after receiving knowledge of God's truth. The problem here is not with the all-sufficient sacrifice of Christ; the problem is with our choosing to turn away from what we know is true. If the Lord removed our choice once we came to Him, we would become like robots programmed to respond out of duty, not from a heart of devotion, trust, and love.

Another way to think about God's grace is as a bank account. If we sin, we may come to our heavenly Father and, through Jesus' sacrifice, confess and receive forgiveness (1 John 1:9). There are sufficient funds in God's account to cover all our sins. By faith, we receive these funds through confession and repentance. But we don't get to make early withdrawals on sins, especially if we plan to commit them!

Does the Bible teach that people can forgive sins?

The Bible makes many statements that show only Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We must go to Jesus to receive forgiveness. "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29; see also Hebrews 4:16).

The Bible also defines blasphemy as man claiming to forgive sins. The scribes asked, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Luke 5:21). If a human claims the power to forgive sins, he stands, as it were, in the place of God, which is blasphemy (see John 10:33).

Some churches claim that certain religious leaders have the power to forgive sins. This action is not presented as acknowledging the work of God but standing in the place of God. They teach that a priest really and truly forgives sins because Christ has given him that power. But there are to be no humans standing between ourselves and God, "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

So how are we to understand the words of Christ in John 20:23, which says, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." The text is given to Jesus' disciples as representatives of His church on Earth. If a person has genuinely confessed and repented of sin before God, the church acknowledges and receives that individual into fellowship. But if there is a lack of genuine repentance, then the charges brought against an erring member are "retained." God gives authority to the church body, not to an individual, to receive this person into membership.

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TBN	Thursday, 10:00 PM PT
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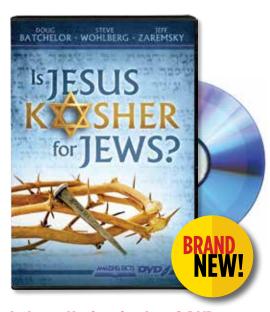
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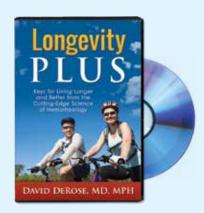
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(Brown Leather) BK-JEBB ... \$44.95 (Brown/Cream Leathersoft) BK-JEBP ... \$44.95

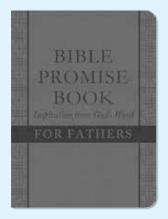


Longevity Plus

Dr. David DeRose unlocks the fascinating science of hemorheology, showing how we can increase our likelihood of living longer and better by following simple lifestyle practices that enhance blood fluidity.

DV-LP ... \$19.95

PERFECT GIFT FOR FATHER'S DAY!



Bible Promise Book for Fathers

Created just for dads, this timeless, inspiring devotional features dozens of topics that will speak to his heart—faith, kindness, perseverance, wisdom, and more. Offers biblical encouragement for everyday life.

BK-BPBF ... \$9.95

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

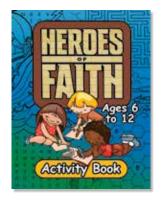
The Remnant Young Scholar Study Bible

This durable, timely Bible edition puts powerful but easy-to-use study tools in the hands of young Bible scholars. The first study Bible for kids that incorporates 200 inspired guotes from Ellen White.

Blue Leathersoft Pink Leathersoft BK-RYSB ... \$59.95 BK-RYSP ... \$59.95

Lavender Leathersoft Hardcover BK-RYSLL ... \$59.95 BK-RYSH ... \$39.95





Heroes of Faith Activity Book

Corresponding to Pastor Doug's Heroes of Faith revival series. each of the 10 exciting lessons focuses on a different Bible hero and includes a brief story, fun puzzle, and coloring page! BK-H0FAB ... \$5.95

My First Bedtime Prayers

These sturdy board books for boys and girls feature appealing art and rhyming prayers that encourage your young ones to talk with God each night before they go to sleep. Perfect for bedtime routines of snuggling, talking, and praying. The die-cut handle makes it easy for toddlers and preschoolers to carry the book and turn the pages. A fun way to start hiding God's truth in young hearts!

(For Girls) BK-BPG ... \$5.95





My Story Time: Parables Coloring Book

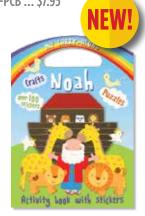
This fun, 128-page activity book features simple line drawings and minimal text that explains the pictures. Stories include: The Good Shepherd, The Loving Father, The Two Builders, and more!

BK-PCB ... \$7.95



for days indoors or on the go! With a mixture of simple crafts and onthe-page activities, there is plenty of variety to keep kids busy. Stickers are included to decorate the crafts and complete the activities.

BK-MCAN ... \$9.95



Bible Mini-Pops: Lost Sheep and Other Stories

Bible stories spring to life in this small format pop-up book for preschoolers! With pictures done in soft pencil art, this book features six double-page spreads, each with a different story from the Old and New Testaments. Great for young children to take anywhere! BK-MPL ... \$9.95





Shipping Information: Please add **15%** of sales value or **\$5.50** (whichever is higher) for shipping & handling.

California residents, please add 8.25% sales tax. For orders shipped outside the U.S. and Canada, add 25% or \$10 (whichever is higher) for foreign postage. Some items may require additional shipping costs and delivery time due to weight.

YOUR INVESTMENT

IN AFCOE
IS MAKING

DISCIPLES WORLDWIDE!

ith your faithful support,
the Amazing Facts Center of
Evangelism (AFCOE) has been stretching
its arms far around the globe this spring. Our
team spent much of their time in the Southern
Hemisphere conducting discipleship training in South
Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. More than 200 students
received AFCOE to Go instruction, and over a thousand
church members were part of Sabbath training sessions.

And by June 2016, AFCOE will have trained disciples for Christ in seven countries: United States, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Singapore, and Indonesia!

South Africa

AFCOE presented a one-month training school in Cape Town and a one-week AFCOE to Go in Durban. Several of these graduates are already involved in active full-time evangelistic work. The 70 attendees in Durban included the conference president, a union director, and 20 pastors. Church leaders were thrilled with the inspiring training and have asked AFCOE to return next year. Pastor Doug Batchelor also hosted three city-wide rallies, where thousands came out to hear the gospel preached.

One young man from Cape Town accepted the challenge last year at AFCOE to Go to let God use him to reach one person through a Bible study. As he prayed for guidance, a Bible study opened up and he had the privilege of seeing that man baptized. Inspired, the young man next joined AFCOE for the month-long training last February. He is now running a prophecy seminar with the help of his fellow AFCOE graduates!

Down Under

In Australia, AFCOE held evangelism training in two churches that partnered together for a week-long series of evening sessions. One was a church plant with an active evangelism cycle. The members were excited to use in-depth AFCOE training in their current outreach. In Christchurch, New Zealand, AFCOE held a week-long evangelism event hosted by a church in the suburb of Ilam. Representatives from 12 churches throughout New Zealand came together to focus on reaching their neighbors and friends for Jesus. The full week of training resulted in dozens of commitments for active evangelism and strong fellowship, which always happens when Christians unite to win others for Jesus!

AFCOE Africa Is Growing

Twelve Sundays of personal evangelism training called iSHARE have just been completed by AFCOE Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. Lowell Hargreaves and his team are now sending teams of two out to give Bible studies. Each team finds two other church members to join them. Then they invite 10 people to their Bible study. When they finish giving the 26 lessons, the students are ready to graduate. Last year one group started their Bible study group with 35 guests and now 30 of them are ready for baptism! People are becoming infected with a zeal for evangelism in Africa through AFCOE.



PAFCOE Report

O

MAZING FACTS

Recently, another batch of 24 students completed AFCOE training in the Philippines and were sent to different places to conduct their own evangelistic meetings. These "on the job" training seminars are the final part of their preparation as Bible workers. Besides classroom study, the eager students spend three hours on Sundays and eight hours on Thursdays reaching out in the community through literature distribution, health surveys, prayer, and Bible studies. The group also conducted a "Gems for Jesus" seminar for children and baptized several enthusiastic kids. Please pray for the 13 evangelistic sites where students will be leading many people to Jesus.

The work is ripe in all parts of the world field, but the laborers are few. Please pray for AFCOE as the team goes out to inspire new laborers!



The next full AFCOE course begins July 28.

You can participate in a live
evangelism event and win souls to Jesus!
Visit www.afcoe.org to learn more and apply.



Tanya grew up in Kazakhstan, a former Soviet-bloc country located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe. Growing up atheist, she had given little thought to the notion of a god. But after she moved to America with her husband Carey, a neighbor invited her to church. "I accepted Christ," she shares, "and began attending mainstream churches. First I went to a Baptist church and then to a non-denominational mega church."

Tanya even became a trusted children's Sunday School teacher, which she loved, but sometime later she started to feel empty in her heart. She began wondering, "Am I really a Christian?"

For a year and a half, Tanya stopped going to church. "One night," she remembers, "I got on my knees and prayed, 'God, I need to know the truth. I feel like I'm going nowhere with You. Please show me the truth.' I cried out in desperation. I can still hear the clear thought in my head when God answered, Tanya, there is a whole lot you don't know. Are you ready? If I reveal the truth to you, you will be accountable. Are you ready for that? That scared me out of my socks! I asked, 'God, can I think about that and come back tomorrow?'"

Tanya couldn't sleep. After much wrestling, she recognized that she needed to know the truth and was ready to hear it. The next day, she returned to her knees. "God, I do want to know the truth, but I'm afraid. Can you show me under one condition? Can you help me to swallow the truth and be obedient, even though it is hard?" Again, Tanya heard a clear thought in her mind assuring her, Tanya, if you are willing to follow the truth, I will help you do it. "I am willing," she answered.

A New Journey Begins

From that encounter, Tanya began a two-month journey of searching for God's truth, seemingly coming to one dead end after another. "I was so disappointed that I finally decided that I must have dreamed the whole thing

up." She told herself that she didn't care anymore, but deep inside she was still searching. In desperation, Tanya decided to do a Google search, looking one more time for the truth and she didn't care who the messenger was. So she typed in the search box: What Is Truth? "I didn't know what else to type. Then a video popped up that was titled 'USA in Bible Prophecy' by Doug Batchelor. It was from *The Prophecy Code* series."

Tanya had never heard of Doug Batchelor, but she couldn't believe that the United States could actually be in Bible prophecy. So she listened out of curiosity. "Only a few minutes into the topic, I nearly fell off my chair." She paused his talk and ran to get her Bible. "I thought maybe this guy had a secret Bible or something. But he spoke straight from the Bible. Not just his own opinions. The Bible!"

Just when Tanya wished she could hear more, the program ended by stating the whole series was available online. So she kept listening with her Bible by her side. "Twenty-four

sermons!" she says. "I listened to the whole seminar in two weeks. Lunchtime, weekends, early in the morning. By the end of the seminar, I really couldn't sleep. I was both impressed and shaken," she remembers. So she went back to her knees and said, "God, now I am accountable. You said you

would help me. Either I am following You all the way or I denounce You completely."

Tanya was in agony. She felt she had been lied to by the churches she had attended. "I wrote to my pastors in the 'big' church, but they told me I wasn't a theologian and couldn't understand

these things." They told her that she was in the minority with her new beliefs, but she shared Matthew 7:13—Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. "After that," she says, "I decided to accept the truth that I had found."

Tanya wrestled with how she would make the changes in her life. But God did give her strength, and she found that a Sabbathkeeping church was located just one mile from her house. She was welcomed and found that the people lived what they believed. Her struggle was over.

But then the next battle began. How would she tell her husband?

A Family of Truth

Carey had been brought up in a mainstream Christian church. How could she stand for the Sabbath and the other truths that didn't line up with her husband's beliefs? Indeed, her husband was upset. After months of struggle in the family, Carey lost his job. "You have to understand," Tanya says, "how unusual this was. As a contractor, Carey is in high demand and has even had to turn jobs down. But now, by divine power, not one single person called him."

During the three months of time that Carey was without work, he decided to go to the meetings that were happening at Tanya's new church. The pastor made a very good impression

on Carey. "My husband was the one who urged me to attend the meetings every night. Carey did not miss one meeting!"

After the series was over, Tanya asked Carey what he was going to do about the truth that he had learned. For a while, Carey was in agony as he tried to decide whether to accept or

reject it. "I shared with him that I wanted to be baptized. And not just into anyone's name or title. I wanted to be baptized into the truth. I had heard the Bible's message to come out of Babylon. I knew that was for me." Carey soon shared Tanya's commitment, and on April 4, 2015, they were both baptized. Miraculously, the very next day, Carey was offered a job!

Tanya gets very enthusiastic when talking about the impact that Amazing

Facts has had on her. "The Amazing Facts website is everything to me! I listen to every Sabbath School Study Hour. I love all of the archived sermons from the website, including older seminars.

website, including older seminars.

I especially enjoy the *Everlasting Gospel* series. I share a lot of links from the website with people." Recently, she has shared *The Prophecy Code* with a Russian friend, who is also browsing the archived sermons.

When asked what advice Tanya has for other people searching for truth, she says, "If you are hungry for truth but feel stuck, go to the Amazing Facts website and listen to the lessons on mark of the beast and 666. If you find logic in those, then you can trust to listen to the whole series. I send people to the Amazing Facts website all the time, and they have the same reaction I did."

Tanya also offers advice to believers. "Don't hold back on the truth!" she pleads with conviction. "You don't know what you possess in your hands. People are desperately searching for truth. Spread it around!"





Amazing Facts

ProphecySeminars



Doug Batchelo



Wyatt

•

Darrin Bartell



Ryan Day

Lowell Hargreaves



Tim



Carlos



Dennis Priebe



Dave Steward



Our Bible prophecy seminars feature budget-friendly prices and a marketing team that will help you advertise your event. This is a great time to book an Amazing Facts evangelist and grow your church! Call today to get more details.

Doug Batchelor

June 15 – 18 Michigan Camp Meeting Cedar Lake, Michigan

August 19 – 20 Big Island Convocation Sangha Hall 398 Kilauea Ave Hilo, Hawaii

Wyatt Allen

April 22 – May 21 Lebanon Church Auditorium Lebanon, Missouri

July 15 – July 16 General Youth Rally Rochester Church Rochester, Minnesota

July 29 — August 27 Chinle Church Auditorium Chinle, Arizona

September 9 – October 1 Houston Central Church Auditorium Houston, Texas

Darrin Bartell

May 13 – June 11 New Port Richey Church Auditorium New Port Richey, Florida

Ryan Day

August 5 – 27Siloam Springs Church
Auditorium
Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Tim Jones

June 17 – 25 Cagayan de Oro, Philippines For more details, call 336-287-3087

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

prophecyseminars.com to get exact times and locations!

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





Carlos Muñoz

May 27 - June 11

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico For more details, call 718-502-3722 *Spanish-language Seminar

June 17 – July 2

Campo Rico, Carolina, Puerto Rico For more details, call 718-502-3722 *Spanish-language Seminar

August 15 – 30

North Houston, Texas For more details, call 832-644-9484 *Spanish-language Seminar

September 9 – October 8

Longmont, Colorado
For more details, call
303-548-8601
*Spanish-language Seminar

Dave Steward

September 9 – October 15

Church Auditorium 900 Northrup Ave Fort Lupton, Colorado

October 21 – November 19

Church Auditorium 3200 FM 1187 Crowley, Texas

Dennis Priebe

(Revivalist)

June 4

Menomonie Church, WI

June 11

Cadillac Church, MI

June 17, 18

North Aurora Church, IL

June 24, 25

Topsham Church, ME





(Continued from page 9.)

first forgave his servant—he set the example he wished his people would follow—and then expected his servant to go and do likewise.

But the ungrateful servant did not have a forgiving spirit. He did not allow the compassion of the king to change his heart. When the servant wouldn't forgive in turn, all that he owed was put back onto his account.

When Christ forgives us, we must walk in that same spirit. Yet forgiveness isn't simply a legal transaction. Peter thought of it in a mechanical way, attempting to follow the letter of the law and completely overlooking God's desire that we obey from the heart. When it is our motive to love and even forgive our enemies, only then will we reveal to others the most beautiful attributes of God.

The Face of Jesus

The famous Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci was commissioned to paint a mural on a monastery dining hall in Milan, Italy. The result was *The Last Supper*, one of the most recognized and beloved works of art in the world. It depicts Jesus sitting with His disciples at a feast table just after He told them that one of them would betray Him.

During the time da Vinci was working on the piece, he got into an argument with another famous Italian—Michelangelo. The biographer Vasari wrote that they had "an intense dislike for each other." The two were jealous of each other's work and often made disparaging comments about one another in public.

Legend has it that when the time came for Leonardo to paint the face of Judas in *The Last Supper*, he got the sinister idea of using the face of his rival, Michelangelo, to be the face of the betrayer. He felt it was a great way to immortalize how he felt about his enemy. People came by as he worked and gasped when

they recognized the face of Michelangelo as Judas. Leonardo felt some temporary vindication.

But then came the last step in his grand artwork—painting the face of Jesus. As he tried to capture the image of Christ, he would paint His countenance but would feel dissatisfied and wipe it away. For the next few weeks, he did this over and over again. He had Jesus' body completed, but he couldn't create the right face—that magnificent countenance of mercy and kindness.

In desperation Leonardo prayed that he could paint the face that would express the love and compassion of Christ. "Lord, help

me to see Your face," he pleaded with God.

Finally, a voice spoke to his heart, saying, "You will never see the face of Jesus until you change the face of Judas." Leonardo was convicted. He thought about Jesus on the cross praying for the forgiveness of those who crucified Him, and about how offended he himself had been by petty insults. He erased Michelangelo's face and painted the image we see

today. Only when Leonardo let go of his bitterness toward Michelangelo and removed the offense could he clearly paint the image of Christ.

Some of us cannot see the face of Jesus because we refuse to forgive our enemies. We are so determined to pay people back that all we can see is what they have done wrong. We are the ungrateful servant, demanding our debtors pay up in full, yet our vengeful hearts keep us from fully seeing Christ and receiving His forgiveness.

Do you need to erase the face of an enemy in your life? Do you need to write a letter, make a phone call, or talk with someone who has wounded you? It is time to let it go. The moment has come to say, "I forgive you." Perhaps it begins by you asking forgiveness. Either way, when you strike out the person's debt, you will see the face of your compassionate King.



Second Coming Sharing Magazine

Oops! We goofed. In our last issue, we mentioned you would receive our next sharing magazine—the Bible truth about the second coming of Jesus—in lieu of this issue of the *Inside Report*. We're not ready to debut it just yet! We want it to be absolutely perfect. Sorry for any inconvenience, but look for it soon!

New Devotional Coming for 2017!



Amazing Facts is excited to let you know we are preparing a 2017 devotional on the theme of the Bible's diverse and interesting characters. Each day's entry draws out fascinating spiritual lessons that will strengthen your walk with God. Watch for more details in the fall!

Updated Study Guides in Development

Our popular *Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides* are receiving a major facelift this year with fresh graphics and updated language and information. Don't worry—lesson numbers and topics haven't changed. It's the same solid message with a contemporary makeover. Look for these soon, and thanks for making it possible with your support!

AFacts on LightSource and More!

Besides watching Amazing Facts 24/7 online at AFTV.org, you can also enjoy *Amazing Facts Presents* on LightSource.com, a leading provider of Christian video content online. From January to April, we had 20,000 visits to our page and over 67,000 video views. Their companion website,



OnePlace.com, features *Bible Answers Live* radio program and had over 8,400 visits with over 14,000 program plays. We are always striving to make Amazing Facts programs easy to find and share with your friends!

God in Guatemala

When Amazing Facts evangelist Carlos Muñoz held a series of meetings in a local school in Antigua, Guatemala, he knew this city was worldknown for its Catholic processions. After conducting a Revelation



seminar for three nights to a full house, the school property owner discovered he was preaching on prophecy and forced the school director to get them out. But the transition to a Sabbath-keeping church didn't change the crowd—and in the end they had 27 baptisms and 10 rebaptisms! The series also drew the local churches together in greater unity. Praise the Lord!

Amazing Facts Wins Awards at NRB

Each year the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) gives awards to churches and ministries that demonstrate excellence in media. This year Amazing Facts received the 2016 NRB Media Award for Best Use of Short Form Video and Best Local Broadcast TV Commercial for *Landmarks of Prophecy*. The NRB is a nonpartisan, international association of Christian communicators whose member organizations represent millions of listeners, viewers, and readers. While we're not interested in tooting our own horn, we want you to know that your gifts make it possible to deliver the highest quality Christian media possible.

Bible School Blooming

March brought a record number of new enrollments into our ever-growing Bible School—3,723. We also sent out a record 31,141 lessons in one month! That's a lot of mail, but it's well worth the postage. In the first five months of 2016, more than 500 students have indicated a desire to be baptized. Ambrose recently wrote requesting baptism and shared, "Keep doing what you are doing because it is reaching those who, like myself, are seeking Jesus!" Thank you for helping us to reach Ambrose and thousands of others with God's Word through our Bible school.

Special Recognition

In Loving Memory

Edna Abrams from Paul Abrams, her husband
Zeke Allen from Jim and Judy Culpepper
Dallas and Leena Allgood from A. J. Clithero
Marjorie Arrington from Janice Hardy
Jackie Avery from Carolyn Avery, her sister-in-law;
from Donald and Shirley Harmel

Katie Baird from Jerry and Sue Rice; from Joshua Scott

Alan Baldwin from Farrel and Bobbi Brizendine; from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger

Lewis Bame from Nancy Bame, his wife **Betty Barlow** from Al Wiggins, her cousin **Floyd Barrett** from Lois Barrett, his wife

Micah Batchelor from Don Park

Howard Bernier from Dona Lauer, his sister-in-law **E. E. Bietz** from Al Wiggins

Jane Bowe from Stephen and Charlene Clegg; from Vernon and June Night Walker Gilbert Bullock from Carolyn Meeks, his sister

Frank Burtnett from Arden and Dorothy Mote

Dionicia Cabrales from Tess Wergeland **Vernon Calloway** from Kevin, Judy, Rachel, and Jonathan Otto

Arthur Chaput from Rollande Chaput, his wife Deryl Chistensen from Jim and Judy Culpepper Melanie Chrestionson from Don and Dee

Schlegel, her uncle and aunt

Carl Coffman from Farrel and Bobbie Brizendine Eula Collins from Beulah Keeler, her sister William Conway from William and Emily Nase,

his uncle and aunt

Royce Cratty from Wallace and Gerion Dunks Maxine Creason from Ann Kohli Joe Crews from Mark Dix; from Don Park Carlton Cronin from Carolyn Cronin Forrest Cross from June Cross, his wife

Don Derby from Mary Derby
Roy Drusky from Claudie English
Watt and Irene DuBose from Robert and
Joyce DuBose

Dorothy Eastwood from June Ackerman,
her sister-in-law
John Egolf from Cindy Williams
Virginia Eichele from Eldon and Evelyn Allram
Jerry Ellar from Don Park
Versie Ellis from Vernon and June Night Walker
Betty Engelkemier from Henry and Betty Craig
Judy Evans from Wallace and Gerion Dunks

Beth Felter from Farrel and Bobbie Brizendine
Dorsett Feyen from Albert and Margaret Marion
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Charity Lewis from Gwenevere Crockett,
her daughter

George Lewis Sr. from Gwenevere Crockett, his daughter

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Harold Schull from Sonja Schull, his wife
Floyd Scott from Vonsella Scott, his wife
Bill Seth from Arden and Dorothy Mote
Madeline Shampo from Geraldine Hollis
Norman Sharp from Dr. William and Cheryl Dillard;
from Jean Fenton; from Margaret Henry; from Gary

Frank Shearer from Al Wiggins Gerald Silvestri from John and Anita Silvestri, his parents

and Pauline Matthews; from Marylin Yetter

Max Singhurst from Henry and Betty Craig Gunnar and Nelly Sjuren from Leonard and Marita Keppler

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Pauline Templeman from June Vogt
Bob, Evelyn, and Jackie Testman from their children
Evelyn Thomas from Mary Ann Jimenez
James Thomas from Mary Ann Jimenez
Lowell Thompson from Barbara Jacobsen;
from Monticello Garden Club
Wayne Thompson from Al Wiggins
Jim Thurmoud from Jim and Judy Culpepper
Doug Turner from Jean Burleson

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Jonathan Whitfield from Bette Whitfield-Bristow,
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Betty Zanes from June Ackermann Betty Zapara from June Ackermann Lawrence Zeigler from Al Wiggins

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Terrence Gibson from Helen Gibson

Happy Birthday

June Ackermann from Shirley Beers
Charles Barber from Shirley Beers
Vivianna Georgiev from Kristian Georgiev
Karyn Powell from John Powell
Lee Welch from Brenda Welch

In Honor of

Betty and Fred Barlow from Al Wiggins Thomas and Renee Coffee from Gary Coffee Bernice Hartzel from Al Wiggins

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



