

AMAZING FACTS

INSIDE REPORT

OCT/NOV/DEC 2016

Once Saved ALWAYS Saved?



An Amazing Fact:

Found in North America, the venomous coral snake is known for its deep red, yellow, and black-colored banding. Coral snakes average three feet in length and are usually not aggressive. Though less than 1 percent of snake bites each year in America are from coral snakes, they possess potent venom.

The harmless milk snake shows a striking resemblance to the coral snake. The similarity, known as mimicry, helps to scare away potential predators. A mnemonic used to distinguish between the deadly coral snake and the harmless milk snake is: "Red on black: a friend of Jack; red on yellow: you're a dead fellow!"

The Bible warns us not to be fooled about the genuine and the counterfeit: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Galatians 6:7, 8).



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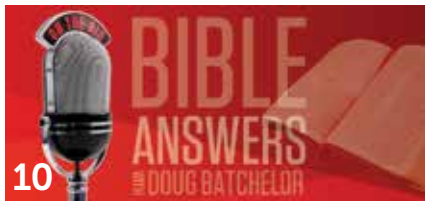
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PRESIDENT
DOUG BATCHELOR

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



Margaret had gone to the doctor for nothing more than a regular work-related checkup, so she was especially worried when the doctor called a few days later and somberly asked her to return to the office as soon as possible.

"Margaret," the doctor said, "I'm sorry to tell you that your lab work came back and indicates you have a serious form of cancer. However, the good news is you have an excellent prognosis for survival and complete recovery—if you have surgery, take the medication, and make some simple diet and exercise lifestyle changes."

Despite the treatment plan, Margaret, deeply distressed, went to her church the following Sunday and discovered that a well-known faith healer was speaking that very day. Throughout his colorful and energetic message, the preacher assured the audience that God had brought some people that day who needed miraculous healing.

Margaret thought, "He must be talking about me!"


At the conclusion of his message, the evangelist invited people forward to receive special healing.

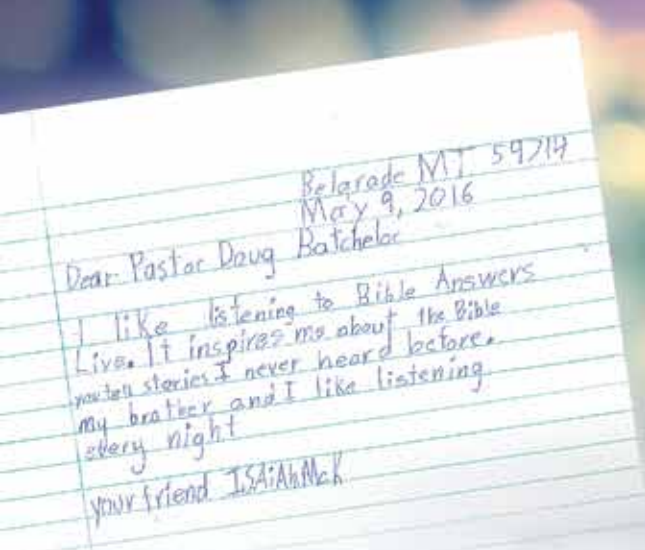
Margaret got in line and, when her turn came, she told the preacher she had been recently diagnosed with cancer. Hearing this, the pastor placed his hands on her head, shouted an enthusiastic prayer, quoted a couple of scriptures, and declared that she had been healed. She just needed to believe and all would be well.

The preacher's confidence and optimism were contagious. Margaret felt much better afterward. She liked the idea that she would no longer need surgery, medicine, and lifestyle changes. The next Monday, she even called her doctor and said she was going to another physician. (She meant Jesus.)

For three months, Margaret put the doctor's warning out of her mind and was at peace, feeling complete confidence that she had been healed—until the day she suddenly fainted at work and was rushed to the hospital. The silent cancer had spread with a vengeance and was now inoperable. Overcome with regret, Margaret lost her life believing a lie.

Today, millions of Christians are being duped by the devil into believing a counterfeit gospel.

In this issue of *Inside Report*, we will look at the deceptive yet popular teaching called "Once saved, always saved," which offers a reckless view of salvation that will leave many despairing in the judgment. Also called the "doctrine of eternal security," it holds that once a person confesses Christ and is truly saved, nothing he does can jeopardize his saved condition—not even his own free choice. Is this biblical? And why is it so important to know the Bible truth? We'll find out together in this issue. And I hope you'll share it with a friend or family member who needs to see this message. 



Amazing Facts Mail Bag

testimonies@amazingfacts.org

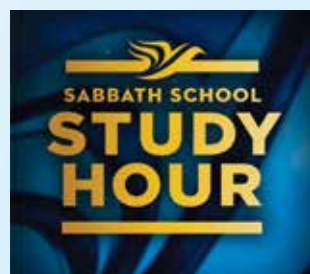
Let's Work Together!

"We are so grateful for the way the Lord is utilizing your ministry to reach people far and wide. In May we baptized Fred and Marianne, who had their initial contact to our church through Amazing Facts. We got their names as referrals through your media programming. This baptism is very special to us because our church has not baptized a single soul in the past six years. We discovered on Sabbath morning that our heater for the baptism tank was not working, but Fred and Marianne decided to go ahead with their baptism despite their health challenges. They were joyful to be born again in God's church. They are very sincere and committed. The Lord has used Amazing Facts to help us break the impasse, and we pray that this is just the beginning of our bouncing back to the mission of the Lord. Thank you so much, and may God bless Amazing Facts more." *Patrick, Ohio*

Praise the Lord!

"I was a Charismatic Christian for many years, loving to study Bible prophecy. I probably listened to every pastor out there on YouTube, but I never felt comfortable with so many different teachings. Then I listened to one of your prophecy seminars and, for the first time in my life, I felt the truth being told to me. On June 11, 2016, I was baptized at a Sabbathkeeping church. God bless you and all!"
Tommy, North Carolina

Sabbath School Study Hour



"I would like to thank Amazing Facts for my growing faith in Jesus. I watch the archives and follow *Sabbath School Study Hour* every week. My mom and I just got baptized in June—a wonderful experience! I really can understand the Bible more when Pastor Doug speaks. He puts it in terms I can understand. I now read my Bible daily and pray more. Thank you for bringing me closer and closer to God. Keep doing a great job!" *Jamie*

A Big Help in Troubled Times

"I watch your videos on YouTube because that's the only way I can get them. It has helped me understand so much of the Bible, and I'm very grateful for your help and for your devotion to the Scriptures. I have had quite a hard time in my life, involved with drugs and alcohol and many other bad things. The only comfort I've found was in my Savior and the Holy Bible. . . . I continue to watch your sermons to better understand God's Word. I've been able to quit drugs and smoking through His help. I'm still trying to grow in Jesus, but I look forward to being in heaven with everyone. I want you to know that you are a big help in that and I watch your sermons daily. I would love to do what you do and help others realize the power of Jesus. I consider you my pastor even though we have never met." *Andrew*



"I want to thank Pastor Doug for the way he gets the word out. I had a lifestyle much like he had in the past, and when I listen to his story and see where he came from and where he is now, I am so amazed. I lost my soulmate to cancer and my only source of sanity was to get with my Lord to rescue me from what Satan had a grip on. It's been three years now, and I'm amazed how my Father in heaven has changed my life. Your teaching has helped me to understand more of what God wants us to know about Him and His ways. Thank you for helping me in my faith!" *Robert*

Ministry of Prayer

"I thank the Lord for answering my prayers and for all the prayers you offered on my behalf. I want you to know how our lives are being changed through your efforts. We also pray that the Lord blesses you and guides you in everything you do. May the good Lord continue to give you strength to carry out His work so that His coming may be soon." *Njabulo*

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Once Saved ALWAYS Saved?

by Pastor Doug Batchelor

An Amazing Fact:



Did you know that it is possible to starve to death while still eating three meals a day? If the food you eat is nonnutritive or has negative calories—meaning it takes more calories to digest it than it contains—you could experience an artificial sense of fullness and well-being yet still suffer from fatal malnutrition.

“The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” —2 Timothy 4:3, 4

There are so many lethal views about what constitutes the true gospel, it boggles the mind.

And it is with some trepidation and great sadness that I suggest that many sincere Christians have wholeheartedly consumed these toxic ideas about how to be saved, because believing in these counterfeit doctrines has potentially severe and eternal ramifications.

One such view is called “once saved, always saved,” also known as the doctrine of eternal security or the “perseverance of the saints.” It is a belief that, I believe, can cause deadly spiritual atrophy.

The roots of this teaching go back to a giant of the Protestant Reformation, John Calvin. This man of deep faith was a sincere Bible student and a brilliant scholar. But like all people, including Martin Luther and John Wesley, his theology was not perfect. It’s been said that “great men often hold to great heresies,” and I believe this was true of Calvin, who attempted to systematize his concepts of salvation, which form the basis of Calvinism.

The five points of Calvinism can be summarized by the acronym TULIP. While this article focuses primarily on the last teaching, it is probably helpful for us to briefly review the others since they are all connected.

What Is TULIP?

Calvin’s first foundational belief is “Total depravity”; that is, all people are born sinners. This idea is plainly taught in Scripture. The second point is “Unconditional election,” which teaches that God Himself has *chosen* who will be saved and who will be lost, a view with which I respectfully disagree. While God knows all things, the Lord does not arbitrarily choose who will be saved.

The third point is “Limited atonement.” It teaches that Jesus died to redeem only those who were pre-chosen, the elect, and not everyone. Of course, this notion contradicts 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15, which says, “Christ died for all.” The fourth point is “Irresistible grace,” which says humans are saved only by God’s will, with no choice on our part. I believe both of these are toxic teachings.

The fifth point, and the main focus of this article, is the “Perseverance of the saints.” In short, it states that those who are predestined to be saved cannot be lost, even by their own choice. Once you are saved, you are always saved. You can never lose your salvation.

Is this doctrine biblical—or is it a dangerous teaching that provides a false sense of security and could actually derail a person’s salvation? Though many Bible references are listed for this concept, we’ll look carefully at those most used to support the idea that once a person is saved, he or she is forever locked into that decision.

We’ll begin by considering the teaching of unconditional election.

Predestination

Unconditional election (also called “unconditional grace” or “predestination”) teaches that before the world was created, God predestinated some people to be saved (the elect) and the rest to continue in their sins and, therefore, be damned, consigned to the eternally burning fires of hell. Human choice, it asserts, plays no role in salvation. A key passage used to support this view is found in the apostle Paul’s writings—

Whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified (Romans 8:29, 30).

Certainly, Bible passages can be used to support the concept that God knows all things past, present, and future. “All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13). Bible prophecy affirms that God knows the future, but future events do not happen because God “foreknew” them; rather, they are known by God because they will take place.

Moreover, because God knows something will happen does not mean He wills it to happen.

Did God predestinate that only some would be saved? Paul writes elsewhere that God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). If only *some* are predestined to be saved, why would Jesus offer salvation to *all*? Christ said, in the closing chapter of the Bible, “Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17, emphasis added).



The *Contemporary English Version* translates Romans 8:29 more precisely, stating that God “has always known who his chosen ones would be. He had decided to let them become like his own Son, so that his Son would be the first of many children.” While everyone is called to salvation, not everyone responds. But to those who choose to come to Christ, these are transformed into His likeness.

One reason Calvin argued in favor of predestination was to make sure God receives all the glory. He believed that if you have any part to play in your salvation—even your own choice to accept Jesus—then you would deserve some credit. Therefore, he concluded, you really do not have a choice. God’s sovereignty, he taught, does not permit human free will.


It’s an interesting theory, but it is not biblical.

I like to think of God’s foreknowledge as something like a helicopter pilot flying above a mountain with a one-way tunnel dug through it. Since the mountain is composed of solid granite, the engineers decided to blast only one lane through the rock, placing a stop light at either end so that vehicles would take turns going through the narrow tunnel. But on a particular day, one of the stop lights was broken.

When the pilot looked down, he first saw a big eighteen-wheeler entering one end at sixty miles per hour. Then he noticed a little red sports car zipping into the tunnel from the other end. The helicopter pilot knew what was about to happen; however, his knowledge did not *make* the inevitable accident occur; he simply had foreknowledge of a coming collision because of his perspective.

God has an all-knowing perspective. He knows whether you are going to be saved or lost, but this knowledge does not take away your free choice. We know this because of the many Scripture passages that demonstrate our freedom to choose. Joshua told Israel to “choose for





yourselves this day whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15). The story of the fall of humanity shows the high value (and high price) that God gave to Adam and Eve when He let them choose whether to obey or disobey Him.

Pharaoh's Heart

What about the verse in the Bible that says, “The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh” (Exodus 9:12). Did God make Pharaoh stubborn so that He could use him to teach Israel a lesson? Did Pharaoh have no choice whatsoever in whether or not his own heart would be hard? Keep in mind, there are several other verses that indicate Pharaoh hardened his own heart. “Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go” (Exodus 8:32; see also Exodus 8:15; 9:34; 1 Samuel 6:6). How did Pharaoh's heart become hardened?

I believe God sent circumstances to Pharaoh in order to soften his heart. But the

repeated warnings given by Moses were ignored by the Egyptian leader. Every time another manifestation of God's power came upon his land, Pharaoh refused to listen and his heart, by his own choice, became more and more hardened. If he had but submitted to God's messages, his heart would have become soft, pliable, and teachable.

Have you ever noticed that the same circumstances coming to different people do not always produce the same responses? Think of the warm sun that shines on the earth. If you set a lump of clay and a lump of wax side by side underneath the same beams of light, one would become hard and the other would melt. Pharaoh chose to be like clay when God's appeals came to the proud ruler; God's light hardened his heart.

Predestination teaches that God arbitrarily decides who will be saved and who will be lost. In other words, Pharaoh simply would have had no choice but to be lost. It indirectly teaches that the Lord chooses for some people to sin. But in so doing, it makes Him an accessory to sin. Instead of offering to save you from sin, predestination presents a God who stands back and allows you to struggle in sin. This is a dangerous belief because it distorts the compassionate character of a God who poured out all of heaven to save us!

God does not harden people's hearts. He is desperate to save everyone.

“As I live,” says the Lord God, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

He sends us truth to help us move in the right direction. It is the rejection of His messages that make us resistant to light from heaven. When people repeatedly turn away from the appeals of God's agencies, such as Pharaoh did, it is then that they become resistant, hardened like clay, to the further convicting calls of the Holy Spirit.

“The same sun which melts wax hardens clay. And the same Gospel which melts some persons to repentance hardens others in their sins.” — Charles Spurgeon



Secure in Christ

Some may be wondering: “If it’s possible to lose our salvation, can we live with any security and assurance of eternal life?”

Well, what are the conditions for being secure in our salvation?

Let’s consider another passage often quoted to support the theory of “once saved, always saved.” A proper understanding of these verses will clear up misconceptions about salvation.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand (John 10:27–29).

A similar verse states, “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37). It is certainly true that when we hear the Shepherd’s voice and come to Christ, we are safe in His hands. No one, not even the devil, can take away our assurance.

But do these verses indicate that once we come to Jesus, we lose the freedom to turn away from Him? We know that the Bible says, “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and that love does not force love. You cannot force someone to love you. Let’s face it—forced love is rape! God promises that when we freely come to Him, He will never turn us away. Yet it is against the very nature of God to force us to stay with Him if we tire of His kingdom, just as Lucifer grew weary of it. Thus, these passages focus on God’s side of the equation. We may trust that when we come to the Lord, we will not be rejected. But we are always free—because of His love—to walk away.

If we abide in Him, God will never let go of us, but we are always free to let go of Him, to stop abiding whenever we please. Faithfulness in a marriage requires commitment on the part of both parties.

The security of our salvation could be compared to putting your money into a bank. Lots of banks like to use the word “security” in their title to emphasize that your money is safe with them. The message they want you to believe is, “You can trust us with your cash.”

Suppose you visit a bank and are given a tour of the facilities. One of the tellers shows you all the alarms and cameras set up to catch bank robbers. The teller points out the bulletproof glass, the many security guards, and the secured vault. Finally, you are told

your money is federally insured. So, feeling safe, you decide to deposit your money into this bank.

What would happen if, the next day, you decide to withdraw \$100 and that same teller tells you, “You cannot withdraw money from our bank.” You protest but are told, “Look, we promise you that your money is in the bank and is secure; you just can’t take any of it out.” Of course, that’s not security—it’s robbery! Likewise, when you lose your choice to walk away from God, you are no longer freely serving Him. You have become a hostage.

Still, God wants you to be secure in your salvation. “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may *know* that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to believe* in the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:13, emphasis added). The condition for knowing you have eternal life is continuing to believe in the name and character of Jesus.

Falling Away

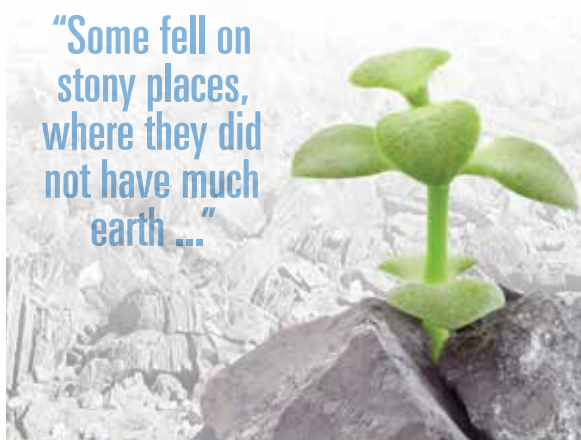
Once you have accepted Jesus into your life, is it possible to fall away? Consider Jesus’ parable of the sower, which describes the gospel seed being spread on different types of soil. Notice what happens when the truth falls onto one type of heart:

Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away (Matthew 13:5, 6).

Now, if the seed “immediately sprang up,” it means these people welcomed it into their hearts. They believed what they heard, and the seed sprouted. Thus, if it “withered away,” something that was once living had died. That means some people who have received salvation at some point lost it because they did not grow deeper roots in Christ.

A Bible example of someone who was chosen by God and even Spirit-filled, but then fell away, was King Saul. He was not picked through a general election, but was chosen by God. Did the Lord choose Saul to make an example of him and then cast him away? No! God chose this Benjamite because he was the Lord’s choice. At first Saul was filled with the Spirit and even prophesied, but he allowed pride to spring up in his heart, grieved away the Holy Spirit, and then lost his salvation.

Judas was one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. When Christ sent him out to preach the gospel (along with seventy others), they all came back to report, “Even the demons are subject to us in Your name”



“Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth ...”

(Continued on page 20.)

BIBLE ANSWERS WITH DOUG BATCHELOR



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

Q. What part does choice play in salvation?

A. “If it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. . . . But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15). Not only is the freedom of choice an important value to God, it is a major key to success in our Christian walk. God wants everyone to be saved. (See 1 Timothy 2:3, 4.) Yet the Lord still permits everyone to have free choice. “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Over and over in the Bible, we find that God gave others the freedom to accept or reject Him. He permitted Satan to choose to rebel against Him. He also permitted Adam and Eve to choose disobedience. Cain and Abel were free to reject God’s sacrificial system, and Cain eventually turned from the Lord. The apostle Paul understood this innate freedom when he wrote: “I discipline my body . . . lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:27).

Righteousness is never a locked-in, programmed provision that takes us to heaven no matter how we live and if we really don’t want to go. Choice means we’re always free to change our mind. That’s why Jesus asks you to choose Him and to reaffirm your choice every single day.


Q. Is it possible for someone to be lost who truly thinks he is saved?

A. “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father” (Matthew 7:21). Have you ever been driving down the freeway enjoying a beautiful day when you notice flashing red and blue lights behind you? Your first thought might be, “Oh no! Was I speeding?” You glance down and, sure enough, you’re going fifteen miles an hour over the speed limit. What would the highway patrol officer say to you if you told him, “But I didn’t *mean* to speed!”

The fact is—you still broke the law.

Likewise, Jesus warns us that some people may think they are going down the road to heaven, enjoying themselves, but what they think does not change God’s expectations. Christ said you can know that you are on the path to eternal life if you are seeking to do “the will of My Father in heaven.” Truth is not shaped by our feelings or hopes. It stands solid, regardless of what we might think. So how do we know we are doing God’s will?

We know we are going in the right direction when there is an intimate connection between ourselves and Him. It’s more than just doing the “right” technical things. “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’” (Matthew 7:22). These are all good things, but there is something more—something that goes deeper than the outward actions.

Jesus explained to outward doers of the law, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (verse 23). When we try to carry out God’s law without a changed heart, the actions are worthless. People who have the assurance of salvation experience lives of service motivated by unselfish love. 

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Life can be challenging! That's why people need all the encouragement they can get, and there's no better place to find it than in God's Word! Our newest sharing book combines God's uplifting promises with short, inspirational thoughts, and groups them into helpful topics to banish discouragement and strengthen you and those around you! Includes ads for websites with Bible truths that will expand the blessings—making this perfect for sharing with friends and family for every occasion. (Paperback, 144 pages)

BK-AFBP ... \$12.95



NEW!



NEW!

Mighty Men of God DVD Set

Doug Batchelor. Studies show that respect for the role of fathers, husbands, and men in general has reached an all-time low. The result? Dispirited men who have abandoned their godly roles, encouraging a moral freefall in our communities. But this new revival series from Pastor Doug can help—it's loaded with biblical principles for men that make sense and offer practical, encouraging advice on how to be a loving father, a faithful husband, and an all-around man of God in the family, church, and nation. DV-MMOG ... \$19.95

Lessons from Job DVD Set

Doug Batchelor. Get profound and powerful answers to your biggest questions about God! Why is there suffering? Does God cause tragedy? How should Christians respond to calamity in their lives and around the world? You'll find answers to questions you've been asking all your life. This life-changing, five-part series by Pastor Doug will help you more fully understand some of the deepest mysteries of God's work in a world filled with injustice and suffering. DV-JOB ... \$14.95



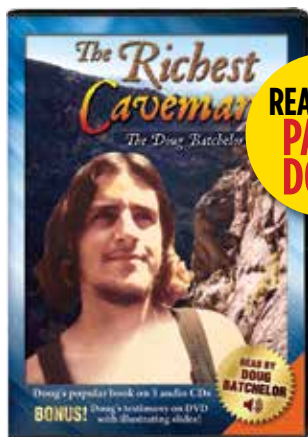
NEW!



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Hero of Hacksaw Ridge

Doug Batchelor. Desmond Doss, a man of deep faith, served his country as a combat medic during World War II but refused to carry a weapon. Yet, for his exceptional valor under fire, Doss was the first ever conscientious objector to be awarded the Medal of Honor. What could inspire such conviction and bravery? This new sharing book explores his riveting story and takes you deeper into the religious beliefs of the church that shaped his faith. It's the perfect book to share with those who have seen the film *Hacksaw Ridge* and would like to know more! Share outside movie theaters, at doctor offices, auto repair waiting rooms, laundromats, and with family and friends! (Call for bulk order prices!) BK-HHR ... \$10.99



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The Richest Caveman Audio Book

Doug Batchelor. The extraordinary true story of Doug Batchelor's call to ministry—from his life as a sometimes violent, drug using teen, to living as a hermit in a cave, to his mission as a worldwide evangelist, you will be amazed and inspired! This 3-CD set features Pastor Doug reading his bestselling book—and comes with a bonus DVD of his testimony. Simply amazing! CD-RCM ... \$19.95



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.



First-Class Soul Winners

AFCOE Africa graduates 29 new lay evangelists in first session!



AFCOE is the acronym for the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism. The program began in 2000 when it launched its first evangelistic school for training lay members in the principles of soul winning. Since then, AFCOE has expanded to include centers in Europe, India, Indonesia, the Philippines—and now Africa! AFCOE Africa is located in Nairobi, Kenya, and works out of a Sabbathkeeping church.

The director of AFCOE Africa, Lowell Hargreaves, explains, “The mission and purpose of AFCOE is to equip and mobilize church members to be soul winners. As church members become active in evangelism and work to win souls, they become more committed to nurture the very people whom they have led to Christ. Thus membership involvement increases new-member retention.”

To reach people, Hargreaves and his team teach a variety of avenues for reaching people—health, prophecy seminars, Bible studies, and literature ministry.

A Hope-Filled Start

During their first training session, AFCOE and the Nairobi church members hosted a health expo along the road outside of the church compound. Members were amazed at how many passersby on their way home from work stopped in for screening. Many were willing to enter the church building to learn more about health.

Connected with the health expo was “Prophecies of Hope,” a series of nightly public Bible lessons, which lasted a month and covered Bible doctrines in a prophetic context. Not only were the decisions for Christ rewarding, but it energized church members into becoming active in evangelism. Revival and reformation took place as a result of members being involved in the joy of winning souls.

AFCOE Africa offers two training programs: a four-month full course, which meets Sunday through Thursday, and a Sunday-only iSHARE training for those who work during the week.

The full course covers five components of evangelistic outreach—personal, public, health, literature, and child evangelism, along with Bible doctrines, Daniel and Revelation, and other classes. During the training, AFCOE Africa staff conduct evangelistic campaigns for

both adults and children, with AFCOE students participating in the evangelistic events as part of their training course.

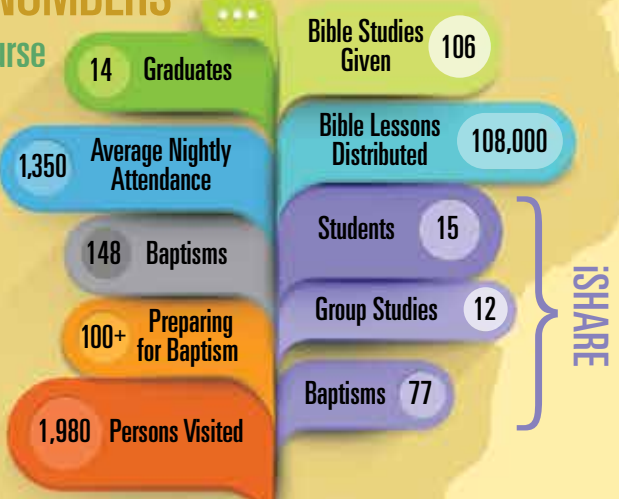
The child evangelistic program has been especially popular. With 42 percent of Kenyans under the age of fifteen, evangelistic programs for children are always well-attended. Since children are five times as likely to make a decision for Christ as adults, it’s a very fruitful field for soul winning!

Hargreaves shares, “When church members get trained and equipped for evangelism, and then become active in soul winning, they never stop. The majority of AFCOE graduates continue giving Bible studies and conducting evangelistic activities.”

Thank you for your support, which makes this worldwide soul winning training and outreach possible! 📖

BY THE NUMBERS

Full course



Hell & Fire

A Personal Testimony

Shemeka, an Amazing Facts worker, shares how she discovered the Bible truth about hell.

I remember as a kid watching a docudrama about the Son of Sam, the name serial killer David Berkowitz used while terrorizing New York City in the mid-1970s during his killing spree.

That night, thinking about what I had seen, I couldn't sleep. Berkowitz was a sinner, and so was I. No, my sins were not of the same variety, but I was still a sinner. How many times had I disobeyed my parents? Fought with my sister? Lied? I was terrified of being lost and burning in the flames of hell forever.

You see, I had been raised in a church that taught that God was going to send sinners to hell after they died to burn them throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

I remember praying that night, with more earnestness than I had ever prayed before, that God would save me from hellfire. With this picture of God in my mind, He was not someone who I loved. I just thought that I needed to be good—and do more good deeds than bad ones so that I might escape hell. The eternal fires of hell made God someone to be feared, and certainly not someone I could truly love.

Set Free

Fast-forward several years. I was sitting in a church next to my father listening to a minister preach from the book of Revelation about hellfire. He was saying that hellfire does not burn eternally, that it will simply cleanse the earth and go out. I was astounded. Could the beliefs that I had held all those years have been wrong? This new information was too clear from Scripture to brush aside as nonsense.

Today I can truly say that my heavenly Father is my best and dearest friend. I love the God whom years ago I had no real desire to love! The Scriptures say it so well: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Where in all of Scripture does such a teaching, burning alive for endless eons, correspond with the character of a loving God?


God will indeed deal with sin, but He will do it justly.

HellTruth.com

A Trusted Bible Website Just Got Better

Amazing Facts has recently redesigned and updated our website dealing with this topic, and it is now accessible on your phone and other devices. If you want to know the truth of what Scripture teaches about hell, please visit HellTruth.com.

This comprehensive site contains historical perspectives on hell and its sister doctrine of the immortal soul; a library of articles and audio and video messages on the topic; real questions and real answers that explain misunderstood Bible passages, such as the rich man and Lazarus; and even a way for you to get a personal answer to your question about hellfire and the afterlife.

HellTruth.com. Bookmark it, like it, tweet it, post it, share it far and wide! People need to know Bible truth about this subject, because people need to know who God really is! 



*Did you know Son of Sam is now known as Son of Hope? Berkowitz reportedly accepted Jesus as his personal Savior in 1987 and is running an outreach ministry to other prisoners.



SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Ellsworth was grateful for a Bible study that finally made sense. He and his wife Evelyn were searching for answers to their questions about Scripture when God led them to a prophecy seminar with Amazing Facts evangelist Dave Steward. But getting to this place wasn't easy ...

Faith Confusion

Ellsworth was raised in a Christian home in 1930s Duluth, Minnesota. The family earnestly served the Lord in their daily lives, giving thanks at every meal, fostering a good work ethic, and emphasizing salvation by grace.

In his youth, Ellsworth had been baptized in a river by a small church. "I've always searched the Scriptures," Ellsworth said, "but this particular little church was stratified by their Jesus-only faith." They preached exclusively about Jesus; no credit was given to the Father or Spirit. "It hurt my parents when I parted from that church, but I knew that wasn't what the Bible teaches."

Evelyn did not grow up in a traditional Christian home. Her father struggled with alcohol addiction and died when she was only two, leaving her mother to raise nine children. Still, her mother taught them all to pray and to hold the Bible in high regard.

Evelyn's grandparents were Catholics from Germany. One day, her grandparents were talking with a priest in their home. When it became clear that their family was reading the Scriptures, the priest chastised them, saying the Bible should be read and interpreted only by the clergy. He then insisted that they relinquish their Bible to him for proper disposal. Knowing the value of God's Word, Evelyn's grandfather sternly sent the priest away empty-handed!





Evelyn's family began attending a Lutheran service in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. But when Evelyn was seventeen her brother returned from the military and immediately started searching for a new church. Awakened by the horrors of war, he knew seeking God was his best prescription. Evelyn shared the Lutheran faith with her brother, but he warned her that they were not preaching the truth. Eventually, he found his church family among the Pentecostals. Evelyn visited but felt they didn't share the whole truth either. No Bible prophecy, no end-time messages. She recalled, "Daniel was like a closed book." Her search continued for many years.

New Beginnings

After they were married, Evelyn and Ellsworth set out toward Hamilton, Montana, eager for a new beginning.

Evelyn discovered the Bible Sabbath and began seeking an explanation for why so many worshiped on Sunday instead of on Saturday—the biblical Sabbath. She could not find a satisfactory answer in any of the churches they visited in Montana. The only answer she got was that Saturday had been traded for the first day of the week because of Jesus' resurrection. Evelyn was frustrated and lamented, "It's hard to find truth because people are afraid to teach the Bible."

Ellsworth was not at first convicted by the same topics as Evelyn: "I told her, 'If you can show me where I'm wrong by the Scripture, I'll change.' It eluded me until the Amazing Facts seminar. I was confused by Luke 24:44 and the difference between the law of God and the law of Moses."

When Evelyn and Ellsworth attended Amazing Facts evangelist Dave Steward's series, it made all the difference. "Listening to Dave, the conviction that came over me; it changed my whole life," Evelyn said, tearing up. "We have a copy of all his messages. The Lord has been so good to us. Our lives are changed."

"It's hard to
find truth because
people are afraid
to teach the Bible."

Ellsworth noticed that Steward was not burdened with opinions but enlightened by the Bible; every point was backed by the Word. He said, "I had always searched the prophecies for signs of the end times. They really played into my hunger. Before, they were an enigma. To look at Daniel and connect it to Revelation was not easy for me before I heard Dave's message."

Evelyn was excited to finally grasp what she had been seeking for so many years—truth. "He made the mark of the beast so clear! It was a marvel. His messages are Scripture-driven!"

The Townsends saw baptism as a chance for a new chapter in life—a new commitment to the Lord. "I don't believe this experience negated my original baptism," said Ellsworth, "but I wanted to be rebaptized."

Their new chapter could not have come too soon. Ellsworth said, "We went to maybe twenty churches here, but there was such a dearth of the Word of God. A lot of entertainment. No depth to it." The solid food of Scripture presented in Steward's Amazing Facts prophecy seminar provided a much-needed sustenance. "David uses a logical process," Ellsworth continued, "You can see the attorney background in him. He brings to the foreground Scriptures that back up every teaching. There's no stone unturned. We were so hungry for that!"

The couple was joyfully baptized in March 2016.



Amazing Facts

ProphecySeminars



Doug
Batchelor



Wyatt
Allen



Darrin
Bartell



Dakota
Day



Ryan
Day



Lowell
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Carlos
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Dave
Steward

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Doug Batchelor

February 25

Spring Meadows Church
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April 22

Evangelism Convocation
World Harvest Church
Houston, Texas

Wyatt Allen

February 24 – March 25

Church Auditorium
4847 108th Street
Franksville, Wisconsin

Ryan Day

January 13 – February 11

Church Auditorium
601 East Main Street
Marshall, Arkansas

February 17 – March 11

Church Auditorium
15202 Highway 107
Jacksonville, Arkansas

Carlos Muñoz

March 24 – April 8

Arecibo, Puerto Rico
For details, call
787-455-2980.
Spanish-language seminar

April 14 – May 20

Laredo, Texas
For details, call
863-381-6648.

Dave Steward

January 5 – February 4

Burbank Holiday Inn
150 Angeleno Avenue
Burbank, California

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



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.

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(Continued from page 9.)

(Luke 10:17). Judas was certainly among this group of successful evangelists and was used by the Lord to witness to others.

We sometimes picture Judas as going around constantly rubbing his hands together with evil delight, trying to steal other people's money. When Judas joined the disciples, his heart had been touched by the teachings of Christ. His intentions were good, yet he eventually allowed his own opinions to guide him more than the teachings of Jesus. Slowly he began to resist the Savior's plans because he felt he knew better and he eventually fell away. Stories of people like Judas, Saul, Balaam, and others are given to us "as examples, and they were written for our admonition" (1 Corinthians 10:11) so that we would not follow in their ways.

Jesus makes it clear in His message to the church of Sardis that if the people did not repent and turn from their bad behavior, they would lose their salvation. "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels" (Revelation 3:5).

You Are Chosen

What then does it mean to be "God's elect"? (Titus 1:1). The Greek word for elect, *eklektoi*, means "chosen ones" or "picked out." I once heard a minister explain that election means that God has cast His vote for you, the devil has voted against you, and you have the tie-breaking vote. Everyone is called to follow the Lord, but not all respond. When Jesus told the parable of the wedding feast, He described how many of the initial guests made excuses and didn't come. So the king told his servants to "go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding" (Matthew 22:9). God has not invited a select few to receive the gospel invitation. He wants as many as possible to enter the kingdom. Jesus ended this story by explaining, "For many are called, but few are chosen" (verse 14).

God's elect are those who respond to His call. Those who heed the Lord's bidding are the chosen ones, but *everyone* is given the call. The message is to go "to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6), but not everyone will accept the invitation. Some will even turn to God but then will turn away. "The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some

“How can you depart from the faith unless you were first in the faith?”

will depart from the faith" (1 Timothy 4:1). How can you depart from the faith unless you were first in the faith?


The doctrine of predestination, as taught by Calvin, is dangerous because it gives people a false sense of security. Paul warned, "I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, *if you hold fast that word which I preached to you*—unless you believed in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:1, 2, emphasis supplied). The word "if" suggests

that ongoing faith is a condition for our salvation. If we do not hold fast, we are believing in vain.

It is unbiblical to teach that we continue to be among God's chosen when we go off and do our own thing.

By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked (1 John 2:3–6).

When you have an abiding trust in Jesus, you can know that you are a child of God and that He will finish what He began in your life. "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). How do we complete the race that we began when we first accepted the Savior? "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

We can have the assurance of salvation if we keep our eyes on Christ and hold fast to His Word. We can know that we have eternal life when we continue to walk in God's ways by faith. But if we believe that once we accept Jesus we can turn away from Him and still be saved, we are swallowing an artificial gospel that could leave us with great disappointment. 



*"If the Son makes you free,
you shall be free indeed."*

—John 8:36

He's confused about his salvation. Anxious and unsure.

Preachers have told him *just believe and you'll be free*. But his life is still a mess. His "faith" has taken him nowhere. Bad habits won't let go, and his marriage is crumbling. Something is missing.

He wants more than a wishful future.
He wants a changed life *now*.

You can lead him to the truth about salvation by providing him a balanced, biblical view of assurance in Christ *and* freedom from sin. When you support Amazing Facts, we'll show him that Jesus accepts him as he is—but wants to give him the power to walk in obedience.

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NEWS to NOTE

New Country Living Program

A life and home in the country has lots of benefits both physically and spiritually. Forty years ago, Pastor Doug decided to move to the country where he and his family built a self-sustaining home. Recently, our video crew persuaded the Batchelors to film the family home while at their mountain hideaway. During the shoot, they addressed how you can build a home off the grid and enjoy country living. Pastor Doug says, “While we must not forget to reach the people in the cities, we shouldn’t forget the blessings of living and working in nature, so in response to countless requests over the years, we produced this video for our friends who are interested in getting back to nature, and to experience God’s Edenic ideal for us.” This program is now available on YouTube and our website. Look for it!



Praise in Puerto Rico

Amazing Facts is now broadcasting in 12 cities across Puerto Rico with truth-filled programs like *Amazing Facts Presents*, *Sabbath School Study Hour*, and *The Everlasting Gospel*. On July 9, WTPM-LD 45.1 television began airing Amazing Facts’ spiritually enlightening programs on Fridays and Saturdays at 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM. The incredible news is that the station contacted us requesting our programs—and the miracle news is that they are broadcasting our programs free of charge. *Alabado sea el Señor!*



Spreading Truth Everywhere

And we aren’t done. Thanks to your support, Amazing Facts programs can be seen on-demand through adventchannel.tv, a 24-hour, dedicated Internet channel based in the United Kingdom. Seven days a week, you’ll be able to watch *Amazing Facts Presents* and more! Plans are also being made to stream Amazing Facts programs in England through Roku and Apple TV.



In August 2016, the Hope Channel in Japan launched two Internet channels (hopechannel.jp) that broadcast Amazing Facts programs (with translation to Japanese) to over 127 million people in the Land of the Rising Sun. Besides our primary programs, this 24/7 outlet will include presentations like *The Last Day of Prophecy* and *Amazing Adventure*. We’re excited that Japan, the UK, and other places are reaching people with God’s message!

New Media Library Sections

Have you seen the new video collections in our media library at AmazingFacts.org? They are called “Special Projects” and can be found by clicking “Search Media by Collection” under the “Media Library” tab. One new section, called AF Music, features musical selections from our Amazing Facts broadcasts. You’ll also find our 50-year anniversary documentary in *Amazing Facts Around the World*. Check out all eight new sections today—they are a great way to share your faith with others and introduce them to the three angels’ messages!

AFCOE Fall 2016

Our newest outreach training session at the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism began in earnest on July 28. This was one of our biggest AFCOE classes in recent years, with students coming from Belgium, Costa Rica, Thailand, and across the United States. The class runs through November with international outreach plans in store for them—please pray for our students as they learn Jesus’ method of evangelism and put their training to use during an upcoming Amazing Facts prophecy seminar series in the city of Sacramento. And if you’d like to help more students attend future training to become better soul-winners for Jesus, please consider donating to the AFCOE Scholarship Fund. Contact us at 916-209-7249 or visit AFCOE.org to make an eternal difference!





Special Recognition

Don Derby by Mary Derby
Everett Dickerson by Yvonne Dickerson, his wife
Roy Drusky by Claudia English
Melvin Duncan by Ruth Gruber, his daughter
Edith Durham by Anita Lowe, her daughter
Myron Durham by Anita Lowe, his sister
Warren Durham by Anita Lowe, his daughter

Jesse English by Ida English, his wife

Hanna Fargo by the Elias family; by James and Hulda McClelland

Jewel and Ruth Foutch by Frank and Gayle Tyroff
Lillian Froelich by Mark Teh

Lola Genton by Emily Austin

Ona Lee Glidden by Arnold Glidden, her husband;
 by Connie Ross, her mother

Hazel Hallman by Karen Hallman Ingersoll,
 her daughter

Alvina Heitzman by Olga Rodin
Joseph Herzberg by Michael and Debra Fechik
Mary Lou Hill by Oshonda Hill and Gregory Rodgers
Ray Hoffman by Carol Hoffman
Doris Howie by Al Wiggins

Michael Ikeda by Jutta Ikeda-Mackay, his mother

Brian James by Shirley Riedel, his mother
Haakon and Dorothy Jarnes by Rolf and Judy Jarnes
Judy Johnson by Sean Morgan-Bell

Tom Kopko by Doris Kopko, his wife

Emlee Lester by Anthony Lester, her son
Paul Lester by Anthony Lester, his brother
William Lowe by Anita Lowe, his wife
Homer Lynd by Teresa Lynd, his wife

Harriet Macomber by Shirley Kammeyer
Bureen Mann by the Ladd Springs Church
Alphretta McMaster by Jack Watkins
Leona Miller by Olga Rodin
Brunhilde Monaco by Darlene Monaco, her mother
William Moreau by Faye Moreau, his wife

Don Oltman by Jeanne Oltman, his wife

John Polonkey by Carrie Hayes, his granddaughter

Marvin Rodgers by Melva Darnell; by Norman and Shirley Hertlein

Floyd Rodin by Olga Rodin, his wife

Hardy Rooks by June Ackermann

Harry and Irma Rushold by Marlin and Udene Allen

Harold Schull by Philip and Ida Zurmuhler

Howard Seely by Albert and Margaret Marion

Gerald Silvestri by John and Anita Silvestri, his parents

Lillian Simpson by Christine Simpson

Reba Smalling by Jim and Judy Culpepper

Dan Smith by Marlene Smith, his wife

James Stansberry by Grant and Yolanda Goodge

James and Evelyn Thomas by Mary Ann Jimenez,
 their daughter

James Thomas by Mary Ann Jimenez, his sister

Royce Thompson by Palmer Wick

Anne Tyroff by Frank and Gayle Tyroff

Mel Underhill by Jean Looker

Yvonne Ware by Henrietta Arvidson; by Cynthia Chu
 and family

Joan Warner by Jim and Judy Culpepper

Anniversaries

Al and Barbara Bennett by Sondra Shields

Baptisms

Gianna Gibson by Helen Gibson, her grandmother

Birthdays

Brandon Hart by Gregory Rodgers

Tiffany Moore by Gregory Rodgers

Marriages

Krystal Bolender and Matthew Logan

Honorariums

Ongelic Hill by Oshonda Hill and Gregory Rodgers

Joshua Lewis by Al Wiggins

Etta Palmore by Frank Rasmussen

Susan Payne by Al Wiggins

Gregory Rodgers III by Oshonda Hill and Gregory Rodgers

Memorials

Douglas Ackermann by June Ackermann, his wife;
 by Shirley Beers, his daughter

Barbara Austin by Don Austin, her husband

Fred and Betty Barlow by Al Wiggins

Helen Beach by her daughter

Ernie and Eva Beck by Al Wiggins

Rhonda Bellissimo by Robert Bundens, her husband

Jerald Blue by Al and Margaret Marion

Edwin Bowen by Joan Bowen, his wife; by Richard
 and Janice Gray

Leonard and Verna Bullis by Al Wiggins

Ray Champion by Vicki Hahn

Oliver and Mary Clayburn by Linda Becker,
 Vera Freeman, and Janet Penird

Eula Collins by Beulah Keeler, her sister

Carl Crawford by Albert and Margaret Marion

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.



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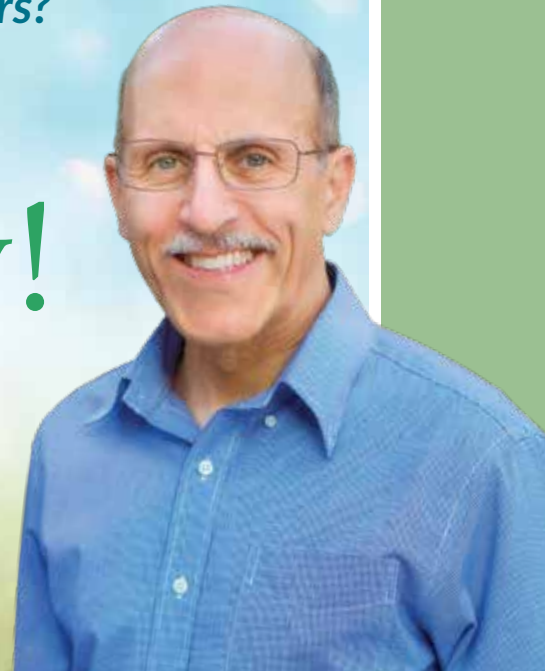
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To request more information about annuities, wills and trusts, IRA charitable rollovers, gifts of real estate, stocks, and more, please contact your Amazing Facts planned giving professional today at:

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