

AMAZING FACTS

INSIDE REPORT

JAN/FEB/MAR 2011

Am I a

Pharisee...

or a

Publican?





# MORE THAN MONEY

BY PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR



THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

One of the most wonderful personal blessings for me as president of Amazing Facts is knowing that we have such a committed, solid core of friends who support us financially month after month. I've learned that nothing is impossible when God moves on these prayerful hearts to contribute to His end-time cause.

But this blessing often goes way beyond that! Some of our friends are very creative in helping us get out our soul-winning products—our books and DVDs—to the general public.

In fact, we very much rely on churches and friends like you to give out these evangelistic tools to people we aren't able to reach with normal advertising. And your enthusiasm for Amazing Facts is the best kind of advertising there is!

It's a very special relationship.

For instance, a church member in New Zealand, Rex, partnered with Amazing Facts to share the *Final Events* DVD in his country. Rex and his church friends saw the film and knew it would be a great outreach tool. They decided to distribute the DVD in the rural North Island. We worked with them on the price per DVD so they could mass mail them. They reached 115,000 homes! Interestingly, one of their responses came from the South Island where they hadn't distributed any. And many responses came from those living in cities after having received the DVD from friends in the country.

Rex also shares that one eager recipient requested 20 additional copies to send to her friends for Christmas and asked for our *Most Amazing Prophecies* DVD. Another church member visits a farmers' market to give out *Final Events*, and many souls are asking for additional copies to share so they don't have to lose their only copy. Amazingly, a lady in Australia called to ask for 200 extra copies to share with others. Says Rex, "It's astounding to see how far the impact of these efforts have gone. People love this DVD and want more."



A group in Brazil has created a website to sell our Portuguese-language *Cosmic Conflict* DVD. (Check out the website at [www.conflitocosmico.com.br](http://www.conflitocosmico.com.br).) This project was set up by a school to raise funds for its students. Hander Heim, a leader in this effort, says, "This is the beginning of a very fruitful ministry. Thanks to God and Amazing Facts."

In the pictures, you'll see that our DVDs have made it all the way to Uganda in Africa, where friends Rob and Stephanie Casebolt passed them out during their prison


ministry efforts. It truly is something extraordinary—and it's just the tip of the iceberg.

Dr. Robert Ford in Washington State has given away 50,000 *Richest Caveman* and *Great Controversy* books through his medical practice! Here's an excerpt from a recent letter he received from one of his patients, Shelby: "Thank you so much for putting that book *Richest Caveman* into my hands. I've never heard such a testimony! I could not put it down—I laughed, I cried, I prayed.

I got so stirred in my spirit. I thank God His Holy Spirit is stirring our hearts!"

Pastor Dan Cole of a church in Kamiah, Idaho, says that another patient, Connie, will be baptized this June after receiving from Pastor Ford the *Richest Caveman* and *Great Controversy*, which were a significant factor in her decision to go to their Bible seminar. Isn't that an amazing fact?!

Finally, last year Amazing Facts had a banner year in reaching people with the gospel—but we also came up short financially. A gift today would make a world of difference, so I ask that you use the enclosed envelope to make a donation today.

But even if you aren't able to do that, you can still share truth by partnering with Amazing Facts and passing out our DVDs and books filled with the everlasting gospel! 

THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



# Table of Contents



## 10 MIQ

More than 1,000 sites in 60 countries tuned into *Most Important Questions!* See how God blessed young people around the world through this special outreach and revival broadcast.

### FEATURE

## 6 Am I a Pharisee ... or a Publican?

The parable of the Pharisee and the publican must have sent shock waves through the hearts and minds of Jesus' day. But the deeper meanings behind this story apply to every soul who takes on the name of Christ. Pastor Doug explores the many facets of this heart-searching parable.



## 14 Bible Answers

Is there life on other worlds? With his Bible in hand, Pastor Doug tackles this controversial subject.

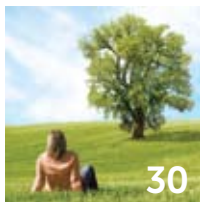
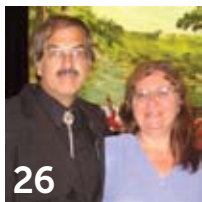
## 11 AFCOE Goes Global

Did you know that AFCOE has locations in other nations? Take a closer look at our thriving Bible training center in the Ukraine.



## 12 Amazing Facts: How You Have Made a Difference

The ministry has experienced abundant blessings over the past five years. Here's a brief but soul-stirring look at what you've helped accomplish!



## 26 The Answer, Finally

Although raised a Christian, Deborah Kelley turned from the Lord. But a "chance" meeting at her work led to a brand-new journey of truth.

## 30 Health Bite

Are you a human being or a human doing? Most people are always on the go—and don't realize that all that stress has dangerous consequences for their health. Get the facts you need to know!

Search the *Inside Report* archives online at [www.AmazingFacts.org](http://www.AmazingFacts.org)!

### MORE FEATURES

- 4 Mail Bag
- 15 News Notes
- 16 Christian Resources
- 20 Evangelism Team
- 21 Broadcast Schedule
- 28 Special Recognition



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

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### FREE CATALOG

Call or write for a color catalog of materials available through Amazing Facts. It contains information and prices on all books, DVDs, CDs, and other soul-winning materials to help you in your walk with Christ.

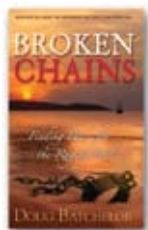


# Amazing Facts Mail Bag

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## Training Disciples

"I've been a Sabbath Christian my whole life but never understood much. Since I have been on the Amazing Facts website, I have been learning so much and understand things I never understood before. Now I'm teaching three elderly ladies at my job about God; you would be surprised how much they don't know about the Bible! I've given them your *Broken Chains* book and they love it. Thank you so much for your help and keep doing what you're doing because it's a blessing." *Florida*



## Keeping Faith Fresh

"I have really enjoyed listening to Amazing Facts. Even though I have heard these truths before, it is always great to hear them again. They have re-affirmed my faith. Praise God for Amazing Facts! *Michigan*

*Editor's Note: These letters aren't a way for us to pat ourselves on the back, but rather a way for us to thank you for your loving gifts. Otherwise, none of the work at Amazing Facts would be possible. God bless you!*

## The Positive Side of Suffering

"I was guided to your site by a co-worker. I wasn't looking for this video but decided to watch it anyway. It was 'The Positive Side of Suffering.' Wow! It was just what I needed.

... The sermon by Doug allowed me to find peace in my heart and calm my nerves.

I thank you guys for the service you provide. Until God provides me a way to make it to church on Saturdays, I am comforted in knowing that I can learn through here and continue to seek the truth. My goal is to someday soon be able to attend Doug's church in Sacramento and get baptized." *California*



## Cosmic Conflict International

"I just watched the *Cosmic Conflict* DVD. I was moved by the beauty of heaven. It made me hate sin, and it reminded me that I have something better to work for—serving Jesus faithfully—even though I live in this sin-sick world. I watched it a second time and felt encouraged to keep going. Amazing Facts is a blessing to me, and I thank God for using it to keep me focused. For that reason, I pray for Amazing Facts and always will. The work of the Master must finish before He comes again." *Uganda*



## Prayers From Manila

"I am so blessed by God through Amazing Facts. I strongly believe that He uses this ministry to spread the gospel throughout the world. I am praying for this ministry and for all of you people who chose to be used by God. He empowers you all. I hope that we can have Bible Study Guides translated into Filipino so we too can use them and share them with our countrymen seeking for the truth." *Philippines*



The *Inside Report* welcomes all correspondence regarding Amazing Facts. Letters and other materials may be used — in whole or in part and edited for content and clarity — in future ministry publications. **If Amazing Facts has helped change your life for Christ, please write us at [testimonies@amazingfacts.org](mailto:testimonies@amazingfacts.org)!**



Lifestyle Giving

## REVIEWING YOUR ESTATE PLAN



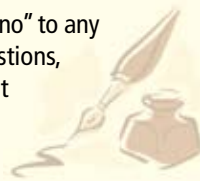
Most information written about estate planning is geared to the individual who has no estate plan. Therefore, we often think that once we have signed our wills or planned our estates, we can forget about them.

But this is simply not true. Estate planning is a continuing process.

The following checklist will help you determine whether or not you need to review your estate plan. Please take a minute to answer these questions.

1. Does your estate plan include an Advance Health Care Directive in the event of incapacitation? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Do you have a durable power of attorney to manage property in case of incompetency prior to death? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Has your plan been reviewed within the last five years? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Do you have a letter of instructions for the distribution of household goods and personal effects? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Have you considered the many advantages of a living trust? ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Have there been substantial changes in people, property, or plans for your estate? ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Have you done everything possible to avoid interpersonal conflicts among family members? ☐ Yes ☐ No
8. Is the ownership of your property coordinated with your estate documents? ☐ Yes ☐ No
9. Have you provided for guardianship and property management for minor children? ☐ Yes ☐ No
10. When you established your estate plan, did you realize that God was the owner of all and was your plan designed under the direction of the Holy Spirit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "no" to any of the above questions, it's important that your estate plan be reviewed.



### *How Do I Review My Estate Plan?*

The review of your estate plan will follow much the same process followed when you created your original estate plan.

Many individuals have found the material our staff has designed to assist our friends in the estate planning process to be just as valuable in the *review* of their estate plans.

We can prepare a special guide for your unique estate planning wishes, including information and guidelines for the estate planning process and an inventory form that can be used to list the data on your people, property, and plans.

We are making this available to you at no cost or obligation. If this can be of value to you, please write us today by filling out the form below, cutting it out, and mailing it with the envelope that came with the magazine.

Or you can call 1-800-436-2695 or email [dans@amazingfacts.org](mailto:dans@amazingfacts.org) to get more information today.



Please send me free *estate planning information!* I understand that there is no obligation.

Please indicate if:

- ☐ You would like a call to discuss your estate options. ☐ You own your own business.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



# Am I a Pharisee... or a Publican?

In the book of Luke, Jesus shares a powerful parable that challenges you and me to do a little healthy soul searching. It depicts two men visiting the same church, both praying to the same God. But something between the two of them is very different.

“Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of

all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other” (Luke 18:10–14).

The lesson plainly exposed on the surface, of course, is that humility is better than pride. But I have found many times with the Word of God that the longer we gaze into it, the deeper and wider it gets. The more we invest exploring it, the more dividends of truth we accrue. And over time it has occurred to me there's much more in this parable than what we commonly see with just a brief glance.

## A Shocking Parable

In Jesus' day the Pharisees were considered among the most pious and religious of all the believers in God. On the other hand, the publicans were branded as unfaithful and unjust extortionists. They were seen as the mafia of their day. You can see why, then, that Jesus' conclusion of this parable literally stunned His audience. It was an outrageous and politically incorrect illustration to suggest that a publican would be justified and saved while a Pharisee would be unforgiven and lost. We'll look more at this later, but Jesus turned their ranking system upside down.

These men represent two groups, but we are not talking about two groups in the world. Rather, these two men represent two opposite

by  
**Pastor  
Doug  
Batchelor**

destinies, the saved and the lost, among those who go to church. Every professed believer today falls into one of these groups. One of these men represents me. One represents you.

Which one?

We each need to ask for humility and guidance from the Holy Spirit when considering this question. You might be thinking you're a publican when you're really a Pharisee or vice versa. Or you might be some of both. It's important we study this parable because we are all one of these guys, and we want to make sure we're the one Jesus forgives.

## Some Common Ground

These men had a few things in common. First, they both believed in God. If you want to be in the saved group, that's a good start!

But believing in God is not the only criteria for salvation. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19). Because devils also believe there is a God, there must be something more to being saved.

Both men also went to church. This too is important if you want to be in the saved group. I have often said that if you don't have enough faith to get you to church once a week, it's not likely you will have enough faith to get you to heaven for eternity.

Sometimes people excuse not going to church by claiming there are hypocrites there. But I say not to worry; there's always room for one more. Besides, Jesus went to church every Sabbath even though it was peppered with hypocrites, some of whom even wanted Him dead.

Others complain that church is boring. But is the purpose of church to be entertained—or to worship God? And if your worship isn't fulfilling, pray for God to change your heart. But go to church. Jesus set the example by teaching and worshipping in church every week (Luke 4:16).

The third thing these men had in common was that they both prayed. Jesus says in Luke 18:1 that men "ought always to pray," and Paul writes that we should "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The saved indeed pray.

So we see both men believed in God. Both went to church. Both prayed. I'm hopeful you also practice these rudimentary elements of faith.

Now let's consider some of their differences.

## Am I Spiritually Proud?

The Pharisees proudly wore their piety. They were a hyper-conservative element of believers who were zealous about the Scriptures, the law of God, and the purity of the worship of Jehovah. When the Jews were captive in Babylon, the prophets told them they were overcome because of their unfaithfulness to God. In response, the sect of Pharisees formed so that Israel would no longer allow themselves to be influenced by the surrounding pagan nations. Fastidious in the details of their religion, the

Pharisees knew that if Israel were to fall into idolatry again, God might forever withdraw His protection.

So this was generally a good group of people who were just very zealous in their belief of keeping themselves undefiled by their environment.

Unfortunately, many and perhaps most of the Pharisees let their zealotry for obedience eclipse their love for their fellow man. Jesus called them on the carpet several times for their preoccupation with external religion and rebuked them for their self-righteous wickedness. "Woe unto you, scribes and

Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like

unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness" (Matthew 23:27).

In this revealing parable, the Pharisee is a sanctimonious, hypocritical man.

## Meet the Publicans

A publican, on the other hand, was the ancient version of a tax collector—though they were quite different from tax collectors today. When the Romans conquered a province, they didn't speak the language and didn't know the culture, but they needed the tax income. So instead of collecting taxes themselves, they allowed Jews to procure contracts to be tax collectors. The tax collectors were required to amass a certain amount of tax from their district and could keep a percentage over that amount for themselves. Many of them would exploit their position to extort vast sums to fill their own pockets. Zacchaeus was fabulously wealthy because he was a tax collector in Jericho.

The publicans were detested by the Jews, who considered them traitors for taking God's money from His people and giving it to the pagans. The publicans were also known for keeping the bars







open and being involved in prostitution. They represented the worst breed of sinners.

So in this parable about two people going to the temple to pray to God, the people naturally looked upon the Pharisees as the ones who were the closest to God. They looked upon the publicans as the most hopeless, God-forsaken untouchables. Yet Jesus favored the publican. The question is “Why?”

## Peculiar Prayers and Posture

An important distinction between the two men was in the way they prayed. “The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself” (Luke 18:11). He stood up, by himself, up front. He then thanked God that he was not like the publican. His head was up; his arms were stretched out.

But the publican’s prayer was entirely different. “The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13). The publican was humbly standing in the back, not even daring to lift up his eyes.

At this point, the Pharisee began to chronicle all his good works. “I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess” (verse 12). He wanted people to know what he was doing and giving for the Lord. He proclaimed his adherence to the law. His prayer was actually self-exaltation.

In contrast, Christ began His ministry by saying, “All their works they do for to be seen of men” (Matthew 23:5). Jesus says that’s all the reward they’ll get (Matthew 6:2).

This parable is important for us, even today, because we still have Pharisees in church today.

The problem with this Pharisee was that he expressed no need of help. He didn’t seem to recognize that he had any problems or faults.

All he saw were virtues.

Yet according to the Bible, his self-righteousness was worthless. “Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by

no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20 NKJV).

Here, Jesus is not holding up the righteousness of the Pharisees as a standard. Instead, He tells us we must rise *above* their standard to enter the kingdom of heaven. Their righteousness was before men. True righteousness must be before God.



“Take heed that ye do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward of your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men” (Matthew 6:1 NKJV).

It requires humility to secretly do good here on earth, to give something and not let anybody else know about it. It helps tame our spirit and reveals our motivation in doing good: Do we act so others will think of us as generous? Do we really care about the one we’re helping?

## How Do I Pray?

“When you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing” (Matthew 6:5 NKJV).

The idea of the parable is not that standing while praying is bad, but rather to examine why you are standing. Jesus doesn’t want us to make a spectacle of ourselves while we pray. Don’t draw attention to yourself, either through your actions or by your words.

Have you ever been in a group prayer and started preaching for the benefit of those around you instead of really talking from your heart to God? I have. I sometimes still do it with our children. We kneel with them to pray, asking the Lord to help them get good grades and help them clean their room. They’re right there with us, and our prayer has turned into a mini-sermon.

When we deliver little innuendos and messages in our prayers, that’s one way we stand. That’s the prayer of the Pharisee, “Lord, I thank thee that I am not as other men.”

Do you ever question another person’s behavior? Are you ever thankful that you’re not like that? Have you ever condemned another person’s church clothing? “That’s not at all respectful as my own modest attire is.” The Lord hears, “Lord, I thank thee I am not as other men.”

By the way, gossip is just an outward manifestation of this holier-than-thou attitude. Often we disguise our gossip as a prayer

***“Good men  
avoid sin from  
the love of virtue;  
wicked men avoid  
sin from a fear of  
punishment.”***

**—John Wesley**





***"I'm not gossiping, but I just wanted to mention this so we can pray about it."***

request! "I'm not gossiping, but I just wanted to mention this so we can pray about it." Then they reveal Sally went to lunch with Bruce, and they're both married ... but not to each other. Have you ever said something like that? In your heart, maybe you were really saying, "Lord, I thank thee I am not as other men."

## Whom Do I Trust?

The Pharisee exalted his own religious practices at the expense of his neighbor. He trusted in his own good deeds to make him acceptable to God. He didn't plead the merits of Christ. Many good people will do this without realizing it.

Hezekiah was a good man and a good king. The Bible says he did "right in the sight of the Lord" (2 Kings 18:3). Then one day, God told Hezekiah to get his things in order; it was time to die. Hezekiah cries "foul" to the Lord, listing his impressive accomplishments. God mercifully heard his prayer and granted him 15 more years, during which Hezekiah had to learn a lesson in humility. In those extra days, good king Hezekiah developed the Pharisee mentality and failed to sense his sin and his need for God.

The Pharisee in our parable was in the same boat. He measured himself with others rather than with God. He lacked a humble, contrite spirit. He felt no need of God and made no request in his prayer. His thanks was not thanking God for being God. His thanks was for himself. Five times in his prayer he said, "I." It is an entirely self-centered speech.

Typically, even the self-centered prayer is to ask for something. "God, do this for me. Lord, give me that." It's okay to pray about our needs. Jesus even says to ask God for our daily bread (Matthew 6:11). But many times



we'll throw in requests for things we don't need, wasting breath that could be spent on praying for others.

Remarkably, the Pharisee made no request at all. He was so self-righteous that he believed he didn't need anything. He basked in a false sense of personal righteousness, the one thing that most disqualified him for heaven! C.S. Lewis said, "When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse he understands his own badness less and less."

## Self Worship

The publican and the Pharisee both believed in God, but it turns out one was worshiping himself. The Pharisee was confident in his own works for salvation; the publican pleaded for mercy from God.

Does this remind you of two other men? Two brothers bring their offerings to God. They both pray, but Cain is confident in his own work, offering the fruit from his vegetable garden. Abel seeks God's mercy, bringing a lamb and depending on the blood of this substitute to cover his sin. When he sees his self-righteousness is spurned by God, Cain despises and kills his brother. We will see this same scenario repeated in the last days.

Going back even further, Lucifer fell into the same trap. He became enamored with himself. Pride turned into self worship, which spawned jealousy and murder. Those who follow the devil model the devil's attitude and behavior, and all its various forms of self worship.

In Luke 18:12, the Pharisee reminded the Lord about his good

works, one of which was fasting twice a week. It was only required by the Jews to fast once a year at one of the feasts, during the Passover.

There's nothing wrong with fasting. In fact, most of us ought to do more of it. There's nothing wrong with praying nor giving either. The problem is when you do these things for the wrong reason—that's the difference between the publican and the Pharisee. It has to do with motives. John Wesley said, "Good men avoid sin from the love of virtue; wicked men avoid

*Continued on page 22.*



# Amazing FAQs for Teens Resonates with Youth



**A**lthough the live broadcast of the *Most Important Questions* (MIQ) television series concluded on October 16, the results of this unique and pivotal program are really just beginning—and will be felt throughout eternity.

Broadcast from October 8–16 at the Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Michigan, the MIQ teen outreach and revival event made history on several important fronts.

First, more than 1,000 sites around the world registered for the youth event, with viewers from 60 countries, including Jamaica, Canada, South Africa, Australia, the United Kingdom, India, Ghana, the Philippines, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Honduras, Haiti, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, Brazil, France, Germany, Colombia, Fiji, and El Salvador.

Moreover, the event captured the attention of churches across denominations, including Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Anglican, Charismatic, Pentecostal, and many others. It was an excellent

opportunity for Amazing Facts to reach hearts and expose God's other sheep to the ministry's message.

## Most Important Purpose

The meetings were born out of a deep concern over the sobering statistics that more than 65 percent of Christian young people drift from the church during and immediately following their teen years.

Pastor Doug Batchelor, the speaker for the series, says, "Today's Christian kids have been so bombarded by the values of the world that it is sometimes hard to tell the difference between them and non-believers. Their faith is resting on a cracking foundation, so we chose to answer their important questions in the most straightforward, faith-building way possible, and we're thrilled to hear their response."

American teen Patty, 17, says, "My dad told me about this, and I watched all the shows every single night. I love them and I can't wait to learn more and to have God in my heart and have a closer relationship with Him every single day. . . . I can overcome anything though Jesus Christ!" In an age of seductive but violent video games, sex-filled movies, and TV shows emphasizing the world's values, this kind of response thrills our staff!

Produced by Amazing Facts and uplinked by 3ABN from the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy, MIQ's 10 presentations addressed a gauntlet of big, core questions today's Christian youth are constantly grappling with—including the reality of God and the evolution and creation controversy.

The programs also touched on everything from the foundations of morality and media to personal faith and Facebook. Answers to such topics as dating and church attendance to spirituality and suicide were addressed in a frank and straightforward manner.

## A Multifaceted Presentation

As part of the series, Amazing Facts developed and published a companion guide that provides an easy-to-follow outline for the series. Called the *Most Important Questions Answer Guide*,

*Continued on page 23.*



A large globe showing the continents of Europe, Africa, and Asia. A red star is placed over Ukraine in Eastern Europe.

# AFCOE

## Goes Global in Ukraine

by Wes Peppers, Global AFCOE Coordinator

**Nothing** more does the devil fear than one soul who fully submits his or her heart completely to Jesus.

Or does he?

Could it be that the devil fears something even more than this? Indeed, what if that soul who was completely surrendered to Jesus *also* was fully equipped to win other souls to Jesus? Better still, what if the world was full of surrendered people serious about sharing God's message with a dying world?

Think of it! Satan and his whole host would tremble in fear of those whom God would use to turn the world upside down for Jesus. It happened once at Pentecost in the book of Acts, and the Bible says it will happen again at the end of time just before Jesus returns:

*"It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh . . . before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered" (Joel 2:28–32).*

When it does, Jesus will come and we will go home to heaven. That's why Amazing Facts is dedicated to fulfilling the great commission of Matthew 28:18–20, and we have been overwhelmed at God's recent plans to accomplish this!

### Rising to God's Calling

At the AFCOE four-month program, our mission is to equip people with the tools they need to share Jesus with others.

First, we seek the revival that only the Holy Spirit can bring. We spend time with Jesus in prayer, Bible study, and evangelism training. Then our students do hands-on outreach in the community, giving Bible studies and providing health and Bible seminars to the public. In every way, we follow Christ's example of teaching, preaching, and healing (through health programs) that bring lost souls to a knowledge of God's love for them.

*"These evangelism training centers will be beacons of light that will potentially reach millions of people for Christ in the years to come."*

As a result, during our four-month programs, we have seen miracles happen in the lives of people that could have only been done by the transforming power of God.

Yet the Lord doesn't want us to be satisfied with training students who come from all around the world for this training at merely one location in northern California. He wants us to take this training to students around the world, so that is exactly what we are doing!

Revelation 18:1 says, "After these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; *and the earth was lightened with his glory*" (emphasis added). We believe that AFCOE should fulfill this purpose. That's why we have decided to expand our program around the globe.

### Like Never Before

This is no easy task!

A systematic network of global evangelism training schools really has never been done before, so much time was spent on our knees and searching God's Word for guidance.

God slowly brought the answers together, and now His plans are going forward! Our first school launched in

January 2010 in Ukraine, and some have asked, "Why do a school in Ukraine?" Well, there are several reasons.

First, Ukraine has about 50 million people who need to hear the three angels' messages. Second, it borders six countries that have a similar language—Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, and Hungary. These countries combined have a population of 300 million, and Ukraine sits right in the middle of all of them.

A third reason is that almost everyone in Ukraine speaks Russian; it is the gateway to Russia—the largest of these six

*Continued on page 24.*

**In** September 2010, Amazing Facts held its official constituency meeting, which takes place every five years. It is a time for Amazing Facts to reflect on our efforts over the past five years and to ensure we're doing everything we can to reach the world with the everlasting gospel.

The meeting clearly revealed just how much God has accomplished through Amazing Facts since 2005. It was a tremendous blessing for all who attended. But someone important was missing—you! The fact is, supporters like you are the key ingredient to making everything we do for Christ possible, so we want to share the fruits of this wonderful labor with you.

As you read this very brief summary of the results of Amazing Facts' efforts over the past five years, don't forget that it is a direct reflection of your sacrificial and prayerful support. We hope that you are inspired by the many souls won to the kingdom and that your passion for soul winning will burn even brighter.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To proclaim to the world the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6–12 and to encourage revival in the remnant church by leading people to embrace salvation by faith in Jesus, to establish them in the church, and to disciple all believers in the joy of leading others to Christ by word and example.



## » BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Bible School continues to be a soul-winning powerhouse. Over the past five years, we've seen a consistent increase in the number of students enrolled in our online and mail-based courses. And since 2006, nearly 20,000 students have graduated our courses—and thousands have been baptized and integrated into local Sabbath churches too.



**Notables:** The Bible School received 330,000 pieces of mail in the last five years. We also answered an average of 7,300 letters per year—a total of 36,527 since 2005.

## » EVANGELISTS

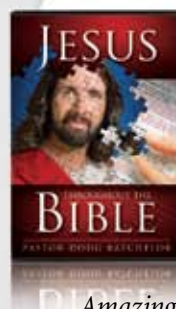
Our nine traveling evangelists have presented more than 250 Bible prophecy conferences worldwide since 2005, leading to nearly 2,000 baptisms. This kind of local evangelism is still a powerfully effective means of saving souls even in the midst of these difficult economic times.



**Notables:** Amazing Facts was instrumental in planting a church in Granite Bay, California, which opened September 1, 2007. Today the church has grown to an average of 220 people in attendance.

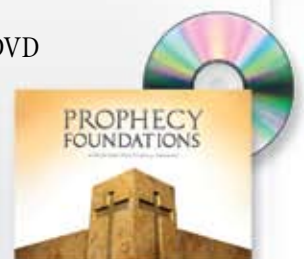
## » PUBLISHING

Our literature evangelism work continues to make an impact for the last-day work. Since January 2005, we've sold and delivered more than 8.5 millions pieces of literature, including Study Guides, books, CDs, DVDs, and more. We've also shipped more than 525,000 free orders to those seeking more information about the Bible in response to our media programs.



**Notables:** Amazing Facts has developed many new Christian resources over the past five years that have drawn souls closer to the Word of God and the love of Jesus, including:

*Amazing Adventure* DVD set & Bible guides  
*Amazing Health Facts!* magazine & DVD  
*Cosmic Conflict* DVD  
*Jesus Throughout the Bible* DVD  
*Streams of Light* DVD set  
*2 Eternities*  
*Prophecy Foundations* DVD  
*Prophecy Study Bible*  
*Total Vegetarian Cookbook*  
*Tree of Life Literature Rack*  
*Most Important Questions* and workbook





# Have Made a Difference

## » AFCEC

The mission of AFCEC is to train God's people for evangelism, revive their faith, affirm their beliefs, disciple them in fellowship, and give them hands-on experience in the mission field.

Over the past five years, we've trained 1,500 people worldwide for the work of evangelism through our AFCEC and AFCEC to Go training courses. As a result of their hands-on training, more than 50 souls joined the church. AFCEC students have also conducted more than 50 evangelistic events in various foreign countries, including Romania, Ukraine, Belize, Mexico, Costa Rica, Africa, and beyond, resulting in thousands of baptisms.

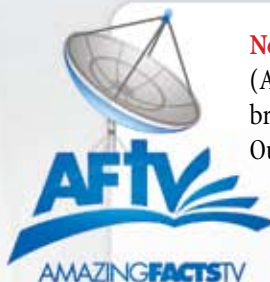


**Notables:** We also launched satellite AFCEC programs in Ukraine and the United Kingdom. (See page 11 for more information.)

## » TELEVISION & RADIO

Our media department, which includes television, radio, and Internet broadcasting, is responsible for more than 70 percent of new contacts to the ministry.

In the past five years, we have begun airing on the Inspiration Network (58 million homes), ABC Family (93 million homes), and even YouTube (700,000 views). This has led to more than 440,000 contacts requesting additional information about the Bible topics they learned about on programs such as *Everlasting Gospel*, *Central Study Hour*, *Amazing Facts Presents*, and *Bible Answers Live*. Our demographic research shows that the vast majority of our viewers are new to the teachings we share.



**Notables:** We launched Amazing Facts TV (AFTV) on March 19, 2010, and are now broadcasting by satellite 24 hours a day. Our lineup includes programs from various ministries, and our coverage includes all of North America, the Caribbean, and portions of Central America.



Our correspondence media team serves as a powerful interactive arm of our ministry, providing encouragement and Bible information to seekers. More than 90,000 emails and letters from 76 nations have been answered by our staff and volunteer team in the past five years.

## » WEBSITES

Amazing Facts' emphasis on producing evangelistic websites has increased our effectiveness in sharing last-day truth with millions of believers. Since 2008, we've seen a 176-percent increase in unique visitors—that's more than 2.5 million people! We've also delivered more than 550 terabytes of streaming video and audio, articles, and more to curious visitors.



**Notables:** Check out our new AmazingFacts.tv website, which streams AFTV 24/7, and our redesigned [www.SabbathTruth.org](http://www.SabbathTruth.org) and [www.sabadobiblico.com](http://www.sabadobiblico.com).





# BIBLE Answers



with Pastor Doug Batchelor



## Is there life on other worlds?

I get this question a lot, and it's certainly understandable why. According to scientists' best estimates, at least 100 billion galaxies populate the known universe, each with as many as 200 billion stars. Given those numbers, it is at least reasonable to conclude that some of those stars have planets that host intelligent beings.

But what does the Bible say on the subject?

First, we know that God created everything we see and can't see (Colossians 1:16, 17). We also know there are other forms of life—angels, cherubim, and seraphim—that come and go from our planet. We get many glimpses of them throughout the Bible. “Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:13,14; also Genesis 28:12).

Most angels are on God's side and still serve Him. The “fallen angels” are in league with Satan and were cast out of heaven. They now dwell on the earth. (See Revelation 12.)

It's interesting to note that angels appear to travel many times faster than the speed of light. In Daniel 9:23, the old prophet was praying when the angel Gabriel appeared. “At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved.” That angel made it from God's throne in the heavens to earth in mere minutes!

But to get to the crux of the matter, I think there are other inhabited worlds that Christ made. I don't think we can even imagine what they are like. “[God] hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, . . . by whom also he made the *worlds*” (Hebrews 1:2, emphasis added; also Hebrews 11:3).

Want Bible answers in your inbox?  
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huge deals on our best products?  
Then sign up for our email specials  
and newsletter at:

[subscribe.AmazingFacts.org](http://subscribe.AmazingFacts.org)



Tune in to **Bible Answers Live**, Amazing Facts' live, nationwide call-in radio program, and listen to Pastor Doug give biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To get times and stations in your area, or to listen to answers online, visit [www.AmazingFacts.org](http://www.AmazingFacts.org). You can also request a free program guide by phone or mail.

All these other worlds are un-fallen and praise God. (See Revelation 5:13.) Perhaps this is why Jesus told this parable: “What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?” (Luke 15:4). Jesus left the adoration of sinless angels and worlds to come to this one lost world to save the wayward creatures made in His image.

The Bible also speaks of an out-of-this-world council meeting in which the “sons of God” gathered before the Lord—and Satan showed up to represent our planet.

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it’” (Job 1:6, 7 NKJV).

Job 38:6, 7 also seems to indicate that these “sons of God” existed before our world was made.

But while the Bible seems to support the notion that there is life on other worlds, we should be careful to remember that the devil and his angels can easily create illusions to deceive us (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Remember that un-fallen worlds are probably restricted from mingling with our sin-diseased planet. That's why most UFO sightings are likely mere optical illusions or dangerous satanic deceptions.

No, E.T. has not been here . . . yet. After God creates the new earth, we will be able to freely travel and visit with all of His creation (2 Peter 3:13).

**“When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on  
Thy judgment throne.” —Rock of Ages**





### Amazing Facts Canada Update

Did you know that the international ministry of Amazing Facts has been operating a uniquely Canadian outreach since 2000? Since then, Amazing Facts Canada has been broadcasting to millions through television and radio.

Today, we are thrilled to introduce its new president, Leslie Berreth, a successful businessman and church leader who desires to see the Lord's work grow stronger in Canada. Also serving are Jacob Hiebert, manager/executive secretary, and his wife Judy, administrative assistant. Both have tremendous experience serving the church and believe Amazing Facts Canada can make huge strides for Jesus Christ. Please pray for our team, that the Lord will use them to grow the kingdom in Canada!



### Faith Summit in Loma Linda, Calif.



On March 11 and 12, come see Pastor Doug present a special series, The Presence of God, and give you a behind-the-scenes look at the ministry

of Amazing Facts! This three-part series features powerful messages, inspiring testimonies, and faith-building music. The event begins Friday at 7:00 PM at the Loma Linda Hill Church at 11057 Hill Drive. Please join us if you are in the area!

### Amazing Adventure in Australia

It's been more than a year since we broadcast the *Amazing Adventure* evangelistic series for kids—but it's still making an impact around the world! Here's an update from a church group in Australia that recently watched the series: "I am

thankful for the Lord's help and leading with the formation of this program. One of these younger children made her decision to have Jesus in her heart and indicated that she wants to study to be baptized.

Another church is also contemplating holding their *Amazing Adventure* own program. On November 27, the kids were part of a dedication service, during which they received a lamp and a certificate for completing the series. Several have asked Jesus into their hearts, with three requests for baptism."

Visit [www.AmazingFactsKids.org](http://www.AmazingFactsKids.org) to find soul-winning resources and order your DVD set!



### » More Ways to Support God's End-Time Work

- You can now further the gospel through even more giving options! Do you have a non-cash gift you would like to donate to help reach souls lost in darkness?
- Amazing Facts gladly accepts vehicles, stocks, mutual fund shares, and real estate that we can convert into soul-winning resources.
- Call us at 1-800-436-2695, ext. 8, and we'll assist you with the paperwork and how you can benefit with the best possible tax deduction.



THE HOLY BIBLE

# PROPHECY STUDY EDITION

## For more than 45 years, Amazing Facts

has been using television, radio, literature, the Internet, and local Bible conferences to share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And with a special emphasis on understanding prophecy, we've helped Bible students around the globe experience the peace that surpasses all understanding by showing them they can have faith in the prophetic promises of God.

It's why we have produced one of the most exciting study Bibles available today—the Prophecy Study Edition. When you understand the prophecies of the Bible, you realize that you can trust in God fully and experience an empowering faith that will never let you down.

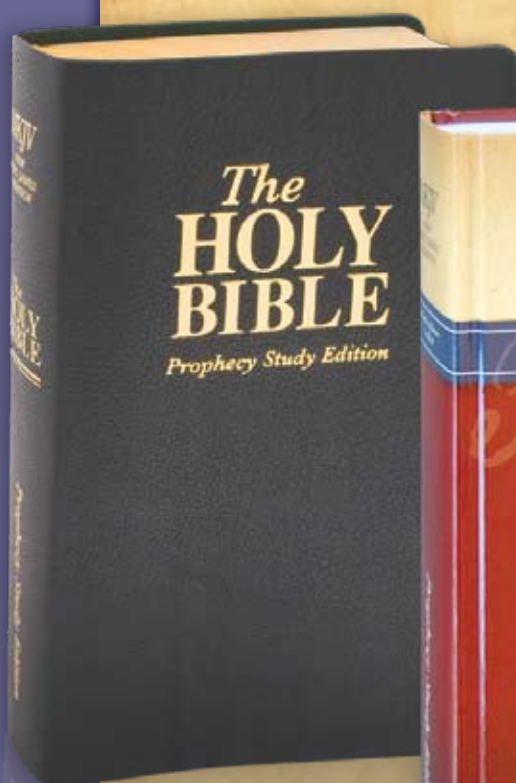
Our goal is to give you a better and easier way to study all the fascinating Bible topics that will matter in the last days. So whether you're exploring the Bible for the first time or for the hundredth time, you can dig deeper than ever into God's Word and the marvel of prophecy ... and discover faith all over again.

**Check one out for yourself or  
for a friend in need of hope.**

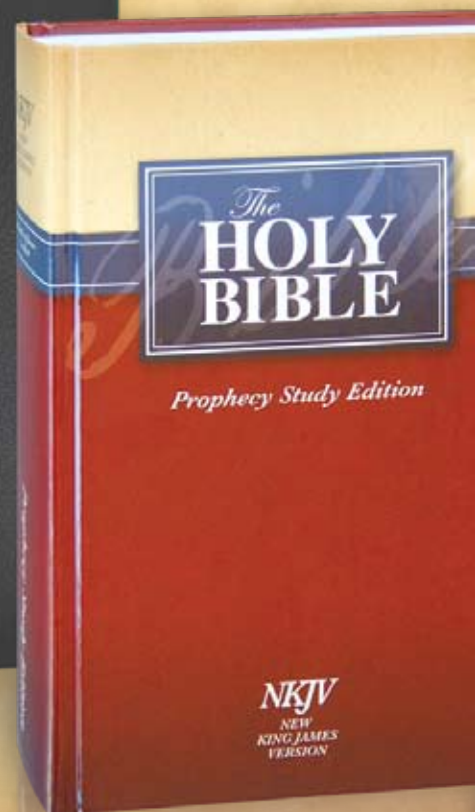
# EMPOWER

## Biblical Cyclopedic Index

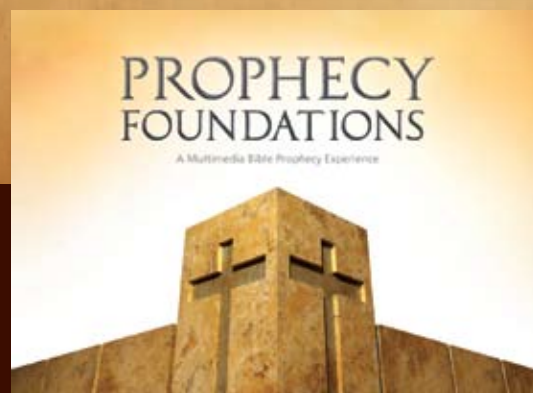
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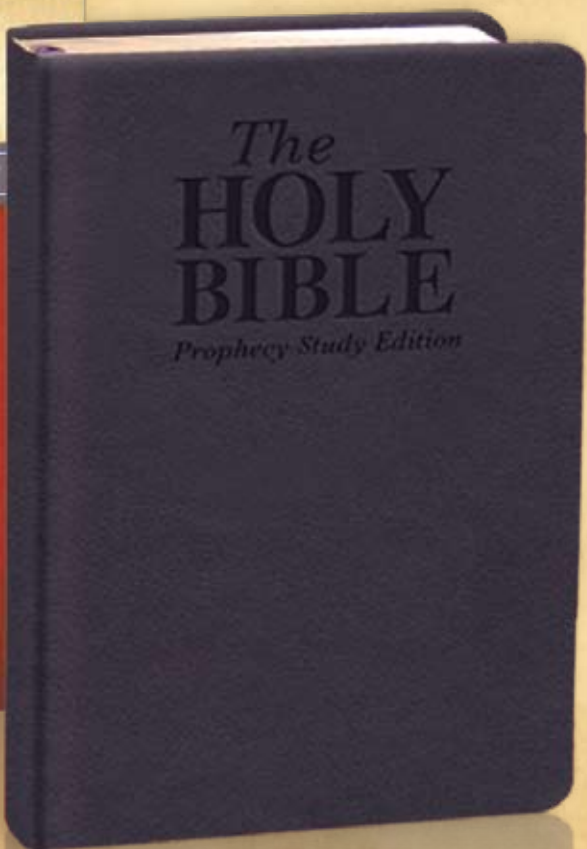
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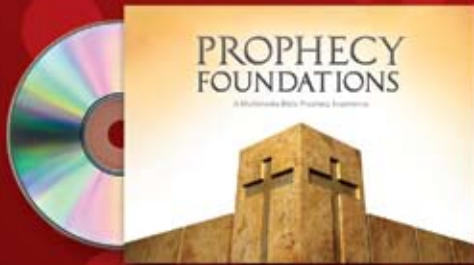
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# CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



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**DV-PFM ... \$1.60/ea.**  
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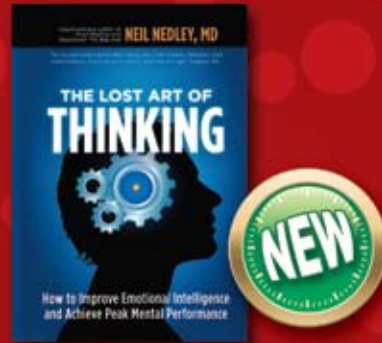
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A revolutionary Bible study experience that will transform the way you understand last-day prophecy! You will explore 27 different topics in-depth with a powerful array of multi-media presentations at the click of a button, including:

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Each study is loaded with Scripture references that will help you unpack the mysteries of the Bible for yourself, enabling you to uncover key prophecy concepts in just a short time.

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*Neil Nedley, MD.* Would you like to achieve peak mental performance? Now you can—by implementing the many practical strategies in this ground-breaking book. You will learn how to manage thought processes that make or break mental performance; discover the “cognitive distortions” that can impede your mental performance; leverage the effects of natural remedies to promote good thinking habits; have better brain function by managing obstacles such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, grief, and addictions ... and so much more! Don’t miss this 300-plus pages of cutting-edge, well-documented, and timely information that will restore your mind! (Hardback)

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Each book is illustrated!

### The Gospel According to a Tree

Discover the parts of a tree and how they live and grow, while learning such character lessons as service, wisdom, obedience, patience, and more.

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### The Gospel According to a Dandelion

You can learn a lot from a lowly dandelion! Its design will change your thinking about the “noxious” weed and show you a deeper glimpse of God’s character. Learn lessons such as diligence, natural beauty, witnessing, and more.

**BK-GAD ... \$12.95**

### The Gospel According to a Snowflake

Discover the beauty of a snowflake as you see how they form and learn practical lessons about preparedness, forgiveness, trials, and much more!

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### The Gospel According to a Blade of Grass

Study a whole host of amazing insights and powerful object lessons about God’s wisdom, gratitude, humility, salvation, and more!

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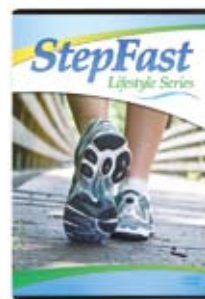


## Who Do You Think You Are?

*Doug Batchelor.* Do you know who you really are? Satan is out to steal the spiritual identity of God’s children, seeking to obscure the truth and confuse believers regarding who they really are in Christ. The goal of this book is to help fan away the chaff, exposing the essence of who you really are, and reveal who you can really become through Jesus! Only in the light of His sacrifice can we appreciate how much we are worth to God, who unlocked

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# CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



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Pastor Doug Batchelor leads your kids (aged 8 to 12) on a powerful, soul-winning Bible study experience just for them. This 10-part series is filled with amazing facts, incredible Bible stories, exciting spiritual discoveries, and heart-warming music—all designed to help your kids stand with Christ for eternity! Great for junior Sabbath School, Pathfinder devotionals, home school and neighborhood evangelism, and much more! Comes with one set of 10 full-color Bible lessons.

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## Cosmic Conflict DVD

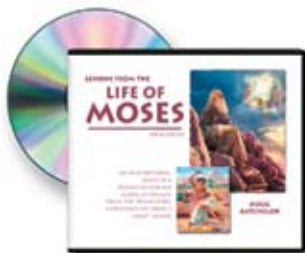
Take a spectacular journey back through time and trace the transformation of a perfect angel into Satan and how he led an army of angels in a revolt in heaven! Recorded in high-definition, this Bible-based documentary will help you understand the deepest mysteries of life, explaining how sin and evil could invade a perfect world made by a loving God. The cosmic conflict affects every life on earth—including yours!

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Doug Batchelor. Follow Moses on his extraordinary journey from the palaces of Egypt to the border of the Promised Land. Stirring moral messages about the greatest mortal man in earth's history. (6 CDs)

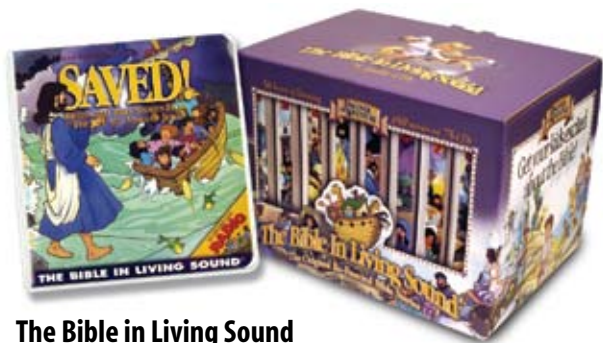
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## Learning From the Kings

Doug Batchelor. Explore the spiritual struggles of pride, power, and passion that challenged ancient Israel's monarchs—practical lessons that apply to Christians today. (4 CDs)

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## The Bible in Living Sound Complete Set

The original dramatized audio Bible stories will get your kids excited about the Word of God! These spiritually enthralling stories, re-enacted with music and sound effects, leave impressions of lasting beauty and wonder, putting your kids inside the Bible and letting them explore the will of God! Complete 75 CD set contains 450 stories.

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Tim  
Jones



Tyler  
Long



Jason  
Morgan



Dennis  
Priebe



Jason  
Sliger



Dave  
Steward

## Doug Batchelor

**February 26**

Collegedale Community Church  
4995 Swinyar Drive  
Collegedale, Tennessee

**March 11, 12**

Faith Summit  
11057 Hill Drive  
Loma Linda, California  
See page 15 for details.

**May 13 – 21**

AFCOE to Go  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**June 7 – 11**

Amazing Facts / Weimar Center  
Convocation  
Weimar, California

**June 17, 18**

Texico Camp Meeting  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

## Emanuel Baek

**February 18 – March 25**

Hastings, Nebraska  
Call 402-463-1066 for details.

**August 26 – October 1**

Pewee Valley, Kentucky  
Call 502-241-0205 for details.

**October 14 – November 19**

Minot, North Dakota  
Call 701-839-6478 for details.

## Darrin Bartell

**February 18 – March 26**

Elizabethtown, Kentucky  
Call 270-769-6917 for details.

**May 13 – June 18**

Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta,  
Canada  
Call 780-757-0779 for details.

**September 2 – October 8**

Duluth, Minnesota  
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

## Lowell Hargreaves

**February 25 – April 2**

Ukraine, Kiev

**April 8 – May 14**

Brussels, Belgium

**May 20 – June 25**

Hungary, Kecskemet

## Chuck Holtry

**March 4 – April 9**

Elizabethtown, North Carolina  
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

**April 15 – May 21**

Sioux City, Iowa  
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

**July 29 – September 3**

Newmarket, Ontario, Canada  
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

## Tim Jones

**February 25 – March 26**

Better Living Center  
1461 Meadow Vista Rd  
Meadow Vista, California

**April 1 – May 7**

Oxnard All Nations Church  
Auditorium  
211 W. Birch Street  
Oxnard, California

**May 13 – June 18**

Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Call 416-924-8741 for details.

## Tyler Long

**February 10 – March 12**

Church Auditorium  
1390 Laurel Avenue  
Ukiah, California

**March 16 – April 16**

Quesnel, British Columbia,  
Canada  
Call 778-412-2010 for details.

**April 28 – May 28**

Williams Lake, British Columbia,  
Canada  
Call 250-392-6342 for details.

## Jason Morgan

**February 11 – March 12**

Taylor Mill, Kentucky  
Call 859-431-1900 for details.

**March 18 – April 16**

Odessa, Texas  
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

**April 22 – May 21**

Alamogordo, New Mexico  
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

## Jason Sliger

**February 18 – March 19**

Church Auditorium  
261 East Old Hickory Boulevard  
Madison, Tennessee  
Call 615-868-3696 for details.

**April 15 – May 14**

Church Auditorium  
5400 Barton Road  
Loomis, California

## Jason Sliger, continued

**September 2 – October 1**

Warrensburg, Missouri  
Call 660-656-3332 for details.

## Dave Steward

**April 15 – May 21**

2161 Avenida Del Mexico  
San Diego, California  
Call 619-423-2243 for details.

**June 10 – June 25**

Cashmere, Washington  
Call 509-470-6652 for details.

**August 5 – September 3**

Spokane, Washington  
Call 509-448-9529 for details.

## Dennis Priebe (Revivalist)

**March 4, 5:** Gilroy Church, California

**March 12:** Ojai Church, California

**March 18, 19:** Los Angeles  
Lincoln Heights Spanish Church,  
California

**March 25, 26:** San Diego  
Clairemont Church, California

**April 8, 9:** Arlington Int. Filipino  
Church, Texas

**April 22, 23:** Hohenwald Church,  
Tennessee

**April 29, 30:** Zephyr Hills Wesley  
Chapel Church, Florida

**May 6, 7:** Lady Lake Church, Florida

**May 13, 14:** Avon Park Church,  
Florida

**May 27, 28:** Lafayette Lighthouse  
Church, Tennessee

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 [www.AmazingFacts.org](http://www.AmazingFacts.org) to get exact times and locations! (Click on Training and then Prophecy Seminars.)

Times and locations are subject to change. Visit our website to confirm details prior to attending.



# TV AND RADIO

## BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Spiritually uplifting messages are available every day on Amazing Facts radio, television, and Internet!

### TV



You can enjoy Amazing Facts radio and TV broadcasts at [www.AmazingFacts.org](http://www.AmazingFacts.org).



Watch archives of all our revival programs online!



AFTV is now mobile! Just visit [www.AmazingFacts.tv](http://www.AmazingFacts.tv) on your iPad, iPod, or iPhone—and more compatible devices coming soon.

#### AMAZING FACTS PRESENTS

A weekly 30-minute program with Pastor Doug that explores the Bible in-depth, offering practical guidance and information for Christian living, prophecy, and more!

JANUARY 30

#### THE ABIDING VINE

Draw closer to Christ and refine your relationship with Him in this inspirational and revealing study about His insightful words, "I am the vine and ye are the branches."

FEBRUARY 6 & 13

#### CONFUSION IN THE CEMETERY, PARTS 1 & 2

For centuries, Christians have been living in confusion about the afterlife. Learn why this is a crucial subject today and get the Bible facts about what *really* happens when we die.

FEBRUARY 20 & 27

#### THE REST OF THE STORY, PARTS 1 & 2

What is the Sabbath? And is it still an important day for Christians? This is the perfect program to get a refresher on the Sabbath and to share with your friends and neighbors.

MARCH 6 & 13

#### THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS, PARTS 1 & 2

It's one of Jesus' most misunderstood parables, and today it is used to justify the very worst attitudes about God. Uncover the truth about hell-fire and more in this eye-opening study!

MARCH 20 & 27

#### MIRACULOUS MEDICINE, PARTS 1 & 2

The Creator of the universe truly cares about how you treat your body. Want to know how to do it right when things go wrong? Pastor Doug gives practical but exciting information you don't want to miss!

### RADIO

**BIBLE ANSWERS LIVE** — Aired weekly on Sunday at 7:00 P.M. Pacific.

A live call-in radio program where you can ask Pastor Doug any Bible question and get a biblical answer in return. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate.

### WEB

You can watch Bible programming you can trust at [www.AmazingFacts.tv](http://www.AmazingFacts.tv) — streaming online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tune in today!

Be a witness! Tell your friends about AFTV and how they can watch us anytime day or night!

Schedules are subject to change without notice. Television broadcast includes national broadcast only, so check your local listings and stations in your area or visit [www.AmazingFacts.org](http://www.AmazingFacts.org) for more information.

*Continued from page 9.*

sin from a fear of punishment.”

Jesus taught, “When you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they might appear to men to be fasting” (Matthew 6:16 NKJV).

The Pharisee lifted himself up in the sight of men. This gave him a sense of pride and worth, yes, but he didn’t find that in God’s eyes. When he wanted to find out what the standard was and where he stood relative to it, he looked around and compared himself to other men. Paul addresses this fatal attitude, saying, “We dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12).

## Woe Is Me

We can always find somebody worse off spiritually than we are. The publican was probably not the worst sinner in the immediate area, but he didn’t compare himself to men. He didn’t pray with a horizontal perspective; rather, he compared himself to God and begged for mercy because he saw that the gap was huge.

Isaiah, in the presence of God, said, “Woe is me” (Isaiah 6:5). The Pharisee, in the presence of the publican, said, “I’m not that bad.” We all do this sometimes. Whether it’s about self-esteem or a skewed defense mechanism, we feel better, and perhaps anesthetize our guilt, if we can find someone else to criticize. We recite to the Lord our virtues and list the failures of others, trying to convince Him, or just ourselves, that we’re not *that* bad.

But we must stop trying to lift ourselves up like this. It simply doesn’t work. Rather, we should compare ourselves to Jesus, lifting Him up as our example and standard. That’s the only way we can be truly lifted up. “Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:10 NKJV).

A certain king invited a musician to sing and play at a state dinner celebrating their nation’s birthday. A great many VIPs

*We should not compare ourselves to each other—but to Jesus.*



were assembled.

When the minstrel laid his fingers among the strings of his harp, he played the sweetest melody, but the words he sang were entirely to the glory of himself. It was one ballad after another celebrating his travels, handsome appearance, talents, and exploits. When the feast was over, the harpist said to the monarch, “Oh king, please give me my pay.”

The monarch replied, “You have sung to yourself. You did not sing of your country, people, or king. Be your own paymaster.”

The harpist cried, “But didn’t I sing sweetly?”

The king answered, “So much the worse for your pride that you should dedicate such talent on yourself. Go away; you shall not serve in my court again.”

Jesus said, “You say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are

wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17 NKJV). How relevant His parable of the Pharisee and publican is for you and me today in the end-times. We must be careful. Arrogance and an unwillingness to admit we need salvation will be a chronic problem in the final age of the church.

On the other hand, it is those who come to God recognizing their spiritual poverty who find acceptance and forgiveness and eternal life. “Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). May this Scripture be planted deep in our hearts, lest we leave our lives unforgiven—while the humble leave their lives with eternal life.





*Continued from page 10.*

the workbook is available at [store.AmazingFacts.org](http://store.AmazingFacts.org) and will be packaged with the MIQ DVD box set. (See below!)

Another teen viewer, Kristina, writes, “This was a powerful and life-changing program! It was such blessing. God bless Pastor Doug triple fold. He is really good with teenagers and has very strong wisdom. He inspired me!”

Locally, the event was part of Great Lakes Adventist Academy’s week of spiritual emphasis. Many students made decisions to live for Christ and to be baptized. This response was repeated at registered sites around the country and the world.

Parents and church leaders have also offered their appreciation for the event. For instance, a local church in Mt. Vernon City, Ohio, writes, “We [broadcast] MIQ from our church and have given away free T-shirts and workbooks to all the teens. We are having a wonderful time meeting new people. Thank you, Doug and the Amazing Facts team. We really like the theme song!”

In addition, Monique writes, “Thanks heaps, Pastor Doug, for presenting this media designed for teens. I know it’s just the beginning, but it definitely sets the standard greatly needed in today’s society. I highly recommend this series for any media-savvy teen who just needs some truthful answers. It’s worth every minute.”

## An Interactive Experience

For the series, Amazing Facts pushed the envelope of technology in order to reach teens in the most effective ways possible. As a result, we received more than 7,000 questions that arrived in the form of text messages, website entries, and the

live audience of 220 students. New media played a huge part in getting the word out about the programming, as 37,000 people registered on the MIQ Facebook site.

Moreover, in addition to 3ABN’s live network broadcast, Amazing Facts was able to offer MIQ in the most widely broadcast ministry event to date. It was shown on Amazing Facts’ own network, AFTV, and on [AmazingFacts.org](http://AmazingFacts.org),



[AmazingFacts.tv](http://AmazingFacts.tv), Amazing Facts’ Facebook page, [MIQteens.com](http://MIQteens.com), [LiveStream.com](http://LiveStream.com), [3angelstube.com](http://3angelstube.com), [www.3ABN.org](http://www.3ABN.org), and [HopeTV.org](http://HopeTV.org). Hope Channel also carried the West Coast repeat broadcast feed for these memorable meetings.

However, even better, the phenomenal impact of these meetings continued as these new programs were also broadcast on the Inspiration Channel, reaching into 65 million homes, most of which aren’t

familiar with the three angels’ messages or Amazing Facts.

Pastor Doug adds, “I thank everyone—from our staff at Amazing Facts, to our media broadcast partners, to the church members abroad—for all the hard work to pull this off. The many prayers of our supporters really helped keep us going. I trust the programs will continue to reach a lot of hearts over the years to come and place countless Christian teens on a more solid foundation for life and faith.”

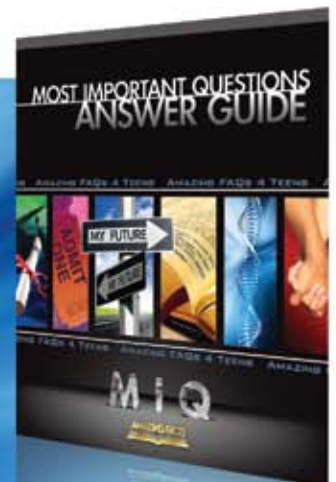
Pastor Doug also believes that the forthcoming edited DVDs and *Answer Guide* workbook will also provide an ideal resource for youth Sabbath and Sunday school classes and academy weeks of prayer. —



## MIQ DVD Boxed Set

Pastor Doug answers the most challenging questions facing teens today. This DVD set comes with a full-color, 126-page answer guide that will encourage your teen to stay strong in the faith of Jesus! (10 one-hour programs)

(Boxed Set) DV-MIQ ... \$49.95  
(Guide Only) BK-MIQ ... \$6.00





*Continued from page 11.*

countries. The political scene makes it difficult to have a Bible school within Russia, but people can come to Ukraine for training and then go back to their homeland to train others. Ukraine is a key logistical location that can open up a much larger opportunity for God's message in many ways.

### **AFCOE Graduates Reaching the World**

The global four-month program models the one we do here in the United States.

Classes include Daniel and Revelation, Bible doctrines, pastoral ministry, how to give Bible studies, preaching, how to organize evangelism in the local church, Christian leadership, Christian finance, and biblical archaeology, among others.

Graduates go to various churches and teach these same courses to local church members, training them to do outreach in their community. The potential of AFCOE Global is truly exponential. Thousands can be trained and millions reached through these types of schools.

Pastor Don Mackintosh, the AFCOE director in the United States, visited the school and was pleased with what he saw. "The students and staff at AFCOE Ukraine are doing a phenomenal job. The school is going very well. This biblical model can be reproduced virtually anywhere, and we intend to do just that in several key logistical places around the world. These evangelism training centers will be beacons of light that will potentially reach millions of people for Christ in the years to come. It is something that will put the power of the Bible's last-day message in the hands of laypeople to share with the world."

Vladimir Kroupsky, the Ukrainian Church Union president, was also delighted at the success of the school. "This will begin a new day of evangelism in Ukraine. We are looking forward to training many more workers to help spread the message of Christ's soon return. This is exactly what we have needed for a long time."

### **Exponential Potential Needs You**

AFCOE Ukraine has just graduated its second class. We also recently finished the first class at our newly launched school in England. Including our stateside school, this means we trained more than 500 workers and saw over 1,000 baptisms from the work of our graduates in 2010.

We believe that God will do even more in 2011 as we launch AFCOE India! Future plans include Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Our goal is to launch two AFCOE programs per year over the next five years and have at least one training center on every continent. We believe that this will be one of the sparks that God will use to bring the latter rain to His people and "light the world with His glory" (Revelation 18:1).

As people are moved by Christ and get serious about revival, they also get excited about winning souls. These schools will have a global impact, and the results have "exponential potential." Fruit is already being seen. In the next issue of *Inside Report*, we'll share the miraculous stories of lives that have been eternally changed in Ukraine through AFCOE Global.

This is a thrilling opportunity that Amazing Facts has embraced, and we need your help. Perhaps you cannot go to the far parts of the globe for mission work, but you can assist those who are able. Financial support is needed as we move forward by faith. Please keep us in your prayers and consider what God would have you give financially to help AFCOE Global go forward.



*The First Ukraine AFCOE Class*

If you are interested in attending the four-month or the 10-day AFCOE program in the United States, please call 530-422-7994 or visit [www.afcoe.org](http://www.afcoe.org) today!



# Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism AFCOE



- Gain confidence
- Reach the heart
- Teach compellingly
- Preach powerfully



## At AFCOE, you'll get:

- Dynamic evangelism training
- World-class, seasoned teachers
- A revival experience that will energize your faith
- Many awesome, practical resources for witnessing

## Want to be a soul-winner?

Need revival in your life? AFCOE is about helping you take this opportunity to be transformed and equipping you to become all that God intends you to be—and to go impact your world.

## 4-MONTH PROGRAM

A dynamic, comprehensive course that will prepare you for an entry-level career in ministry. Come study God's Word, learn principles of effective soul-winning, and work under the mentorship of successful soul-winners. It's an experience only AFCOE can offer!

Next Session: **August 4 – December 9, 2011**

Application deadline: 30 days before class begins.

Save **\$150** on tuition! Apply 90 days before the starting date!

## AFCOE TO GO

Can't do a four-month program? Amazing Facts also offers AFCOE to Go, a four- to eight-day intense training experience that empowers even the busiest professionals and students to reach family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors for Jesus Christ—anytime, anywhere!

Next Session: **May 13 – 21, 2011** (Las Vegas, NV)

Application deadline: 45 days before session begins.



To learn more, call **916-209-7249** or visit  
**[www.afcoe.org](http://www.afcoe.org)**

# The Answer, Finally

by Emily Simmons

**D**eborah Kelley sat down at her kitchen table one evening and took out her Bible lesson. Raised a Christian, she loved learning about the Bible. That week, the study covered the Ten Commandments. “You shall have no other gods before Me,” she read. Then later, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God” (Exodus 20:3–10 NKJV).

Deborah paused. Her parents had taught her to live a good life and to read her Bible. But she’d always gone to church on the first day of the week. For the first time it occurred to her to ask, “Why?” Deborah’s brother was a pastor. She picked up the telephone and called him; surely he’d have the answer.

“Oh, it doesn’t really matter,” her brother assured her, “as long as we worship one day of the week.”

Deborah hung up the phone feeling dissatisfied, but she didn’t know where else to go for an answer.

## Fifteen Years Later

Settling down outside of Nashville, Tennessee, Deborah got a job as a cashier in a hospital cafeteria.

A couple of regulars named Dr. and Mrs. Burks soon befriended Deborah. Before long they were coming regularly to eat both breakfast and dinner with her and also to pray for her. As time went by, the Burks told Deborah about their church. For the first time, Deborah learned that some people actually kept the seventh day!

Another friendly face, Chuck Williams, a pastor of another Sabbath church, began coming through Deborah’s cafeteria line. When Deborah asked him to pray for her and her daughters, he stopped right then and there to pray for her in line.

Later, Pastor Williams loaned Deborah one of Doug Batchelor’s DVDs about prophecy. She had always been interested in prophecy, but the church she attended seemed to discourage learning about it. Deborah took the DVD home and watched it. It was so interesting that she watched it again. And again. And again—a total of seven times!

Deborah told the Burks how much she enjoyed the DVD, so they loaned her another one, the first in the *Amazing Facts Millennium of Prophecy* series. She took it home and watched it that night. The next day she gave it back to the Burks, and they brought her the second DVD. She watched it that night, returned it the next day, and the



Burks gave her the third DVD. Seeing how hungry Deborah was for the information, they loaned her the whole series at once with the corresponding *Storacles* Bible lessons. After her workday shift, Deborah went home and sat straight down to watch the DVDs and study the lessons.

Next Deborah started working through the Amazing Facts Study Guides. During her search for truth, she had tried several different churches, but she always went back to the church of her youth. Still, she says, “I would read the Bible at home, then go to church and hear something different. But Amazing Facts’ materials have led me much closer to Christ. I feel so much more peace and satisfaction.” The new information—the Sabbath, the mark of the beast, the sanctuary, the state of the dead—amazed Deborah.

## Taking the Next Steps

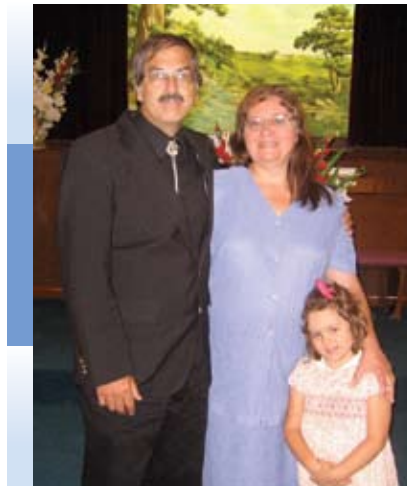
“I was baptized when I was young and thought I was following God’s Word, but I had no peace,” she says. With her new understanding of the Bible came a desire to be re-baptized.

Once Deborah committed herself to re-baptism, she sensed a heavy load had been lifted off her back. When Pastor Williams invited her to his church, Deborah fell in love with it. Though her daughters didn’t attend her baptism, Deborah celebrated big with her new church family. “My baptism was an awesome, wonderful, beautiful experience,” she says. Now, though only

one of her daughters has visited church with her, she takes her grandchildren to church every week.

“I was raised on a farm, and I loved my pork!” Deborah laughs. “But after I was baptized, God totally took the desire for

pork away from me.” When the Burks helped Deborah get a job at the church-run hospital in Madison, Deborah loved the vegetarian menu. “I went vegetarian and lost 10 pounds in two weeks!” she exclaims.



Deborah also began looking for someone to share her new life with. She knew a lot of good Christian men, but they didn’t share her new beliefs. She told Pastor Williams about her desire for a husband and he told her about a dating website for people of their faith. There she met Rick Kelley from Oregon. They talked until their phone bills were sky high. Meanwhile, Pastor Williams moved away from Nashville.

One day Rick called her at work and asked, “Guess who my new pastor is?”

Deborah laughed. “I don’t know anyone in Oregon!”

“You do now—it’s Pastor Williams!”

Deborah took it as a sign. She called up her old friend for a character reference, and Pastor Williams assured her Rick was a good Christian man. After just one month, Rick asked Deborah to marry him. With her wedding dress in her suitcase, Deborah boarded a plane to Oregon to meet the man she loved.

Rick and Deborah now attend the White House church in Tennessee. “This church is so much of a home to us,” she says. “It feels so good that everybody else believes the same

as I do. Before, church was just casual friends whom I would see now and then. Now it’s just like family.” The church has even helped the newlyweds get on their feet financially. And the couple pays it forward, sharing their music and greeting at church. “I’ve never met such dear people as I have since I joined the this church,” Deborah says. She loves meeting up with old friends at camp meeting every summer at Highland, and she maintains contact with the Burks. “Mrs. Burks considers me another daughter!”

## A New Disciple

Deborah also passes out Amazing Facts materials to anyone who will have them. “These Bible truths have changed my life 100 percent,” Deborah gushes. “I have peace, I have love, I have hope in Christ. It’s like, ‘Finally!’”

But Deborah also knows she’s not done learning. Now her favorite verse is Philippians 3:13: “One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.” Today her focus is on how to be a more effective witness, “to not let it be me,” she says, “but to let it be Him through me.”

“I’m praying that my life story will touch someone else’s heart, and that they will come to the truth that I’ve received.”

*“It just sends chills down my spine thinking of all the people who are being baptized. Pastor Doug and his crew are going to be so blessed in heaven!”*



# Special Recognition

**Joe Crews** from Lu Ann Crews, his wife; from Kent and Dee Dickinson; from Shelly Lowe

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

**Tom Curtis** from the Livingston family  
**Victor Curtis** from Betty Crandall

**David Haines** from Ollie Haines

**Doris Pearl Harris** from Mary Frances Flynn

**Dorothy Baird Harris** from Al and Pat Marion

**Joyce Hartbauer** from Wally and Geri Dunks

**Edith Hay** from John and Darla Almida; from Hans and Dawna Sawatzky

**Don and Edna Hay** from Hans and Dawna Sawatzky

**Joan Heinbaugh** from Karen Johnson, her daughter

**R. Jack Herbert** from Pearl Herbert, his wife

**Betty Hoover** from Jo Ann Herford

## In Loving Memory

**Douglas Ackermann** from June Ackermann, his wife; from Shirley Beers, his daughter; from Chuck and Mary Lou Barber; from Joan Bowen; from Marivic Gomez; from Margie Merchant

**Kathy Asborne** from Beulah Keeler, her mother-in-law

**Francis Atkins** from Terry Atkins

**Brian Bakewell** from Carol Onuska, his aunt

**Grover Barker** from his niece Karen and Jerry; from Jim and Judy Culpepper; from Bonnie Lorenz

**Ruth Beale** from Lucille Bush

**Ruby Bidwell** from Ruth Sackett

**Lydia Bierbach** from Hans and Dawna Sawatzky

**Christina Bosch** from Kent and Dee Dickinson

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

**Shirley Burton** from Wally and Geri Dunks

**Bruce Bush** from Lucille Bush, his wife

**Glen Byers** from Bonnie Byers, his wife

**Anthony Calbi** from Estelle Calbi, his wife

**Dr. C. Eugene Chrowl** from Jan Chrowl, his daughter

**Stephen Paul Daniel Clatterbuck** from Mary Frances Flynn, his mother

**William and Juanita Cockran** from David Cockran

**Allen Colburn** from Wally and Geri Dunks

**Charles Richard Cook** from Bonnie, Barbara, and Charles Cook Jr.

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

**Seth Cox** from Herbert and Debbie Cox, his parents

**Velma Cox** from Al and Pat Marion

**Maurice Crandall** from Betty Crandall, his wife

**J.W. Davis** from his wife Wanda Davis

**Otis Detamore** from Marion Detamore, his wife

**Earle Dickinson** from Kent and Dee Dickinson

**Paul Dickinson** from Kent and Dee Dickinson

**Arthur and Sarah Dollinger** from Roger and Margie

**Laurie Wright Donesky** from Phyllis Wright, her mother

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

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

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

**Roy English** from Claudie English

**James Erskine** from Ruth Sackett

**Mattie Fisher** from Henry and Betty Cra

**Jewel and Ruth Foutch** from Frank and Gayle Tyroff

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

**Steven Wesley Freeman** from Dorothy Freeman, his mother

**Meredith Genton** from Lola Genton, her sister-in-law

**George Grosbell** from Sonja Gosbell, his wife

**David Paul Groves** from Mary Frances Flynn, his sister

**Frances Ellen Groves** from Mary Frances Flynn, her daughter

**Washington Hames Groves** from Mary Frances Flynn, his daughter

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

**James Johnson** from Kent and Dee Dickinson

**Milton Johnson** from Kent and Dee Dickinson

**Orley Jones** from Demas and Verna Borba

**Alfred and Ruth Keller** from Ronald Keller

**Harold Keplinger** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Marvis Kilgase** from Ruth Haller

**Carl Kimbrough** from Kim Swett

**Alice Kuhn** from Kim Swett

**Clarence and Louise Kuhnke** from Jim and Audrey Ponaski

**Cloyd and Beulah Kuster** from Jean and Roger Ott

**Edna Mae Larson** from Wanda Davis

**Emlee Kay Lester** from C.K. and Anthony Lester, her sons

**Howard Paul Lester** from C.K. and Anthony Lester, his brothers

**Lionel and Melinda Loessberg** from Allene Carpenter

**Alan Dean Long** from Pauline Long, his mother

**J. Murray Long** from Pauline B. Long, his wife

**Dora Lores** from Joan Bowen

**Mary Louise** from Charlotte Widner, her sister

*Amazing Facts recognizes contributions made as a tribute to the deceased 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 confusing spellings due to volume.*



**William Lowe** from Anita Lowe, his wife;  
from Shelly Lowe, his daughter  
**Homer Lynd** from Teresa Lynd, his wife;  
from Marjorie Cornor

**Ida Malone** from Reba Hargrove,  
her granddaughter

**Esther Mann** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Bill May** from Shelly Lowe

**Pastor Luther May** from Jim and Judy Culpepper

**Larry McCombs** from Wally and Geri Dunks

**Don McDermott** from Mickey and Lynnette  
McDermott

**Marvin McDougal** from Wally and Geri Dunks

**Ted Metcalf** from Margaret Schimp

**Samuel Hames Miles** from Mary Frances Flynn,  
his mother

**Rusty Mittleider** from Wally and Geri Dunks

**Carl Richard Mundy II** from Virginia Mundy;  
from Lucille Bush

**Bill Murphy** from Beulah Keeler, his sister

**Nancy Marie Neuharth** from Ruben  
Neuharth, her husband

**Vincent Nicholson** from Edlyn Ramsay Nicholson

**Svein Nilsen** from Matts and Sisseln Sjolander

**Gerry Olmstead** from Kim Swett  
**Robert Olmstead** from Kim Swett  
**Kathy Osborne** from Beulah Keeler,  
her mother-in-law

**Ray Pailey** from Bonnie Lorenz

**A.J. Patzer** from Susan Patzer

**Virgenia Peason** from Lucille Bush

**Alice Penner** from Bernard Penner, her husband.

**Isaac and Annie Pierce** from Frank and Gayle Tyroff

**Ruth Butler Potts** from Marcie O'Quinn and family

**R. Eugene Prout M.D.** from Phyllis Wright,  
his sister

**Ralph and Fern Prout** from Phyllis  
Wright

**Douglas Pudleiner** from  
Lenora Pudleiner, his wife

**Max Qualley** from Barbara Qualley,  
his wife

**Marion Rainwater** from Mary Ann Angelin,  
her daughter

**Earl and Grace Reuss** from Barbara Qualley,  
their daughter

**Ralph Ricks** from Ethel, his wife;  
from Patricia, his daughter

**Catherine Ritchie** from Mary Jane Graves, her sister;  
from Lu Ann Crews

**Max Ritchie** from Lu Ann Crews

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

**Charles Russell** from Elaine Cacic

**Raymond Schimp Jr.** from Margaret Schimp,  
his wife

**Esther Schroeder** from Ruth Sackett

**Pauline Schultz** from Ruth Haller

**Violet Senn** from Wally and Geri Dunks

**Pauline Shafer** from her daughter

**Donovan Shepard** from Arlene Shepard;  
from Ilene Olsen

**Gerald Silvestri** from Pastor John and Anita  
Silvestri, his parents

**John Sisson** from Don and Marilyn Sisson

**James Smith** from Sonja, his daughter

**Ruth Smith** from Elaine Cacic

**Shirley Smith** from Lucille Bush

**Thomas Springer** from Al and  
Pat Marion

**Bobbie Stone** from her husband

**Terry Stone** from his father

**Nick and Suzanna Sutsch** from Hans and  
Dawna Sawatzky

**Bill Sykes** from Trudi Sykes, his wife

**John Theadore** from Olive White

**Colleen Hayden Turner** from Marie Hayden

**Hilda Urschel** from Peter Urschel,  
her son; from Victor Urschel, her son

**Marian Wall** from Kim Swett

**Miles and Mary Wesson** from Roy Wesson

**Hazel Wigren** from Wally and Geri Dunks

**Martin and Magdalene Will** from Bill  
and Tillie Mondor

**Dr. Harold Wright** from Phyllis Wright, his mother

**Leonard and Edna Wright** from Phyllis Wright

**Warren Wright** from Phyllis Wright, his wife

**Bill and Betty Wylie** from Ruth, Nancy, and Judy Le

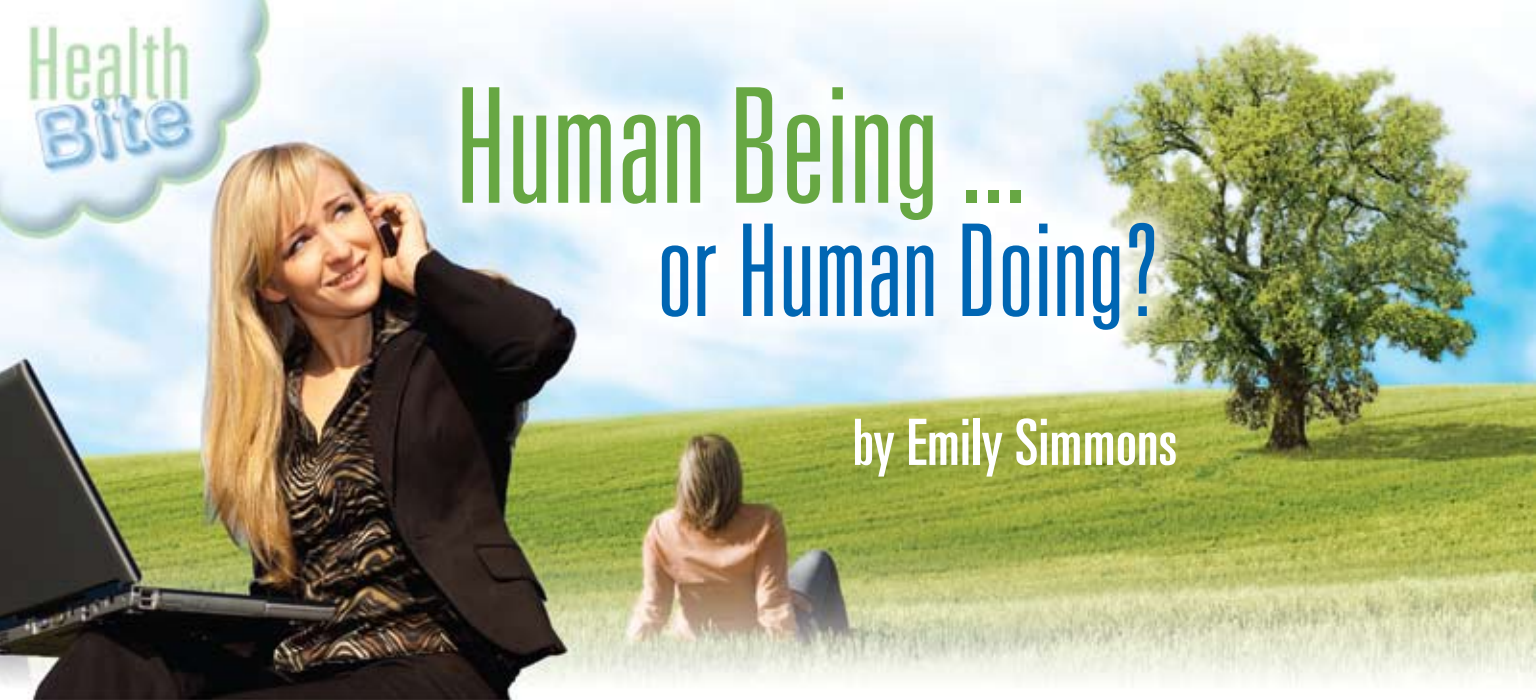
### Happy Birthday

**Ed Ensminger (100th)** from Edward and  
Bonnie Ensminger



# Human Being ... or Human Doing?

by Emily Simmons



**T**wo days after my college graduation, I set out to hike the Appalachian Trail. Built more than 70 years ago, the trail begins in Georgia and runs north through the Appalachian range for over 2,100 miles through 14 states, ending in Maine.

My senior year of college was a busy one: In addition to a full load of classes, I worked three jobs (including my own business). So one of my hiking objectives was to have some time to just “be,” to cultivate a slower pace of life and refocus on my connection with God.

I hiked six days a week, then rested on Sabbath. Some Sabbaths I made it to a town with a church, but on several I landed alone, miles from civilization, in a little three-sided shelter with just a roof and a sleeping platform. One ought to be able to refocus there!

But throughout the summer I found various distractions: goals, people, or the day-to-day challenges (smelly socks, bugs, and being wet from almost constant rain). Even journaling became a distraction; I recorded every day’s miles, significant events, and thoughts. Sometimes I filled in the previous week’s entries on Sabbath because I’d hike so long on the weekdays (to reach a goal or keep up with newly befriended fellow hikers) that I had no energy to journal at the end of the day.



None of these are bad things, but they kept me in that busy “I-must-be-doing-something” mode even on my rest day, and that prevented me from relaxing or focusing on God.

American culture often fosters that go-go-go mentality. After all, our country was founded by people who strove for more than their birthplace offered. From the pilgrims who arrived at Plimoth Plantation to the immigrants who keep coming today, Americans want more. And we work hard to get it.

But for both spiritual and physical health, that hard work must be balanced with down time. Far from being a luxury, recreative activities help to lower the levels of health-damaging stress hormones in your body, like adrenaline and cortisol. Cortisol is secreted by the adrenal gland to help regulate insulin, blood sugar, blood pressure, immune function, and inflammatory response. More cortisol is released during fight-or-flight mode, resulting in a burst of energy, heightened memory, increased immune function, and a higher pain tolerance. However, chronic fight-or-flight stress like we tend to experience in our go-go-go culture results in prolonged elevated cortisol levels, leading to:

- Impaired mental performance
- Suppressed thyroid function
- High blood sugar
- Decreased bone density
- Decreased muscle tissue
- High blood pressure
- Lowered immunity and chronic inflammation
- Increased abdominal fat, which is associated with heart attacks, strokes, metabolic syndrome, high LDL cholesterol, and low good cholesterol.



When you incorporate “being” activities into your regular routine, you balance this stress response with your body’s relaxation response, allowing your nervous system, blood pressure, heart rate, digestive system, and hormone levels to return to normal. This homeostasis cannot occur under chronic stress. Quieting your mind also creates the opportunity to hear God’s voice.

Most of us can identify with Martha in the story found in Luke 10:38–42. Busy preparing a dinner for Jesus, Martha noticed her sister Mary lounging at Jesus’ feet and complained. “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”





## Ways to "Be"

It doesn't have to take long. Try just "being" for five minutes a day or for an hour here and there. Or try resting from the go-go-go for a full 24 hours.

- Sit in a chair and listen to a favorite song
- Lie on the grass and watch the clouds float across the sky
- Soak in a warm bath, with candlelight and music
- Stretch
- Stroll around your neighborhood, in a park, or through the woods
- Go for a jog, without a time or distance goal in mind
- Visit a local day spa and get a massage, facial, or other spa treatment
- Pray and/or meditate on Scripture
- Use one day a week, like the biblical Sabbath, to rest from work, economical pursuits, and to-do lists

'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her'" (NIV).

Like us, Martha was a human "doing," more at ease working for Jesus than just being with Him. Human nature hasn't changed in 2,000 years! Our cultures might differ, but people struggled with the same things then that we do. Whatever our place in life—school, work, retirement, even working for a Christian ministry—we can become so consumed by what we're doing that we neglect communion with Whom we're doing it for.

I didn't complete the entire Appalachian Trail that summer, but four months of walking in the woods taught me a lot! My most important lesson? That even out in the woods where there are "no

distractions," there are distractions. I learned that "being" is a discipline, and human nature makes it difficult—in the city or in the woods.

In addition to Luke's, several other Bible stories feature Mary at Jesus' feet.

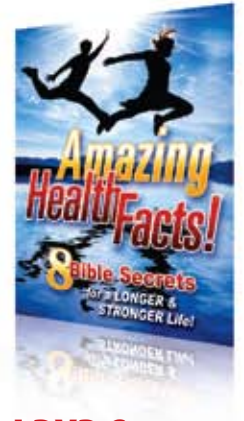
"We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God."

—Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*

She recognized that "one thing that is needed" to rightly prioritize life. May we, too, learn to balance our striving with recreation, to be humans *being*, not humans *doing*.

*In addition to writing, Emily Simmons is a massage therapist and runs a day spa out of her home. "My goal for my business is to create a sanctuary for my clients where they can quiet their mind and feel closer to God." She lives in Collegedale, Tennessee.*

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A man with short, light brown hair, wearing a dark leather jacket over a dark shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is leaning forward with his hands clasped under his chin, looking down and to the left with a serious, contemplative expression. The background is a dark, textured wall.

He's been told that God  
sends people to suffer and  
burn in hell for all eternity.  
As a result, he's confused,  
angry, afraid—and he doubts  
God's very existence.

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A decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping, stylized chevrons or arrows pointing to the right, rendered in shades of blue and white.

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