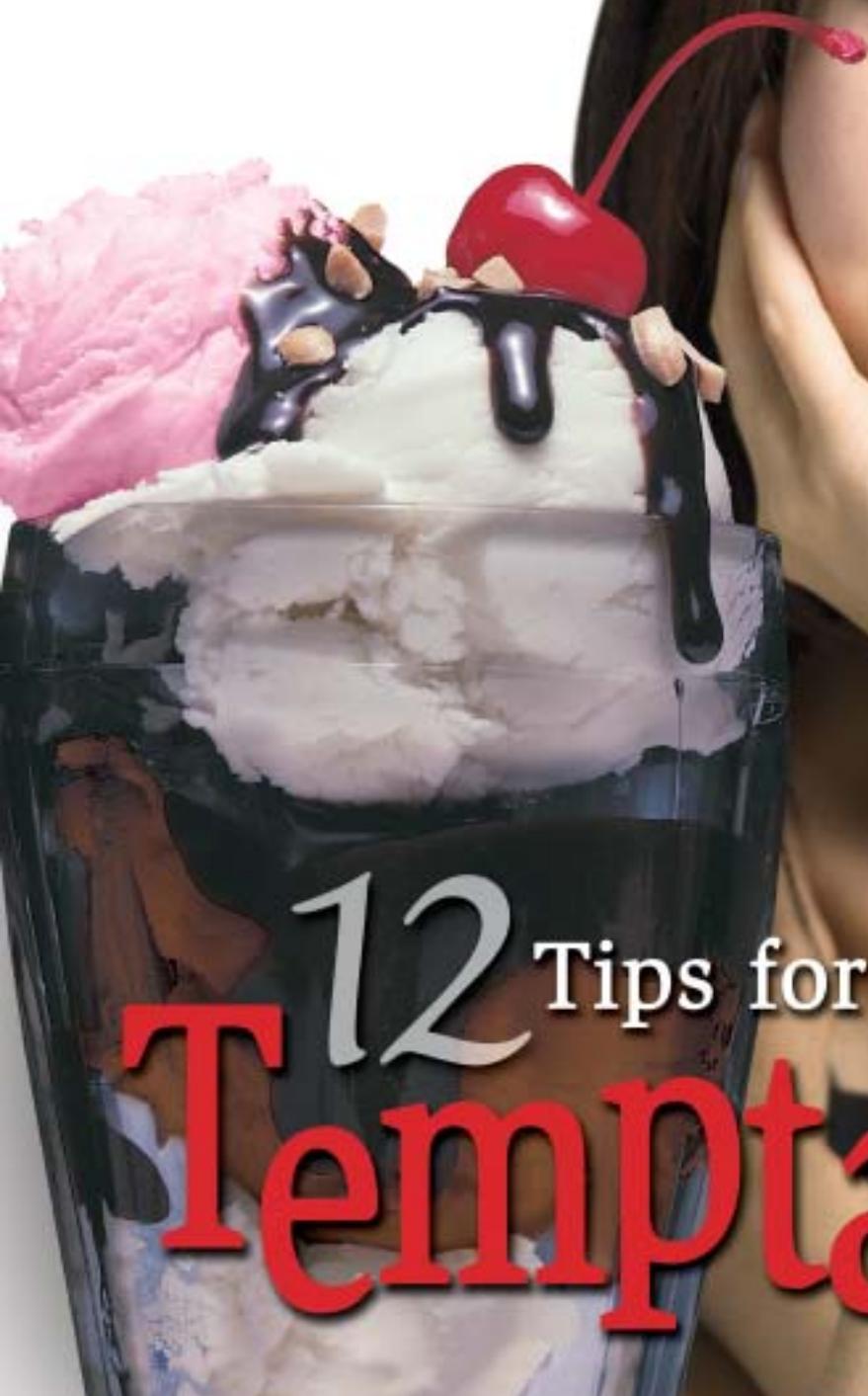


July/August 2003

AMAZING FACTS

*Inside
Report*



12 Tips for Resisting
Temptation

Trust & Obey

by Scott Steward



When you're a Christian with a last name like Steward, there come some certain implied obligations—you read Christian classics such as *Stewardship*, do the offering call at church, serve on the budget committee, and you are extra careful when you tithe.

Ann and I were married seven years ago, and by the Lord's leading, we agreed to pay tithe and give offerings right from the start. This was a huge step of faith that we have never regretted. We couldn't see where 10 percent could possibly come from. Ann was faithfully attending church on Sunday mornings, and I joined her on occasion. The pastor, who married us, had challenged the congregation to grow and learn and make changes for the Lord. And boy did we! We became stewards in name and deed, and the blessings began to flow.

In order to have enough cash flow to tithe, we decided to sell our little pickup truck. The former monthly payment became a large part of our tithe. Becoming a one-car family was fine since we worked at the same place. Fine, until Ann's then-16-year-old daughter moved in with us. Ann's parents respected our commitment to tithing and took pity, buying us a 12-year-old Peugeot station wagon. God even uses family to bless those who are faithful. He has all the resources and creativity to do as He needs.

During that time, I worked as a radio DJ on Sunday mornings. I had been bugging the program director to move me to Saturday mornings so I could go to church more often with my new bride. At about the same time, we received a flyer in the mail for a prophecy seminar. Ann and I attended the Amazing Facts meetings and were baptized into God's end-time church in October 1996. Shortly after we were baptized, the program director had an opening for me on Saturday mornings. I told him I now attended church on Saturdays. He asked if I was now Jewish like him. What a great witnessing opportunity the Lord provided! More changes came at the radio station, and soon I was out of a job. But, praise the Lord, I received a raise at my regular job the next week that more than compensated for the loss of income. It literally paid to be faithful! God is so good!

Faithful, biblical stewardship of our skills and abilities is part of God's refining process in our lives. In 1998, my employer downsized and sent my job to an advertising agency, giving me a 30-day termination notice. Wow. New

family. New faith. No job. It was hard to imagine at the time, but this was a blessing in disguise. I had asked the Lord for nearly a year to put me to work for Him. I believe we had been tested earlier in the year by showing our willingness to uproot our new family to join a media ministry 2,000 miles away from relatives and familiar surroundings. Though that job went to a more qualified person, I think the Lord winked. He had heard me in prayer and telling fellow church members how I would love to work for a ministry like Amazing Facts. The day I was notified of my termination, I checked some favorite ministry websites for job opportunities. I sent an e-mail to Amazing Facts and, after a series of miracles, I was hired for their marketing department!

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; . . . Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:3, 4)! God is amazingly faithful, beyond anything we can imagine—and all He asks is our obedience, and for us to be responsible with all He has given us, whether it be money, talent, or time.

Incidentally, have you ever noticed the figures for tithing your time? There are 168 hours in a week. Ten percent is 16.8, or about 17 hours. Out of a 24-hour day, if you spend 17 hours in worship, Christian fellowship, and service to the Lord, it adds

up to the waking hours of the Sabbath!

By the way, don't limit yourself to tithe (Malachi 3:8). And remember, we don't dare *give to get*. (See Luke 6:32–35!) We give because we are lovingly, devotedly, cheerfully, and dependently obedient to a powerful and tender-loving Lord. Push the envelope—not just the tithe and offering envelope at church, but the envelope of your faith—and keep your eyes open for the challenges, opportunities, and bountiful blessings that come from faithfully trusting and obeying Jesus. When you consider all that Jesus did for you, 10 percent is a pathetic rate of return on His investment. We owe Him everything. I haven't figured out why He requires only 10 percent; but I have learned that *with His blessing*, managing 90 percent of all He gives is far better than trying to handle 100 percent without. It helps to remember we are simply stewards of His riches. It's just that some of us are blessed enough to bear the name.

Scott Steward is Amazing Facts' Advertising and Public Relations Coordinator.



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VOL. 21, NO.4

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Inside Report is a bimonthly publication of Amazing Facts, Inc. It is provided free of charge to the friends and supporters of Amazing Facts on request. Contributors to the ministry will receive *Inside Report* for one year from the date of their most recent gift.

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Amazing Facts is a nonprofit Christian ministry that utilizes literature, radio, television, the Internet, and public evangelism to bring the saving truths of Jesus Christ to a lost world. For its operation, Amazing Facts depends on the gifts and prayers of concerned, likeminded Christians.

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A free, color catalog of materials sold by Amazing Facts is available on request. It contains information and prices on all books, videotapes, CDs, audiotapes, and other soul-winning materials available through the ministry.

For more information, please call Amazing Facts Monday through Thursday 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. Pacific.

Inside Report is printed at Pacific Press in Nampa, Idaho.



Mail Bag

More POP Blessings

Thank you for producing such a fine instrument for sharing the truth! I work with computer professionals, and it has been easy to share the POP CD. It is always received with enthusiasm. God has opened doors and placed me in a situation where I am able to share with people who can only be reached where they work. Now He has provided this CD. I have ordered 20, but it looks like I will need more. *J.L., e-mail*



Unforgettable Experience

On behalf of all the South African students, just a note to say a very big thank-you to all the personnel of Amazing Facts, the Bible School, and AFCOE for their wonderful kindness and warm hospitality. Aside from the benefits of attending the AFCOE course, the interaction and Christian love that we experienced from all the folks there was unforgettable. We sincerely appreciate everything that all of you did to make our time at Amazing Facts so pleasant. *D.S., South Africa*

Good for Marriage

I just want to say thank you for helping bring my husband into the truth. We have been married for 10 years, and I have been trying to get him to go to church. But it wasn't until my church gave me the Amazing Facts tapes, which we watch on Sabbath afternoons, that it turned around. My husband was very reluctant at first to watch the tapes, but I would watch them and he became really interested in what Doug had to say about the Bible. My husband and I have watched all the tapes, and he is now attending church with me every Sabbath. I am so thankful for your ministry. God is really using you to help spread His last day message. *D.A., Kentucky*

Harvest Time Today

Just wanted to say how much your program is appreciated by a working person. My wife and I travel extensively preaching and singing the glory of God. We are blessed to be able to catch your program on KWLR 96.9. Thanks so much for the teaching that we get, for it helps to broaden our knowledge and enables and equips us to be more effective in our ministry. Thanks again for such a fine outreach. *C.D., Arkansas*

Break a Leg

I am 15 years old, and I enjoy your programs very much. I fractured my leg four weeks ago, and ever since I have been watching your programs every week. It has been such a blessing to my grandmother, mother, and myself. I have learned a lot from Doug Batchelor's teachings during Sabbath School and his sermons each week. I found it amazing how he could take a nature lesson and transform it into a spiritual lesson! *M.R., e-mail*



Clarion Call

I just wanted you to know how much this means to me. I have not been through the church doors in a number of years. I miss the church family and all the things that go with it. The *Clarion* brings me back to the Lord Jesus, and I want to be close to Him and His church family again. *D.A., e-mail*

Inside Report welcomes all correspondence regarding the magazine and other Amazing Facts ministries. Letters and other materials sent to Amazing Facts become the ministry's property and may be used—in whole or in part and edited for content, grammar, and readability—in future publications unless otherwise requested by the submitter. We thank you for your thoughts, suggestions, and financial and prayer support in our endeavor to reach others for Jesus and equip them to do likewise.

A "Healthy" Response

We received the POP CDs we ordered for our work in Nigeria at a health seminar. We offered all of our attending physicians a copy of your CD, and the next day one was already on lesson 5! One doctor wrote, "Above all, thanks a lot for that CD. I have found it very useful every time I do the lessons. I have it installed at home and the office, and I need to give out the CD for others to benefit as well. It is very informative, educative, and spiritually loaded. It's indeed a wonderful gift! Thanks." *H.G., Nigeria*

An Open Door

Thanks so much for providing so many wonderful resources over the Internet. I attend a public university and have been praying that God would give me an opportunity to witness for Him. Later, a fellow student was in my room and I had the *Millennium of Prophecy* lesson about hell playing over my computer. We listened to the whole program, and the student was quite interested. Afterward, he asked me about my beliefs and said Pastor Doug had some interesting things to say and that he'd go back to the website. Since this seems to be a direct answer to my prayer, I'm hoping that God's Word, through your website, will not come back void but will accomplish something for my schoolmate. I can testify that your site has been a great blessing to me. I listen to it a lot and it's nice that there is so much to listen to so I won't run out of material any time soon. Thanks so much for your ministry; it really makes a difference! *A.J., Georgia*



Joe Crews on the Net

I am happy to have found your site with the audios of Joe Crews. I listened to many of his programs over the years and I loved them. Thanks to you for having them on the Internet. *S.A., Virginia*



A "Win-Win" Opportunity for You



he daily news tells the story: The economy is so unpredictable. Interest rates are lower than ever. The stock market took a huge tumble . . . and stayed there for the longest time since the Great Depression. As a result, most retirement plans have lost significant value.

So how do you remain a responsible steward in times like these? Now may be the time to consider partnering with Amazing Facts for your future!

The Amazing Facts Gift Annuity

The Amazing Facts gift annuity offers you a guaranteed fixed rate of income with rates as high as 11.3 percent (determined by your age), which can be paid monthly or quarterly. These high rates are *guaranteed for life*, and it's an immediate tax deduction for you too. In addition, your annual income from a gift annuity is partially tax-free for your life expectancy.

So you will undoubtedly watch your income increase even in these financially unstable times, *and* you will ultimately benefit God's work through Amazing Facts!

Meeting Your Needs

Another plan you might consider is the use of a deferred payment gift annuity to increase your retirement income.

Instead of receiving immediate payouts, you can defer it to a later date, which could be your projected date of retirement. That means you make the investment and contribute now, obtaining an immediate tax deduction, while Amazing Facts agrees to pay you a guaranteed life income beginning on the day you choose. This is especially

great for people who are in a higher tax bracket now than they will be later. Deferring allows you to receive a considerably higher income when your payout begins.

A Faithful Promise

Amazing Facts is a ministry you can trust—we are financially secure and have never missed a payment! We'll show our gratitude for your trust by giving you a regular income *and* by sharing God's end-time message of mercy to a lost world. It truly is a "win-win" situation.

For more information, call John Bridges, Director of Planned Giving, at 800-436-2696, ext. 3005, or Judy Schachten, Secretary, ext. 3029.

SINGLE LIFE GIFT ANNUITY PAYMENT RATES					
AGE	RATE	AGE	RATE	AGE	RATE
60	5.7%	71	6.6	82	8.5
61	5.8	72	6.7	83	8.8
62	5.9	73	6.8	84	9.2
63	5.9	74	6.9	85	9.5
64	6.0	75	7.1	86	9.9
65	6.0	76	7.2	87	10.2
66	6.1	77	7.4	88	10.6
67	6.2	78	7.6	89	11.0
68	6.3	79	7.8	90+	11.3
69	6.4	80	8.0		
70	6.5	81	8.3		

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the American
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July 1, 2003.

Minimum for
one-life annuity:
\$5,000

Minimum for
two-life annuity:
\$10,000

12 Tips for Resisting Temptation

By Pastor Doug Batchelor

An Amazing Fact: A teenager in Virginia was shocked to find a two-headed turtle behind her home. She caught the poor creature and watched as the two freakish heads did a tug-of-war over a piece of food she gave them! According to scientists, two-headedness can occur in all animals, but the lifespan

is typically short. The reason is that each head tends to work independently of the other, controlling its own side of the body, and therefore creating disunity, confusion, and frustration. Unless one head takes primary control, the creature will soon die from starvation and indecision.



Since the entrance of sin into the world, a war has been raging in every human heart between the spirit and the flesh. Satan is always exploiting our physical and emotional desires to sever our relationship with the Lord. “Your iniquities have separated you from your God” (Isaiah 59:2 NKJV). When humanity fell after that first subtle temptation in the garden, it lost the pure, loving motives with which it had been originally created. Selfishness took its place, and the result has been devastating: death, disease, war, crime, pain—the list goes on.

God has called us to holiness. “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15, 16). But without supernatural aid, men and women are powerless to resist the evil desires of the carnal heart.

The Lord has also not abandoned His rebellious creation in this charge, and He has made complete provision for its restoration. The purpose of His plan of salvation is to restore within you and me the image of Christ, so that we might be called the sons of God. “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:3, 4).

Many believe it is a sin to be tempted. This is not true. As the Bible declares, we have a High Priest who was “in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, so it can’t possibly be a sin to be tempted. Rather, it is a sin *to give in* to temptation. Christians must not allow the carnal nature to dictate what they do; they must allow the Spirit to direct their path.

If we want to follow Jesus, we can choose to resist those actions and thoughts that are contrary to His will. Thankfully, God has provided everything we need to successfully resist evil and be overcomers. We might ask ourselves, “Since I am a follower of Christ, what did Jesus do to resist temptation?” First, He quoted the Bible. Knowledge of His Word makes for the first and best defense against temptation. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11). Second, Jesus also turned to prayer. “Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation” (Mark 14:38).

I could easily expound on just these two basic points, but instead I want to use these fundamental truths as a foundation to highlight 12 practical tips for resisting temptation. I also want to give you some Bible passages you might recite, as Jesus did, when you are tempted. I believe this biblical ammunition, along with regular and sincere devotions, will mark your path with more consistent victory.

#1: Remember the Reward

I am certain that one reason people are so easily overcome by temptation is that they lose their eternal perspective. If an angel appeared to you right now in all his brilliant glory and said, “Repent! Jesus is coming soon,” would it be easier for you to resist temptation—at least for the rest of the day? Sure, because your faith would be strengthened that your reward was real and near. It is so much easier to resist temptation if you believe you are truly saved. If you mistakenly think you can work your way into salvation, you will actually erode your ability to resist.



Hebrews 11:24–26 says, “By faith Moses . . . refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.” Moses was in line to rule Egypt during the zenith of its power and wealth. That position of influence would be a terrible temptation for anyone. But Moses looked to God’s eternal reward and was able to resist the devil’s temporary earthly treasure.

Don’t forget the glory God has in store for you. “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). It’s easier to resist a jellybean when you know you are on your way to a feast!

#2: Believe in the Badness of Sin

You also must remember *how bad* sin is—with or without a reward. Paul says, “That sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful” (Romans 7:13). You need to truly know that sin is very ghastly, and if you need a reminder, go back about 2,000 years ago to Calvary and see what sin did to Jesus. As Christians, we can’t embrace sin because it is filthy, ugly, and fatal. Sin caused the death of our beloved Jesus.

The Bible says, “There was a man in . . . Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil” (Job 1:1 NKJV). We need to go beyond the basic emotion of loving God. Like Job, a part of loving God is hating evil. God wants us to hate sin because He hates it. “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way” (Psalm 119:104).

The devil is a genius at making something sinful, dirty, and crooked look attractive, clean, and harmless. But don’t be misled, because that pretty picture will end up killing you.

You need to come to the place where you love God so much that you would rather die than deliberately sin and grieve Him.

#3: Don’t Love Money

I could write out a long list of individual temptations, but I’ve chosen to include the love of money specifically because next to pride, it’s *the* big one. But I’m not writing so much about dollar bills as about the trap of materialism and power. I believe Christians should work hard, earning and saving and *giving* as much as they can. Yet there is a constant danger that money could become our god.

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition” (1 Timothy 6:9 NKJV). I’ve seen people make such foolish choices, like gambling away their savings, because they want to get rich quick. They keep yanking the slot-machine lever because the devil tells them that maybe if they drop in just one more quarter, they’ll hit it big. Not to mention that they’re throwing money away when it could be used for saving souls.

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). Serving God and the desire for money is impossible. Money is a power, and not all power is bad. It can be a power to do good or evil—a double-edged sword. We pray in church that the Lord will bless our needs financially, but we don’t want to become slaves to loving money. If your heart is with your money, it can’t be with God (Matthew 6:21).

#4: Get Ready to Flee

Few speed records are broken when people run from temptation. Generally, they crawl away from temptation hoping it catches up with them. Sometimes temptation comes through a door we deliberately leave open. Suppose that you accidentally spilled kerosene all over your clothes and somebody nearby lit a match. Where would you go? *As far away as you could and as fast as possible!* That should be the attitude of a Christian toward temptation. Paul said, “Flee fornication” and “flee from idolatry” (1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14).

So flee from sin, and don’t leave a forwarding address.

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (James 4:8). Don’t miss this: When you run from temptation, you head toward God. When you know something is sinful, don’t engage or banter with the devil, because he is the master of rationalization—that’s how Eve fell! It breaks my heart when Christians try to justify their sins. There is no limit to the arguments with which the devil can supply you. As soon as you know something is wrong, *flee!* The brave run from temptation; the fool flirts with it.

You also don’t want to wait until you get so old that all those desires





of youth fade away and you deceive yourself into thinking you have gained the victory. "And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home" (Ecclesiastes 12:5 NKJV). Indeed, your heart may still be corrupt. Flee now, actively. You must commit yourself to God while you can still experience His renovating grace in your life. Jesus' power is sufficient even for our hot-blooded youth. Remember that when Joseph was tempted, he fled from Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:12).

#5: Don't Follow the Crowd

A common reason Christians easily fall into temptation is the reasoning, "Everybody's doing it, so it must be okay." That's the devil's favorite "lemming logic." It's also why Peter denied Jesus. Just a few hours before betraying Jesus, Peter vowed, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" (Matthew 26:35 NKJV). Peter was very sincere, but when Jesus was taken into the judgment hall, it was no longer popular to be with Him. Peter gathered with Christ's mockers around a campfire, and the longer he stayed, the easier it was to act and talk like Christ's enemies.

By letting the crowd establish our values, we become like the crowd. And the Bible says the crowd is usually wrong. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is

the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat" (Matthew 7:13). Christians have to think for themselves. They must resist peer pressure; they must be different. If a billion people believe a lie, it's still a lie.

In the end-times, there are going to be two very religious groups—one with the mark of the beast, the other with the seal of God. The former group will be the larger. Just because a large group of people is being religious, it does not mean it's God's group. Generally, the Bible's great men and women are the ones standing for right when everyone else is bowing down to wrong.

#6: Stay Busy

An Italian proverb warns, "He that labors is tempted by one devil; he that is idle, by a thousand." Many people hate to be idle because God created us for activity. You've heard the expression, "Idleness is the devil's workshop." That's not a direct Bible quote, but Ezekiel 16: 49, 50 comes close. "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters . . . therefore I took them away as I saw good."

The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah wasn't simply perversion and sexual immorality. The valley of Sodom was lush with vegetation and abundant with food. Life was easy for her inhabitants. Lot moved there because it offered him a life of leisure. But when a person doesn't have anything to do, chances are the devil will help the carnal heart concoct something evil. An idle person tempts the devil to tempt him. "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15,16 NKJV).

Sin begins in the human mind, which is designed to concentrate mainly on one thing at a time. If we stay busy, especially focused on doing something good like witnessing or helping the poor, we don't have time to think about evil. Someone wrote, "Strength to resist evil is best gained through aggressive service." One of the ways to stay out of trouble is to be aggressively involved in serving Jesus. After the fall, when God told Adam, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," it was intended to be a blessing for man to stay busy and out of trouble (Genesis 3:19).

#7: Have a Plan

We often stumble into sin because when we see temptation coming, we wait to see what might happen when it arrives. But it's better to be prepared in advance. Proverbs 22:3 advises, "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished" (NKJV).





A wise man surveys the road for potential trouble. If he spots a band of robbers, he says, "I'd better hide or change routes because I don't want to be robbed!" But the fool says, "Wow. I think there are bandits down the road. I wonder what will happen when they get here."

Christians will often do that with temptation. We say, "I wonder if I'll be tempted if I watch this program, read this magazine, or drink this stuff." But Jesus said, "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell" (Matthew 5:29). If you have an area of temptation you know will drag you down, take whatever advance measures of prevention you can, no matter how desperate, to keep from being overcome.

If you are trying to quit smoking, then avoid friends who smoke or places where you are more prone to be tempted. In the very least, plot a way of escape! If your temptation is overeating, make an advance decision to place an appropriate amount of food on your plate and plan to stop when it's gone. Millions nibble their way into sin because they don't think ahead, which leads me to ...

#8: Know Thyself

A Spanish proverb instructs, "Be not a baker if your head be of butter." When someone joins Alcoholics Anonymous, he or she is first supposed to *admit* to being an alcoholic. This admission can represent a tremendous breakthrough, because the person recognizes their weakness. Likewise, it's one of the first steps in becoming a Christian—admitting that we are a "sin-a-holic."

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). The Bible says that we must not trust in our own strength. We must be very cautious when we begin to think we have a handle on a certain temptation and say, "It won't bother me anymore. I've got the victory!" That's when we are especially poised to fall. Some Christians are even proud they have overcome, but they're only setting themselves up for the devil to knock down. On the night of His betrayal, Jesus warned Peter, "This night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times" (Mark 14:30 NKJV). Jesus was warning Peter that he didn't really know how weak he truly was.

Even when you're helping somebody else overcome weakness, you must recognize that you're in danger of making the same mistake. You do need to pray with him or her, but when rescuers are pulling a person from rushing water, they have to be careful that they don't get pulled in too. We must always be vigilant to recognize our weakness. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

#9: Overcome Evil With Good

We sometimes leave ourselves wide open to compromise when we don't fill the vacuum left by forsaken bad habits. I have known peo-

ple to gain victory over one addiction only to replace it with another because they did not find a positive substitute.

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:24–26).

If you are struggling with an eating disorder or food addiction, you can't simply give up eating. The secret is to learn to "eat what is good" (Isaiah 55:2 NKJV). If you have a problem nibbling chocolate through the day, buy some grapes or almonds. Have you even thrown away those cigarettes? Get a box of toothpicks or some sunflower seeds (but not chocolates). "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

If someone has insulted or cruelly used you, do not retaliate with evil, but respond with kindness. When a hawk is attacked by kingbirds, it does not make a counterattack, but soars higher and higher in ever widening circles until the tormentors leave it alone. "If your enemy hungers, feed him; If he thirsts, give him a drink" (Romans 12:20 NKJV).

#10: Care for Your Health

Temptation often comes not at our strongest moments, but during our weakest. When we are at the limits of our strength, patience, love, and health, we are tempted to be un-Christian. Beware! Jesus' temptation began *after* 40 days of fasting. He was tired and hungry. Peter was also tired when he denied Jesus.

Our ability to resist basic temptations might be greatly influenced by everything from lack of exercise to unbalanced body hormones. When we are sick or have our reserves drained, we react in negative ways. Most marital arguments occur at the end of the day when one or both spouses are tired and hungry. Get enough sleep and eat good food at regular times. One of my favorite authors also advises, "By the indulgence of perverted appetite, man loses his power to resist temptation." Excessive sweets can give you a temporary rush only to be followed by feelings of depression and irritability.



You may not always be able to avoid fatigue or hunger, but if a soldier is passing through a minefield, he is much more careful where he steps. Avoid sensitive discussions or demanding tasks during these volatile times. Jesus said, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Yet this doesn't mean we shouldn't try to do all in our power to improve our health, and thereby our moral resolve. A good night's rest, a little exercise, and a nutritious breakfast can make you feel like you're ready to take on Goliath.

#11: Recognize Your Escape

When boarding a plane, I make a mental note of emergency exit locations. I'm not paranoid, just prudent. For me, the very best means for overcoming temptation is recognizing that God has provided a way of escape for every one of us. Remember this passage: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Now that's some very good news. We don't have to rely on our shaky faith; we can rely on God because He is faithful!

Now when you are tempted, you can say, "God is *measuring* what He allows the devil to bring against me, and I'm able to handle it with His grace." You never have to say, "I can't bear to resist the devil any longer." By saying that, you'd be calling God a liar!

The children of Israel were pursued by the Egyptians from behind, and as they fled they also found that mountains were on both sides and a sea lay in front of them. It seemed like a very hopeless situation. But God had promised that He would be faithful, and He provided a way of escape. The Bible is full of stories like these that seemed hopeless, but God was faithful. And He'll use even dramatic rescue attempts to help you. When it looked like there was no food to feed the crowd following Jesus, God was faithful to bring food even out of heaven, as well as for Elijah and the Israelites. Even with the most devilish temptation at your doorstep, remember these stories and make up your mind to trust God and watch for His way of escape.

#12: Surviving a Fall

I've saved for last what I believe to be the most important key to overcoming temptation. If you are in Christ, you have the greatest power to resist wrong (Jude 1:24). To abide in Him is to abide in His Spirit. Galatians 5:16 says, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Noah, Enoch, and Abraham walked with God. And you can do the same today by getting on your knees to petition for strength. God will send every angel in heaven to save you from sin, rather than let a trusting child fall when pleading for His help. But we must choose to follow Jesus, rather than the lies of the devil. God has made us free moral agents, and the devil cannot make us sin.



So by God's grace, you and I can resist every temptation. But remember that if you do fall, don't give up. Many people who fall down, stay down. They say, "Oh well. I'm lost now; I may as well surrender to every other temptation." God can help you recover lost territory, and He will save you from future temptations. You might need to spend three days sorrowing and searching just as Joseph and Mary did when they lost Jesus, but He will be waiting for you in His Father's house.

The devil may dishearten you with his wicked whisperings, "I know you! I tempted you, and you did it! You're no good. You call yourself a Christian, but you're just a hypocrite. In fact, you aren't even saved!" But I believe the Christian life is progressive. The Bible promises, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). If you sin, and we all do, don't give up. If the devil tricks you, and you fall down, don't stay down. Don't let your past failures be an excuse for future compromise. God can help you overcome everything. You just take it one day and one step at a time.

12 Steps in One

Summarizing all these steps is actually very easy. The most precious way to overcome any temptation has to be *because you love God*. You know that sin hurts God, and when tempted you need to say out loud, "I can't do that because I love God."

Erwin W. Lutzer said, "Our response to temptation is an accurate barometer of our love for God." The more you love Jesus, the less the attractions of the devil will hold sway over you. Remember how much Jesus loves you by remembering the cross when you are tempted, and then return that love by resisting the evil before you.

We're all tempted, but the Lord has promised that we can be overcomers through the "exceeding great and precious promises" found in the Scriptures. Jesus will teach us how to overcome. The devil could not make Jesus sin, nor can he make us. Give great thanks to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). Ask Him for overcoming power, and joyfully dive into the pages of His Word. —

Witnessing Corner



Here's what ministry friends are doing around the country to spread God's end-time message ...

The BibleUniverse.com Billboard for Jesus

On November 25, 2001, during her morning devotions, Marlenea Simonds prayed earnestly for God to work through her to spread the message of His love and soon second coming to lost souls, a burden she'd felt strongly ever since September 11.

While in prayer, she saw in her mind the masses of humanity that don't yet know the Lord, and she felt an overwhelming urgency to reach this multitude in a short period of time. Although she was willing to go door-to-door if God called on her to do that, He had another plan. "Before they call, I will answer" (Isaiah 65:24).

God inspired Marlenea to put up a billboard advertising 3ABN for millions to see as they drive by. And later, Marlenea was impressed to turn this inspiration into a multiple billboard project. She heard God say, "Don't limit Me!"

So in February 2003, Marlenea established an exciting, evangelistic billboard advertising BibleUniverse.com on highway I-70 in



Highway I-70 in Kansas now displays a BibleUniverse.com billboard. Millions of travelers will see this sign every year!

Kansas. Amazing Facts, grateful for her amazing dedication and witnessing spirit, agreed to design and supply the artwork for the colorful, eye-catching display.

She believes the giant ad will be effective because 50 percent of Americans own a computer and are increasingly relying on the Internet. And she really wants to reach them for Jesus. "I believe this project will reach more than just the immediate community," she writes. "People from many states will take this message to the entire nation!"

How God Did It

Marlenea pleaded that the Lord would help her find a billboard company with integrity, a lack of religious bias, and perhaps with someone in need of a witness to Jesus. She also hoped for a place where many would see *His* billboard.

By God's grace, Marlenea found a willing company after overcoming some early hurdles. She was also miraculously led to a billboard site that up to 22,000 cars would pass each day, along with 3,000 trucks and 2,000 state vehicles. In one year, 9 million vehicles will see the billboard for Jesus—advertising 3ABN and BibleUniverse. She exclaims, "How good God is! He is only waiting for willing hands and feet to work through."

After signing the contract for the billboard, Marlenea asked that her local pastor offer a dedication during Sabbath—giving the project to the Lord and asking His blessing. "It is God's ministry," she explains. God even provided a willing friend, Jeanie, to be her financial partner.

In addition, when Marlenea signed the contract for the BibleUniverse.com giant ad, she saw God answering her prayer to be a witness to the billboard company's owner, Ron. She and Jeanie could not afford to have lights shining on the billboard at night, but Ron said he liked what they were doing and offered to provide the lighting at no extra cost. Praise God for His providence!

The owner also admitted he started reading the Bible again, and that he had many questions he wanted answered about God. He and Marlenea spent nearly an hour talking about Jesus one evening. She says she is so excited and very humbled to see God work through the Holy Spirit, and she is overcome with joy that God answered a two-year-old prayer about being a witness to the billboard company itself!

Marlenea hopes that Ron will soon be BibleUniverse.com's newest graduate. And though he might not know it yet, Ron has been God's witness by providing the gift of light. She now prays that those lights will turn out to be the Light for the millions who will see the billboard. "God works in marvelous ways," says Marlenea. "Without these lights, souls passing in the darkness of the night would not have the opportunity of seeing the message of hope in these last days." She gives God all the glory for His unfailing love for souls and answering her prayers to be a witness.

Adds Marlenea, "People whose faces, names, and destinations are unknown to us travel up and down I-70 from every state. Many of them have been waiting for us to share the healing truth of God's love. The world is ripe for the harvest. They long to know there is a God who loves them personally. If we tell them, many will respond."

If you are interested in helping Marlenea or would like to start placing your own billboards, contact her at Junction City Church, P.O. Box 1432, Junction City, Kansas 66441.

Amazing Facts EVANGELISM TEAM



You are invited to meet the members of Amazing Facts evangelism team at any one of the following locations. This schedule is subject to change without notice, so please call Amazing Facts to confirm appointments or get more information.



Doug Batchelor



John Bradshaw



Byron Corbett



Eric Flickinger



Lowell Hargreaves



Brian McMahon



David Morgan



Jason Morgan



Rawel Moringlane



Jack Pefley



Dennis Priebe



Mike Troxell

Doug Batchelor

July 3
Hispanic Ministerial Council
Town & Country Resort and
Convention Center
San Diego, California

July 16 – 19
Camp Meeting
Gladstone Camp Ground
Gladstone, Oregon (Portland)

July 25 – 28
Camp Meeting
Redwood Camp Grounds
Redcrest, California

Tyler Long

July 11 – August 6
Daniel Fernando
Intermediate School
32 Sun Valley Road
Los Lunas, New Mexico

Jason Morgan

July 25 – August 30
Masonic Temple
416 South 1st Street
Clinton, Iowa

Dennis Priebe

July 4, 5:
Willapa Harbor Church,
Raymond, Washington

July 11, 12:
Ridgefield Church, Washington

July 25, 26:
Oroville Church, California

August 22 – 24:
Greater New York Ministers' Retreat,
New York

August 25 – 30:
Morris Park Church,
Bronx, New York

Eric Flickinger

July 25 – August 30
Tullahoma Business
Development Center
412 Wilson Avenue
Tullahoma, Tennessee

Rawel Moringlane

July 25 – August 30
Clanton, Alabama
Call 205-755-2270 for details

Mike Troxell

July 11 – August 6
Daniel Fernando
Intermediate School
32 Sun Valley Road
Los Lunas, New Mexico

Ministry Welcomes New Evangelist

Mike Troxell joined the evangelism team of Amazing Facts in April. He has been in full-time gospel ministry for nearly seven years, serving as a pastor and church evangelist in Michigan and Indiana before coming to the ministry. With his family, he has ministered to many people around the world. His gift for clarifying important Bible truths has been a blessing to thousands and has led countless souls to know Christ more fully and surrender to Him for the first time.

He is joined by Melanie, his wife of more than two years, who enjoys helping Mike in his ministry and also ministering to souls with her music talents. She especially feels blessed to

raise up their son, Jonathan, to be part of the ministry by loving others and sharing Jesus through friendship and smiles.

Mike comes from Cincinnati, Ohio, where his family joined a Sabbathkeeping church when he was eight years old. While in high school, Mike first sensed the Lord's call to enter into ministry work—and that commitment further deepened when in college, a dear friend led him to fully give his life to Christ.

Both Mike and Melanie seek to be witnesses in the world that the God we serve is a powerful, life-changing Friend. Please pray for our newest team members!

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to schedule an Amazing Facts evangelistic series or a weekend of revival meetings in your church, please contact the evangelism department at Amazing Facts by phone at 916-434-3880 or by mail.



Hometown Boy Makes Good

Rich Cavaness Amazing Facts Curtain Call

by Rich Cavaness

I must admit that coming home to Wenatchee, Washington, had me feeling somewhat anxious. It's where I went to college, met my wife, was baptized, and owned a financial service business for eight years. It's also the place that church members know us well, and it's the home of our families. The experience of Jesus being rejected by His own community ran through my head. "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house." (See Matthew 13:54-57.) Thankfully, the exact opposite happened!

My last seminar for Amazing Facts saw local churches working well together

with a beautiful spirit of unity. The excitement in starting a new church energized the congregation. It was a dream come true working with four incredibly dedicated pastors and with friends and church members I have known for my entire Christian experience. I was even able to catch up with old business friends. God is so good!



Amazing Meeting Highlights

Shane and Cassandra were trying to find peace in their lives and a firm foundation for their marriage. Cassandra was raised a Sabbath-keeper, but she had been long disconnected from the church and spiritual things. Her parents are faithful Christians and have prayed for her over many years as they endured trials, tribulations, and heartaches along the way. It was a modern-day "Prodigal Daughter" story. Shane had heard about Jesus Christ and the Bible, but he never really understood what it meant to be a Christian and the importance of the Word of God to his life. Both Shane and Cassandra had life-transforming experiences during the meetings, as Shane accepted Christ into his heart for the first time and Cassandra recommitted her life to Jesus. It was such an inspiration to see the young couple desiring to solidify their marriage, raise their little children in a godly home, and begin living for Jesus every day. It was one of the best moments of the seminar to see them born again from the watery grave of baptism.

Nita Fortune is soft-spoken, humble, meek, has a warm smile, and most important, loves the Lord. She also has a wonderful jail ministry and is an ardent student of the Bible. I imagine that's what drew her to the "Israel in Prophecy" seminar, as the Holy Spirit impressed her that what was presented was straight from the Bible. She began

attending the Valley View church in Wenatchee, and she hardly missed a seminar night knowing God had more for her to learn. While wrestling with new Bible truths, she was confronted by her old pastor who told her that the Ten Commandments had been done away with. This helped solidify Nita's resolve that she was exactly where she needed to be. It inspired me greatly to have such a high-level Bible student attend and be inspired by the seminar.

The Bible is very clear that sharing our faith is not an option but a privilege and duty for every Christian. And one dedicated church member takes that seriously. God had given Mark, a building contractor, a divine appointment with two new residents of Wenatchee who needed to hear what he knew. Herb and Mash were impressed by Mark's friendliness, patience, attention to detail, and integrity as he built their new home. They were not churchgoers, but they started attending the meetings and, to their delight, saw that Mark was there too. They sat with each other every night on the front row. No doubt his influence helped them grasp the startling revelations they learned, and they knew they must follow His Word and decided to be baptized. Herb and Mash are very outgoing, personable people, and I know that God will use them as effective ambassadors for Jesus.

A Personal Joy

An incredibly fulfilling story involves a special friend of mine. I've known Randall since 1995, when he and his family joined as guests a small group study on Friday evenings. We very much enjoyed our studies and dinner together. In the fall, he attended the NET '99 meetings and went forward during the altar call, but soon after the devil went on the attack. His personal, business, and spiritual lives came crashing down around him as the devil sought to destroy this sincere seeker of truth. As his insurance agent and close friend, I was deeply affected to see him experience Job-like trials. He tried hard to keep things together, but a time bomb exploded. Randall would then come to my office to pay his bill, and I prayed with him and tried to be encouraging.

The Lord helped Randall put his life back together in 2000, but I soon sold everything and went into public evangelism full-time. Randall and I



Amazing Facts Wenatchee Meeting Results

"Israel in Prophecy" pre-work hosted 55 guests, 13 baptisms, and ongoing Bible studies.

The Wenatchee meetings witnessed 34 baptisms to date, 13 of which were un-churched, the most successful seminar for the local church ever conducted. It also saw multiple pastor and church involvement, successful Spanish translation for each meeting night, and the establishment of a brand-new Sabbathkeeping church.

saw each other a few times over the next few years, but I was shocked to learn some new things when I ran into him in December 2002—at the Wenatchee church! There I discovered he had married a Sabbathkeeping Christian named Cindy! I praised the Lord as I learned that his father, Bill, with whom he had a very rough relationship, and Randall are both attending the church and are taking lessons with their pastor. I began to pray diligently that Randall and his father would be baptized together during my seminar, healing their past and making them powerful witnesses for the Lord. At the end, God had answered my prayers and both were baptized into God's end-time church. Both men truly love the Lord, and Bill is already a mighty servant and soul winner.

I learned a powerful lesson from Randall—you never know when the seeds of faith you plant in a human heart will blossom!



Bill, Pastor Rich, and Randall

Have faith that everything is in God's timing, but never stop praying or sharing your faith with others, because the Lord can see a diamond in the rough even though we might just see the rough! Baptizing my good friend Randall and his father was truly one of the great stories of my evangelism work with Amazing Facts.

Farewell Message

God is ever faithful to His promises, and Isaiah 55:8-11 is a passage I lean on when it comes to reaching out to others and sharing His good news. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. ... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and ... watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**"

Rich Cavaness, his wife Heather, and their two children, Sarah and Jonathan, have accepted God's call on their lives in Charleston, West Virginia, where Rich has accepted a pastor and associate evangelism director position in the Mountain View Conference. The staff of Amazing Facts wishes them well in their new endeavor to reach others for Christ ... they will be missed. Don't miss Rich's new book, Life After 9/11 featured on page 16. It's a great evangelism resource!

*Vegetarian Chicken Enchiladas
Recipe continued from page 30*

Cheese Sauce

What you need:

- 2 cups water
- ¼ cup clean, raw cashews
- 1 4 oz jar pimientos
- 3 tbsp brewer's yeast flakes
- 2 tbpscornstarch
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp onion flakes or powder
- ¼ tsp garlic powder

What you do:

1. Blend all ingredients until very smooth.
2. Simmer in a saucepan until thickened, stirring constantly.
3. Pour over center of the enchiladas.
4. Spoon remaining chunky salsa over the top of cheese sauce and garnish with parsley.



An Amazing Fact

Soy protein is of the highest quality proteins—equal to meat and dairy but without the cholesterol and saturated fat. The soybean is the only vegetable offering a complete protein profile, providing all eight of the essential amino acids. It can also be your only source of protein without causing nutritional imbalance!

Want more delicious recipes?

Go to www.amazingfacts.org for some great cookbooks like these:

- A Taste of Heaven*
- Becoming Vegan*
- Choices: Quick and Healthy Cooking*
- Cooking by the Book*
- Fix-It-Fast Vegetarian Cookbook*
- Guilt-Free Gourmet Cooking*
- NEWSTART Lifestyle Cookbook*
- Tasty Vegan Delights*
- And more ...

Amazing Facts

Programs on Cable—a Success!



by Michelle Kiss

In the January/February *Inside Report*, we published an article about the exciting opportunity of putting life-changing programs on television around the country, *free of charge!* We shared how even you can bring the light of truth to your community through public access television.

Immediately after that issue arrived in homes, we began receiving calls from people around the country eager to find out more about getting our soul-winning programs into the homes of people in their communities. The Lord has blessed! To date, 12 ministry friends have successfully completed the process and are now airing the *Everlasting Gospel* on public access stations in Washington, California, Idaho, Nebraska, Michigan, Indiana, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Maine! Several sponsors are working to broadcast the program on more than one channel.

You can do it too! And if you move quickly, you can join the ministry as we re-launch our popular *Millennium of Prophecy* series this summer. This half-hour evangelistic program has been reformatted for broadcast on public access, meaning the new version contains no sales offers or other advertising.

Getting Amazing Facts programs on public access is very easy. So we wanted to give you a quick reminder of the steps we gave in the original article.

1

Contact your local cable provider to find out if they provide public access channels and whether or not they will broadcast independently produced programs. (Most independently produced programs are acceptable if they provide a service to the community, which religious instruction does.)

Remember that you must be a local resident to use public access channels, and that the service is typically free.

2

You might be required to go through a tutorial before broadcasting our programs. This is a good, standard practice that the cable operator typically provides. (If not, they will refer you to the right people.)

3

The next step is signing up for airtime, which is usually scheduled on a first-come-first-served basis.

The best times to air are when you know that people will be at home watching television. Showing at dinnertime is probably not the greatest timeslot, but early evening from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. is the very best.

4

Of course, a very important step is getting Amazing Facts videos to you. It's unlikely that VHS copies that you've made of our programs will work.

However, if you send Amazing Facts a copy of your contract with the local cable company, we will send you a box of 20 tapes! Most of our sponsors air one tape a week, meaning you'll have 20 weeks of content. We suggest that after 15 weeks of broadcasts, return your used tapes to us—we'll then replace these with 15 new tapes! And we'll continue to do this as long as you return your used tapes.

Our program tapes adhere to most cable operators' policies. They are commercial-free, VHS-format tapes that last 58 minutes and 30 seconds—the standard length for a one-hour time slot. Tapes with bars and tone at the beginning are available on request.

5

The final step is to advertise the program in your area. Let people in your church or study group know that you are showing Amazing Facts on your local cable network. Give them reasons why they should watch and have them tell their friends and family.

Word of mouth really works the best, so if you take every opportunity to promote the program, your potential impact for the Lord is practically guaranteed.

Though it might cost a bit extra, you might also consider placing ads in your community newspaper or put up signs and hand out flyers where you are permitted to do so.

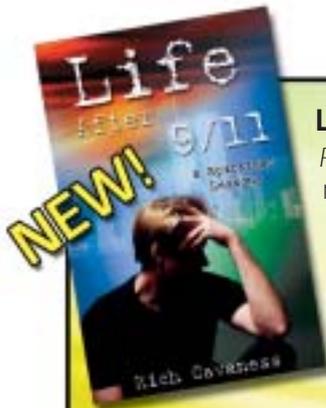
6

Pray! The Lord wants you to share His great news, but He wants you to do it for His glory. We suggest praying for each broadcast, asking the Lord to send His Holy Spirit to influence those who need to hear His message.

If you have any questions, please call the media department at 916-434-3880, ext. 3042, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have.

Remember that this service is of no cost to you . . . except your time, of course. But that's a small price to pay when you think of all the souls that could be touched and brought to Jesus. If we have enough sponsors who are willing to help us keep these programs on the air, we can blanket the nation with a gospel message that brings hope to all. 

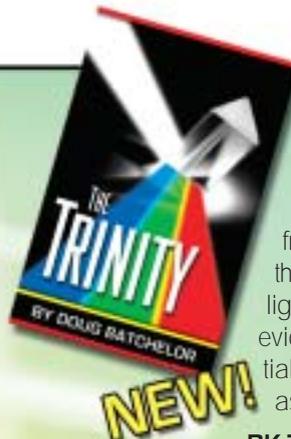
Books



Life After 9/11

Rich Cavness. In one tragic day, millions across the nation felt the same cosmic shockwave that changed everything. Come to grips with this powerful force in your life by exploring five key spiritual lessons learned from 9/11. You will find lasting peace in this age of chaos. A great book for sharing with new seekers!

BK-LA911 ... \$6.95



The Trinity

Doug Batchelor. The mystery of the triune God is under fierce attack, even from within the church. See the trinity in a whole new light with convincing, biblical evidence to defend this essential tenet from dangerous assault. Great for sharing!

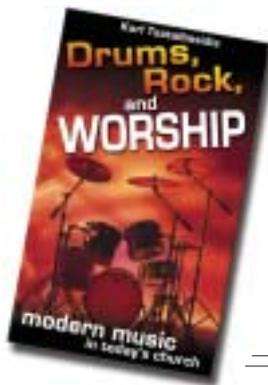
BK-TRIN ... \$0.95

Books

Drums, Rock, and Worship

Karl Tsatalbasidis. Explores the complex relationship of today's church and modern music in worship, especially the drum set. Is rock music justifiable praise, or is it a dangerous compromise? A call to reform that will change attitudes and win hearts!

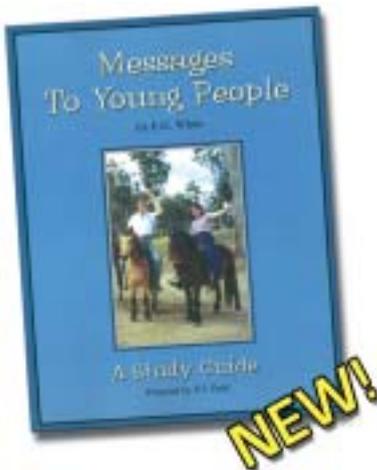
BK-DRW ... \$5.95



Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement

Dan Lucarini. Contemporary Christian music has become a powerful force in worship and youth outreach—but at what price? An honest, uncompromising spiritual journey into one of today's most deceptive problems in the church from the wise counsel of a one-time rock musician now determined to honor the Lord and seek reformation.

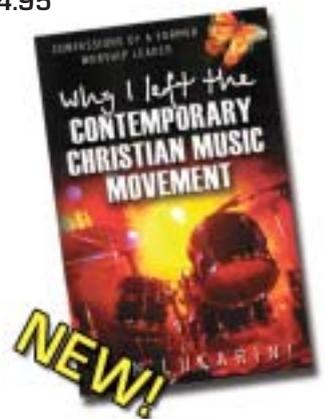
BK-WILC ... \$14.95



Messages to Young People Study Guide

E.G. White. The children growing up in today's world are under attack from every direction, from violent video games, scandalous clothing, and sensual music and films. This powerful, convicting, and informative study guide will challenge them to glorify God even under intense peer pressure, preparing them for their futures on earth and into eternity.

BK-MYPSG ... \$12.95



The Gift of Prophecy

Carlyle B. Haynes. Is it possible to know the future? From tabloid-filled checkout stands to sensational films and TV programs, every one is talking about the future—but who should you believe? In this timely book, you'll find out what the Bible says about the end-times and also the biblical tests in determining a true prophet.

BK-GOPR ... \$9.95



The Rapture Plot

Dave MacPherson. For 165 years, self-proclaimed scholars have hidden, through cover-ups and historical revisionism, the heretical origins of the pre-tribulation rapture. Discover from a leading expert on end-time theory and origin how plagiarism and subtle text manipulation created the "mother of all revisionisms."

BK-RPLO ... \$17.95



Maximum Marriage

Peggy and Roger Dudley. Strengthen your marriage bond and glorify God as you learn spiritual and practical insights that help you work through differences with your spouse in loving, constructive ways. A treasure trove of wisdom from 28 happily married couples just like you.

BK-MMAR ... \$12.99

Revitalize Your Marriage

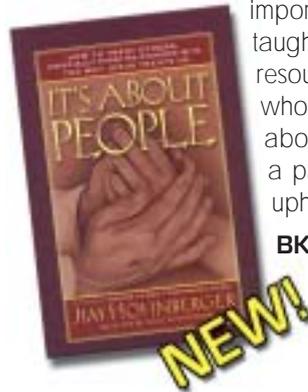
Jim Hohnberger. Rediscover the reasons you married your love by rekindling the flames and removing the thorns that have gotten in the way of your God-given relationship. A beautiful gift for any couple.

BK-RYM ... \$0.95

It's About People

Jim Hohnberger. Learn how to share your faith in a powerful new way by remaining loving and compassionate even with those who disagree with you and your faith. Learn that how Jesus treated those who would not receive Him was just as important as the truth He taught. An excellent resource for anyone who values people above politics, yet has a passionate zeal to uphold the truth.

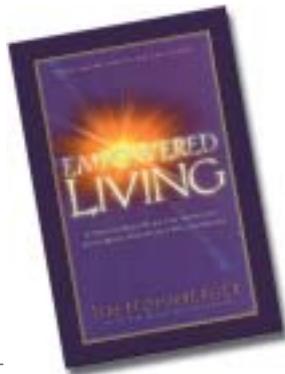
BK-IAPE ... \$10.99



Empowered Living

Jim Hohnberger. A 12-week plan for improving your most significant relationships. Discover the power of the gospel in everyday living and achieve a changed life, marriage, and family. Presents real-life relational problems and solutions.

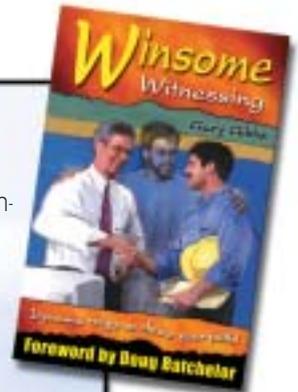
BK-EL ... \$14.99



Winsome Witnessing

Gary Gibbs. The evangelism director of Amazing Facts teaches you the simple skills to lead others to Christ, gives insights to revitalize your church, and much more. Be an effective, confident, and inspired soul-winner with these proven, life-changing strategies.

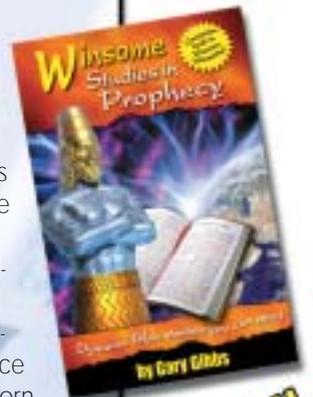
BK-WW ... \$10.95



Winsome Studies in Prophecy

Gary Gibbs. Finally, a simpler way to share the Bible's 27 most amazing prophecies with friends, family, and Bible students. You'll get the actual words to say in these easy-to-follow presentations with the best Bible texts at your fingertips. You'll have the confidence to reach even the most stubborn skeptics!

BK-WSIP ... \$14.95



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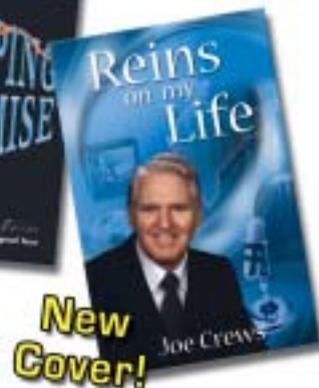
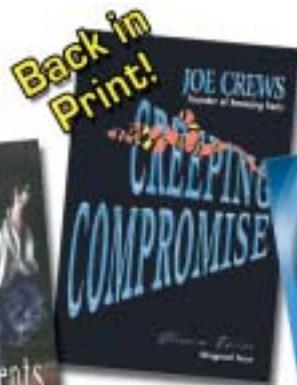
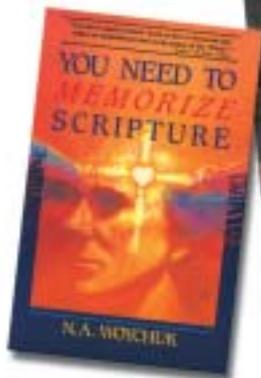
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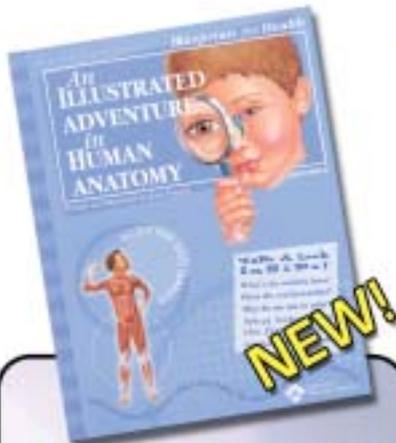
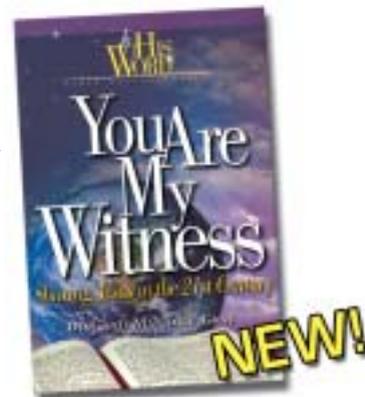
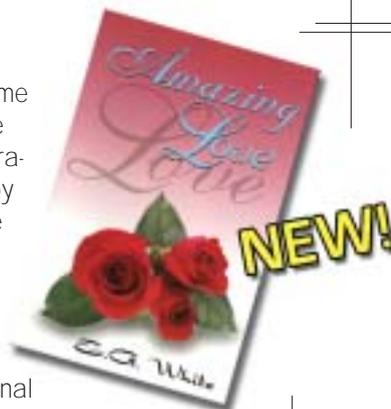
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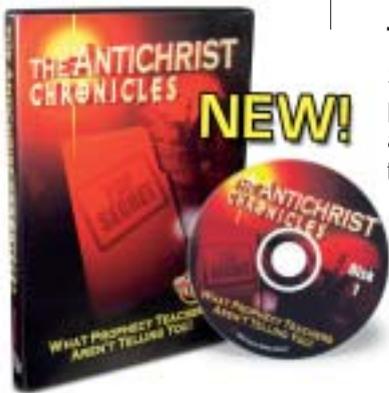
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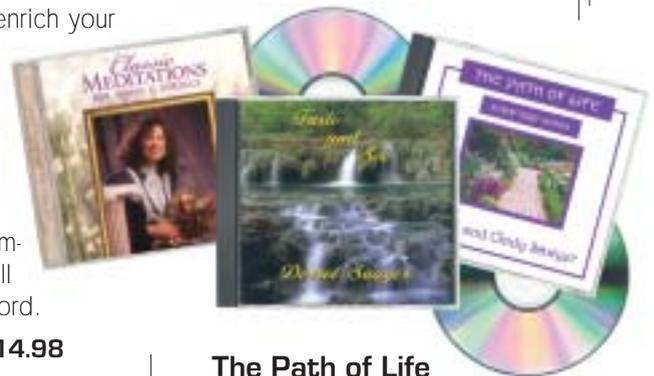
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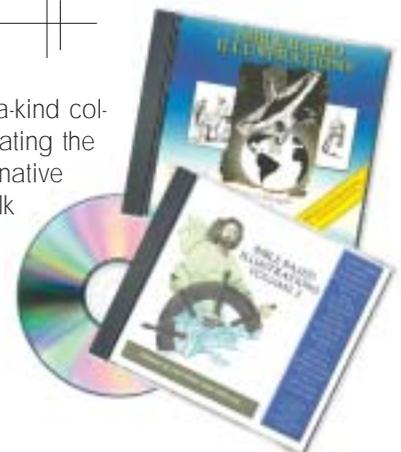
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Hearing God's Call



By Alan Parker, AFCOE Director

On the outside, Kevin and Vicki Wiley looked like any other Christian couple. They had good jobs, a new home, two beloved cats, and two cars. They were also actively involved in their local church.

On the inside, however, there was turmoil. They felt lukewarm about church, and Kevin knew things weren't right between him and God. Vicki felt restless. They began sensing that God wanted more from them—that He might be calling them. That call resulted in them crossing the seas to work in Ireland as missionaries.

In the spring of this year, Kevin and Vicki took a break from Ireland to come to the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism. They are just two of the many students who found their way to the school because they experienced God's call to full-time ministry.

How do you know if you are called to ministry? How can you hear God's voice? What about family and financial commitments? And how does God's calling work anyway? These are vital questions, ones with which every true follower of Christ must wrestle.

Isaiah 6 gives a powerful example of God's call. In this passage, the curtain is pulled aside and we peek into the command center of the universe, from which God issues calls. Three priceless principles emerge for how we are to receive God's call.

Passionate Pursuit of God

Isaiah 6 begins, "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord." And what a vision! He saw God in His holy temple, surrounded by angelic beings crying out, "Holy, holy, holy" as the hallowed place shook and radiated with the brightness of His presence.

Here's the first precious principle of receiving a call: *Set out in passionate pursuit of a revelation of God Himself.* Before you can receive your call, you must see God. We often start out by asking, "God, what do you want me to do with my life?" Yet that's the wrong question. Our first request should be, "God, show me Yourself. Help me see You as You really are."

Nathan & Karla, Kevin Sears, and Kevin & Vicki joined AFCOE in response to hearing God's call.



The picture of God carried in the wallet of our hearts gives direction to our lives; if we gaze at the wrong picture, His call will be distorted.

Kevin and Vicki started with the wrong question. Fresh from college, they spent two years in Korea. Kevin admits, "For me, it was largely a way of postponing the 'what-am-I-going-to-do-with-my-life-now' decision." As a result, neither of them felt particularly effective in Korea. The mission experience left them feeling spiritually unfulfilled.

Whenever God calls, *vision* comes before *vocation*.

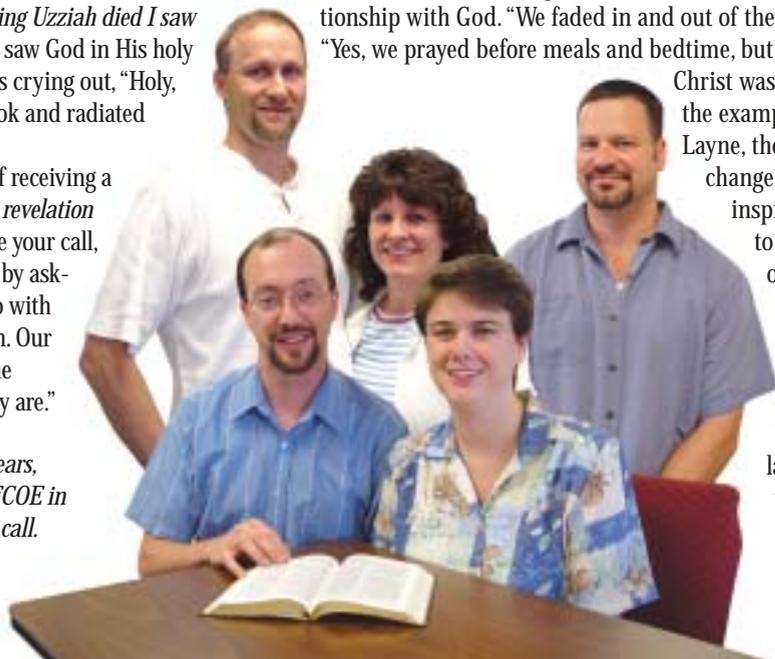
Think of Saul on the road to Damascus. Before he could receive his call to confront the Gentiles, he had to be confronted by Jesus. Seeing Jesus was the necessary preparation for receiving his call. If you want to hear the call of God, set out in passionate pursuit of a *revelation of God*.

It is interesting to note the context of Isaiah's revelation: *crisis*. ("In the year that king Uzziah died.") The transforming moments in our lives are often those when we're in pain or trouble. A death, tragedy, rejection, a blow to your self-esteem, the loss of friends or family—these things often create the context for God's revelation.

Running successful businesses and enjoying their three children, Nathan and Karla thought all was well. That is, except for their relationship with God. "We faded in and out of the church," they admit. "Yes, we prayed before meals and bedtime, but our time given to

Christ was minimal." Through the example of their son Layne, the family began to change. His baptism

inspired the whole family to take God more seriously. Then Layne was killed in a boating accident. Nathan and Karla were devastated. The family businesses collapsed, and their assets were quickly swallowed up by debt.



Out of this tragedy, real priorities crystallized. They heard God's call to them and decided to prepare for ministry by attending AFCOE. Karla says, "I was forced to get my priorities in order, and feel I am now doing what the Lord wants." They are closer to God than they've ever been. Yet before they could understand God's call on their lives, their crisis helped them to *engage in a passionate pursuit of a revelation of God.*

The Refining Process

After Isaiah saw his revelation of God, the next stage, God's call, followed naturally. In his blinding vision, the prophet cries out, "*Woe is me . . . for my eyes have seen the King!*"

The upward look naturally leads you to the next step—the inward look, where the penetrating process of *refining* begins. Every call in the Bible deals with this moment of truth: Once you know who God is, you need to *know who you are.*

When you see yourself as you really are, your heart opens up to God's call to you. Think about Peter's experience in Luke 5: While he had already met Jesus, and was interested in following Him, he was still in the fishing business. Jesus then sent him fishing at midday. Peter tries to explain to the Lord that this is foolish, but he goes anyway. He returns with an overflowing boat and a new understanding of Jesus: the long-awaited Messiah! With a sickening realization of his own arrogance in attempting to instruct his Creator, he falls at the feet of Jesus and cries, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." Here those first two vital elements are unveiled: *recognition* of God, and the resulting *realization* of you.

When God calls you, He *confronts* you. ("Woe is me!") This is essential to comprehending God's call. Are you carrying baggage that you need to surrender? Perhaps you've been holding onto a harmful relationship, pride, or fear that people will reject the real you. You may have learned to pretend. If you are to be used by God, you must confront who you really are. The things that disqualify you as God's chosen must be sacrificed. Until that happens, the things that bind you will also silence God's voice.

Kevin Sears was forced to confront himself. Drug dealing had sucked him into the underworld of illegal guns and stolen cars. Enjoying supplying the "needs" of others, he even felt good about his "work." Prison, however, revised his perspective. He accepted an Amazing Facts Study Guide one day and says, "It just blew me away. I couldn't get to the next Study Guide fast enough." Kevin had discovered that he needed transformation. Soon afterward, he began praying that God would help him share these incredible truths with others. It wasn't long before the prison ministry group leader asked Kevin to preach. Even the terror of speaking before his peers couldn't dim the delight of being used by God. After his release from prison, Kevin became an elder in his church. He recently graduated from AFCOE and is now preparing to do his first evangelistic series in Boston.



Are you ready for the call of God? *Have you seen yourself?* You may feel inadequate to do anything for God. But that very feeling of weakness could be evidence that God can use you. Hudson Taylor, the first modern missionary to China, said, "God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him."

You may be worried about what your friends will think, or how difficult it will be to cut off engrained worldly desires. Jim Elliot, a famous missionary martyred while trying to reach the Auca Indians of Ecuador, counseled: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep in order to gain that which he cannot lose." Remember, "There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."

A Pressing Personal Responsibility

What we've seen so far has simply been a prelude to the call—the essential prerequisites. After seeing God as He is, and seeing himself in all his weaknesses, Isaiah saw the burden on God's heart. The upward look results in an inward look, which prepares you for the outward look. In Isaiah 6:8, God says, "*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*"

Hearing God's Voice

How can you know God's *specific* will for your life?

Slow down. God's voice is often heard when you hush the noise and busyness of life. Psalm 46:10; 1 Kings 19:9–13; Mark 1:35

Be patient and persevering. God gradually unfolds His plan and we are to 'wait' for His direction. Psalm 123:2; 40:1; Luke 18:1

Investigate the Bible. God's will is never contrary to God's Word. Read the Bible, looking for God to speak to your specific situation. Isaiah 8:20

Open doors and shut doors. Opportunities (providence) give us indications of areas for service. We need to weigh these carefully and be willing to take risks. 2 Corinthians 2:12; Isaiah 45:1–3

Listen to godly counsel. Consult parents, friends, and spiritual mentors for advice and wisdom. Proverbs 11:14

Allow the Spirit to convict. A growing sense of conviction indicates God's calling. Be careful of just following "impressions" though. Isaiah 30:20, 21; Matthew 12:39

Determine if peace is occurring. The decision to follow God's specific will results in a sense of peace. If you and your family have no peace with a decision, it may be time to reevaluate if this is God's will. Colossians 3:15, 16

There it is: *God's need.*

Have you ever wondered what the world looks like from God's perspective? When He hears every sob and hunger pang, sees every lost soul, and feels every heartache? Until we sense God's need, we won't hear His call.

So God's need is God's call, but how do you know what God's need is? How do you know whether you should go to India or

Continued on page 23.

BIBLE Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



The Bible says God is a “jealous God.” Wouldn’t this mean He is imperfect?

If a man loves his wife and knows that she is having an affair, and he’s not grieved, that would be abnormal. And this is how God means He is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5).

A normal, even godly, response is to be distressed by a wandering spouse. Now the defect of jealousy is when a person is being faithful, and their spouse is constantly mistrusting them. That’s actually a kind of phobia that springs from insecurity.

People are often jealous and distrustful without cause. And I’ve seen this destroy marriages and otherwise positive relationships. That is a fault—a defect in human nature. So there are two sides of the jealousy coin. On one side there’s an appropriate, normal jealousy from love and singleness of devotion. The other side is an abnormal jealousy from suspicion and fear.

In a sense, the Lord has married the church; we even take His name. And we take His name in vain when we call ourselves Christians and worship other gods. He has a right to be jealous if we decide to give our devotion to other gods after we have professed to accept Him as our husband. He wants our loyalty because we have promised it to Him through repentance and baptism.

But the other form of jealousy . . . where a man follows his wife around and secretly checks her mail . . . that’s a sickness born of mistrust.

Does the Bible say anything about cremation?

I get this question periodically. However, I can’t really give a direct answer from the Bible because there is no Bible mandate how to bury someone. Typically in the Bible, people are buried when they die. It speaks of graves and how they are marked.

However, there are a few examples in the Bible of people who we know are saved who also happened to be cremated. You have Jonathan, the beloved friend of David, who was killed by the Philistines. His body was somewhat mutilated and then hung on a wall. (In this, He was a symbol of Christ.) His corpse was rescued, or rather recovered, by the people of Jabesh Gilead. They burned the body because it had been basically dismembered. And David blessed them, nor were they cursed, for doing that (1 Samuel 31:12).

In addition, the Bible says that we’re ashes, that we came from ashes, and unto ashes we’ll return (Genesis 3:19). It’s not a pretty subject, but we know that when a person dies and they’re buried, they gradually decompose and they basically turn back into the

elements of earth. That happens very slowly if we’re put in a sealed coffin. But eventually, almost everything will rot unless you pay a lot of money to be cryogenically frozen. Or it can happen very quickly in a crematorium. But either way, we basically return to dust.

Some people fear that if they’re cremated, the Lord won’t have enough body parts, like a bone, to piece them back together—that He won’t be able to resurrect and reassemble them. But God is not going to use any of the old material. The Bible says, “All things are made new.” He is going to take the essence of who we are, our soul, and put it in new, glorified bodies. So we don’t need to worry if God can or can’t find the old parts.

But there’s no command one way or the other, so we must assume that it was not a big issue with the Lord. Therefore, I ask people to let their conscience lead them.

How did the Israelites have moral standards before the Ten Commandments? How did they know how to behave?

Before the Ten Commandments were written down in stone, the Bible tells us that the law was written in the hearts of the people. In addition, it was transmitted orally from father to son.

However, by the time of Moses, after the people had been in slavery under Egypt, and thereby under the influence of the Egyptian pagan religion, their memory had been somewhat corrupted and diluted.

That’s why Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, so his people would not be confused. Of course, God ultimately wrote the Ten Commandments so there would never have to be any guessing about what is right and wrong.

To prove this point: Long before Moses wrote the Ten Commandments onto scrolls, God said to Cain; “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door (Genesis 4:7 NKJV). The Bible also records, “Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws” (Genesis 26:5). And not only did Abraham obey God’s law, statutes, and commandments, Joseph knew it was a sin to commit adultery with Potiphar’s wife. He said, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9). He evidently knew adultery was a sin long before the Ten Commandments were written. It had been passed on, so he knew God’s law.

Originally, God’s law went from Adam orally, straight out of the garden of Eden, to become part of the oral tradition. In addition,

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Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, so they knew their Father's character, which is revealed in the Ten Commandments. They passed this knowledge to their offspring, but because of man's failing memory, they eventually had to write it down.

Since the Bible says we should not eat blood, is it then wrong to receive blood transfusions?

Many people are surprised just to learn the simple fact that in the Old and New Testament, God's people—both of Jewish and Gentile—are clearly commanded not to eat blood (Genesis 9:4; Acts 15:29). This still applies to Christians today.

Knowing this, how should Christians handle the issue of blood transfusions? Some churches teach that a blood transfusion is no different than eating blood. I respectfully disagree, because I believe the admonition in the Bible is not to eat animal blood for food. (Of course, you shouldn't eat human blood for food either!)

This restriction of diet has both a spiritual and physical principle. Spiritually, the Bible says that the life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). And physically, we know that disease can be transferred from animal to animal by virtue of the blood.

When a person takes a blood transfusion, the purpose is to sustain that life. It's not for pleasure or to relieve hunger, and it isn't taken orally for nourishment. It's a completely different process—the blood type even has to match. In Acts 17:26, the Bible says that God has made all nations one blood. So the entire human family is related in that special sense. Indeed, we are all saved by virtue of a blood transfusion from Jesus.

I like to remind people that the first miracle of Christ was turning water into pure grape juice, and He gave it to celebrate a wedding. One of the last things Jesus did before He died on the cross was to taste sour wine. He gave us pure grape juice, and He took our offering of sour wine. It's symbolic of a lifesaving blood transfusion; that's what the blood of Christ does for us. 

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Washington: Deer Park Cable, Ch. 3

Central Study Hour

Washington: Deer Park Cable, Ch. 3

Continued from page 21.

Texas? Should you stay in your present job or enter full-time ministry? What is the need on God's heart?

There are many possible answers to these questions (see the inset box on page 21), but the real heart of the issue is not *where you go*, but *why you go*. You go because God calls you. You go because you are willing. Isaiah responds, "*Here am I, send me.*"

AFCOE graduate Stephanie Clegg grappled with the challenge of finding God's call. She loves to ride horses and is fascinated by parallels between her relationship with her horse and her relationship with God. When she came to AFCOE, she kept hearing people talk about how many students often make a complete career change. "I began to feel guilty that, since it was everybody else's conviction to do full-time Bible work, it should be mine." Then she started thinking about her experiences with horses and how she could use these insights to win others to Christ. While she's not yet sure of her final calling, she believes God is leading her to bring horses and soul-winning together. "Someday, if it's where God leads me, I would like to start a ranch for troubled teens where animals can reach the teens in a way that Bible workers might not be able to."

Too often we have a narrowly defined idea of what God's calling on our lives should be. As God shows us needs, He creates a passion in our hearts that responds like Isaiah did. The word for "Here am I" is the Hebrew word *Hinnay*. In this passage, *Hinnay* can be defined as "Lord, here I am for You to do in and for and through me whatever it takes to meet the need that You have on Your heart." So what does *Hinnay* mean in relation to us? *Hinnay* reflects our attitude instead of our circumstances. We need to look beyond our situation and examine our attitude, and *Hinnay* is learning to see divine appointments in every circumstance. We often think that God has one set divine appointment for us and if we make the wrong move, we'll miss it. The reality is that every moment of life is a divine appointment. If we have the right attitude, we'll see divine appointments in every person we meet and every circumstance we encounter.

Unsure of what to do in your life or wondering if God is calling you? Start by seeking a personal revelation of God. Then take an inward look at who you are and what needs to change. Finally, start obeying God's call in the everyday opportunities of daily life. As your heart begins to beat in harmony with God's, you'll discover His call on your life. Who knows, you might just end up at the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism! 



Journey out of Mental Egypt

by John Samuel Jeremiah

For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to find and know truth. My favorite school subjects were math and science because they explained how things worked in the world. By middle school, I had a pretty good understanding of evolution and, having little religious instruction at home or school, I tended to believe it. By high school graduation, I was an atheist. I thought that people who believed in a god were out of touch with reality. I asked myself, "Why do people embrace a god with no evidence?" All religions were simply futile attempts to convince people they would go to a mythological utopia if they lived a certain way. People only lived to die ... and after death: no heaven, hell, or hope. What you see is what you get.

God's Subtle Shift

However, after completing my associate's degree, I began to ask deeper questions concerning my beliefs. A crucial thought entered my mind. "Why am I an atheist? Do I know of any evidence that disproves the existence of a god?" No, I knew of nothing that could refute God's existence. It just hit me: How could I be an atheist if I could not disprove God? I could not!

Yet if I was not an atheist, then what was I? This question tormented me for months, until I finally concluded that I was an agnostic—a person who did not know whether or not a god existed. But I wasn't satisfied with not knowing the answer to the question of all questions. I had to know if a god existed, and if so,

how should I relate to that god? This is where my journey began.

One idea was that perhaps all religions were just different ways of worshipping the same god. Instead of embracing one faith, I

found common features between most religions, and I attempted to consolidate their basic tenets into one. I studied Judaism's Ten Commandments, Islam's Five Pillars, and Buddhism's Five Precepts. However, the more I tried to harmonize these widely varying faiths, the more confused I became. As attractive as it was not to have to adhere to any particular organized religion, I began to believe that if there was a god, surely that god would have established a clear way to him. Putting together my own hodgepodge of existing religions was not the answer.

A Misrepresentation of Truth

Born, raised, and living in America, I naturally started researching Christianity next. I watched preachers who claimed to "get in the spirit." Then all of a sudden, they would begin babbling gibberish. Sometimes people claimed to have the "Holy Ghost" and began gyrating their bodies and screaming.

Other Christian programs were less amusing and more sobering. I watched sermons on television in which the preacher spoke about how the lost would burn in endless hellfire and where Satan would rule over them. I read about killings and tortures that occurred during the Christian inquisitions and crusades.

I used these superficial observations to formulate my view of Christianity, concluding that it was a hypocritical and oppressive religion based largely on fear and control. I believed preachers used the Bible to extort money from ignorant congregations. I thought, "I want to know the truth, not some archaic Bible." It was the worst mistake I ever made. Satan had tricked me into cutting off the hand that was feeding me.

A Troubling Alternative

As a young African-American male, my religious odyssey eventually gravitated toward "black" religions. I first considered the Nation of Islam, primarily for its ethnocentric approach to explaining the nature of God. My secular education caused me to strongly believe in evolution, and evolution taught that life originated in Africa. So I saw the Black Muslim movement as a practical means of merging my deeply held secular views with my racial predispositions.

I thought the truth might rest under layers of force-fed Eurocentric and Judeo-Christian beliefs. This slowly caused me to see African-Americans not as Americans of African descent, but rather as



Africans born in an oppressive America being deceived into embracing a white man's religious book and culture.

However, as a sincere seeker of truth and knowledge, I started questioning my own objectivity. I realized that much of the underlying mentality of Afrocentric religions ironically paralleled with Eurocentric sects such as the Aryan Nation and the Ku Klux Klan. Each group would twist their holy books to perpetuate their own racial ideologies. So while the Nation of Islam and other similar sects seemed tailored toward my carnal nature, my desire to find and know truth superseded my own ethnic biases. Arbitrarily assuming God would have my skin color was only allowing me to believe what my nature wanted to believe, instead of an honest search for truth. Truth, I determined, was neither black nor white.

Discovering Amazing Facts

Then one day, while channel surfing, I saw a part of some religious program called *Amazing Facts: Millennium of Prophecy*. The speaker, Doug Batchelor, dispelled many of my misconceptions concerning the Christian faith. His approach to the Bible caught my attention, presenting it with uncomplicated step-by-step reasoning. He would post a question, which appeared on screen, and then he would show relevant Scriptures, leaving it up to the individual to determine the proper answer. When he explained the prophecy given to King Nebuchadnezzar through vision, it was shown through the Bible how the times, dates, and sequence of events matched perfectly with the historical record. The Bible's prophetic accuracy in foretelling historical events made me consider that my previous assessments were probably wrong.

Come, Let Us Reason Together

I started tuning in to the program weekly. In one sermon, Pastor Doug proved from the Bible the true day of worship. I became convinced of the seventh-day Sabbath's permanence and that New Testament Christians should follow it.

This truly astonished me. A major hindrance to embracing the Bible as the Word of God was that I believed absolute truths could not be gained from it—just as $1+1=2$ is an unchanging, universal truth not subject to interpretation. If someone sincerely believes otherwise, then that person is sincerely wrong.

I knew of many intelligent people well versed in Bible study. The fact that they read the same Bible, yet came up with widely varying opinions on central doctrines further perpetuated my belief that Scripture could not be trusted. I thought, "If highly educated theologians can't agree on the Bible, then why should I waste my time trying to figure it out?" But as time progressed and I studied the Bible for myself, I began to see agreement where I once saw contradictions.

A writer I greatly admire states, "As several [Bible] writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony." This was the major turning point in my life. I began not only to understand the Bible's concepts, but the manner in which it flawlessly fit together compelled me to believe. I later located a Sabbathkeeping church and eventually enrolled in baptism class.

“Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me” (Exodus 9:1).

Spiritual Transformation

The weeks approaching my December 28, 2002, baptism were the greatest stages of transition in my life. I knew the Lord's Spirit was working in me. Things I once loved, I began to despise. I became a vegetarian, stopped listening to secular music, and even became faithful in returning tithes. My attitude toward life and people turned around, and instead of seeing what I did not have, I praised the Lord for blessing me so abundantly.

The desire I had as a child to find truth was really the voice of Jesus saying, "You will call on me, and I will listen. You will seek and find me when you search with all your heart. I will be found by you, and I will bring you back from captivity." I finally had my answer! Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. I was searching for Jesus the entire time and just didn't know it.

Now I see clearly that I was being held captive by my ignorance of God's love and mercy. I know that slavery to my ignorance was slavery to the devil himself. For years I had secretly blamed God for the devil's wrongdoing, but through faith in Christ, I have finally been made "wise unto salvation." I have the peace that surpasses understanding, because Jesus, my Lord and Savior, the Author and Finisher of my faith, called and delivered me out of mental Egypt! Amen. —

Behind the Scenes

What's new at Amazing Facts...

Most Amazing Story Contest Results

We received dozens of heart-warming and inspiring stories from ministry friends whose lives have been transformed by the good news through Amazing Facts. ("Contest" appeared in September/October 2002 issue.) We want to thank each person who took the time to share his or her story with the ministry—it was a tremendous blessing to the staff.



The ministry recognized Shane Davis' "My Most Amazing God" with a \$250 gift certificate for the Amazing Facts' store. Floyd R. Miller received a \$100 certificate for "First Fruits of Amazing Facts." And two entries each received a \$50 certificate. They are Gary and Kathleen Graham for "Overcome by the Blood of the Lamb" and Cass Hudson for "I have a Praying Mother."

Honorable mentions include Brenda DeLancey's "Grandfather's Book," Faye Lyon's "Finding My Own Church," Wyatt E. Allen's "Free, Truly Free," Antoine Boyd's "From Near Death to Eternal Life," and Robert Dold's "An Old Soldier Surrenders at Last."

Look for excerpts from these excellent testimonies in future issues of *Inside Report*. And the ministry is working to compile these and other testimonies in an upcoming book.

AFCOE in Denver with Mark Finley



From January 23 to May 31, 2004, AFCOE will hold its regular four-month *Complete Course* alongside Mark Finley's evangelistic meetings in Denver. Regular instruction by Amazing Facts staff such as Doug Batchelor, Annie Kjaer, Alan Parker, Ethelene Brady, and Gary Gibbs will be complemented by teaching from the Finleys, Don Schneider,

and others. Experienced AFCOE graduates will be working with this program to provide hands-on instruction in field and Bible work. To book your place in this dynamic program, please contact Mary Lou at 916-434-3880, ext. 3049. Hurry! Space is limited!

Advanced Training Now Available at AFCOE!

Already involved in ministry? Looking for new opportunities to develop your skills? You can now get advanced training at the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism!

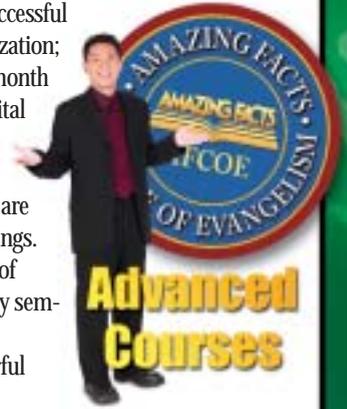
The one-month *Advanced Bible Worker Course* will develop greater confidence and skill in teaching God's Word. Especially developed for those who have done Bible work, this course enables you to implement a vibrant cycle of evangelism in almost any setting. Students will learn to reveal God's character,

explain the plan of salvation, connect His message with practical Christian experience, and meet people's spiritual needs.

For those in pastoral ministry, the *Pastoral Evangelism Course* offers four stirring one-week sessions in effective soul-winning. Learn the science of soul-winning; planning successful evangelistic meetings; church revitalization; and church planting. A special one-month track enables lay pastors to pick up vital skills for their ministries.

The *Public Evangelism Course* will benefit pastors and lay speakers who are interested in holding their own meetings. The course promises a dynamic mix of preaching, participation in a prophecy seminar, and bringing people to decision. Seasoned evangelists will offer powerful insights into effective soul-winning.

The *Complete Advanced Course* gives a discounted price to students who wish to take all three advanced programs consecutively. These advanced programs will help to complement AFCOE's existing four-month *Complete Evangelism Course*. For more information, please contact AFCOE's registrar at 916-434-3880, ext. 3049.



Bible School's Exciting Progress

The Bible School continues to reach souls through the grace of our Almighty God. Of course, this wouldn't be possible without the prayers and gifts from great friends like you! And we want to again acknowledge the sacrificial work of our essential volunteers, who in April and May alone contributed more than 1,000 hours of time.

Through May 2003, more than 45,507 lessons had been graded with 2,884 new students. And in April and May, nearly 4,000 letters about doctrine and faith were answered by our staff. With a current enrollment of online and correspondence students at 68,352, we praise God that 1,446 students have graduated from our website and mail schools so far this year. Amen!

Ministry Family Grows

As we told you in January, Jacob Bradshaw, son of Amazing Facts' evangelist John Bradshaw, has a sister to keep him company when dad is giving soul-winning presentations and mom is moving hearts with inspiring music at a prophecy seminar. We felt compelled to



share Shannon Grace, born on December 14, 2002, with our ministry friends after John finally showed us a picture. Please pray for the Bradshaw family, and all of our evangelists and their families, as they continue in the Lord's work in these end-times.



Come and See!

Amazing Facts Prepares for Korea

By Richard Calderon

We need to raise **\$250,000** by November to pay for our costs, a very small sum to offer the light of Jesus to those living in darkness.

In April, I traveled to the beautiful nation of Korea on behalf of Amazing Facts to oversee the strategic planning and ongoing preparations being made for Pastor Doug Batchelor's upcoming satellite evangelistic series in Seoul, November 7-15, 2003.

The airports were not filled with their usual bustling business during my trip as the SARS crisis gripped Asia, so I was struck by the complete commitment of our Korean brethren for advancing the Lord's work in their country.

Pastor Doug hopes this excitement will transform thousands of lives. "Jesus beckoned, 'Come, and see,'" he says. "Those who do not know the truth are blind, but if they come to Jesus, they will see. This worldwide event will give them that chance."

Our Brethren at Work

While in Korea, I had the privilege of attending a graduation ceremony for 74 laypersons who completed a lay-training series. Many have full-time jobs, but made the sacrifice so they could learn how to share the Good News with their neighbors.

In the mornings, they received instruction and in the afternoon they practiced what they learned in the surrounding neighborhood. They finished each day sharing their experiences from an

afternoon of door-to-door evangelism. Each graduate was given supplies to meet the different needs of their Bible students, and they will be part of the groundwork for Pastor Doug's meeting. As one organizer says, "With their dedication and love for our Lord, we can't fail!"

Pastor Doug explains, "Amazing Facts, in partnership with ATN and the Korean church, is broadcasting the light throughout the Pacific Rim. Some people will never see Jesus unless we reflect His light to them. This satellite event gives millions of laity the opportunity to do just that."

In June, I'll return to Korea to help promote the event and encourage laity participation. Please pray for the dedicated laypeople as they do all they can for their country and the Lord. 



Sow One Billion!



As part of a bold, collective initiative to Sow One Billion, an effort to place a small tract about

Jesus and an offer of a Bible study into the hands of a billion people worldwide, Amazing Facts is seeking volunteers to help translate our materials, especially our *Bible Study Guides* and *Storacles*, into the Internet's most-widely used languages.

These materials will be featured on a church-sponsored site called HopeTalk, where truth-seekers can find Bible studies from various ministries in their language. Our online Bible schools have been asked to provide our Study Guides and *Storacles*.

We need our friends to be a part of this end-time international soul-winning endeavor. If you can assist us in translating any number of Amazing

Facts publications or tracking down our materials that have been translated outside our knowledge, please contact us. We simply want to use these materials in a unified effort to reach a billion souls needing Jesus.

Here's what you can do to help:

1. Translate our lessons into one of the 33 major online languages (see below). If you are interested, go to www.bibleuniverse.com and fill out a language translation application.
 2. We know many have already translated our Bible study materials. If you know of any and how we can get a copy, contact Richard Calderon at 916-434-3880 or e-mail richardc@amazingfacts.org.
- We have already received a Chinese (Mandarin) translation that's really special to behold. So we hope you'll get into the spirit of evangelism and help spread the end-time message of Jesus. Whatever you can do, please pray that this bold project will reap a great harvest for the kingdom.

Top Languages We Still Need: Japanese, Spanish, German, Korean, Italian, French, Portuguese, Russian, Dutch, Malay, and Swedish. (Go to BibleUniverse.com for more languages!) Remember, we especially need our Study Guides and *Storacles*, but translations of booklets and other resources are gladly appreciated!



Special Recognition

In Loving Memory of

Ruby Anderson from Anna May Waters
Florette Elizabeth Andrews from Vernon Andrews, her husband;
from Myra Christianson; from Dan and Dianne Hurst
Honey Atkins from Rob Atkins
Mrs. Leta M. Austin from Pastor and Mrs. Lloyd W. Austin
Theron and Pauline Avery from Stanley Reesman

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Horace Bennett from Stanley Reesman
Billie Blumenshien from Charles and Peggy Chavez
Jewell and Betty Bolejack from Richard Brinley
Olga Borg from Jean Ostlund
Charles Borris from Ann Borris, his mother
Peter Borris from Ann Borris, his wife
A. H. Bos from Harriet R. Bos, his wife
Elaine Brizendine from Demas and Verna Borba
Edwin G. Brown from Dorothea F. Brown, his wife
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Eleanor Cook from Beulah Griffith
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Gertrude Green from Clark and Ada Williston
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Frances Ellen Groves from Mary Frances, her daughter
Washington Hames Groves from Mary Frances, his daughter
Violete and Glenn Guille from Nellie and Pat Newer, their daughter and son-in-law

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Betty Houghtaling from Stanley Reesman
James and Ellen Howell from Gayle Tyroff, their granddaughter
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Chris and Delia Jensen from Irene Krull, their daughter
Herluf Jensen from Mr. and Mrs. Kent Dickinson
Ruth Jensen from Irene Krull, her sister-in-law
Bev Johnson from Steve, Donna, Matt, and Stephanie Dickie
Blaine Johnson from Evelyn Neal, his mother
Jack Johnson from Evelyn Neal, his mother

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Alberta Lammerding from Bonnie and Ed Ensminger, her daughter and son-in-law
Marvin Lang from Olga Lang, his wife
Ed Leboef, Sr. from Stanley Reesman

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. Due to space limitations, a maximum of six names will be printed per donation per issue.



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Bill Zima, Jr. from Patricia Zima, his mother
Bill Zima, Sr. Patricia Zima, his wife
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Z

Happy Anniversary

Evelyn Reeves from Joann Harlan, her sister
George and Virginia Livermore (57th)
Bob and Ginny McNary from Linda Kuciauskas
Albert and Arlene Wiggins (46th)

Happy Birthday

Isabella Brunkow from Kristine Brunkow
Ira Crabtree (90th) from John and Therissa Young
Florence Frank (95th) from Mary Lou Crutcher, her daughter
Madeline Hutson (90th) from Eldon and Barbara Jean Stratton
Terri Manning by Hazel Freeman, her mother
Tressie Newbury from Albert and Arlene Wiggins
C. Mercer Straw
Heinz Wassermann (75th) by Inge Junghans, his sister

In Honor of

Martha Eisenbach from Esther R. Henderson
Yvonne Palmer from Lillian Johnson
Harold D. Schwartz from Esther R. Henderson

New Birth

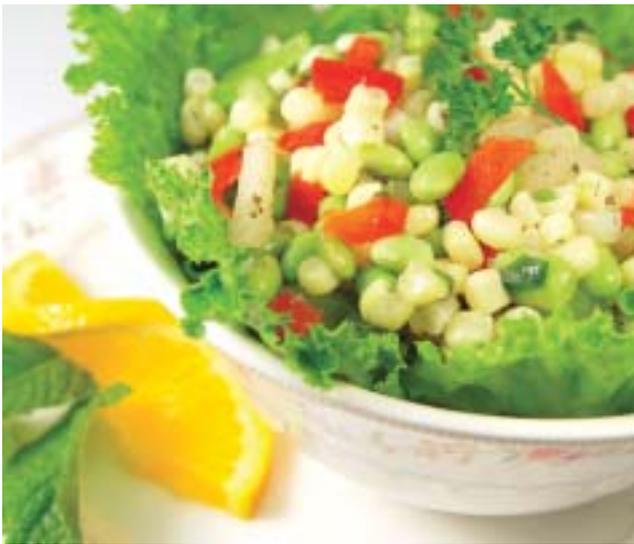
Chele Madison Stefan from Ruth and Frank Waxter



Here are some of our staff's favorite recipes!

Green Soy Salad

From: Cyndee, Correspondence Secretary
Cyndee loves green soybeans, which is why this recipe in Neil Nedley's *Depression: The Way Out* (available from Amazing Facts) really caught her attention. "It's a great salad for summer picnics!"



What you need:

- 1 12 oz. pkg. frozen shelled green soybeans
- 1 16 oz. pkg. frozen shoepeg white corn
- 1 8 oz. can water chestnuts
- 3/8 cup celery, chopped
- 1/3 cup green onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup red sweet pepper, diced
- 5 tbsp. lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 1/2 tsp. honey
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tbsp. fresh parsley, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, pressed
- 1/8 tsp. dill weed
- 1/4 tsp. sweet basil

What you do:

1. Slice chestnuts in thin strips
2. In a large bowl combine all vegetables.
3. In a small jar, combine remaining ingredients, cover, and shake well. Chill at least 2 hours. Serve on lettuce leaves and garnish with fresh mint.

Vegetarian Chicken Enchiladas

From: Mary Van Asperen, Administrative Assistant

What you need:

- 1 8 oz. pkg. Tofutti Cream Cheese
- 1/2 cup chunky mild salsa
- 2 cans Fri-Chick, cubed
- 1 cup green bell pepper, diced
- 8 6-inch flour tortillas
- 2 cans mild enchilada sauce
- 1 cup shredded tofu cheese

What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F, lightly grease casserole dish and set aside.
2. Combine first 4 ingredients in pan, heat on medium until cream cheese is melted.
3. Fill flour tortillas down center with above mixture, roll tortillas and place seam down in casserole dish
4. Pour enchilada sauce over all the enchiladas
5. Place uncovered in oven and bake for 15 minutes or until sauce is bubbling
6. Sprinkle shredded tofu cheese over the enchiladas (completely cover)
7. Bake until cheese is melted

While baking enchiladas, prepare the Cheese Sauce found on page 14.



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