

# AMAZING

*Inside  
Report*

# FACTS

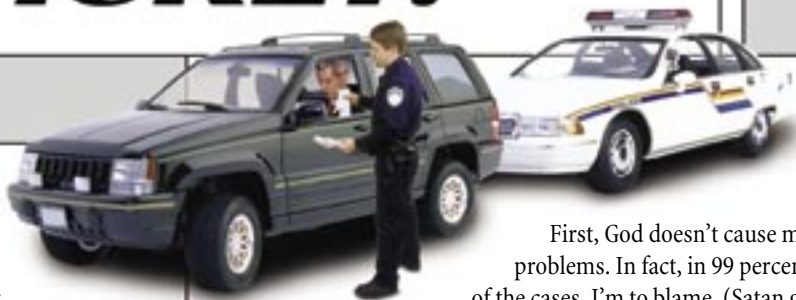
July/August 2004

WHO do you think  
you ARE?



# Where Was **GOD** When I Got My **SPEEDING** **TICKET?**

By C.K. Lester



**I** don't know what I was thinking as I drove that familiar route home. All I know is I wasn't paying attention to the traffic and found myself being directed by a police officer to pull into the parking lot. I knew I had been caught for speeding, but I had no idea how fast I was going or even what the speed limit was. My initial thought was, "I can't afford this right now."

The police officer was polite as he informed me that the speed limit was 30, that it didn't increase until a block later to 35, and that he'd clocked me going 47. He proved it by showing me the radar gun.

I calmly accepted my fate as he went back to his vehicle to write up the ticket.

"I really can't afford this right now," I thought to myself, throwing in a quick and subtle, almost subconscious, "Father, are you listening?" And I really couldn't afford it! Despite just having started to attend a financial planning seminar at church, I was already in the hole for the month.

I want you to know, though, that I love God more than anything on this planet. It is because of Him that my days are filled with peace and joy, despite any particular moment's issue.

So while the officer was away, a prayer left my mind: "I'm sorry, Father. Please, let me get out of this one. Make him merciful, Lord. I'll stop speeding. Just let me not have to deal with this right now."

Alas, the officer returned and explained the ticket to me, had me sign it, handed me my yellow copy, then thanked me for my courtesies.

I was not ruffled. My peace and joy remained. To be totally honest, I had it coming. I sped almost everywhere I went. I don't know if I've just gotten impatient, or if a pound of lead had collected in my sole. This was going to be just another item on my "To Do" list. I had done the deed, and I was going to pay for it. As I drove off, I wondered how God was going to use this for His glory.

Of course, I fully believe that God, if He had willed it, could have let me get off scot-free (whatever that means!). So it must have been in His will for me to not get away with it. What can I learn from this experience? What knowledge will be reinforced by the event?

First, God doesn't cause my problems. In fact, in 99 percent of the cases, I'm to blame. (Satan gets

the other one percent.) God is never responsible when I break the law (whether civil or spiritual). It saddens me to hear people blame God for this life's problems. God is a Father of love, who wants only the best for us! When we do what He says, that's when peace and joy enter our lives. When we do what we think is best for us (like getting somewhere two minutes earlier rather than driving the speed limit), we sometimes suffer the consequences. This incident spurred me to examine where in my spiritual life I might have collected too much lead in my "soul." I know there are tickets that the great policeman needs to write me. Praise God I can appeal to a merciful judge!

Second, God doesn't always "rescue" us from or remove the consequences of our mistakes. To rescue us would often deprive us of the opportunity to be molded, formed, and shaped more into the image of our Savior. Really, it's up to us. If we don't want to be rescued, we shouldn't jump into those problems with both feet.

Third, God can work all for His glory and the good of those who love Him. Even when we do mess up, He can use those circumstances to bolster His kingdom. If we admit our shortcomings and turn back to Him with a repentant heart, He can step right back in and

work things out for good. Who knows? Maybe I'll witness to a fellow lawbreaker at court. Maybe I'll get to stand up in front of the judge and proclaim the truth of the Sabbath! Most likely, though, this incident will serve to refine me. It will open my eyes to the law and the irritating and costly consequences of breaking it. Yes, I already knew about the law, just like Eve knew the law to not eat the fruit. But sometimes, like immature children, we choose to learn the hard way.

Finally, consider how you handle getting a speeding ticket. Do you get angry with God? Do you curse your circumstances? Do you blame the devil? The fact is, the guilty Christian will fess up to his misdeed, repent, and seek to learn from the experience, knowing, by faith and experience, that his Father is still there. The innocent Christian (because we are sometimes wrongfully accused) will find the opportunity God has given to glorify Jesus.





*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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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.

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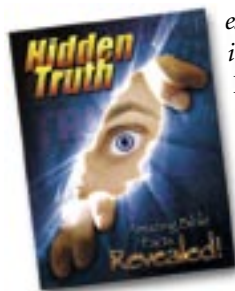
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# Mail Bag

## What Happened to March/April?

When will the latest edition of *Inside Report* be posted online? I've been waiting anxiously for it, but there's still nothing on your website. Put it up soon, please! I don't know how much longer I can bear to go without it. Thanks a bunch! *J.S., e-mail*

*Editor's Note: The March/April 2004 issue of Inside Report was set aside so that we could publish the Hidden Truth magazine. Each subscriber was sent a free copy of this exciting sharing resource in place of the missed Inside Report.*



## Hidden Truth

I received and read your witnessing magazine *Hidden Truth* and would like to

compliment Amazing Facts for putting together this amazing publication that tells God's Word as it is, without twisting the facts and truth as so many do. I will soon be ordering these to use as a witnessing tool. Again, thanks for a job well done! *D.W., Colorado*

## Evangelist at Work

I'm glad to see Pastor Mike Troxell here with his inspiring message of hope from God. It is wonderful to have such a person with high energy and great delivery with the last-day events. I've never felt so good helping out with a program. Pastor Mike will be missed. God bless all of you for doing the Lord's work. *S.F., Minnesota*

## A Clear Direction

Thank you for all of your teaching and insight. You are literally the answer to my prayers regarding some very heavy questions I had for the Lord regarding my life. For every one, you and your ministry have given me an answer. Where I was not clear in which direction I should go,

and what decision I should make, I kept waiting for an angel to hit me over the head with the answers! Instead, I got from you God's plain, simple truths. Please keep doing what you are doing. God has blessed this world with your love for His Word and with your dedication in spreading the gospel. *S.C., e-mail*

**Book of Amazing Facts**

I'm writing to commend you on your *Book of Amazing Facts, Vol. 1*. My family and I have enjoyed it very much. It has been an excellent resource for Sabbath school and children's story settings, as well as for worship. It is also interesting to non-Christians too! Thank you for blessing us with your collection of interesting and amazing facts! Are you considering a volume 2?

*K.C., California*

**Bible Answers**

*Editor's Note: A Book of Amazing Facts, Vol. 2 is indeed in the works. But in the meantime, check out our just-published Book of Bible Answers, the very best question-and-answers from Bible Answers Live.*

## The World Is Watching

I have a satellite dish, and from the time I had it installed, it has helped perform wonders on me in my Christian stand. I live in a country town in Zambia, which is so remote that we do not get the national television network. I am the only one with a satellite dish in the area, and your programs on 3ABN are having a positive impact. *C.M., Zambia, Africa*

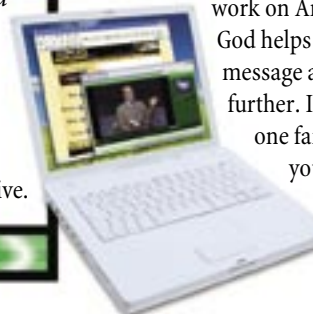


I've been watching your program, and it has truly been a blessing to me. It has also been an eye-opener, and I have learned a lot from your teachings. May God bless your ministry. *J.A., Israel*

It is a pleasure listening to your sermons on 3ABN. Your programs have taught me to better understand subjects like baptism, death, and most of all, the Sabbath. I am a Protestant and I have now seen that many Bible subjects are well explained and better understood by your church. *A.P., India*

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter from [name withheld], a completely Islamic country. For many like me working here, radio and TV ministries are a great blessing, and I see all of your telecasts. My favorite is your question-and-answers! I praise the Lord for using your ministry to spread His words all around the world. *Anonymous*

I am a Muslim student living in London. I just wanted to thank you for your amazing work on Amazing Facts. I hope God helps you to spread His message around the world further. I am your number one fan, and I watch all your programs online through the Internet. *K.B., United Kingdom*



*Inside Report welcomes all correspondence regarding the magazine and other Amazing Facts ministries. Letters and other materials sent to Amazing Facts may be used—in whole or in part and edited for content, grammar, and readability—in future publications unless otherwise requested. 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.*



# Thankful? Absolutely!



**D**ick and Jeri had worked hard, raised a family, paid off their debts, and even built up some savings. And they had always stayed close to the Lord in their daily living. But then trouble suddenly came upon them . . .

"This isn't happening! I just can't believe it." There was panic in the Knipple household. Identity theft just wasn't supposed to happen to them—someone else maybe, but not them. What should they do?

We Christians sometimes like to think that when we are responsible, law-abiding citizens and faithful stewards, nothing unjust or harmful will happen to us. However, even though it is sometimes hard to understand or even believe, we're told that "the prince of this world" seeks to hurt and destroy every one of God's children (John 12:31; Ephesians 6:12).



Dick and Jeri immediately went to the Lord for His direction, doing all they could to recover the large sum of money that had been stolen from them. And by His grace, the perpetrator was caught and they recovered what had been lost. With their trial behind them, they counted their blessings and thanked their heavenly Father.

## Grateful Servants Find Unexpected Opportunity

Before the identity theft, Dick and Jeri Knipple had acquired a good portion to invest. Unfortunately, the funds were drawing so little interest at their bank that they wondered if it was a wise investment.

Their hearts were filled with gratitude to God in delivering them in their time of crisis, and now they asked Him to show them how they could express their gratitude with a thank offering. "What would you have us do with this money, Lord?" they prayed.

The very next day, they discovered Amazing Facts new *Hidden Truth* in their mailbox. In the middle of the magazine they found an insert that offered them just what they were seeking—a **charitable gift annuity!** God had answered their prayers!

Here's what an investment in the Lord's work can do for you:

- **Guaranteed fixed income for life**
- **Very good rates (see chart)**
- **Large tax deduction**
- **Partially tax-free income**
- **Fulfillment of your charitable intent**
- **Support of God's end-time work**

### Single Life Rate of Return

AGE	RATE
55	5.5%
60	5.7%
65	6.0%
70	6.5%
75	7.1%
80	8.0%
85	9.5%
90	11.3%



**Minimum  
Gift Amounts**  
Single Life: \$5,000  
Two-Life: \$10,000

If you would like additional information from the Amazing Facts Planned Giving Department, please contact John Bridges, director, or Judy Schachten, secretary, at 800-436-2695, ext. 3029.

# WHO do you think

**An Amazing Fact:** Identity theft is a growing crime in America. It happens when someone wrongfully obtains and uses another's personal data for fraud or deception, typically for economic gain. Unlike your fingerprints, your personal data—especially your Social Security number, bank account or credit card number, or telephone calling card PIN—can be terribly abused if they fall into the wrong hands, profiting others at your expense. Every day, hundreds, if not thousands, of people across the country report funds stolen from their accounts. In the worst cases, criminals completely take over victims' identities, run up vast debts and commit crimes, leaving the victims with destroyed credit and a criminal record that takes years to correct.

Did you know that the devil tried to steal your identity, leaving you in debt and with a criminal record beyond your means to repay?

**A** naturalist visiting a farm one day was surprised to see a beautiful eagle in the farmer's chicken coop. Befuddled, he asked, "Why in the world is that eagle living with chickens?"

"Well," answered the farmer, "I found an abandoned eagle's egg one day and laid it in the coop, and a chicken adopted it and raised the creature after it hatched. It doesn't know any better; it thinks it's a chicken." The eagle was even pecking at grain and strutting awkwardly in circles.

"Doesn't it ever try to fly out of there?" asked the naturalist, noticing that the bird never lifted its gaze.

"No," said the farmer. "I doubt it even knows what it means to fly."

The naturalist asked to take the eagle a few days for experiments, and the farmer agreed.

First, the scientist placed the eagle on a fence and pushed it off, bellowing, "Fly!" But the bird just fell to the ground and continued pecking. He then climbed to the top of a tall hayloft and did the same thing, but the frightened bird just shrieked and fluttered ungraciously to the barnyard, where it resumed its strutting.

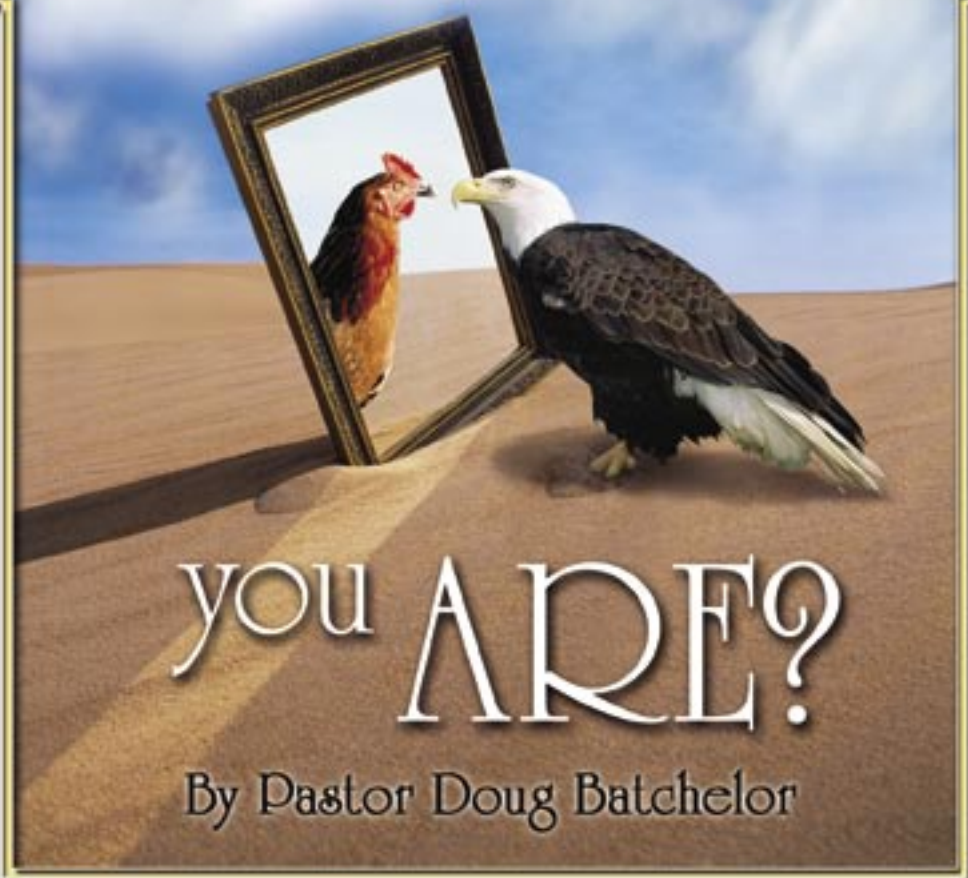
Finally, the naturalist took the docile bird away from the environment to which it had grown accustomed, driving to the highest butte

in the county. After a lengthy and sweaty climb to the hillcrest with the bird tucked under his arm, he peered over the edge, and then spoke gently, "Friend, you were born to soar. It is better that you die here today on the rocks below than live the rest of your life being a chicken. It's not what you are."

Suddenly, the confused bird, with its keen eyesight, spotted another eagle soaring on the currents high above the bluff, and a hidden yearning was kindled within it. The naturalist threw the majestic beast up and over the edge, crying out, "Fly! Fly! Fly!" The bird began to tumble toward the rocks below, but then it opened its seven-foot span of wings, gracefully gliding into the blue sky. With a mighty screech, it instinctively began to flap its powerful wings, climbing ever-higher in spirals on unseen thermals. Soon after, the mighty eagle disappeared into the glare of the morning sun.

## Spiritual Amnesia

My mother used to tell me that my brother Falcon and I had very different personalities. She remembered asking him, "Who do you think you are?" when he was just three or four years old. He'd always





answer, "I'm Falcon Batchelor." He never had any doubts. But when she asked me that question, it made me think a long while. "Who am I? Where did I come from?" For Falcon it was very simple, but for me it was a profound mystery.

Likewise, many people are confused about who they are; they have an identity crisis. Edgar Rice Burroughs's *Tarzan of the Apes* chronicles the life of a man who was adopted by gorillas as a baby when his missionary parents are killed in Africa. The boy grows into manhood thinking he is an ape. Far from fantasy, the book is based on some true reports of human babies being raised by wild animals, like the wolf-child in France who ran around on all fours. He was a human who didn't know he was human; he didn't know who he really was.

For Christians to have that kind of identity crisis is a real tragedy. It's like a lost driver who keeps driving around even though he has no idea where to go. That's bad news.

Cases of complete amnesia are very rare: A person receives some kind of blunt trauma to the head and wakes up feeling fine, everything functioning normally—except she just doesn't know who she is anymore. I believe many Christians in today's church are going through all the motions, but they're really bewildered—suffering from "spiritual amnesia." They are unnerved into feeling insecure in their relationship with the Father and more easily fall into sin.

But it doesn't have to be this way, if they will remember who they really are.

## Slaves to Forgetfulness

The Bible says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV). What you think about yourself has a great impact on how you behave. It's true! For proof, we need not look any further than the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. They'd been treated like slaves in Egypt for so long that they started to think they were nothing more than that.

They didn't know who they were, even as God kept trying to tell them they were destined to be a great people. "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). Israel was the Almighty's chosen people, yet at times they wished to return to their land of bondage. That's the epitome of an identity crisis.

How can a people chosen by God not know who they are? God was in their very midst, yet they still suffered from spiritual amnesia. Like Christians today who suffer from this same dilemma, their troubles stemmed from carnal thinking, and it was this very crisis of self that

kept causing them to stumble, so much so that many of them never made it to the land flowing with milk and honey.

This is far different from the story of their ancestor and great Jewish hero Joseph, who experienced the most radical change possible in outward circumstances yet still retained the knowledge of who he was. Even though the attitude of those around him often changed suddenly, it never affected his attitude about God or his perception of God's thoughts toward him. He remembered that God chose his family, even when he ended up as a slave in a strange land. He conducted himself with faithfulness and dignity despite being falsely accused and thrown into jail. Not once did he think himself a slave or a prisoner, never allowing the environment around him to dictate who he was.

Then one day, he goes before Pharaoh, who recognizes in Joseph a sense of nobility and leadership and promotes him to the position of prime minister of the mighty empire. Because he had not forgotten who he was, no matter how low he found himself, Joseph always floated to the top.

## Reality Check

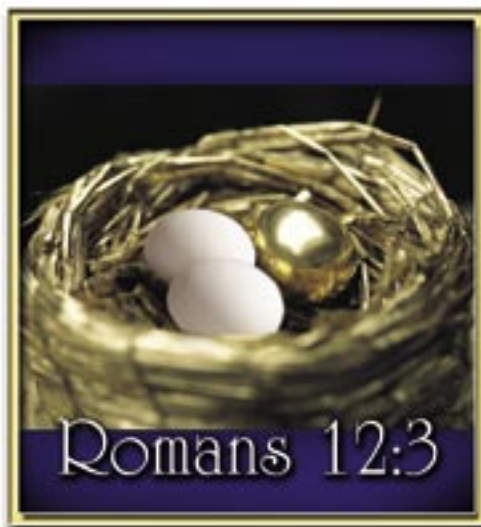
A lot of talk today revolves around self-esteem, usually for those who don't have enough. But sometimes we can have too much; some people are very much in love with themselves. Both of these

extremes are counter to what God wants for us. Further, I haven't seen very many "healthy" presentations on the difference between a good attitude in Christ and an overabundance of self-esteem. Many folks get this confused and cling to unrealistic visions of grandeur.

So the Bible reminds us, "For I say ... to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3). Notice that Paul does not say, "Think low of yourself." No, he's telling us to be realistic about ourselves.

We have two extremes we must avoid.

Some people think of themselves as trash and go groveling around letting people step all over them. Imagine meeting Michael Jordan on the basketball court and asking him, "Can you play basketball?" He answers, "I'm learning." That's not humility—that's a lie! In the very least he should say, "I'm pretty good." Being realistic isn't being arrogant, and Christians should have a reasonable confidence





about what they can (and can't) do.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have the smug, arrogant problems of the last-day church that thinks it is far better off than it really is. Revelation 3:17 warns, "You say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that

you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (NKJV). Isn't Jesus saying here, "You don't know who you really are"? The last-day church is wretched and poor, but her members think they are superior and rich. We desperately need to grasp who we really are, what our true condition is before God.

Essentially, it is better to come in thinking a little less of yourself than thinking too highly. If you're not sure how to feel about yourself, be cautious to think less than more. You should let the Lord level the field for you. Jeremiah 45:5 commands, "And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them" (NKJV). Is it okay to seek great things? Yes, but not for yourself! Seek great things for God, and He will show you who you are.

## An Unreliable Source

To find out who you are, the last place you need to look is the world. You are not who the world thinks you are. Jesus did not obtain His identity from what the world thought of Him; it didn't even know who He was. Sadly, His very own received Him not. If the world can't figure out who Jesus is, why should we worry about what it thinks of His followers?

Jesus asks, "If I, your Lord and Master, have been persecuted and rejected, why are you expecting otherwise?" Don't wait for the world to appreciate or recognize you and know who you are in Christ. It will never happen; they will never heap praise on you. Remember, the nation of Israel was destroyed because it did not know who Jesus was!

The apostle Paul says, "And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day" (1 Corinthians 4:12, 13). Expect only this from the world; don't try to get your identity from it. The world looks at us as the offscouring, the stuff you scrape away.

Today's church gets into a lot of trouble trying to get its self-esteem from the world. It often wants to be appreciated and accepted by the world, and this misguided desire leads some in the church to adopt worldly characteristics—in style, in worship, in conduct, in dress, and in music—and it reaps worldly consequences. Likewise, if you're trying to be recognized by the world, you are probably doing something wrong. Jesus said, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26).

The teachings of Jesus are foreign to the world. They are radical and strange: love your enemies, turn the other cheek, go two miles instead of one. How can the world understand that when it is so different? It doesn't understand why you would walk back to the grocery store to return that extra nickel in change, or to be completely honest with your taxes when you could easily cheat. It's illogical!

Don't get your identity from the world; it tries to make you believe you're not much more than a monkey. But Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (NKJV).

## A Tree or a Turnip?

Now I want you to explore who you are—in Bible terms. This is where you can get an accurate, reliable picture of who you are to God, the One who created you and knows you better than anyone else.

This might seem a little strange, but are you a tree or a turnip? Let me explain!

Some people are always in a frenzy, convinced that life is a shopping spree. They are running around eating and drinking and trying to get as much carnal pleasure as possible, believing that we're here for only a short while. Turnips have a very short lifespan, measured in weeks, and then they wither, crack, and die. Is that who you are? Or are you a tree—an ageless redwood? What does the Bible say?

"For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands" (Isaiah 65:22 NKJV).

If you win a 10-minute shopping spree at an electronics store, are you going to shop furiously or casually? Of course, you'll be running at breakneck speed up and down the aisles stuffing the most expensive items you can find into the cart! You'd be in a frenzy. Why? Because you're thinking like a turnip—your time is short.

If all you see to life is pleasure now, you'll be frantically trying to get as much of it as possible, all the while never realizing that this life is about getting a good foundation for living in eternity. God wants us to experience life like a redwood tree, not a turnip.

Are you here for just a little while? Your answer will affect your philosophy about everything else. Some Christians say they believe in heaven and eternity, but in their innermost souls they're thinking like



a turnip “just in case,” and they are suffering spiritual amnesia for it. They’re frantic because their time is running short.

Who do you think you are? If you’re like them, you’ll always be frantic because this life is indeed short. But if you believe you are a tree, living with the promise of everlasting life, you won’t need to get all that pleasure right here and right now. You’ll be satisfied living with self-denial, because you know even greater things await in paradise. You can think, “At His right hand are pleasures forever more through eternity. I don’t have to think like a turnip and get it all right now. I can think like a tree.” The one who trusts in the Lord is “like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:3). This world is temporary—you don’t have to be.

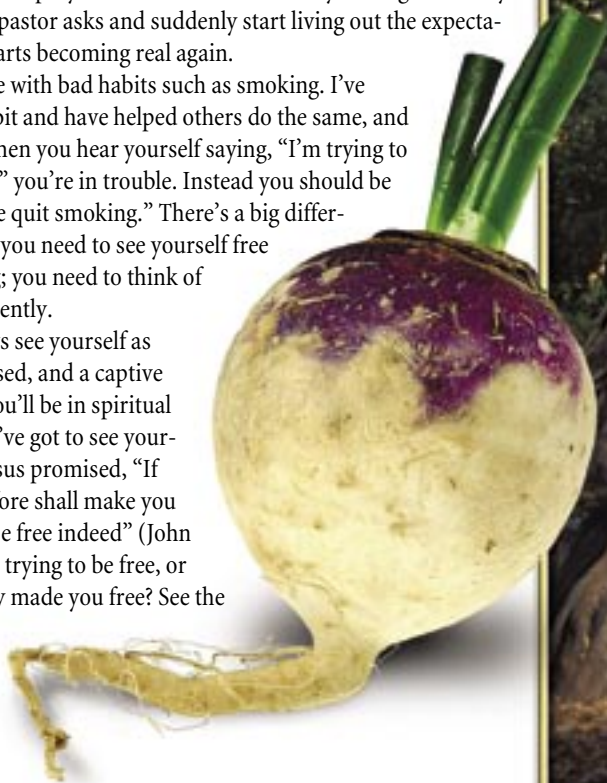
### Are You a Saint?

Have you ever wondered why Paul and other Bible writers refer to us as saints now? (See Romans 1:7 for an example.) I think Paul addressed the church as saints because he hoped they would rise to the occasion. If he talked to them like they were saints, they’d start acting more like saints.

I’ve heard about pastors who visit backslidden church members and address them as though they were already active Christians again. They boldly ask these prodigals to visit a lonely neighbor who needs encouragement and prayer. And these backslidden members think, “Me? Have prayer for them? I’ve been away so long!” Yet they do what their pastor asks and suddenly start living out the expectations and it starts becoming real again.

It’s the same with bad habits such as smoking. I’ve kicked the habit and have helped others do the same, and I know that when you hear yourself saying, “I’m trying to quit smoking,” you’re in trouble. Instead you should be saying, “I have quit smoking.” There’s a big difference, because you need to see yourself free from smoking; you need to think of yourself differently.

If you always see yourself as fallen, oppressed, and a captive of the devil, you’ll be in spiritual captivity. You’ve got to see yourself as free. Jesus promised, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). Are you trying to be free, or has He already made you free? See the difference? God tells us



we are saints! "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness" (Colossians 1:12, 13). Will God deliver us, or has He already delivered us? When you believe it by faith, it becomes real. Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29).

Before Augustine converted, he lived a very profane and immoral life. But sometime after he experienced his radical conversion, he was walking down a street in Milan, Italy, and one of his old girlfriends saw him and was amazed that he looked right at her but kept going without even a nod of recognition. She chased him down the street, calling out, "Augustine, it is I! It is I!" But he turned and looked at her and said, "But it's no longer I."

This is the essence of righteousness by faith. You become righteous when you believe in His promises. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Do you think you are an old, dying creature, or a new creature living in Christ? What does the Bible say? You're not trying to shake off your old life, for that has already passed away. Paul's words were carefully chosen!

So who do you think you are? All things are new when you are in Christ. That's who you are, and it's wonderful when you start to envision it and make it real for your life.

## Are You Chosen?

"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 7:6). This promise comes from the Old Testament, but I believe it very much applies to His people today. We are spiritual Israel, and God says we are special.

Peter bears this out when he writes, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Peter was writing to a church who had spiritual amnesia, a church whose bar was set too low. They forgot who they were, and Peter had to remind them.

The church needs to be reminded of that often, but especially today. Think about it: How many generations have there been in the history of the world? Now which of these have been the most privileged? Arguably, there are a couple: the generation that witnessed Jesus's first coming—who wouldn't have wanted to live then?—and the generation that will behold His second coming. What a privilege to avoid the taste of death, to be alive on earth when the Lord descends!



God is telling you and me who we are—we don't have to wonder or be confused. We are peculiar; we are unique. We are chosen to reveal to the lost their true identity. This is the purpose for which you have been called—it is why you were born.

## A New Name

In 1970, the federal government established the federal Witness Protection Program. This project still provides a new identity to individuals who give court testimony or serve as witnesses even though it could endanger their lives, as in cases against organized crime syndicates. In exchange for this valuable testimony, the government gives witnesses completely new identities, furnishing them with new names, legal papers, occupations, and homes. (The government will even create new histories, complete with high school and college diplomas! In some cases, if a witness has a criminal record, it is wiped perfectly clean!)

Likewise, God promises His redeemed, "You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name" (Isaiah 62:2). God has given each of His children a new identity in Christ, His Witness Protection Program's best Agent, replacing the one the devil offered us in the garden of Eden when he tried to steal our identities as children of God.

Christ paid "top dollar" for you—with His blood—to provide this new identity. The Bible says that we are not our own. We belong to God. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV).

Who do you think you are? You're His! Where do you think you belong? On the winning team! You no longer need to be suffering spiritual amnesia; you don't need to be in the depths of an identity crisis. "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1 NKJV).

This message has extraordinarily good gospel potential, even though it might seem best suited for believing Christians. Salvation is all about getting a new identity! The more we tell people who they are in God, the more willing they will be to change leaders. Like I once did, they will cease to be slaves of the devil and will become servants of the Lord. Ask them who they think they are, and then tell them what Jesus says. They'll discover what it means to live life like a redwood and not a turnip; they will become new creatures living for eternity.

They will become saints, His chosen generation. 



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# Evangelism thrives in Santa Barbara

by Layton Lui



Despite the competing attractions of the musical *Cats* and professional sport playoffs, “Revelation Promises Hope” opened to a capacity audience at Victoria Hall Theater in downtown Santa Barbara. The newly renovated, cozy auditorium resonated as Amazing Facts’ Brian McMahon welcomed the crowd of expectant listeners to a Bible seminar in 24 installments. “In this seminar, you will learn from the Bible, and the Bible only,” Pastor McMahon promised.

Six hours earlier, dozens of members of the Santa Barbara church had scurried about, unloading a fleet of vehicles, arranging a reception area lined with Bibles and study materials, positioning floral decorations, vacuuming carpets, setting up sound and multimedia equipment, and arranging makeshift children’s classrooms. With God’s blessing and a well-organized corps of volunteers, the stage was set for the opening night of a successful series with only minutes to spare.

Over the next month, Pastor McMahon convincingly and caringly presented a relevant spiritual topic each evening to truth-hungry ears. Music for the series was coordinated by McMahon’s wife, Heidi, whose touching vocals set the perfect atmosphere for many of the meetings. During and following each seminar, church members behind the stage curtains offered prayers on behalf of the participants and audience. Elsewhere in the hall, a team of teachers led by Bill and June Jamison and Louise Rosell presented Bible lessons to the children.

## Divine Appointments

A year and a half earlier, former pastor Robert Taylor and evangelism coordinator Vance Johnson attended the West Point of Evangelism with the goal of selecting a speaker for a major reaping series in Santa Barbara.

They were directed to Brian McMahon by Pacific Union Conference’s Lloyd Wyman.

When Taylor and Johnson inquired of his availability for a series, McMahon reported that another church had just decided to cancel its request for that same time, so they jumped at the unexpected opportunity!

Weeks prior to the series’ start, conflicts arose regarding the scheduling of the venue. The theater company demanded the seminar be cancelled so as not to cut short a current production run. Also, space that had been earmarked for children’s classes recently had been converted to dressing rooms, rendering them off limits. However, it soon

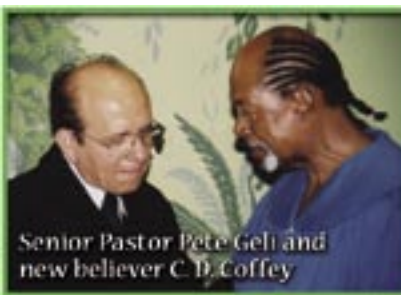
became crystal clear that God was in control of the situation—the scheduling was upheld and suitable space for classes was secured!

C. D. Coffey, one of the happy attendees who was baptized at the close of the seminar, recalled, “I had been looking for something that would give me an opportunity to study Scripture, believing that I needed more than myself to get into the Word. . . . I had been praying to the Lord that He would take me to a place of learning.” The answer to his prayer came in the form of a “Revelation Promises Hope” brochure handed to him by Bible worker Ron Foutz, a recent graduate of the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism.

## Divine Outcomes

Senior Pastor Pete Geli best summarized the impact of the seminar. “At a time when some people are thinking that evangelism is dead, Pastor Brian McMahon with the Amazing Facts Revelation seminar

showed that evangelism is alive and well—still capable of reaching people for God. At the close of the meetings, we have been blessed in Santa Barbara with 26 people who have joined



Senior Pastor Pete Geli and new believer C. D. Coffey

the church, 24 through baptism and two through profession of faith. In addition, 130 interests were studying Bible correspondence lessons.”

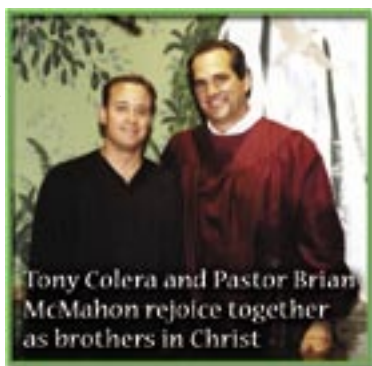
Vance Johnson, organizer of the meetings, observed that the beneficiaries of the seminar were not limited to visitors. “As I

think about the series, one of the exciting parts is to see the church members so revived and take an active part in soul winning; their willingness to do what it takes to make this a success.”

“Every seminar is a unique experience because of the people you work with,” recounts Pastor McMahon. “This Santa Barbara church showed us all what a meeting like this can be when the members put their efforts solidly behind it. From the very inception to the present time, the people here have supported with their sincere prayers, finances, time, efforts and warm, caring concern for all. I feel totally blessed to have been privileged to be the speaker and have a small part in all of it.”

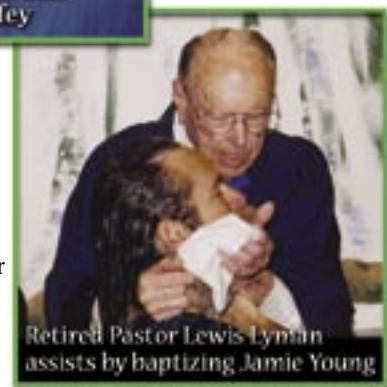
Dan Savino, director of the West Region of the Southern California Conference, personally witnessed the second of three straight Sabbaths of baptisms resulting from the McMahon series. “I want to commend the church here in Santa Barbara. Oh, that every one of our churches was involved in God’s work as you have been in the seeking and saving of that which is lost.”

Layton Lui is the communications director for the Santa Barbara church.



Tony Colera and Pastor Brian McMahon rejoice together as brothers in Christ

Photo by Patricia McDaniel



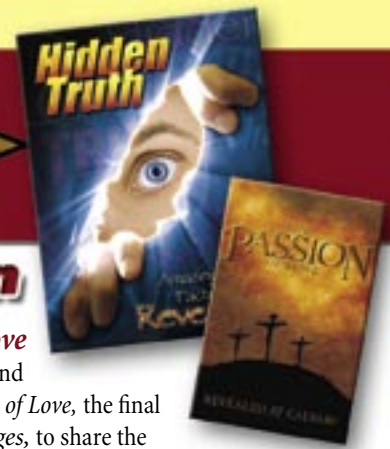
Retired Pastor Lewis Lyman assists by baptizing Jamie Young

Photos by Michael Sanchez



# Witnessing Corner

## Sharing The Passion



### The Hidden Truth Magazine

Amazing Facts has sold nearly 100,000 copies of the new *Hidden Truth* magazine since its release last April. The response has been phenomenal as people discover its incredible potential to share important but controversial Bible truths in an effective and efficient manner.

Readers are immediately drawn to the eye-catching cover and are opened to a whole-new world of Bible study in an easy-to-understand format—all peppered by fascinating trivia!

We are already receiving exciting reports of how others are sharing the *Hidden Truth* just about everywhere. For instance, Jamel, an inmate serving a sentence in New York State, writes:

*"I want to commend Amazing Facts on their magazine called Hidden Truth. It is quite enjoyable and easy to read, and I've already began to circulate the magazine around the facility. I enjoyed reading it from cover to cover, and I am sure others will too. It's very clear and precise in answering some of the most asked questions in the world and gives clear and powerful insight. I am recommending it to everyone here."*

After going through the study, interested seekers are invited to enroll for free Bible studies with Amazing Facts. Other friends of the ministry are leaving this great sharing tool in medical offices, airports, auto repair waiting areas, fast-food restaurants, bus stops, barbershops ... and many other places!

If you have ideas on how to share this or our other Christian resources, please write [editor@amazingfacts.org](mailto:editor@amazingfacts.org) today!




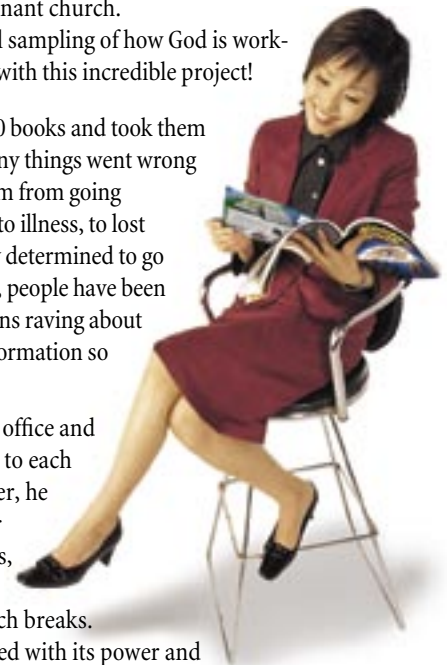
### Sharing The Passion of Love

Here's how ministry friends and others are using the *The Passion of Love*, the final 14 chapters of *The Desire of Ages*, to share the good news of Jesus in a biblical and insightful way ...

Amazing Facts' book *The Passion of Love*, printed by Remnant Publications, has touched many lives. And because the film *The Passion of the Christ* is still fresh in the minds of people with its recent DVD release, time is still right to share this incredible witnessing tool that will point many to God's remnant church.

The following is just a small sampling of how God is working through ministry friends with this incredible project!

- One family purchased 4,000 books and took them to the Kentucky Derby. Many things went wrong as Satan moved to stop them from going forward—from accidents, to illness, to lost shipments—but the family determined to go no matter what. As a result, people have been calling Remnant Publications raving about the book and asking for information so they could distribute it!
- A man went to a local UPS office and handed out a *Passion* book to each employee. A few weeks later, he received a thank-you letter signed by all the employees, who had been reading the book together on their lunch breaks. They were greatly impressed with its power and how well it matched up with the Bible.
- A church in Texas bought two pallets for a mass mailing, and soon after a man who had received the book from them wanted to help spread the message. Although he would not give his name or any other information about himself, he donated \$2,000 to further efforts.
- A man who owns a shipping company began leaving *Passion* books with every thing he ships. By press time, he has already shipped 1,000, and now he is working on the next thousand.
- A dental patient started reading a copy that someone had left in the lobby. He called the order number listed in the book from his cell phone while still in the dentist's office and ordered the complete *The Desire of Ages*. He also asked to join the Amazing Facts Bible studies.
- One church in Oregon is giving away *The Passion* at county fairs and other similar events. Amazing Facts has created a banner that can be used to advertise *Passion* giveaways at events you sponsor. E-mail [marketing@amazingfacts.org](mailto:marketing@amazingfacts.org) for details! 



# Amazing Facts EVANGELISM TEAM



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



Doug  
Batchelor



Emanuel  
Baek



John  
Bradshaw



Byron  
Corbett



Eric  
Flickinger



Lowell  
Hargreaves



Tyler  
Long



Brian  
McMahon



David  
Morgan



Jason  
Morgan



Jack  
Pefley



Dennis  
Priebe



Jason  
Sliger

## Doug Batchelor

July 7–10

Camp Meeting, Kingsway College  
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

July 21, 22

Camp Meeting  
Soquel, California

## Brian McMahon

September 10 – October 16

Clovis Church  
2370 Helm Ave  
Clovis, California

October 22 – November 27

Sacramento Central Church  
6045 Camellia Avenue  
Sacramento, California

## Jack Pefley

August 15 – November 20

San Antonio, Texas  
Call 916-434-3880 for details.

## John Bradshaw

September 10 – October 16

Campbell Church  
Campbell, California  
Call 408-866-4625 for details.

## David Morgan

July 23 – August 28

Days Inn  
17701 Interstate Highway 30  
Benton, Arkansas

## Dennis Priebe

July 2–4

Innisfree, Alberta Camp Meeting

August 7

Inchelium Mission Church,  
Washington

August 13–14

Raymond Willapa Harbor Church,  
Washington

September 2 – 6

Pacific Northwest Youth Conference,  
Washington

September 10, 11

Middleton Church, Idaho

## Byron Corbett

September 10 – October 16

Filipino-American Church  
Seattle, Washington  
Call 206-923-0888 for details.

## Jason Morgan

July 23 – August 28

YWCA Building  
Fairmont, West Virginia  
Call 304-363-2079 for details.

## Eric Flickinger

July 30 – August 28

Albert Lea Civic Theater  
147 North Broadway Avenue  
Albert Lea, Minnesota

## Lowell Hargreaves

September 10 – October 16

Lebanon Church  
Lebanon, Montana  
Call 417-532-9618 for details.



## Tyler Long

July 9 – August 1

Aspen Grove Banquet Center  
9660 Dry Fork Road  
Harrison, Ohio

## Jason Sliger

July 9 – August 1

Clifton Church  
3800 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**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.



# The Awesome Power of God's Word

Transforming Word



by Hildelisa Flickinger

Hildelisa is the wife of Amazing Facts evangelist Eric Flickinger.

Eric and I have been so blessed to see how lives have been transformed and revived through the Word of God. Truly His Word shall not come back void! Here are just a few of the highlights and testimonies from a recent evangelistic meeting we were so privileged to conduct in Petaluma, California.

Miracles truly took place as we met many young people "on fire for the Lord." One parent even testified, "My son said that this is the first time he's stayed awake for a whole sermon," and another said, "I couldn't stop my 10-year-old daughter from coming to the meetings. She would do her homework as soon as she got home from school so she could come to the meetings."



It's wonderful to know that at our seminars, we're reaching children even at the earliest ages with the knowledge of the Scriptures. "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

## Seminar Turns Life Around

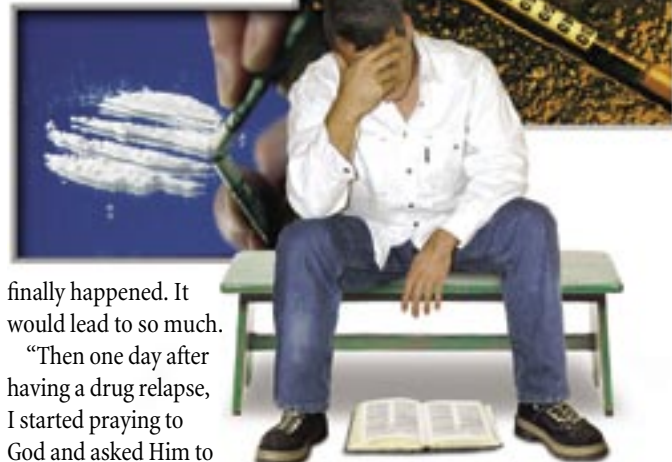
One young man, Dennis, has a very moving testimony of God's miraculous deliverance:

"My father passed away when I was eight, and I started smoking pot when I was 13, and soon after I was doing hard drugs like crystal meth. Many years later, my drug problems led to my divorce after 14 years of marriage. Not long after, my mother died and then I really got bad into drugs. I even started sharing needles and ended up with hepatitis C. Then I caught pneumonia and never recovered.

"My doctor eventually diagnosed me with emphysema, but even then all I thought about was doing drugs, all the time. I got to a point where I didn't care about anything, even my own family. I started going out on all-night binging, stealing things to get drug money.

"But one day, I realized that every one of my friends had nothing else but a life that was not worth much more than trash. That made me look in the mirror, and I realized that my own life was also trash. Some how, by God's grace, I started hating drugs and struggled with trying to quit for several years.

"Then one day, a friend talked me into going to an Amazing Facts seminar, with a speaker named Eric Flickinger. He taught me about the Bible, and everything he claimed about God's Word he showed from the Bible. That was something I had wanted all my life, and it



finally happened. It would lead to so much.

"Then one day after having a drug relapse, I started praying to God and asked Him to give me the strength to quit drugs forever. And all of a sudden,

I felt this incredible strength inside me and I knew for a fact that I would never touch drugs again. I prayed and thanked God for giving me the strength to quit something I had battled with for 19 years.

"Now I pray to God every day, thanking Him for letting me wake up to another day. I tell Him how much I love Him, and how much I am grateful that He died on the cross for my sins. Before this happened, I hated myself and felt like I had no future. But now I realize that I am loved, and I do have a future and the best is yet to come. I thank God for leading me to Eric and Pastor Ernie, and I know He will bless them in everything they do.

"Eric Flickinger will always hold a special place in my heart; I even sent him a thank-you card. I realized I should have died years ago, but God had been looking out for me. So now you know that if God would answer the prayers from an otherwise hopeless life, He will answer your prayers also. All you have to do is ask Him."

God's grace is indeed amazing! "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

*"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." - Romans 5:20*

# Christian Living



## Every Woman's Battle

**Shannon Ethridge.** The only way Christian women can survive the intense struggle for sexual integrity is by guarding not just their bodies, but also their minds and hearts. This wonderful guide to moral purity inside and outside of marriage will help you grow closer to your husband and enable you to develop a fulfilling relationship with Jesus.

**BK-EWB ... \$13.99**

## Failure Is Not an Option

**Jim Hohnberger.** Discover how to cultivate a meaningful spiritual life and have better family relationships by avoiding all the pitfalls of worldly indicators of success. God is ready to help you today!

**BK-FINO ... \$0.95**

## Hidden Dangers in Harry Potter

**Steve Wohlberg.** Get the real story behind this worldwide phenomenon that's enchanting your children with tales of witchcraft.

**BK-HDHP ... \$0.95**

## Reconnecting the Family

**Jim Hohnberger.** Learn how to re-establish a Christ-centered relationship with your entire family! Great for any family!

**BK-RCTF ... \$0.95**

## Revitalize Your Marriage

**Jim Hohnberger.** Rekindled the flames and remove the thorns that have gotten in the way of your God-given relationship. A beautiful gift for any couple.

**BK-RYM ... \$0.95**

## Patience in the Midst of Trials & Afflictions

**Samuel Koranteng-Pipim.** In a world plagued by sin, everyone will experience hurt, sorrow, and loss that can test even the most faithful Christians. Explore the nature of patience and why God permits tribulation, and how you can even benefit from trials. An amazing source of encouragement.

**BK-PITM ... \$10.99**



## Higher Still

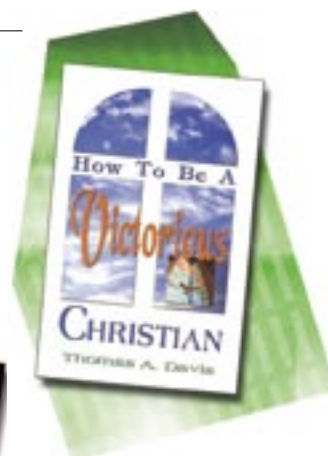
**Wellesley Muir.** If you want to be in heaven with Jesus for eternity, this practical but life-changing book will help you do just that. You'll be challenged to pick up your feet and start climbing into a richer Christian experience by actively participating in God's purpose for your life.

**BK-HS ... \$13.99**

## How to Be a Victorious Christian

**Thomas A. Davis.** Jesus wants His people to have real victory over sin. Learn how in this simple but convicting step-by-step guide that will show last-day believers how to be true overcomers. Jesus will live again in your heart in this practical, inviting journey!

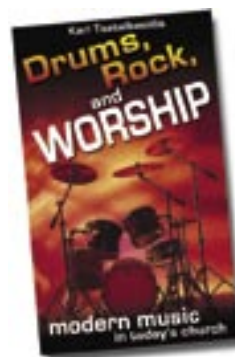
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## Drums, Rock, and Worship

**Karl Tsatalbasidis.** Explore 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!

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## America & the Ten Commandments

**Anthony Lester.** The cultural battle over church and state is igniting a firestorm that will decide this nation's final destiny. But can God's law really save a faltering country? The answer might surprise you!

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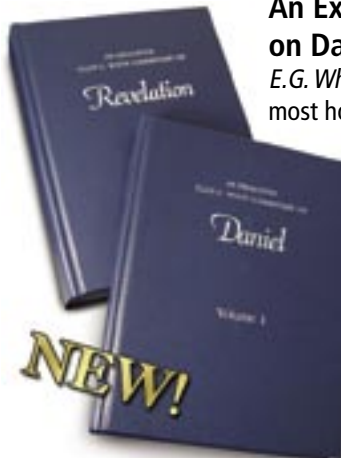


# History & Study

## History of the Reformation in the Time of Calvin

*J. H. Merle d'Aubigné.* Trace the hand of God through church history and the Reformation in this 1868 four-volume set. See how Christianity gave rise to liberty in Western civilization and why God's Word is the only place to find individual, church, and worldwide renovation. A must-have historical commentary for the serious student's library!

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*Alexander Hislop.* A classic, foreboding search reveals how many Christian rituals and trappings did not originate with Christ or the Bible, but were adopted from ancient pagan Babylonian religion and merely given Christian names.

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## The Great Controversy Between Good & Evil Bible Study Guide

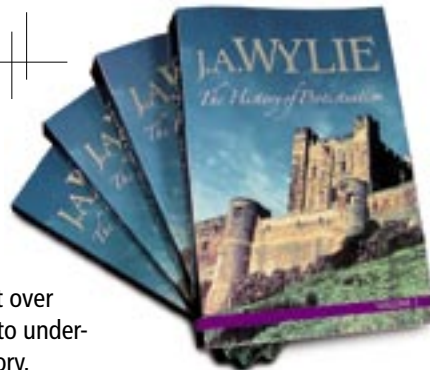
What's at stake in the war between good and evil? What will happen in the end? This thorough Bible study answers these and many other questions to help you clearly understand your role in the final battle to come. A comprehensive Bible study that will change your life and the lives of those you share it with!

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## Study Mark Sets

Here's a great way to share Bible truth about the Sabbath, the state of the dead, the second coming, and salvation! Every set comes with 100 eye-catching study marks, full of Scripture verses and commentary. A great resource for sharing Bible truth with friends and family!

### Sabbath

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### Second Coming

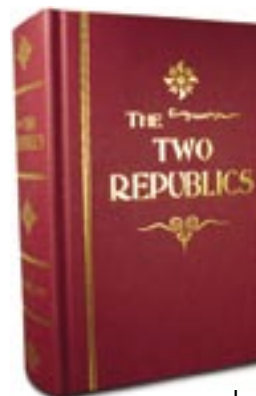
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## The Two Republics

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how the abandonment of sacred principles, already underway, will unite them into a frightening world government. Illustrated. Hardback. 895 pages.

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# End-Times

## End Time Delusions

*Steve Wohlberg.*

Millions are convinced of Christ's soon return, yet they are also dangerously confused and are being prepared for the greatest deception ever perpetrated on humanity. Don't be one of them! With clear reasoning and Bible accuracy, you'll learn the stunning truth in this remarkably comprehensive

and timely resource from a former Amazing Facts evangelist.

**BK-ETDE ... \$13.99**

## Omega: Red Alert

*Loren and Ethel Price.* A long time ago, a cosmic battle broke out and spilled over into our world.

Now the climax of the ages is drawing near—what part will you play in the coming war? Printed by Remnant Publications as a biblically sound answer to *Left Behind*, this story will give you and those you share it with an accurate picture of the chaos to come, and how Jesus can bring you through it all. Comes with free *Panorama of Prophecy* CD!

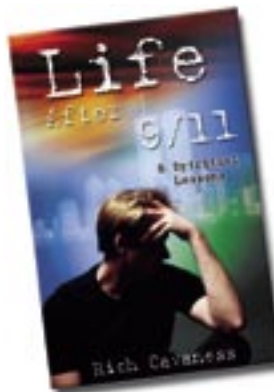
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## Life After 9/11

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

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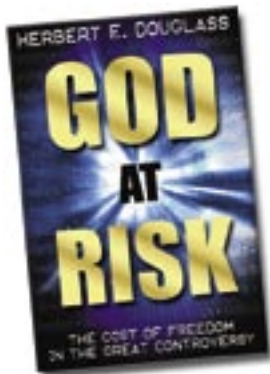
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*Herbert E. Douglass.*

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remnant church message in all its cosmic dimensions, with staggering detail and faithful, eye-opening commentary. 480 pages.

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# Audio & Video



## Preparation for Baptism VHS

*Doug Batchelor.* Enrich the lives of new believers and revive your church with this unique and informative two-hour program that gives new converts the baptismal instruction they need to start becoming fully engaged and productive members of your congregation. A great addition to your home and church video libraries!

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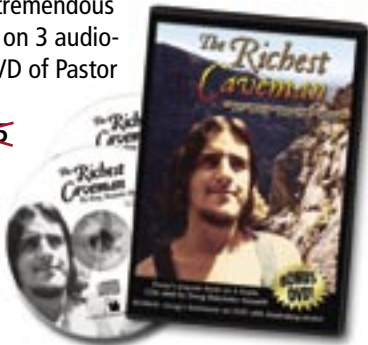


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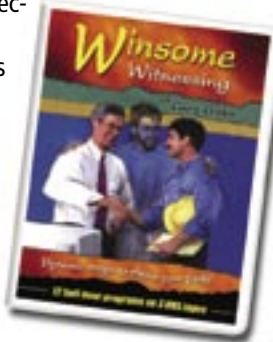
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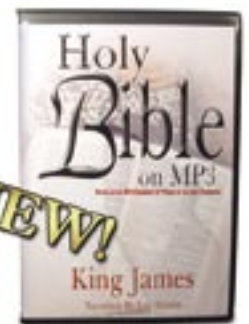
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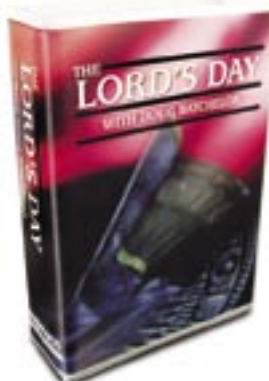
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# FAITH and MOUNTAINS

AFCOE Highs and Lows in Denver

by Anthony Lester

*"If ye have faith, and doubt not ... ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done." —Matthew 21:21*

Sometimes, trying to reach people with the gospel isn't simple, or easy, or even a delight ... often the logistics are complex, the sharing difficult, and the rejections a disappointment.

As snow poured down from the heavens and covered the roads with impassable depths, the latest class of Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE) must have wondered how much time and opportunity was passing them by.

Filled yet with hope and excitement at the opportunity to work with Pastor Mark Finley, speaker/director of It Is Written ministries, during his *Revelation of Hope* series in the serene beauty of Denver, Colorado, the hard reality of the great controversy warring in the lives of Bible study interests and against AFCOE's evangelistic efforts often gave the 27 students little reason to smile.

But Jesus' enduring mission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel," the reason for the establishment of the college, helped summon the courage and conviction to make this class one of our most successful ever in large-scale evangelism.

Relying on the promise of 1 Peter 5:6, 7, which says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you," the students witnessed the power of God's Spirit go mightily out before them, and they followed faithfully.

## Faithful Sowing Turns to Harvest ... and a Wedding

Soon the spiritually re-energized students, staff, and Bible workers set out to accomplish something extraordinary in Jesus' name. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, AFCOE transferred more than 100 in-home Bible studies into the meetings, and an additional 100 requested Bible study drop-offs with just 27 students and 4 trained Bible workers. By the time the series began, over 1,400 non-church members registered for the *Revelation of Hope* seminar to learn more about the Bible and end-time prophecy.

Wes Peppers, a 24-year-old student, learned much during his outreach efforts and considers the experience to be one of his most memorable. "This has been the most life-changing experience of my life," he says. "It changed my view of evangelism and ministry forever."

Used by God to lead eight souls to baptism, Wes considers the story



## Highs, Lows, and Faith

Early on, it didn't take long for high expectations to turn into something a little less. The first weekend, a heavy snowstorm kept students from reaching classes and others appointments, putting everything else behind schedule and creating an urgency that would last the entire series.

Added to that, in their first week, the students experienced a tremendous response to Bible study invitations, but an unusually high number of initial interests turned out less promising, prompting some to wonder what went wrong.

Alan Parker, AFCOE director and evangelism coordinator, recognizing the telltale signs of "powers and principalities" at odds with their mission, immediately called for prayerful intervention. "Often, great success for Christ can lead us to actually lose our focus on Him," says Alan. "So we purposefully turned back to spiritual things, instead of focusing on the physical trials, and began a constant vigil of prayer."

of Michael and Priscilla especially touching. "Michael is a Vietnam veteran who is a hard-as-nails looking guy, and Priscilla is so gentle," says Wes. "She was a former Sabbathkeeper who received a handbill in the mail, and encouraged a resistant Michael to go." Ultimately, Priscilla had to corner him into attending the series, and by God's grace, he loved the meetings and faithfully attended every one.

Adds Wes, "One evening, he came down during the altar call. As he wept, he asked Pastor Finley, 'How can I give my life to Jesus? I don't know how; please tell me!' Mark answered his cries and both Michael and Priscilla gave their hearts to the Lord that night." Soon after, the two companions, who lived together, were in baptismal class when Michael stood up and declared he no longer wanted to live in a sinful relationship and proposed to Priscilla. A few days later at a special ceremony, Michael and Priscilla were married, and Wes had the honor of being best man. "The next Sabbath afternoon," reports Wes, "the two were baptized. They went into the pool together and were baptized at the same time—and they were all smiles when they came up together!"



## The Brotherhood of Faith

At one time in his life, Tom Roth worshiped the idols of alcohol and drugs, but five years ago, that all changed when he attended a local Revelation seminar in his area. When the AFCOE opportunity came knocking on his door, he was eager to open it and step through in faith. "My experience has been fantastic," he says. "AFCOE has stretched me for the Lord, and I can't even begin to describe how good this class has been for me."

He will never forget the experience of leading one of his interests to baptism—his brother. "Involved in the New Age movement until recently, Gary had been ensnared in drugs for 37 long years," Tom recalls, "and Satan has been attacking him for as long as I can remember. He has much more to endure, including being broke, out of work, and maybe spending time in jail. He had been suicidal for a long time."

But their studies together have changed all that, and Gary is now finding peace in Christ. "Halfway through the seminar, Gary told me he believed our church had the truth, and a few days later he asked to be baptized," adds Tom. "Gary was a faithful and consistent attendee, and to be able to study with my brother was wonderful."

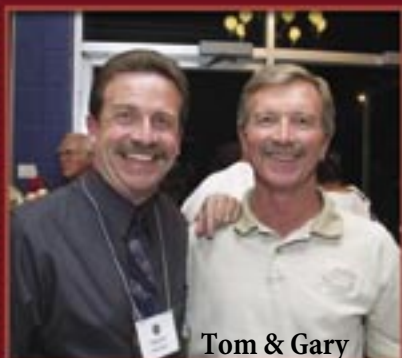
The training students get at AFCOE isn't just limited to giant evangelistic series or international missionaries, although many students

baptized at Teikyo Loretto University's swimming pool!)

Of the final number of baptisms, AFCOE students and Bible workers sowed the seeds for nearly 170—and at least 75 more are expected at the time of publication. Mark Finley says, "It Is Written television was delighted to have the AFCOE team on board for *Revelation of Hope*. This combination proved vital to the success of the meetings. The AFCOE students and teachers were guided by the Spirit to scores of interested people. The contacts made and Bible studies given resulted in souls for the kingdom of God. We look forward to uniting again for another major effort for Christ."

The passion of many of these converts is especially noteworthy. One new believer, 82-year-old Angus, tripped and fell while walking toward the baptismal pool. "She broke a bone under her eye and two bones in her hand," reports Wes Peppers. "Her face swelled, but she refused to go to the hospital until she was baptized. She only knew she had waited 82 years for this moment, and Satan wasn't going to stop the fruits of Christ."

It is results like these that Pastor Doug Batchelor sees possible only in collaborative efforts in these last-days. "Working with other Spirit-led ministries that are passionate about evangelism is energizing," he says. "We need more of this if we are going to take the gospel to every



Tom & Gary



choose to take their new skills and become full-time Bible workers and lay evangelists in those endeavors. But others, like Tom, see a potential harvest in their own communities and families. At the end of their training, graduates have the skills to teach and reach large groups of seekers, but they can also touch the hearts of hard-to-reach souls in their own families.

For Tom and Gary, the payoff is eternal. Says Tom, "The Lord allowed me to baptize my brother at my church. It was a teary, Spirit-filled Sabbath day. Gary told me later that day that he felt a peace that he hadn't felt in a long time." Undoubtedly, it was a peace that surpassed all understanding.

## The Reaping: Reward of Faith


By the end of the two-week series, more than 420 precious souls were led to baptism. It Is Written's Michele Stotz, director of public relations, reports that their ministry is expecting a final number of around 600 baptisms. (On just one afternoon, 150 new believers were

people and hasten the return of our Savior. It was an honor to work with It Is Written in Denver, and the amazing number of baptisms and new lives are a testimony to our common mission."

## Who Will Now Heed the Call?

It has been said that "[one] worker who has been trained and educated for the work, who is controlled by the Spirit of Christ, will accomplish far more than ten laborers who go out deficient in knowledge, and weak in the faith" (E.G. White, *Evangelism*, p. 109).

The Bible tells us that the harvest is plenty, yet the laborers are few. Though evangelism is often difficult and fraught with spiritual and physical trials, AFCOE can give you the tools to make your efforts to reach others successful, adding to the kingdom through spiritual insight and world-class evangelism training.

In prayer, ask the Lord if He would have you be one of His Bible workers, and call 916-434-3880, ext. 3049, to learn how you can become an effective Bible worker and soul-winner. 



# BIBLE Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



## Q Why does God judge His people if they have already repented from their sins and the blood of Jesus has washed their sin away?

**A** This is a very good question. If people are saved, why must they appear before the judgment? The Bible says that everyone will stand before the judgment seat of Christ; that must include professed believers (Romans 14:10). But those who have sincerely accepted Christ need not fear the judgment, because His blood covers them. They are judged as righteous by virtue of His righteousness, but they're still judged.

In 1 Peter 4:17, God's Word teaches, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." There are several judgments in the Bible, and one of these, called the pre-advent judgment, is happening right now. This is the judgment concerning God's church. It is the same kind of judgment spoken of in Ezekiel 9:6 in which the Lord declares that His judgment will begin at His sanctuary. Revelation 22:12 says, "And, behold, I come quickly; *and my reward is with me*, to give every man according as his work shall be" (emphasis added). You can also read about this judgment in Daniel 7:10, where "the judgment was set, and the books were opened."

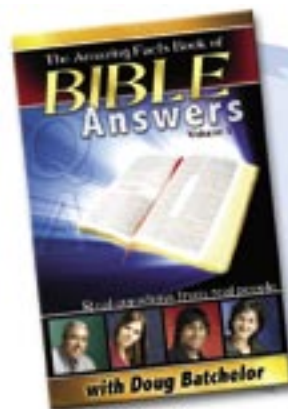
Christians are being judged through the things written in these books, before the judgment throne of God. But we are not actually standing present for this judgment going on in heaven because we are here on earth, nor are those deceased Christians (who are still in their graves).

So why the pre-advent judgment—the one that occurs before Christ comes with His reward? It's because many people call themselves Christians, but really aren't. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21–23). Within the church, hypocrites abound—we would all agree with that. Judas is

one example of someone who professed faith and performed miracles but did not do the will of the Father. When Jesus comes, the angels—those looking into the books—will know who they are coming to take to heaven.

We must always remember that the judgment is not for the Lord's benefit; He does not need to discover our true status because He already knows all things. But there are countless other intelligent beings intently interested in what has transpired here on earth. This pre-advent judgment helps to demonstrate that those who have professed Christ are genuinely transformed. (See Romans 12:2 for the Bible's definition of transformation.)

We must be careful not to interpret this judgment to mean that if you accept Jesus and are baptized but then sin again, you are forever lost because of those sins. You still must repent of your sins, but you



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

are on a new walk. When you're baptized, you are justified. You have come to the Lord, you've consecrated your life to Him, and your old sins are washed away.

After you leave your personal Egypt, you begin a wilderness journey on your way to the Promised Land—a process called sanctification. In this part of your spiritual experience, you learn to follow Jesus and be more like Him. That's a process called a walk—like how a baby learns to walk.

Of course, if a baby still can't walk when he or she turns five, there's a problem. So I think we must be showing progress and every day become more like Christ.

We might also consider the purpose of this pre-advent judgment as a loving action on the part of our heavenly Father. Perhaps one reason He begins with those who already had the opportunity to know the truth is to delay judgment of those who don't know so that they have as much time as possible to find out and accept His truths.

We have two great Study Guides about the judgment called "God Sets a Date for the Judgment" and "Facing the Judge." If you write or call Amazing Facts, we'll send these to you for free.



# amazing facts

## pictures worth a thousand inspiring words



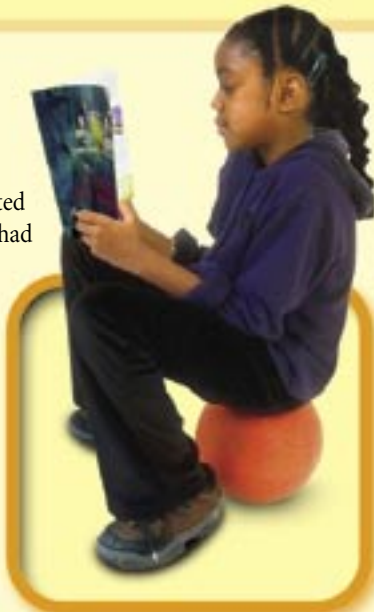
Barbara L. Newton

Every time I pick up an Amazing Facts Study Guide, my mind takes me back to when I first held one in my hands as a little 12-year-old girl. Oh, the wonder at seeing such beautiful pictures that captivated my attention. I was so fascinated by them that I just had to read the Bible verses in search of understanding the pictures. And soon I was hungering for more and more of God's Word, the Holy Bible.

Pastor Helvis Thompson and his team of Bible workers, who ran an outstanding evangelistic effort in my neighborhood, brought the Study Guides to my attention, and I eagerly read every one of them from the first page to the last. I eventually read myself into God's remnant church.

I can still remember it as if it were just yesterday, even though it happened more than 30 years ago. With joy and excitement, I ran home to share the new studies with my mother and father and a host of siblings—my parents had 22 children! One morning, as we gathered for breakfast, which included bacon, I proclaimed that I could not eat pork anymore. I showed my family the Study Guide that featured a pig with an apple in its mouth and the supporting Bible verses. My mother, who was now tired of my preaching (as she called it), told me that I had better eat what she cooked, or that I would not get any other meat to eat! This set me out on my first voyage to a meatless diet! However, after a few months of my determined ways, my mother took pity on her little girl and let me eat meat that was clean.

A week later I received a Study Guide and heard an outstanding sermon that shed light on the truths concerning the seventh-day Sabbath. I shared this too with my family. Although my mother said I could go to church on Sabbath, she still said I had to return home right after Sabbath worship services to clean up the house in preparation for Sunday observance. I knew in my heart that Saturday was God's true Sabbath, and so whenever I was allowed, I went to church on Sabbath and simply stayed with the good-hearted church members all day. I greatly enjoyed the worship service, lunch, and outreach until the sun set and Sabbath was over. Sometimes when I stayed out too late and didn't come home in time, I received a spanking. But in my little mind, I just could not break God's true Sabbath by working on the Sabbath, especially after learning so much from those beautiful little Study Guides and attending the evangelistic meetings.



In the end, three great joys came from my study and trials.

First, my mother made a proclamation that she would simply give me to the church as she was tired of spanking me, which meant I could stay with my church family all day on Sabbaths. The Holy Spirit led her to see that I was going to stand for the Sabbath truth even with the spankings.

Second, my parents and four of my siblings were inspired to give their hearts to the Lord. Before he died, my father told me that he urged my mother to allow me to go to church on Saturday. He was so inspired by my resolve in not giving in to breaking God's true Sabbath that it made him study God's Word too, and he also eventually gave his heart to Jesus.

Third, I grew up to become an artist and art educator and would use these talents to lead adults and children to the Lord through paints, murals, and other artwork. Before Pastor Joe Crews died, I was able to tell him how captivated I was with the pictures presented in each Study Guide and how they led me to read the Bible verses. He was overjoyed to hear that the trials he and others went through to publish the Study Guides were not in vain.



### Study Guides Change Lives

It's always a delight to share these heartwarming testimonies of God's grace in the lives of individuals and families. Amazing Facts is blessed to be used by Jesus to transform lives and grow His remnant church. Today, similar stories like this one are repeated often in homes around the world—thanks to the prayers and gifts of supporters and our hard-working volunteers. Without you, none of this would be possible.

# BEATITUDES

## STEPS TO CONVERSION

BY CHARLES LAWSON

*Charles Lawson, Amazing Facts media editor, provides fresh and inspiring insights to one of the Bible's most beloved passages.*

One of the beauties of God's Word is that no matter how well you think you understand a particular text, there's still more to discover. A gold mine of truth often lies hidden from a surface reader; in this case, you'll see that the Beatitudes are also the steps to conversion.

The tool that helped bring this to light was *Strong's Concordance*. The choice of words in the original language is rich in meaning and intent, but one does not have to be a Bible linguist to benefit from this type of word study. Dig deep into the Word, and your efforts will be rewarded!

### THE STEPS TO CONVERSION

When Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount, He introduced principles of His Father's government and of His very life. These principles were so contrary to what other religious teachers were presenting that the listeners sitting on the hillside must have been spellbound.

#### STEP 1

**Matthew 5:3—Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**



The key word in this text is poor. In the original language, it means "to crouch; a beggar (as cringing), i.e. a pauper, strictly denoting absolute or public mendicancy," which is a fancy word for someone dependent upon others for his sustenance—a beggar.

Here, the word "poor" reveals the necessary condition of the sinner, quite contrary to that of the human heart prone to pride and self-sufficiency. When the Holy Spirit reveals something of our true selves, that our sin caused the death of God's Son, we no longer stand with pride or in rebellion.

So the very first step in conversion is to realize our true condition before God. We go from standing to kneeling before the God we have offended.

#### STEP 2

**Matthew 5:4—Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.**



The word *mourn* means "to grieve" (the feeling or the act). The root word means to experience a sensation or impression (usually painful).

The Holy Spirit quickens our spiritual perceptions, and we see things with new spiritual eyesight.

The result is painful, because we begin to see ourselves in a whole new light—in the light of God's perfect character.

The next step in our conversion is to grieve over our sinful lives and actions. We see that our sins cost the life of Jesus, and we confess and repent of our evil ways. We must go through this daily sanctification process because a full revelation of God, and thus a full revelation of our selfishness and guilt, would destroy us. Day by day, God reveals more and more of ourselves so we can let go of self a little more, until we can see Him face-to-face and live.

#### STEP 3

**Matthew 5:5—Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.**



Once we see ourselves in need of a Savior, and experience a heartfelt sorrow for sin, we come to the next step: We become meek.

I've always had a problem with the word *meek*.

Growing up, I had seen so many paintings of Christ portrayed as a fragile, effeminate, and lily white-skinned person. I couldn't relate to that man; the images inspired no admiration. If that was meekness, I didn't want it. So as I prayed about discernment on this verse, the Lord brought to my mind the true definition of *meekness*—"the absence of self-will and human pride."

Does this mean Jesus was a pushover? Not at all! When I consider what Jesus faced from His own family, from the religious leaders of the day, and from the masses of people surrounding Him, I realize Jesus was a very strong person. He was neither deflated by censor nor elated by the praise of men. He could face the powerful, imposing religious leaders and never cower in fear. He could suffer abuse without it affecting how He felt about Himself. He could combat issues and walk away with a clear conscience, because self never got in the way. He was meek, but He was powerful.

Jesus had no self-will. He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, "Lord not my will, but Thine be done." He also had no human pride, evidenced by the fact that after many miracles He performed, He just vanished from the sight of the people. He never sought flattery or the praise of men. He didn't need to because the principle of love, which is selflessness, ruled His life.

Jesus says in Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." "Lowly in heart" is another way of saying "humble, or with a lack of human pride." Self-will and pride were at the root of Lucifer's fall, and we are naturally that way too. Only the power of the gospel can change our condition.

"LORD NOT  
MY WILL, BUT  
THINE BE  
DONE."

LUKE 22:42



## STEP 4

**Matthew 5:6—Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**



The word *hunger* means “to be famished, or to crave.” When the human soul is void of God’s presence, there is a longing in the soul that only He can satisfy. We are not aware that it is God we long for, but He soon reveals our need for Him.

When God changes the heart, we are born of the Spirit. We experience the new birth of which Jesus spoke in John 3:3: “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Our whole life is changed. Whereas before we had enmity against God and had no desire for spiritual food, we now hunger and thirst after those things that are holy.

The word *filled* means literally “to gorge oneself” and comes from the original word, a garden, by implication a pasture. When we are born again, it seems we cannot get enough spiritual food. We consume everything spiritual that is within our reach. Jesus said that those who hunger and thirst shall be filled. Psalms 23:2 says, “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”

So far in the conversion process, we have seen our need for forgiveness, mourned for our sins, had self-will and human pride buried in the dust, and found new joy in feeding upon spiritual food. The natural consequence of this process is that we no longer see ourselves as basically good people. The gospel puts everyone in the same boat. We are all sinners in need of a Savior—all the time.

## STEP 5

**Matthew 5:7—Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.**



We realize the debt that was paid to ransom our souls was enormous—it took the very life of God. We see that instead of justice, God granted us mercy. We then look at fellow human beings with the same merciful eyes as God. He sees the sin, but loves the sinner. We become merciful, longsuffering, and patient with those we seek to draw to God. Instead of having an attitude like the Pharisees, condemning the faults of others, we are mindful of our own weaknesses and sins, and show mercy to every soul God brings into our lives.

The Bible teaches that only the merciful obtain mercy. How can we stand before God and demand that He be merciful to us when we are judging and condemning others?

That is precisely the meaning of the story about the man whom the king forgave much, but who then turned around and threw his brother into jail, over a very small debt, compared to the amount he owed the king.

## STEP 6.

**Matthew 5:8—Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.**



The conversion process transforms our lives. The word *heart* in Greek means, “thoughts and feelings.” God changes our thoughts and feelings so that they become pure. It is a daily battle we fight with self, but so long as we submit to God’s will, He will make us pure in heart. I found a spiritual equation that relates to this: “Our thoughts and feelings combined = moral character.” So to be pure in heart is to have a transformation of character.

The word *see* is very interesting, and literally means “to gaze” (e.g., with wide-open eyes, as at something remarkable). It differs from three other words in the New Testament that denote simply voluntary observation, passive or casual vision, and watching from a distance. The word is very expressive and indicates a type of reaction as a result of what we see. The pure in heart shall literally stand in the very presence of the God of the universe. Our mouths will drop open, and we will be astonished at what we see. I might add that as we see what God is really like now, we look in awe and wonder at His marvelous character of love in this life too.

Psalms 24:3, 4, says. “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart.” This is talking about the same event to which Jesus refers in Matthew 5:8—only the pure in heart will stand in His holy place and see God face to face. That place is in the hill of the Lord, the holy city, the New Jerusalem.

## STEP 7

**Matthew 5:9—Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.**



When you hear the word *peacemaker*, what immediately comes to mind? The United Nations? Or someone who tries to stop quarrels in the family? Good answers, but it’s not the intent of the word in Matthew 5:9. *Peacemaker* comes from two words that mean “to join” or “set at one again.” Sound familiar? The word *atonement* has a similar meaning.

When we are converted, we become ambassadors for Christ. We diligently labor to “set at one” those people who are enemies of

GOD  
CHANGES  
OUR  
THOUGHTS  
AND  
FEELINGS SO  
THAT THEY  
BECOME  
PURE.

# STEPS TO BEATITUDES BEATITUDES CONVERSION

God. We help bring them to the saving knowledge of God's love, and thereby help them become united, or one, with God.

Those who get involved in soul-winning become peacemakers. No one has peace apart from God. As people come to Christ, they have peace. We literally become peacemakers, the only kind of peacemakers who are really effective here on earth.

## STEP 8

**Matthew 5:10—Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**



In 2 Timothy 3:12, we read, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." As we become like God in character, our lives are a rebuke to the sinful, world-loving people around us. It is inevitable that when we become righteous

through the power of God, we will suffer.

Persecution takes on many forms. We suffer when we are honest and true in the work place—when people we work for pressure us to lie, cheat, or do any number of unethical things, but we do not yield to that pressure. We suffer as Christian students by not joining in with the popular crowd to do its bidding. We suffer when married to spouses who either are not believers, or who are professed Christians only. Ultimately, we will suffer because we will not conform to the traditions and customs of the non-Christian world.

One of the greatest gifts God can give to us is that we share in suffering persecution because we represent His character in this world. We enter into the ranks and class of all who have suffered before us. We enter into the experience of Jesus Himself, who suffered an extreme amount of persecution because He was just like God.

## STEP 9

**Matthew 5:11—Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.**



Notice that in this beatitude, Jesus says we are happy, or blessed, when we are reviled and persecuted falsely for His sake. We are falsely accused precisely because, like Jesus, we are without fault. In other words, our lives have been transformed and we are not doing anything for which they can revile or persecute us. Satan can only bring false charges against us, just as they brought false charges against Daniel in the Old Testament, and Jesus in the New.



## FOLLOWING IN HIS STEPS

In conclusion, in this short Bible study, we have seen the steps of conversion in the Beatitudes:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit ... we recognize our great need.
- Blessed are they that mourn ... we experience true sorrow for sin.
- Blessed are the meek ... we lose our self-will and human pride.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness ... now that we are born of the Spirit, we desire spiritual things.
- Blessed are the merciful ... because we have obtained mercy from God, we are merciful toward others.
- Blessed are the pure in heart ... God changes our thoughts and feelings, which prepares us to one day gaze in awe and wonder when we look on His face.
- Blessed are the peacemakers ... we become ambassadors for Christ, setting people at one with their Savior.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake ... we are now living the life of Christ, and are persecuted for being like Him.

The Beatitudes present a clear, definite path in the steps of conversion. It is a journey that we all must make if we would become children of God, destined to live in a world without sin. The human heart is transformed by the power of the cross. The journey, while painful at times, promises real joy in the life, because the restless life of sin, without God, is replaced with a restful life in God.

I'm so thankful that God gave us this nine-step plan for recovery from sin. If we will not devote our lives to it, God cannot transform our lives. Let us continue the steps of conversion until we can say, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).





# Behind the Scenes

What's new at Amazing Facts...

## Join Pastor Doug in Chattanooga for '04 Revival!

Pastor Doug Batchelor and the Amazing Facts team would like to invite you to join us in person for a spiritual feast in Chattanooga, Tennessee, beginning November 5, 2004, at the Chattanooga Convention Center. You can become a part of what might be one of the most significant events in church history.



The goal for this unique event is to help every Christian walk closer with our Lord and Savior than we have ever walked with Him before and to seek the power of the Holy Spirit in order to live victorious lives! This is especially important as we prepare for our major evangelistic outreach in March 2005—called Final Events!

We invite you to seek the latter rain with us for 10 powerful days. For more information, please log on to our website at [www.04revival.org](http://www.04revival.org) or call 916-434-3880. If you can't join us in person, don't despair! You will be able to view the revival live on 3ABN each evening. If you can receive 3ABN programming, please invite your church family to your home to participate in this great church revival. In addition, you can help spread the influence of this much-needed revival greatly by telling the church membership about this historic event.

## Bible School Steams Ahead



The Bible School continues to reach new souls daily and change lives for the better. For instance, H.B. in California writes, "The Bible course was great. I learned a lot. What I have learned, I will share with others. After doing this study, I want to become a practicing Sabbathkeeper."

As of May 2004, Bible School volunteers and regular staff graded more than 40,250 lessons and mailed nearly 61,500! We've seen 2,689 new students begin the lessons this year, giving the correspondence course more than 25,000 active enrollees. Fourteen percent of these students are inmates, who often write letters full of gratitude like this one: "A friend gave me the best gift a friend can give—'Is there Anything Left You Can Trust?' Please send me the Study Guides to finish what God has started. That guide alone has put me on the narrow road. Thank you for doing the things you do!" (R.H., New York).

Also, in May alone, our tireless volunteers gave 525 hours of service and helped to graduate 295 students. Our correspondence team also answered nearly 1,750 letters and e-mails from seekers asking for answers to Bible questions or guidance in their new Christian walk.

Of course, in addition to the mail course, more and more web-surfers are finding their way to our online Bible studies. Year-to-date, almost 500 students have graduated from the online courses at Amaz-

ingFacts.org and BibleUniverse.com, with a total enrollment for both courses reaching almost 40,000 students! F.K. from Delaware says of the online studies, "Not only has my friendship with Jesus deepened, but I am motivated to search the Scriptures even more diligently. These online lessons have really opened the door to present-day understanding of prophecy that I never had before. These lessons have challenged me more than any other. I most liked the quality of respect for the Word of God in the lessons, and the love expressed to our Lord Jesus. I also liked the quality of research and the teaching method. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead."

As you might have heard from Pastor Doug, we would like to update our current Bible Study Guides, as many of the pictures and illustrations are starting to look out of date and antiquated. As we prepare for our major evangelistic satellite series coming in March 2005, from the Washington, D.C. area, we will be revising the outdated covers. Of course, we



won't do anything to alter the truths they contain, but we are planning to modernize the printing, layout, and artwork. So please pray for this project, and don't forget to remember our Bible School staff and volunteers who work so hard to reach others with God's last-day message.

And thank you for making our Bible School one of the most important, sought-after ministries in God's remnant church.

## Miracle in Lakeport

Last month, we featured a story ["The Lord Gives 130%", May/June 2004] from LaVonne Long, wife of Amazing Facts evangelist Tyler Long, about their Revelation seminar in Lakeport, California. Because of a publication mix-up, exciting information was obscured, and we really wanted you to know! The article title refers to the fact that on opening night, only 19 visitors came to the first meeting due to delayed advertising. But as a result of the local church's effort and AFCEC graduate Kevin Sears' hard work, the Holy Spirit used Tyler's series to bring in 25 new souls for the kingdom—130 percent more than showed up on opening night! It's an amazing example of what can happen when a local church and experienced evangelist work together for God's kingdom.



# Special Recognition

## In Loving Memory of

**W.A. Alexander** from Bonnie and Ed Ensminger; from Jacob and Joyce Joyner  
**Charles Anderson** from Leon and Vivienne Rich  
**Florette Andrews** from Vernon Andrews

**Amy Lillie Bauer-Fabel** from Sarah Hoffmeisner, her granddaughter  
**Rosemary Becker** from Geri and Wally Dunks  
**Shirley Bender** from Geri and Wally Dunks  
**Stu Berkeley** from Roberta Berkeley, his wife  
**Calvin Bitzer** from Bonnie and Ed Ensminger; from Gerald and Barbara Lammerding  
**Robert Boring** from Geri and Wally Dunks  
**Carl and Anna Brockmann** from Ethel Simeone, their daughter  
**Joseph C. Brown MD** from Bette Brown  
**Shannon Burton** from her grandparents  
**Glen Byers** from Bonnie Byers

**Lavern Cate** from Geri and Wally Dunks; from Kathleen Hartzell  
**Phyllis Chaffee** from Stanley Chaffee  
**Helen (Merriam) Clarke** from Jim McFarland  
**Shirley Cossentine** from Dale and Darlene Franklin, her brother and sister-in-law  
**Eldon Councell** from Gary Councell, his son  
**Joe Crews** from Lu Ann Crews, his wife; from Gwendolyn Knight; from William Lowe; from Catherine and Kay Ritchie  
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**Charles Kunkle** from Nancy and Gerry Fletcher

**Alberta Lammerding** from June, Gerald, and Bonnie, her children  
**Sarah LaVoie** from Alan Baldwin

*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 five names will be printed per donation per issue.*



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### Happy Anniversary

**Bob and Joyce Marlin (50th)** from Helen Marlin  
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**Carl R. McWilliams (88th)** from his wife  
**Kent Thompson** from Sara Thompson

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**Lloyd and Jennie Drew** from Mark Emde  
**Dale Estep** from Abigail Estep  
**Gloria Estep** from Abigail Estep

### In Honor of Graduation

**Kristine Olson (Loma Linda school of medicine)**  
from Helen Marlin



# Health

## Bite

### Is Your Food Safe?

Frances Piper de Vries, ASN



Summer is here and the time is right for potlucks, picnics, tailgate parties, and camping trips. Don't let the good times be ruined by food "poisoning." Keeping your food fresh and safe in warm weather requires some planning and care, but can save you hours of misery—it can even save your life. Food-borne illnesses, such as salmonella, are caused by bacteria or the toxins they produce in food. According to the Center for Disease Control, five practices contribute to the majority of food-borne illnesses. In order of frequency, they are:



- 1) Improper holding temperature of food
- 2) Food from an unsafe source
- 3) Inadequate cooking of food
- 4) Poor personal hygiene of food handlers
- 5) Contaminated food equipment.

Eliminating animal products, including dairy and eggs, from your diet significantly reduces your risk of food-borne illness. Here are some additional precautions to avoid dangerous organisms:



- Choose produce that is clean, free of cracks, and free of any sign of decay, such as dark or soft spots.
- Choose cans and plastic containers that are sealed, with no leaks, dents, or bulges.
- Check and heed expiration dates.
- Make sure utensils, cutting boards, sponges, and dishcloths are clean. Use hot, soapy water. It's best to air-dry dishes and utensils rather than wiping dry.
- Use a plastic cutting board. To disinfect sponges and plastic cutting boards, use a weak bleach solution (1 part bleach, 8 parts water), or send through the automatic dishwasher cycle.
- Wash hands with hot, soapy water after using the bathroom, sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing, and before preparing food. If you have a cold or other contagious illness, don't prepare food for others.



- Wash produce with soapy water before using, even if discarding the peel. Bacteria can be transferred from the skin to the inside of the food by a knife or peeler. Several nontoxic products made specifically for washing produce are available in supermarkets and natural foods stores.



- Keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot. The temperature zone that is most dangerous for bacterial proliferation is between 60 to 125° F. If just-cooked foods are not going to be eaten right away, transfer to the refrigerator within a few minutes. Doing so will not heat up the refrigerator and might save someone from getting sick, since even foods that have just been cooked contain bacterial spores that will begin germinating as soon as the food cools down to the danger zone.



- Defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator.
- Don't crowd items in the refrigerator, and keep it clean. Keep refrigerator temperature below 40° F and freezer temperature no higher than 0° F.
- Keep in mind that cooked food can last only two hours maximum at room temperature before safety limits are reached and the food should be thrown away. Plan appropriately for potlucks, picnics, camping trips, sack lunches, etc.
- If you do your own canning, be sure to keep current on safe and proper techniques. Vegetables and other low acid foods should always be canned in a pressure cooker. The USDA provides proper guidelines for canning and it is important to follow the procedures exactly. Call your state agricultural extension office for current protocols.

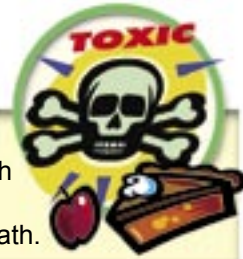


Lastly, when in doubt, throw it out. Food-borne bacteria can kill, so don't take any chances.

*Frances is the editor of Weimar Institute's  
NEWSTART® Lifestyle Cookbook.*

## An Amazing Fact

Approximately 325,000 people in the country are hospitalized with food poisoning every year. About 5,000 of these cases result in death.





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