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#### **INSIDE REPORT**

SUMMER 2018

## "Am I Really a Christian?" A CHECKLIST



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## Contents



#### 14 Profound Reach of Amazing Facts Revealed at Camp Meetings

Your loving support for Amazing Facts is making a profound difference. See what Pastor Doug learned while he shared the Word of God with thousands this summer!

#### FEATURE -

#### 6 "Am I Really a Christian?" A CHECKLIST

Have you ever taken *the* test? The Bible counsels, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5). Pastor Doug Batchelor offers ten brief but vital checkpoints to help you self-evaluate if you have been genuinely converted. No matter how long you've been a Christian, get ready for eye-opening results!









#### 4 The President's Perspective

- 5 Connect with AF
- **10** Broadcast Schedule**11** News to Note
- **16** Prophecy Seminars
- 23 Special Recognition

Want Bible answers in your inbox? Inspiring articles? Latest ministry news? Testimonies showing how your support is making a difference? Or how about exclusive deals on our best products? Then sign up for our email specials and the *Inside Report* e-newsletter at subscribe.amazingfacts.org!

#### **11** Amazing Facts Goes Global!

We're taking the next big step in evangelism! Will you join us?

#### 17 The Shining Light of a New Day

Amazing Facts evangelist Dakota Day was once caught up in the world. See how God changed everything—and led him to become a dynamic soul-winner for the kingdom!

#### **19** Bible Answers

Is the God of Islam the same God of Christianity?

## 21 Three Homes Proclaim the Three Angels' Messages

Darlene wanted to make the greatest impact for God that she could—so she gave to Amazing Facts. Discover why!

#### 22 Health Bite

A treasure trove of inspiration, tasty recipes, and better physical *and* spiritual health is waiting for you!

Inside Report 3 3Q 2018

#### THE PRESIDENT'S **PERSPECTIVE**





**It** remains a tragic fact that with all the technology in our world—including state-of-the-art farming techniques that use less land and water to produce even more crops—12 percent of the world's 7.6 billion people still suffer from hunger. That's 842 million people who don't know from where their next meal will come.

While I believe the Lord calls on every Christian to give what they can to alleviate the terrible physical

hunger in our world, there is also another kind of hunger that shouldn't go unsatisfied.

Even with all the new ways to share the gospel—from social media to smartphone apps—billions on our lost planet still lack nutritious spiritual food. That's why Amazing Facts is working hard every day to offer you resources that will draw starving souls to Jesus. We want to give you such fulfilling food that the people you share it with will come back for more. So, if you don't mind,

I want to take a little time to let you know about some new tools that will not only bless your spiritual growth but could also be the key to reaching someone you care about for the Lord.

First up, *Kingdoms in Time*. I believe fulfilled Bible prophecy is one of the most effective ways to convince people they can trust God's Word, and this brand-new documentary from Amazing Facts does just that. In it, I take you on a sweeping journey through time to explore more than thirty fulfilled Bible prophecies. The idea is that if Bible prophecy has come true in the past, you can put your full trust in Jesus Christ today and tomorrow. With expert commentary from theologians, historians, and archeologists and incredible special effects, *Kingdoms* will be, I pray, one of the most effective witnessing tools ever offered by Amazing Facts.

Next, *Exploring the Trinity*, my new book that addresses the resurgence of the teaching that Jesus is a created being and that the Holy Spirit is nothing more

> than an impersonal force of God. If you or your church is dealing with this hot topic, you'll be blessed and strengthened by this brief but thorough and convicting sharing resource.

Last but not least is *The Final Events of Bible Prophecy* magazine, based on our bestselling DVD, which details the seven major events of the last days. Packed with full-color graphics, fascinating facts, and compelling Scripture verses, it puts readers on the right

track about their future, leading them to the ultimate subject of prophecy, Jesus Christ.

Friend, I humbly ask you today to help Amazing Facts distribute these resources as far and wide as you can. You'll find them in this edition of the *Inside Report* on page 12. We have so many more waiting for you to share—from our re-designed Study Guides to my book *Should Christians Keep the Jewish Feasts?* Let's work together to ensure we satisfy the hunger so many are experiencing without the Bread of Life in their lives.



## **Connect** with Amazing Facts

#### From the Mail Bag



#### Not by Chance

"For fifteen years, I attended a Sunday-keeping church, but in January I kept feeling the Holy Spirit prompt me about the Sabbath. (To be honest, like most Americans, I always listened to what the pastor said and never opened

#### No ... Thank You, Pat!

"I am using the Amazing Facts Study Guides for giving Bible studies. I go over the lessons with interests and give them corrected lessons to keep. I have seven people right now doing studies, and God is blessing me—I am 90 years old. I would rather do this than eat when I am hungry! I also minister at the local jail and am on my thirteenth year there. Thank you for caring." Pat, Kansas



up my Bible.) I brought the Sabbath subject up to the pastor and, as you can imagine, I was bombarded with everything but the truth. ... Later, I come across Amazing Facts on TBN one night after midnight. The program was short, but I caught the amazingfacts.com website at the end and started looking into some of the things that Pastor Doug teaches. After a couple of weeks, the Holy Spirit led me to a new church that kept the Sabbath, and two weeks later I come across an article from Pastor Doug teaching about God's end-time church. There's no way anybody could tell me that it wasn't the Holy Spirit that led me every step of the way!" Scott, Wyoming



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PRESIDENT DOUG BATCHELOR MANAGING EDITOR ANTHONY LESTER editor@amazingfacts.org Assistant EDITOR MICHELLE KISS ART DESIGN/LAYOUT HALEY TRIMMER *Inside Report* is a publication of Amazing Facts, Inc. Contributors to the ministry receive the *Inside Report* for a year from the date of their most recent gift.

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**It's been** more than thirty years, but I still have the original logbook that contains the account of my first solo flight. I remember like it was yesterday. During my first forty hours of in-flight instruction, I was overflowing with confidence. After all, I thought, *My father is a pilot, so I should be a natural.* 

CHECKLIST

**Pastor Doug Batchelor** 

But my self-assurance vaporized the day my instructor suddenly climbed out of the plane, leaving me alone in the cockpit as the engine purred. He said, "You've got this, Doug. It's time for you to solo."

"You mean fly alone? Me?" I said, as though

he were talking to some imaginary friend sitting in the co-pilot's chair. My brimming confidence suddenly stalled.

He must have seen the anxiety all over my face. "Don't worry," he said. "Just review your checklist. I'll be on the radio if you need me." Trembling, with dry mouth and a racing heart, I taxied the tiny Tomahawk airplane up to the runway as my bravado went into a tailspin.

It's not as if flying is more dangerous than other means of transportation; statistically, it's safer than driving to the grocery store. But flying can certainly be more unforgiving if you make a mistake. You can't just coast off the road if you run out of gas or your engine dies.

That's why, at that moment, I was so thankful my instructor had taught me to use a pre-flight checklist.

Master switch on—*check*. Fuel on—*check*. Compass set—*check*. Elevator trim—*check* ...

After going through the checklist, then going through it again, and knowing my instructor was available on the radio, I confidently took off, flew a couple laps around the small airport, and survived my first solo flight ...

#### 

#### SPIRITUAL HEALTH CHECKLIST

I have a couple of simple but important questions for you: Do you know you are converted? (And I mean *truly* converted.) And how so? I admit—when I have asked these pointed questions to fellow Christians in the past, I've received a few indignant glances. But the apostle Paul counseled, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

That's why I believe that in our Christian pilgrimage, it's a good idea to periodically take inventory of our spiritual status—to go through a pre-flight checklist, if you will. While we must guard against taking our eyes off Jesus and fixating on our behavior, it is appropriate and even healthy for us as Christians to occasionally review our progress and make necessary adjustments. The shepherd king said, "I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies" (Psalm 119:59).

While I have a permanent log of my first solo flight, you might not be able to pinpoint the day and hour of your new birth. Some conversions are sudden, actually, while others come by gradually. Either way, if you have been genuinely transformed, the evidence will be clear. "If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 57).

Thus, in the following ten brief but vital checkpoints, you'll find quality, trustworthy indicators to help you selfevaluate if you have been genuinely converted.

#### WHAT DO I LOVE MORE—THE WORLD OR GOD?

A Christian who loves the things of the world has a sure indicator that his or her heart's compass is still off-kilter.

"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world" (1 John 2:15, 16).

A genuine Christian will resist the powerful tendency to have our values molded by the world's ethics: "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" (Romans 12:2).

As a Christian, you must learn to strike the delicate balance of being in the world without allowing the world to be in you. Think of it as being in a boat floating on the water: It's normal to be surrounded by  $H_2O$  yet not get wet. But when your boat starts taking on water, you start having problems. Too much water—too much world—and you can drown.

Of course, it is normal for a Christian to be tempted by worldly things—even Jesus was. But is your love of God stronger, such that it helps you resist the tug of those things?



I would never suggest that genuine believers do not struggle with sin. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive

ourselves" (1 John 1:8). That said, when we are saved, habitual sin will not overmaster any area of our lives. "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it" (Romans 6:12). Simply put, the believer will not frequently display in his or her life the works of the flesh:



"Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like" (Galatians 5:19–21).

John addressed the basic principle of surrender and obedience. "He who says 'I know him' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar" (1 John 2:4, 9). Again, John is not saying here that believers are sinless, but rather chronic sinning will not be the pattern in a true Christian's life. Are you walking in a holiness that is foreign to those who are still bound by sin?

#### 3. DO I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR?

Jesus said that His followers will be known by their love (John 13:35). Thus, if you are unforgiving, hateful, or always being critical of your brother or sister, then you can't check this box in good conscience.

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he



has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 John 4:20, 21).

Remember, Jesus equated hating someone with committing murder in the heart: "I say to you that

whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment" (Matthew 5:21, 22). Do you meet this test of conversion?



I'm sure you agree that we are living in a sin-saturated world. The ever-present media are constantly, shamelessly, broadcasting violence and other immorality. Unless we are regularly refreshed by the Holy Spirit, we will gradually become indifferent to the wickedness seeping into our hearts. "Sin,

that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful" (Romans 7:13).

We all struggle with sin, but God forbid we get to the place where we are *not grieved* when we fall. While Christians will often stumble, we should feel a deep sadness and feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit regarding our sin. When Peter realized he had denied Jesus, he went out and wept bitterly (Matthew 26:75).

The closer we come to Jesus, the more closely we will see the purity of His character. "One gleam of the purity of Christ, penetrating the soul ... lays bare the deformity and defects of the human character" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 29). If there is no remorse after we have sinned, we may be on the path to grieving away the Holy Spirit. Do you have new thoughts, feelings, and motives regarding sin?



Jesus said His people will "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19–21). Why? Because "no one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24).

THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE! Peter boldly proclaimed, "Above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins' " (1 Peter 4:8).

Put another way: Your checkbook ledger or your credit card statement will quickly indicate where your true treasure is—where your heart is. If your happiness comes from buying and owning things, then you are serving money and your own pleasures. But if you are generous with others, including

your local church, then you are genuinely serving God.

"If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:15–17).

Are you storing treasure in the right place?



"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Here are the fruits that will be seen

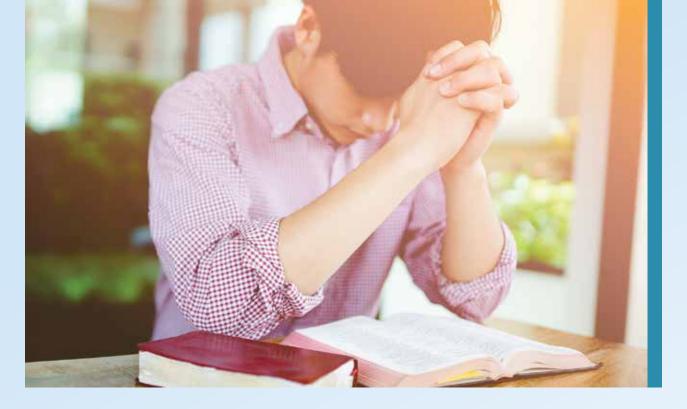
in the believer's life when they walk in the Spirit: "Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22, 23).

While we know we are not saved by works, if we are walking with Jesus, we will naturally produce those good works. Jesus said:



"Do men gather ... figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ... By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:16–20).

Jesus is clear that if a tree doesn't bear good fruit—the result of genuine conversion—then that tree will be cut down. Do you see fruit-bearing in your life?



#### DO I DENY CHRIST OR PROCLAIM HIM?

Someone once asked this penetrating question: "If you were brought to court and accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Jesus said,

"Whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8, 9).

How many of your co-workers, friends, and family know you are a Christian by your deeds and testimony alone? Far too many of us are silent, underground, "secret agent" Christians who are afraid to bring up Christ in a conversation because they fear what people might think of them more than they fear grieving their Creator (Matthew 10:28). Well, there is no such thing as a secret Christian! Either your Christianity will destroy the secret, or the secret will destroy your Christianity.

Like Paul, are you not ashamed of the gospel? (Romans 1:16).





When checking your health, a doctor might ask you, "How's your appetite?" A poor appetite could indicate something is wrong in your body. Likewise, a hunger for the Word of God is a sign of good spiritual health. "Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16). Do you look forward to the study of the Bible?

The same is true of prayer. If you love someone, you long to commune with them. Well, prayer is communication with your Father in heaven. "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17).

Do you "pray without ceasing" and spend regular time in His Word? (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

### 9. DO I LONG TO WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS?

We need to fellowship with other believers to grow and be spiritually centered. Of course, going to church in and of itself does not assure a person is converted. Didn't Jesus share a parable about a proud Pharisee who went to church (Luke 18)? If we love the Lord, regular church attendance will be our standard. Paul wrote,

"Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one

(Continued on page 18.)

## Broadcast Schedule

#### Watch Amazing Facts Presents on one of our family of networks!

#### AMAZING FACTS PRESENTS

Daystar Network	Wednesday, 6:00 рм ET
Hope Channel	Sunday, 7:00 рм; Friday, 12:30 рм РТ
Inspiration Network	Sunday, 9:00 ам ET
Lifetime Network	Sunday, 8:00 ам (All Time Zones)
Safe TV	Monday, 9:30 ам; Wednesday, 9:00 ам СТ
TBN	Thursday, 10:00 рм РТ
The Word Network	Sunday, 1:00 PM ET
3ABN	Wednesday, 9:00 рм CT

#### SABBATH SCHOOL STUDY HOUR

Watch AFTV anytime, anywhere, at AFTV.org!

Hope Channel	Thursday, 1:00 рм; Friday, 6:00 ам РТ
Safe TV	Friday, 9:00 PM; Saturday, 7:00 AM CT
3ABN	Thursday, 7:00 рм; Friday, 5:00 ам; Saturday, 2:00 рм СТ





### RADIO

#### BIBLE ANSWERS LIVE

Airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 PM PT. A live call-in radio program during which you can ask Pastor Doug any Bible question and get a biblical answer in return. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate.

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#### **Amazing Facts Goes Global!**

We are pleased to announce that Amazing Facts, Inc., will become Amazing Facts International, an independent supporting ministry of the worldwide church, in 2019.

Established in 1965, Amazing Facts launched as a fifteen-minute radio program produced in the basement of church conference headquarters located in Maryland. The program was a huge success, and it was soon heard across North America. Shortly after, under the direction of Joe Crews, the ministry expanded into television, publishing, and evangelism training.

In 1995, the ministry relocated to Northern California, where, under the leadership of Pastor Doug, it continued to thrive as a conference

ministry; however, it has since grown into an international evangelistic company with official operations not only in North America, but also in six other nations, including Australia and the Philippines.

Says Pastor Doug, "This step is simply overdue recognition that Amazing Facts has expanded its operations and now reaches far beyond what was envisioned when it was first formed in 1965. It began with just three employees, but today the ministry employs nearly a hundred staff, as it also prepares to move into its new 60,000-square foot church and office campus, the W.O.R.D. Center, in 2019.

Granite Bay Church, where Pastor Doug will continue to serve as senior pastor, will remain a member of the local conference.

Pastor Doug adds, "One of the principal goals of Amazing Facts is to support and grow local churches. That isn't changing. As new believers respond to our broadcasts, Bible School, websites, and literature, we point them to local churches not only in Northern California, but also in divisions and conferences all around the world. Our



goal is to support the worldwide church by helping to grow local membership with informed, passionate, and active new believers—which has been reflected in our mission statement

for years." That mission statement is:

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

Thank you for your support, which has

enabled Amazing Facts to grow exponentially, reaching more people in more places than ever before! And as always, all your contributions will remain fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

If you have questions about the restructuring of Amazing Facts as an independent, self-supporting ministry, please contact Amazing Facts, Marketing Department, P.O. Box 1058, Roseville, CA 95678, or by email at marketing@amazingfacts.org.

#### **Prophecy Series Coming to Canada**

Pastor Doug and Amazing Facts will be presenting a new, life-changing evangelistic prophecy series in British Columbia,



November 9 to 17, at 7:00 PM nightly. The Christ-centered presentations will be hosted at the Church in the Valley located at 23589 Old Yale Road, Langley, British Columbia. Come discover the incredible revelation of prophecy and stunning rediscovered Bible truths. Be sure to bring a

friend—and visit amazingfacts.org for more information as the dates approach!

## CHRISTIAN



#### **Kingdoms in Time DVD**

A stunning new documentary hosted by Pastor Doug that explores the most striking Bible predictions that have come true—from nations rising and falling to the birth, death, and resurrection of the most important person in prophecy: Jesus! Journey through time as experts reveal how we know biblical prophecies were written in advance—and what that means for prophecies that have yet to come true. **Available for pre-order. DV-KIT ... \$14.95** 

#### Amazing Treasures of Faith Box Set

Inspiring resources to enrich the faith journey of all the women in your life! Comes with *Women in the Word* devotional; *Food for the Day: Recipe & Scripture Cards; Words of Faith* DVD; and *From Stress to Joy* and *Assurance: Justification Made Simple* sharing books. MS-FBW ... \$24.95

#### The Final Events of Bible Prophecy Magazine

This captivating 32-page resource unveils astonishing Bible predictions about our planet's final days. Packed with full-color graphics and fascinating facts, it examines seven last-day events including end-time signs, Christ's return, the millennium, judgment, heaven, and more. A must-have for sharing! BK-FE ... \$2.75

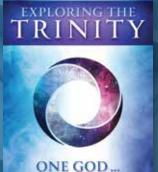
#### The Afterlife Mystery Magazine

Unravel the mysteries of death, hell, the soul, eternal life, and more with this fascinating new sharing magazine! Packed with breathtaking graphics, this 32-page magazine dispels the darkness of confusion about life after death—with the light of God's Word. A perfect sharing resource! **BK-ALM ... \$2.50** 

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## RESOURCES



**OR THREE?** 

DOUG BATCHELOR

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#### The Shepherd King DVD

*Doug Batchelor.* A vital, unparalleled exploration of David's life, reign, and death that will teach you inspiring yet practical, contemporary lessons in faith that will direct you powerfully to Jesus Christ, the ultimate Shepherd-King. **DV-SK ... \$29.95** 

#### Should Christians Keep the Jewish Feasts?

*Doug Batchelor.* Growing numbers of sincere believers are asking whether Christians today should be keeping the feasts and festivals commanded in the Old Testament. In an easy-to-read and engaging style, Pastor Doug unfolds Bible answers that will help you know God's will for you. **BK-SCKF ... \$7.95** 

#### Foundations of Faith DVD and Lesson Set

*Doug Batchelor.* Now more than ever, the devil is seeking to undermine the bedrock foundations of Christianity. Be ready to hold the line with this all-new, power-packed set of revival-themed sermons and lessons to inspire reformation in your heart and your entire church. **AF-FOFSET ... \$44.95** 



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## Profound Reach of Amazing Facts

REVEALED AT CAMP MEETINGS

By Mark A. Kellner

ince taking the reins of the ministry in 1994, Pastor Doug Batchelor has grown accustomed to meeting people who've been touched by the work of Amazing Facts, but hearing such testimonies never grows old. He says, "It's always encouraging to know how this work is reaching hearts around the world. I think it's one way the Lord lets us know that His Holy Spirit is using Amazing Facts as a conduit for the greatest work on earth."

Still, when Pastor Doug traveled to recent camp meetings held in Pennsylvania and Michigan this year, he simply wasn't prepared for the profound encouragement the Lord would bring his way. He adds, "When you get on the road, you meet so many new people, every day, who are being impacted by this ministry. It's truly very moving."

While in Pennsylvania, he and his wife, Karen, were stunned by the number of people who told them that they had either been baptized or returned to the faith through Amazing Facts in some way, whether it was one of our evangelists or through the Bible School or TV program.

He shares the example of Sandy, who had been an ordained Baptist minister and was a hospital chaplain for seventeen years. "She got hold of the Amazing Facts Bible lessons and then found our website. She studied all of the materials with a passion. When local Sabbathkeeping pastors met with her, there wasn't much more they could teach her that she didn't already know through these resources." The providence of meeting Sandy by the end of the Pennsylvania camp meeting was a tremendous blessing. Pastor Doug says, "She was baptized at the camp meeting's conclusion, and I was very thankful I could be there and participate."

#### JUST FOUR MINUTES

Another story from the Pennsylvania camp meeting came from a married couple named Ronnie and Steve. They had stumbled onto a mere four minutes of an Amazing Facts



broadcast while they were on vacation, yet what they heard in those brief moments was enough to send them on a longterm spiritual quest. When they arrived home, they tried to find Amazing Facts programs again.

"Unfortunately," explains Pastor Doug, "Our programs were not airing in their region. But a decade later, Amazing Facts was



led to purchase airtime in their community, and they were thrilled. They began watching faithfully and taking notes."

The Amazing Facts broadcasts led to dramatic changes in Ronnie's and Steve's lives: "Even though they had no idea there was a local church they could attend, they started keeping the Sabbath according to God's Word," Pastor Doug says. "They even changed their diet and started leading the Christlike lifestyle that Amazing Facts advocates in our programming."

What happened next is rather startling: Local Sabbath keepers, Jaime and Camie, knocked on their door. They had come to invite Steve and Ronnie to prophecy meetings that began that night!

When Ronnie noticed they had a postcard that indicated the meetings were connected to Amazing Facts, she excitedly invited the two into her home, exclaiming, "We've been waiting for you!" Ronnie and Steve attended the Bible prophecy seminar together and were baptized in their local church, where they remain active and passionate believers.

#### SUPPORTING THE END-TIME CHURCH

Says Pastor Doug, "Pastors and other church leaders are telling us, 'People walking off the street say they'd like to join the church,' saying they've been watching Amazing Facts for years. These pastors find that they're already well grounded in the truths of the Bible. It's extraordinary."

And as in the case of Ronnie and Steve, Amazing Facts is not only bringing the three angels' messages to millions, it's also discipling those with receptive hearts in the beliefs of the church, preparing them for participation in a local congregation. Pastor Doug says, "One of our most important goals is to support, to undergird, the outreach efforts of our local church families. It's not only about growing the scope of Amazing Facts, although that is certainly one of our goals. But Amazing Facts is really about helping local churches grow and become stronger."

#### CAMP MEETINGS REMAIN IMPORTANT AND INSPIRING

The Batchelors encountered several similar testimonies at the Michigan camp meeting, where two pastors credited Amazing Facts with their calls to serve in the church. One, from Laos, is currently translating Amazing Facts materials into the local language to reach his people for the kingdom.

Pastor Doug notes that however common such stories about Amazing Facts can be, they don't reveal the exceptionalism of Amazing Facts, but rather the exceptionalism of the grace and love of God.

Indeed, these testimonies come alive at such Christian convocations because the Lord is in the midst of His people. He says, "There's always a vital spiritual energy that comes whenever people gather in God's name. The Lord says 'where two or three are gathered'—so when you assemble with thousands and they're all seeking after God, something special can happen. Hundreds and even thousands come to camp meeting because they're looking for spiritual growth. God honors their effort to draw near to Him by meeting with them in a unique way at these events."

God also used these events to demonstrate the far reach and the deep impact Amazing Facts continues to have. We're grateful to you and to all our supporters for helping to make soul winning through this ministry possible and for making such a tangible difference in people's lives—differences that will be measured in eternity!

### **PROPHECY SEMINARS**

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

#### SPEAKERS



Doug Batchelor



Wyatt Allen







Dakota Day



Carlos Muñoz

#### **Doug Batchelor**

September 14, 15 Church in the Valley 23589 Old Yale Road Langley, British Columbia, Canada

October 13 Kalamazoo Church 1601 Nichols Road Kalamazoo, Michigan

**October 26, 27** Messenger of Hope Congress Madrid, Spain

November 9 – 17 Church in the Valley 23589 Old Yale Road Langley, British Columbia, Canada

#### Wyatt Allen

September 7 – October 6 Rochester Church 1100 37th Street NW Rochester, Minnesota

**October 19 – November 17** Three Angels Church 239 Line Street Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina

January 4 – February 2 Inverness Church 638 S. Eden Gardens Avenue Inverness, Florida This is a great time to book an Amazing Facts evangelist and grow your church! Our Bible prophecy seminars feature can't-beat price breaks and a marketing team that will help you advertise your event. Call today for more details.

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

#### <u>Darrin Bartell</u>

September 21 – October 27 Eureka Church Auditorium 460 Airport Road Eureka, Montana

#### <u>Dakota Day</u>

August 3 – 25 Fayetteville Church 1707 North Crossover Road Fayetteville, Arkansas

**September 7 – 29** Family Life Center 9425 West Sam Houston Pkwy Houston, Texas

October 12 – November 3 Louisville First Church 2988 Newburg Road Louisville, Kentucky Times and locations are subject to change. Please confirm at prophecyseminars.com prior to attending.

#### Carlos Muñoz

August 10 – 17 Centro Juvenil Eliezer Melendez Calle Julio Andino # 501 Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico \*Spanish-language seminar

August 18 – September 1

Templo ASD Humacao 1 Calle Esmeralda #6 Humacao, Puerto Rico \*Spanish-language seminar

**October 5 – 20** New Richmond 258 North 3rd Street New Richmond, Wisconsin

**October 26 – November 17** Iglesia de Bellaire 5710 Jessamine Street Houston, Texas

Inside Report 16 3Q 2018

## Shining Light of a New

by Dakota Day

was raised in a Christian home in the small town of Manila, Arkansas. My parents did their best to raise three millennial children in church, teaching us to respect and obey the Bible.

As a family, we visited many different churches in search of the one that taught all the Bible. This journey to discover truth was difficult at times; however, one day, without us recognizing it at first, the undiluted truth flashed through our home. My parents had discovered videos that presented the Word of God in a way that seemed to match what they had been reading in their Bible for years. One of those videos was Amazing Facts' *Millennium of Prophecy* series with Pastor Doug Batchelor.

At the time, I was just a child beginning kindergarten and was disinterested in spiritual things; the truths



that my parents had been learning were unknown to me. Fast forward ten years later, and I entered into those spiritual war zones called "public schools." I had soon become so jaded by the world and entrapped in entertainment that the last thing on my mind was God. Unfortunately, I began to grow so mesmerized by the

world that I wasn't even sure if I believed in a god at all.

I spent the majority of my time searching aimlessly for any thrill I could get. All the while, I had no idea that my pursuit of happiness would never be filled by what this world has to offer. Fortunately, God always



Dakota Day is an Amazing Facts evangelist and is available to present Bible prophecy seminars for your church. See page 16 for more information.

has a plan that leads us to better things. My dad felt a conviction to start a church plant in his hometown. Shortly after, my brother began to share with me the Amazing Facts *Storacles of Prophecy* series. It was through these insightful Bible lessons that I began to see and recognize for the first time the imperative truths for our time. Learning the truth about the Sabbath, the afterlife, hellfire, health, and more also opened my eyes to a new purpose.

Inspired by these great truths, I decided to memorize all the Scriptures that I had learned in the Bible lessons and begin sharing them with everyone I possibly could. I would go to school and spend my lunch time giving Bible studies. Sometimes, I had over fifteen teens attend. Although it was always a struggle attending public school,

(Continued on page 20.)

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#### (Continued from page 9.)

another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24, 25).

Isaiah 66:23 says that even in heaven we will gather to worship before the Lord. Is this your pattern today?



One of the most sublime indicators of the Spirit in the life is an abiding peace. When a person is at peace with God, he cannot be made miserable. "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:165).

Jesus said, "My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). You might say that when the Christian keeps his mind upon Christ, he develops a "calmplex"—a heartfelt trust in God. "The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

Do you have peace that surpasses all understanding, even in the storms of your life?

#### HOW DID YOU DO?

If this checklist led you to question the depth of your conversion, don't panic, but do take it seriously. It's a good first step to restoration. Perhaps you once experienced the first love (Revelation 2:4) but misplaced it in the busyness of religion. Jesus offers a remedy: "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works" (Revelation 2:5).

If you ended up with a glowing result, praise God! But keep in mind, like any love relationship, our connection with the Lord must be carefully maintained. Conversion is something that can quickly unravel, so it should be seen as a garden that must be continually watered and weeded. Paul said, "I die *daily*" (1 Corinthians 15:31, emphasis added). Jesus said a believer must "deny himself, and take up his cross *daily*, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23, emphasis added). You can be actively doing the work of the Lord, like Martha, yet lose sight of the Lord of the work. Why is this so important? Because a lot of people claim to be Christians, yet their example often suggests they don't know Christ. What a tragedy that, if not corrected, these souls will one day say, "Lord, Lord!"—but He will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matthew 7:23). How do you avoid this awful fate? The Bible says, "Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD" (Lamentations 3:40).

Check yourself monthly, weekly, or daily—if needed against the pattern of Christ's example: "Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22, 23). Do you truly love God? Your neighbor? Are you kind and patient? Do you possess self-control? I hope you will honestly evaluate your faith so that you can know whether you are actually in the faith!

Sometimes I look at this list and worry. When I examine not just *what* I do but *why* I do it, I catch myself doing good things for selfish reasons. I have to say with a heart of repentance, "Lord, I'm doing the right thing, but help me do it for the right reason too." Of course, if you're doing the right thing for the wrong reason, do the right thing anyway. One day, by God's grace, your motives will be adjusted. But eventually, the essence of who we are must be changed

from selfishness to selflessness. Love and selfishness

are the two great flags that fly over the camps of the converted and the counterfeits.

Don't misunderstand: We are saved only by His grace through faith. But that saving grace, that faith in Christ, *will* produce a change





in the life. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). May this be your experience today!

## BIBLE ANSWERS

## Is the God of Islam the same God of Christianity?

This is a frequent question we receive at Amazing Facts, and it's one that needs more than a simple yes or no to answer.

For instance, in some places, such as Indonesia, the word used by both Christians and Muslims for God, the supreme divine being, is "Allah." This, however, doesn't mean that they have the same understanding of who this Allah is. For my purposes, I'm using Allah in the way a majority of Muslims understand it—the divine being outlined in the Quran.

Of course, Muslims, Christians, and Jews do share some roots, and each religion has doctrines addressing similar religious ideas—heaven, hell, Satan, morality, salvation, etc. Islam, for instance, traces its origin to Abraham, with the notable exception that Muslims believe Abraham offered up Ishmael, rather than Isaac, as the promised son. Of course, the founders of Islam trace their ancestry to Ishmael.

However, while acknowledging these similar teachings and ideas, there are also some irreconcilable differences between the faiths that ultimately make them incompatible. Here are four examples.

- Muslims believe the Quran is the only Word of Allah. Christians, however, believe, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). See also Luke 24:44.
- 2. Muslims do not believe Jesus is the Son of God, nor that He was crucified and raised from the dead. "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). See also 1 John 4:3.

3. Muslims believe salvation is earned through a series of religious works and rituals, not through faith in the blood of Jesus. "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ ..." (Galatians 2:16).

4. The principal lesson of Islam is, "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger." "There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). See also 1 Corinthians 8:6.

With these major differences noted, and there are many more to be sure, I personally come to the conclusion that the God portrayed in the Bible is not the same being as the one portrayed in the Quran—despite their sometimes similar facades. These two divine beings ask us to believe completely different things and at times to behave in two completely different ways. To consider them one and the same would lead to spiritual confusion, and we know that our Father in heaven is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).

All the same, Christians should remember that there are millions of sincere, loving Muslims around the world searching for the truth and that God hears their prayers. "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him" (Acts 10:34, 35).

Tune in to **Bible Answers Live**, Amazing Facts' live, nationwide callin 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.

When witnessing to Muslim friends, it is both harmless and wise to find whatever common ground you can without denying firm biblical principles (1 Corinthians 9:20–22). One way is through our shared health beliefs—including abstaining from unclean foods and alcohol use. This is a powerful starting point to develop a relationship through which you can share your faith with words and by a life that demonstrates the character of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.



(Continued from page 17.)

God continued to convict me of the truth I had learned and reminded me of His matchless power to give me the strength to stay faithful and to graduate.

But before graduating high school, I had another big test to pass. The test was figuring out what I should do with my life.

#### Following God's Call

When you go to high school these days, they drill into you that you will be a nobody unless you go to college, get a degree, and make lots of money. A big house, fancy

sports cars, and other luxuries are all referred to as the "American Dream."

Yet after seeing all of the celebrities with miserable lives, some to the point of suicide, I knew *that* dream wasn't something I wanted. Jesus' words in Mark 8:36 rang through my mind: "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" Day after day, Jesus continually reminded me of these words. I knew that I must turn my life over to Him in every way. At that time, I was dating Anna, who would become my wife. I decided to

begin Bible studies with her, and I reached out to my friends to share the amazing truths that changed my life.

My wife and friends were all driving about two hours three times a week to study the Word. The Lord was sending us an avalanche of conviction during every study. It was through these small group studies that I realized I knew the Word of God, but I did not know the God of the Word. It was evident that I knew the doctrines but was still in need of the Great Physician—Jesus Christ. After studying together for three months, five members of the group decided that we were tired of being slaves to a cruel master. Instead, we wanted to be servants of Christ.

In God's goodness, we had learned about the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism and decided to attend their fall program.

I am so glad to say that ever since, my life has changed. Today, I am an Amazing Facts evangelist. My wife and I travel the globe preaching the everlasting gospel to anyone who will come to hear the words of life. I simply cannot put into words how wonderful it is to be

a part of a ministry that has helped change my

life. It is such an honor and joy to be colaborers with Jesus in finishing the work. He says in Matthew 24:14 that the end will not come until the gospel is preached in all the world. That means Jesus is waiting for us to vindicate His character to a dying world.

> Like the woman at the well, I was going about my daily life until I saw a Man. His stature shined with glory, with incomprehensible love. It was then that, just as the woman left her water pot, likewise, I left all the drivel of the

world to go and invite the world to come meet this Man. My goal is to help all the world come see Jesus—so that all their pain, sorrow, trials, and troubles of life will become the smallest matters in the world. It wasn't until Phillip invited Nathaniel to come and see Christ for himself that he believed that Jesus was the Messiah. My prayer is to be the Nathaniel for thousands around the world as an Amazing Facts evangelist.



## Three Homes PROCLAIM THE Three Angels'

Darlene wanted to make the greatest impact for God that she possibly could—so she gave to Amazing Facts.

**In** 2014, Darlene made one of the most important calls of her life. She'd been praying about this decision for years. She didn't even know what she would say on the phone, but she knew God's leading was clear.

She dialed Amazing Facts.

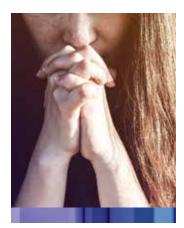
Years earlier, her son was going to university in Sacramento, and when Darlene visited him, he invited her to attend his church. Darlene had stopped attending church years before, but she accepted her son's loving invitation.

And it was there she discovered that Pastor Doug Batchelor was a different kind of preacher. She explains, "When he preaches, it's down-to-earth and easy to understand. He shares God in a way that is practical to everyday life!"

Eventually, Darlene's job brought her to Sacramento permanently, and she continued to attend Pastor Doug's church, growing more convicted week after week.

#### A Prayer of Faith

Darlene had a rental property and desired something more from it. "I wanted it to be used for God's work," she says, firmly believing Jesus is coming soon. She boldly asked



God to help pay it off so He could use it sooner than later to win souls. She didn't even know where she would give the property, but she faithfully asked, "God, show me where You want this to go."

She says, "I waited four years for the answer." There were several places she could have given it, of course, but she saw Amazing Facts' responsible

stewardship at work. "They aren't extravagant. Everyone there works tremendously hard." She believed that her sacrificial gift would go furthest at Amazing Facts. That's when she called us.



When the receptionist answered, Darlene said, "Hello. I have a house I'd like to give away—and I have no idea what to do!" She was soon put in touch with Mark Teh, planned giving director. Darlene shares joyfully, "Mark made it easy and took care of everything."

#### **Gifts Change Lives**

On one Sabbath, Darlene sat in church listening to guest speaker Wyatt Allen. As a young man, he had been imprisoned for a serious crime, but God's message through Amazing Facts had changed his life. Now he was married with two children and serving as an evangelist for the ministry that God used to save him!

"Hearing that story confirmed my gift," Darlene says. "I thought, 'These are real-world people who had their lives changed through this ministry.' " So two years later, when her next property was paid off, she knew exactly what to do. "I saw Amazing Facts' good work—the harvest it brought in."

Not long ago, Darlene donated her *third* house to Amazing Facts, this time to support the new W.O.R.D. Center. She explains, "One of our biggest tools of evangelism will be the new studio. Giving to this project means that more people around the world will hear the good news!"

Darlene also knows that her gifts to Amazing Facts will bless far beyond their worldly value. "I'm not a preacher or teacher," she explains. "I'm a quiet, shy person, but I have a part in God's work. I can take the blessings He's given me and give to those who are skilled in evangelism."

If you have property or other assets you would like to contribute to the completion of the W.O.R.D. Center and accelerate the advancement of God's end-time message, please contact us at 800-436-2695 or visit mylegacy.amazingfacts.org.

#### **Amazing Facts**

## **Health Bite**

The new Amazing Treasures of Faith box-set features inspiring resources that will touch the heart, mind, and spirit of every woman in your life—and enrich her faith journey in unexpected ways! Along with Women in the Word, a 31day devotional created for women, this special set includes an easy-touse "Food of the Day" flipbook of 31 delicious recipes.

With a healthful, easy-to-make recipe on one side and a short devotional thought on the other, each card will inspire you spiritually and physically! Here's just a sample of what you'll get ...



#### Breakfast

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Makes 20 burgers

Burgers

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#### **Belgian Waffles**



5-6 cups water 3/4 teaspoon salt 1/4 cup nuts or seeds 1/2 cup cornmeal 1/8 cup date pieces 3 cups rolled oats

- 1. Blend all ingredients except the oats, starting with 2 cups of water. Fill a quart jar with water to measure the remaining 4 cups.
- 2. Add oats and 3 cups of the remaining water and blend until smooth. Let the batter sit for 3 minutes.
- 3. Pour 1¼ cups of batter onto preheated, oil-sprayed Belgian waffle iron, not allowing batter to come completely to sides. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown.
- 4. Add another 1/2 cup of the water to batter and blend again. You will see batter thickens as it sits. Pour the second waffle into the iron, then add the final 1/2 cup of water and blend again. Repeat process. Waffle iron may get hotter during the process, so watch carefully! Cooking time may need to be decreased.

Makes 6 waffles.

Nutritional analysis per waffle: Calories 330 | Protein 11.7 g | Carbs 42.4 g Fiber 7.5 g | Fat 14.1 g | Sodium 300 mg

> 21/2 cups English walnuts % cup maple syrup 1 tablespoon canola oil 2 teaspoons vanilla extract 1 teaspoon salt 1 teaspoon sait 1/3 cup flax meal 1/2 cup whole wheat flour 1/3 cup dairy-free carob chips

**?{{€**:

Bring water, Bragg Liquid Aminos, and olive oil to

boil in a large saucepan. Add oats and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from

Add oats and simming ingredients and mix well. heat. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Allow to cool just slightly and form into patties on oil-sprayed cookie sheet, using a round %-cup measure or ice cream scoop to make uniform patties. With wet fingers, flatten patties and round edges. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes.

- Grind 1½ cups of the walnuts in the blender or food processor, leaving some coarsely ground. Pour into a mixing bowl. Blend remaining 1 cup of walnuts with the maple syrup, oil, vanile actract, and sait in a blender. Mixture should be smooth and creamy add blended institute to the convent wellevite.
- Add blended mixture to the ground walnuts. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Form cookies by placing slightly more than 1 tablespoon of batter on non-stick cookie
- sheet. Flatten with the back of a spoon coated with oil. (Using a small scoop sprayed with oil also works well.) Bake in 350° oven for 12 minutes. Watch closely as oven temperatures may vary.

63

Makes 2 dozen.

Nutritional analysis per 1 cookie: Calories 140 | Protein 2.3 g | Carbs 11.5 g Fiber 1.9 g | Fat 10 g | Sodium 102 mg

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Inside Report 22 3Q 2018

Special ecognition

Memorials Paul and Lena Adams by Al Wiggins George Akers by Imogene Akers, his wife

Selly Bembo by Jennifer Ungaro Jake Bohl by Janie Morris and Sarah Begley

Norma Reile Carlson by Olga Hieb Gladys Carpenter by Doris Carpenter, her daughter Dr. Eugene and Nola Chrowl by Janice Chrowl, their daughter Bill Collier by Jim and Judy Culpepper Joe Crews by LuAnn Crews, his wife

Everett Dickerson by Yvonne Dickerson, his wife; by Arnold Dickerson; by Arnold Blidden Myron Durham by Anita Lowe, his sister Warren and Edith Durham by Anita Lowe, their daughter

Jerry Eller by Don Park

Edward Ensminger by Bonnie Ensminger, his wife; by Thomas and Gwendolyn Baker; by Loretta Ensminger; by Norman and Sharon Ensminger; by Steven and Kathy Ensminger; by Lavina Keith; by Frank and Carole Lynne Salas; by Mark and Kaya Teh

Helen Farley by Mary DiCaprio Ruth Foutch by Frank and Gayle Tyroff Homer and Fern Frederick by Tom and Judy Kramer

Gale Gabbert by Elder and Mrs. Arden Mote Madeline Gahr by Bill and Valerie Bogues Frieda Gibson by Madeline Gibson Helen Gilbert by Jane Gold Ona Lee Glidden by Arnold Glidden, her husband Allen Goede by Jeanette Bigsby, his sister Eleanor Guresbeck by Ronald, Phyllis, and Richard

Terry Hammock by Keith and Alice Gene Belcher Alice Hendricks by Althea Millar, her sister Joseph and Thelma Herzberg by Debra Fechik, their daughter Nancy Hornbeck by Tom and Judy Kramer Carol Hossmann by Peter and Linda Connell

Michael Ikeda by Jutta Ikeda-Mackay, his mother

Elnora Kline by Jerry and Nancy Fletcher Martin Knopper by Jill and Judy Culpepper Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Krause by Karen Snyder, their daughter

William Lowe by Anita Lowe, his wife Homer Lynd by Teresa Lynd

Luther May by Claudie English JC Buddy McElroy by Jim and Judy Culpepper Kathy McGraw by Glenn and Stacey Johlman; by Ruth Jensen Jackie Meldrajs by Phyllis Scheideman E. Tina Mitchell by Jim and Judy Culpepper

Don Oltman by Jeanne Oltman, his wife

Eleanor and Eugene Park by Don Park Don Pascoe by Edna Walkrup Lois Prusia by Mar and Joe Niccoli

Jack and Hazel Riedlinger by Dr. and Mrs. Casebolt Thelma Pearl Rilea by Dale and Phyllis Scheideman Miriam Ross by Lisa Moyadijieff; by the Franz Valley Mothers Club Harry and Irma Rushold by Udene Allen,

Jean Smith by Stanley Smith, her husband Davis Stafford by Al Wiggins Miles Stafford by Al Wiggins Barbara Sturges by Bruce Babienco, her brother

Anne Tyroff by Frank and Gayle Tyroff

David VanMeter by Hazel Grove Daniel Viera by Melva Darnell

Florence Werner by Geraldine Redmond Donald Wood by Leona Schmidt and Lois Barker

Happy Birthday Ivan Peacock (102nd) by Jim and Judy Culpepper

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



www.amazingfacts.org 916-434-3880

#### You know the confusion ...

- ... a secret rapture?
- ... Jesus' 1,000-year reign on earth?
- ... a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem?

Millions of seekers have been confused by false prophecy, leading them to false doctrines that could deceive them in the last days.

Amazing Facts' mission is to share the plain Bible truth about prophecy, leading people to a stronger understanding of Scripture and a lasting, life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Your support today will propel that mission forward.

Donate now at give.amazingfacts.org





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