

# SEVEN SIGNS

OF JESUS' SOON RETURN



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# Hide God's Word in Your Heart

## Memorize:

Now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed (Romans 13:11).


**W**ould you agree that the world is largely unaware that Christ is coming back soon? Some are busy building their corporate empires. Others are pursuing prominence. Still others are preoccupied with keeping up with the trends of the day. Whether it be work, relationships, or charitable causes, many have their eyes glued on the earthly prize rather than toward heaven.

But the Bible warns us not to be lulled into a state of listlessness. "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). This quarter's memory verse urges us to wake up: "You, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:4–6).

What exactly are we watching for? As Christians, we are charged to watch for the signs of the times, which herald the second advent of our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Christ. When Christ returns, He brings to all who believe in Him the promised reward: salvation. For the believer, every day that passes is one day closer to the Second Coming and the receiving of Christ's gift of eternal life. Though we "know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (Matthew 25:13), we can know, through our memory verse, that there is a finite, determined time for it.

If the apostle Paul warned the disciples in Rome of the nearness of the second advent nearly two thousand years ago, how much more urgent should our message be today? We are the watchmen on the wall. It is our duty and purpose to prepare ourselves and others for what is coming. Hide this verse in your heart as a reminder of that blessed hope and sobering responsibility.

In this quarter's main feature, Pastor Doug Batchelor examines seven signs of the times prophesied in the Bible that, for better or worse, are taking the world by storm. You won't want to sleep through what is coming next. 



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# Connect with Amazing Facts

## From the Mail Bag



### From the Heart

I recently experienced a traumatizing relationship split-up. I have never been so deeply depressed. In my despair, I cried out to the Lord, begging Him to help me. And He has done so. That experience led me back on track with God. He has come

into my life and changed me, and your Amazing Facts videos have given me both inspiration and answers to many of my unanswered questions regarding God, Jesus, and the future. In that way, I can say that it has significantly boosted my faith and given me an insight that I needed and longed for. From my heart, thank you, and God bless your beautiful work. *Marius*

### Fireproof

With my free-to-air satellite system, I came across Amazing Facts. Pastor Doug really explained the Bible to me more than other denominations. The phrase "It is written" reminded me of two Bibles I found after my garage burned in January. While going through the ashes and seeing what was salvageable, these two Bibles were scorched on the outside, but the printed word was not touched. The Bibles were found with ashes all around them. I thought that if it was Satan who started the fire, he couldn't destroy the Word. It may be a coincidence, but it's something to think about. I love your programs as they enrich me when I listen to how you explain the Bible in a calm, informative way. *John*



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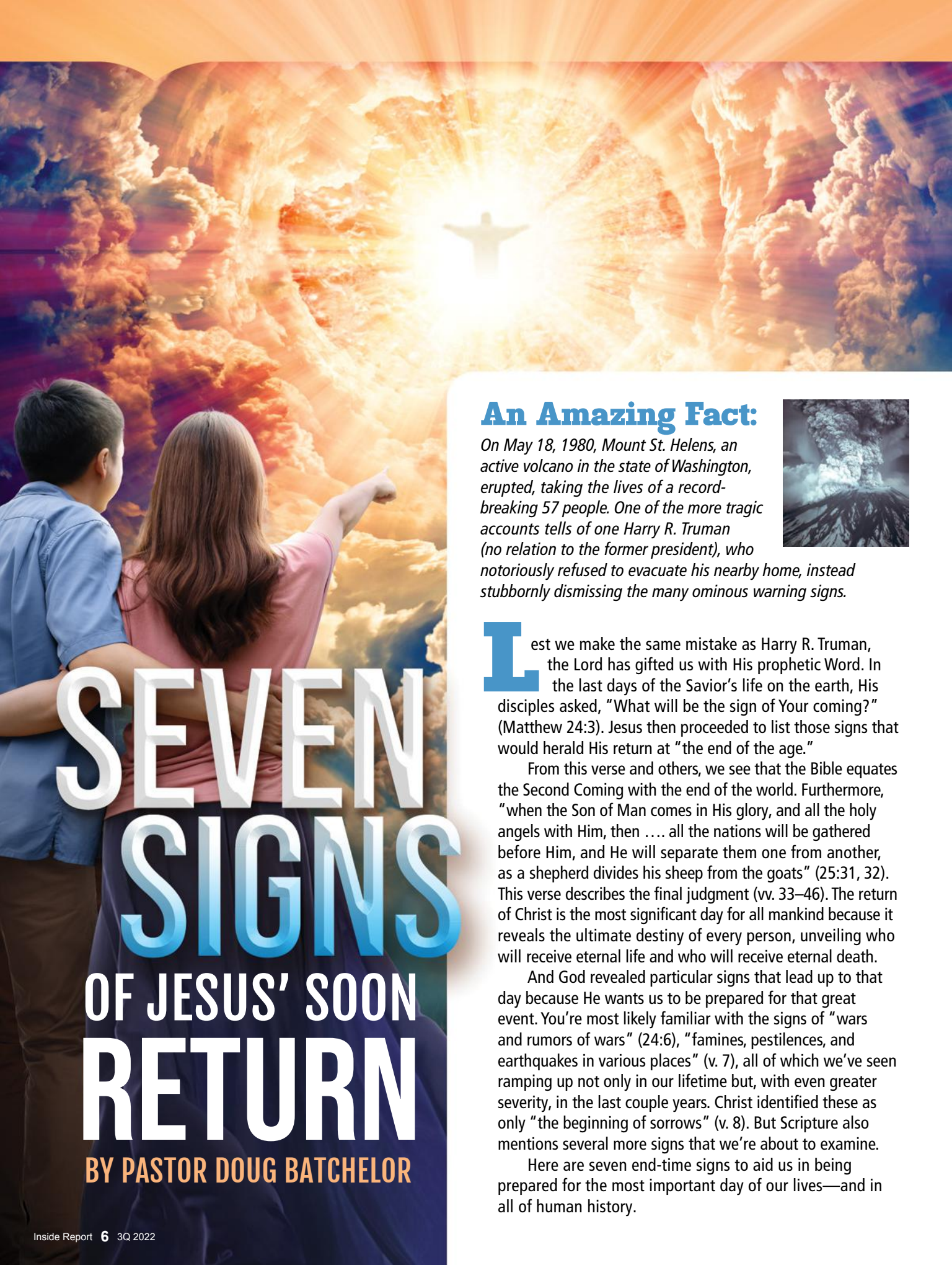
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# SEVEN SIGNS OF JESUS' SOON RETURN

BY PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR

## An Amazing Fact:

*On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens, an active volcano in the state of Washington, erupted, taking the lives of a record-breaking 57 people. One of the more tragic accounts tells of one Harry R. Truman (no relation to the former president), who notoriously refused to evacuate his nearby home, instead stubbornly dismissing the many ominous warning signs.*



**L**est we make the same mistake as Harry R. Truman, the Lord has gifted us with His prophetic Word. In the last days of the Savior's life on the earth, His disciples asked, "What will be the sign of Your coming?" (Matthew 24:3). Jesus then proceeded to list those signs that would herald His return at "the end of the age."

From this verse and others, we see that the Bible equates the Second Coming with the end of the world. Furthermore, "when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then .... all the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats" (25:31, 32). This verse describes the final judgment (vv. 33–46). The return of Christ is the most significant day for all mankind because it reveals the ultimate destiny of every person, unveiling who will receive eternal life and who will receive eternal death.

And God revealed particular signs that lead up to that day because He wants us to be prepared for that great event. You're most likely familiar with the signs of "wars and rumors of wars" (24:6), "famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places" (v. 7), all of which we've seen ramping up not only in our lifetime but, with even greater severity, in the last couple years. Christ identified these as only "the beginning of sorrows" (v. 8). But Scripture also mentions several more signs that we're about to examine.

Here are seven end-time signs to aid us in being prepared for the most important day of our lives—and in all of human history.



# 1

## The Age of Technology

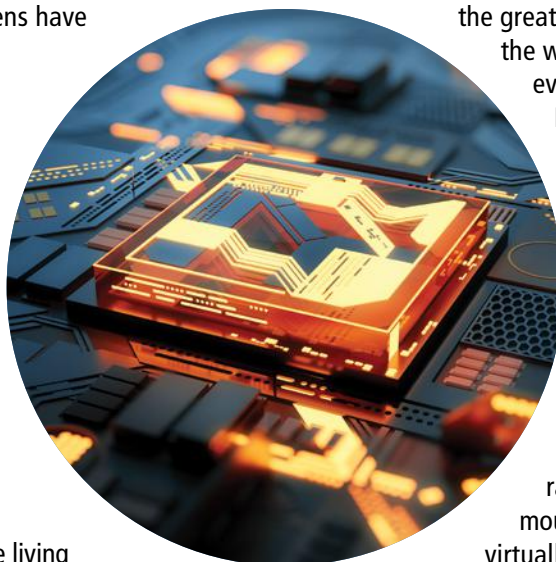


Do you realize that radio, television, computers, and the internet were all developed in just the 20th century? In only a century and a half, we've gone from the invention of the telephone to having a smartphone in the palms of 83 percent of the global population.

Or take the travel industry. For six thousand years, the fastest mode of public transportation was a horse. Today, travelers can jet around the world in mere days. In a matter of decades, the world saw the invention of the commercial railway, the mass-produced automobile, and commercial aircraft. Private citizens have even flown to space!

And it's not just physical ease; information is readily accessible at our fingertips. "Google" is a verb in the dictionary. The dawn of technology resulted in the consumer getting what he wanted when he wanted it; it normalized instant gratification. And it's showing no signs of stopping. Now the public is careening down the black holes of virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and cryptocurrency. But are you using the technology, or is the technology using you? Do we see in this sign an indication of Paul's description of those living in the last days: "men ... without self-control" (2 Timothy 3:2, 3), "led away by various lusts" (v. 6)?

And yet, about 2,500 years ago, the Bible predicted that all this would happen: "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" during "the time of the end" (Daniel 12:4).



# 2

## The Gospel to the World



In 2014, in what I believe to have been an outstanding miracle from God, Amazing Facts became one of the only—if not the only—Christian ministries given permission to hold a full public evangelistic series in China since 1949, when missionaries were expelled. At 1.4 billion, the communist country has the world's largest population. At the end of our meetings, hundreds were baptized to the glory of God and DVDs of the meetings began to proliferate around the country.

And it's not just Amazing Facts; missionary-minded ministries everywhere have taken up

the great commission to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Interestingly enough, this sign of the end has been contingent upon another: the rise of technology. There are those whose only opportunity to learn about the gospel comes from a website. Satellites can now beam the light of God's truths into individual homes. Through the internet, television, satellite, radio, publishing, and word of mouth, the message is reaching into virtually every corner of the globe.

This is actually the sign that triggers the Second Coming. The Bible tells us that when every living person has had the opportunity to hear the gospel, when "this gospel of the kingdom [is] preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, ... then the



end will come" (Matthew 24:14). Notice this important distinction: Christ will come when everyone in the world has been presented with the gospel, *not* when everyone has accepted it. One's response to the gospel, whether to accept or reject it, is determined by the free will of that individual.

## 3 The Environmental Crisis



On May 13, 2021, the world's largest iceberg was formed when it broke off of the Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica. A-76, as it was named, is a whopping 1,670 square miles.

No doubt, the earth is changing. While science attributes the environmental crisis to such factors as global warming, loss of biodiversity, or pollution, the Bible explains the root of the problem as another sign of the end: In his vision of the final judgment, the prophet Isaiah recorded, "The earth is also defiled under its



inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate" (Isaiah 24:5, 6). Furthermore, in his vision of the end times, the apostle John heard proclaimed from

heaven that God would "destroy those who destroy the earth" (Revelation 11:18). The earth is breaking down because humanity has persistently broken God's law.

There may well come a day when the devil will twist this reasoning to convince the majority of the globe to follow a counterfeit law of God.

In 2015, Pope Francis published his second encyclical, entitled *Laudato si'*, widely considered to be the pontiff's opus on environmental protection. The issue has, in fact, been called the "cornerstone of his pontificate."<sup>1</sup> Francis has been instrumental in propelling climate change into a global movement, largely in his efforts to unite church and state under its banner.<sup>2</sup> At no other time in Earth's history has a church been so impassioned about environmentalism.

Though we are not given license to treat our planet like trash, there is danger in making environmentalism your gospel. The fact of the matter is that we cannot save the world with solar panels, wind turbines, or hybrid cars. "The day of the Lord [the Second Coming] will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). It is Christ who saves the world. Ultimately, the Savior will "create new heavens and a new earth" (Isaiah 65:17), restoring the earth to perfection.

## 4 Denial of the Second Coming



When he spoke of the Second Coming, the apostle Paul stated, "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them" (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3). Do you know what denies the return of Christ? When "peace and safety" are yearned for, when ease and comfort are cherished, at the expense of truth—that's when Christ's return becomes an annoyance, an avoidance, or even regarded as a pipe dream. People don't want to hear about

1 Philip Pullella, "Pope says success of COP26 vital as 'time is running out,'" *Reuters*, November 11, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/pope-says-success-cop26-vital-time-is-running-out-2021-11-11/>.

2 Brian Roewe, "Pope Francis joins world faith leaders in urgent climate appeal ahead of COP26," *National Catholic Reporter*, October 4, 2021, <https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/pope-francis-joins-world-faith-leaders-urgent-climate-appeal-ahead-cop26>.



it because they like the way things are; they don't want things to change.

Take the COVID-19 pandemic. Practically overnight, the entire world was impacted; our way of life shifted dramatically. Students of Bible prophecy easily identified it as a sign of the end, one of the "pestilences" (Matthew 24:7). But how many couldn't wait for the bars and nightclubs to reopen? How many spent their unemployed hours binge-watching their favorite television show? How many were consumed with getting back to their creature comforts rather than responding to the alarm being sounded? In so doing, they make the Second Coming but a byword. The devil has a thousand and one ways to distract us with the humdrum of everyday life. Are you falling for his temptations?



# 5

## False Christs



Have you noticed that one of the reasons people so readily deny the Second Coming is the burgeoning amount of false alarms in recent years? Several leading ministers have set specific dates for the return of Christ only to have the time come and go—undermining the faith of thousands. So many people have claimed to be Jesus that Wikipedia actually compiled a page on it! This applies in a broader sense as well. How many other religions have cropped up in contention with Christianity, professing their doctrines as the path to salvation? Some sources say that there are more than 4,000 religions in existence today. Counted among those are Wicca, a type of witchcraft founded in 1954, and the New Age, a movement steeped in mysticism born in the 1970s.

When Jesus warned His disciples of the signs of the times, He mentioned this specific deception more than any other:

- Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many (vv. 4, 5).
- Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many (v. 11).
- Then if anyone says to you, "Look, here is the Christ!" or "There!" do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (vv. 23, 24).

Do you think this might have been an important sign to Jesus?

Our Lord also knew of the ultimate false christ that is to manifest in the last days: the Antichrist. The apostle John said, "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour" (1 John 2:18). Paul added, "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and

*(Continued on page 16.)*



# Proclaiming Christ on the Emerald Isle

*Our thanks to the following staff and church members in Ireland for their help with this report: Pastor Dan Serb, Pam Petersen, Simangaliso Sibanda, Diane Lewis, and Nelleke Magee.*

In May, Pastor Doug Batchelor was a featured speaker at four special events in Ireland: the Irish Pathfinder Camporee, an evangelistic series in Limerick, a worship service in Dublin, and an afternoon church service in Belfast.

Says Pastor Doug, "Our time in Ireland was unforgettable, and her lovely people so hospitable, warm, and devoted to revival and evangelism. I pray that our time there has planted seeds of eternal life, and we look forward to returning someday."

Pastor Doug's first engagement was the Irish Pathfinder Camporee at Portlick Scout Camp in Athlone, which was attended by 220 enthusiastic children. It seems that after pandemic restrictions were lifted, there was a special buzz in the air as the kids saw old friends and made new ones—even the rainy weather couldn't dampen their spirits!

At the opening ceremony, Pastor Doug and his wife, Karen, were warmly welcomed and made honorary members of the Pathfinder Club. The camporee's theme was "Standing on His Promises," and Pastor Doug used the story of Daniel to encourage the children to connect with God through worship and prayer so that they can stand for Christ in today's turbulent times. A highlight of the gathering was witnessing four Pathfinders surrender their lives to Christ at a Sabbath baptism at the lake.

## Limerick, Dublin, and Belfast


Next, Pastor Doug, along with the Irish Mission and Pastor Fillipe Lessa, presented evangelistic meetings in Limerick. The Bible-based series was well attended by both church members and visitors, and the presentations provided

an inspiring overview of the story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation, with a special focus on exercising faith in difficult times. The event provided church members the opportunity to strengthen their faith, while also building valuable bridges with the many visitors who expressed an interest in knowing more about the last-day message.

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, church members in Dublin were excited to gather again for the annual Greater Dublin Day of Fellowship on May 7. The state-of-the-art Betania Church was perfect for hosting this sizeable event with Pastor Doug as a featured guest speaker. Dublin-area churches were blessed with an insightful Sabbath lesson study with Pastor Doug and other panelists. This was followed by an inspiring sermon by Pastor Doug entitled "The Red Rope of Rahab," in which he linked the experience of Rahab and the fall of Jericho with salvation and the Second Coming.

That same afternoon, Pastor Doug spoke to believers in Belfast. His description of how Jesus set the demoniac free and restored him resonated powerfully with his testimony. If Jesus can free a man possessed by a legion of demons, then no one is beyond His loving touch!

Pastor Dan Serb of the Irish Mission, which helped coordinate Pastor Doug's visit, says, "May the messages that Pastor Doug shared on the Emerald Isle have a lasting effect on the people living here. And may they be as bold as he is in proclaiming the soon coming of Jesus and the importance of being prepared to meet Him."

Thank you for your support, which makes it possible for Amazing Facts and Pastor Doug to share the gospel live at evangelistic and revival events all around the world! 





# Amazing Facts News to Note

## Have You Heard About Amazing Facts Youth?



Youth from all over the world are joining the Amazing Facts Youth (AFY) movement! Tony Scarpino, an Amazing Facts ministry partner advisor, oversees the program that features regular, Christ-centered

events for young people. During "Hey Let's Pray" every Monday night, as many as 40 youth have gathered with AFY on Zoom for two hours to pray—including those living in Ghana, the Philippines, Thailand, Norway, Poland, Jamaica, Brazil, Canada, and America. Every Friday on Zoom and YouTube, youth participate in the AFY Live Virtual Vespers, a program featuring guest speakers, testimonies, and music. And recently, we added AFY Bible Reading and Audio on Spotify and other podcast platforms; it's called "Reading God's Word: A Daily Dose of the Bread of Life."

Edward from New York says, "I join AFY each week because of the community of youth who are actively seeking God and supporting each other. If you want to be surrounded by believers your age who'll uplift you, AFY is the place to be." And Jaden in Washington State says, "AFY provides just what I've been looking for—positive, uplifting, and godly friends. If I have something I'm going through, I feel like I can go to AFY to ask for prayer and not feel embarrassed."

It's not too late to join! Visit [linktr.ee/amazingfactsyouth](http://linktr.ee/amazingfactsyouth) to get access to all these events.

## Armageddon Documentary Filming Begins



Pastor Doug and the Amazing Facts media team are now filming a new documentary that couldn't come at a better time: *Armageddon and the Final Events of Bible Prophecy*

The script has been completed and production is well underway, with more sets being built and costumes created. Several special effects shots are also being produced. Filming will continue through October. Stay tuned for more updates—and please pray that the Holy Spirit guides this production every step of the way!

## 2022 AFCOE Complete Course Is Underway

Beginning August 16, a full class of students from around the world joined AFCOE instructors at the W.O.R.D. Center campus for outreach training. Please pray for our students and teachers, that the Lord will use them to grow His kingdom in the years to come!



## Academy Receives AFCOE Training

Before becoming a chaplain at Union Springs Academy, Lisa Crittenden had a passion for church planting. She also admires the training Amazing Facts provides for lay people, pastors, Bible workers, and churches. After joining the team at the academy, she dreamed of bringing that training to her students. After four years, that dream became a reality when AFCOE provided personal evangelism training to the campus,



utilizing their Amazing Disciples curriculum. From May 9 to 14, Daniel Hudgens, assistant AFCOE director and associate speaker for Amazing Facts, presented a special revival week that saw eight students receive diplomas. It was a wonderful, spiritually infused week, and several students rededicated their lives to Christ. One academy staff member stated, "Our revival week with Daniel was a highlight for our school family this year. We are so thankful for the inspiring messages!" Daniel said the experience was likewise a highlight in his ministry, and he looks forward to going deeper with academy students next year as they dig into Amazing Doctrines, AFCOE's lesson study on the pillars of Christ's teachings. The event was a milestone for AFCOE: it was their first time ministering to an academy. We hope for many more opportunities! If your academy, school, or church would like to partner with AFCOE, please contact us today at [AFCOE.org](http://AFCOE.org).

# TV & RADIO Broadcast SCHEDULE

**Amazing Facts with Doug Batchelor** (Times marked in black)  
**Bible Answers Live** (Times marked in orange)



	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	10:30 AM PT <b>7:00 PM PT LIVE</b> 10:30 PM PT	3:00 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT	<b>2:00 PM PT</b>	<b>2:00 AM PT</b> <b>11:00 AM PT</b> 10:00 AM PT 10:00 PM PT	<b>6:00 AM PT</b> 2:00 PM PT 6:00 PM PT	9:30 AM PT 9:30 PM PT
				6:00 PM ET			
		8:00 AM ET	8:00 AM ET	8:00 AM ET	8:00 AM ET	8:00 AM ET	
	10:00 AM PT 7:00 PM PT				6:00 AM PT	12:30 PM PT	6:00 AM PT
		6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	
		1:00 PM ET	1:00 PM ET	1:00 PM ET	1:00 PM ET	1:00 PM ET	
	12:30 PM PT						
	8:00 AM (All Time Zones)						
		9:30 AM CT		9:00 AM CT			
					10:00 PM PT		
	1:00 PM ET						
			10:00 PM CT	9:00 PM CT	1:30 PM CT		
	8:30 AM ET						
		9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	

## ONLINE

Watch Bible programming you can trust at [AFTV.org](http://AFTV.org). Streaming online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on your computer, iPhone, iPad, Roku, and more!

## RADIO

**Bible Answers Live** airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 PM PT. It is a live call-in radio program during which you can ask Pastor Doug a Bible question and get a biblical answer. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate. You can also watch live on AFTV!





# AMAZING FACTS TRACTS

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 Seven Facts About Your Afterlife! ... **MS-ALM**  
 Three Final Warning Messages to Planet Earth ... **MS-3AMR**  
 8 Amazing Steps to Optimize Your Health ... **MS-AHF**  
 The Best Day of Your Life! ... **MS-RYL**  
 The Day of the Lord: The Best News Ever! ... **MS-DOTL**  
 When the Past Tells the Future! ... **MS-DRM**  
 Your Future Foretold ... **MS-FE**  
 God's Divine Temple and You! ... **MS-DDJT**  
 Ancient Prophecies that Reveal the Future! ... **MS-KIT**  
 What is the Mark of the Beast ... **MS-MTB**  
 Why Me? Hope for the Hopeless ... **MS-WM**  
 Are You Safely Sailing? ... **MS-AA**  
 365 Amazing Annual Bible-Reading Plan ... **MS-ABRP**  
 Log On and Learn More ... **MS-LOLM**  
 Forgiveness & You ... **MS-FY**  
 The Law of Liberty ... **MS-TEN**



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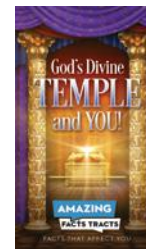
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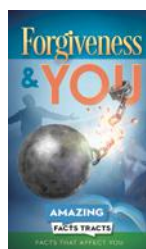
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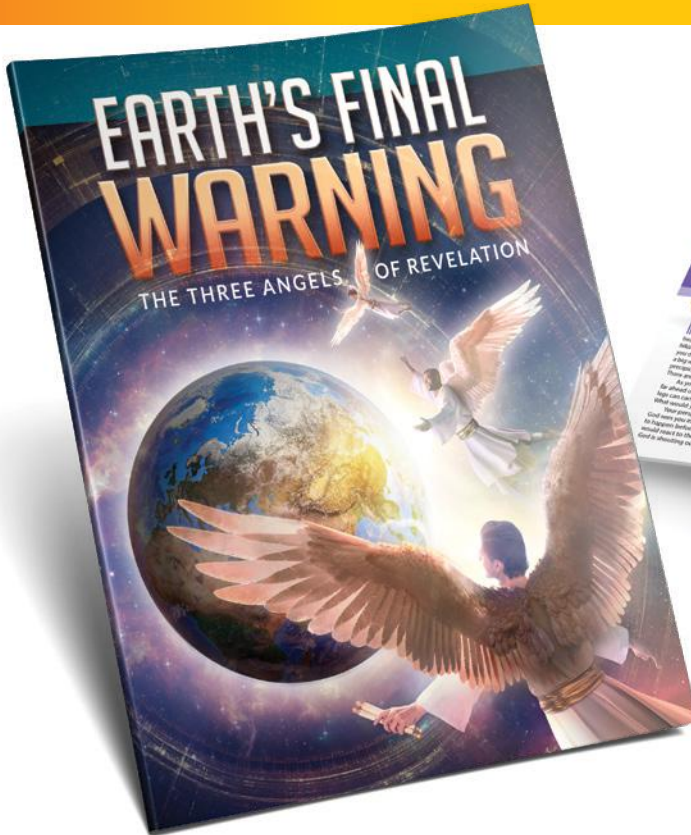
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# Bible Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



**What does the Bible mean when it says that one day equals a thousand years to God?**



.....  
"Beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8).

The apostle here is writing about "scoffers" who, in the last days, will say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (v. 4). To those who feel impatient about the Second Coming, he assures them that God has not forgotten about them.

Einstein once said, "Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute. That's relativity." Children in the third grade feel like it will take forever to get to the fourth grade. People waiting for someone who is late can feel like it's taking forever. The speed of time passing is relative to how you think and what you are experiencing.

That's what Peter is trying to explain when he says that God, who is immortal and eternal, does not measure time the same way as humans do. The Lord never feels impatient; He is omniscient and knows the past, the present, and the future; He is not constrained by calendars and clocks. We live within the limits of minutes, hours, days, and years. This verse reveals our impatience compared with God's patience. (See 2 Peter 3:9.)

To people who scoff at the seeming delay of Christ's coming, Peter says the Lord will come "as a thief in the

night." But to those who trust in the Lord, we wait patiently for the blessed hope. When you are busy doing the Lord's work, time flies.



**How do you know if a prophet is true or false?**



.....  
"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). Some have asked me, "Do you think true prophets could appear between now and Jesus' return?" Based on Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28–32), it certainly appears possible. However, we must be prepared to test prophets by the Bible (Deuteronomy 18:20–22; Isaiah 8:19, 20; 2 Timothy 2:15), heeding their counsel only if they are genuine.

God knows when prophets are needed to wake people up, warn them, and turn them to Jesus and His Word. He sent a prophet (Moses) to lead His people out of Egypt (Hosea 12:13). He sent a prophet (John the Baptist) to prepare people for Jesus' first coming (Mark 1:1–8).

He also promised prophetic messages for these end-times. God sends prophets to point us to the Bible; to strengthen, encourage, and assure us; and to make us like Jesus so we will be "blameless" when the Master returns. Without the help of a prophet, many will be lost through backsliding, sleeping spiritually, and being too busy. So, let's welcome prophetic messages and praise God for sending them for our good—while at the same time remembering Jesus' warning about the last days: "Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many" (Matthew 24:11).

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 [amazingfacts.org](https://www.amazingfacts.org).

(Continued from page 9.)

exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4). The "Day" being referred to is "the day of the Lord," the Second Coming. The Antichrist will actually deceive people into believing that he is the God of the Bible, "the only true God" (John 17:3). Indeed, Scripture tells us that "Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). While there are many false christs and false prophets in other religions, it is counterfeit Christianity in particular that will become the centerpiece of the end times.

## 6 Increase in the Supernatural



Another sign of the times is the specific work of these false christs and false prophets. We've already learned that "false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:24). "Signs and wonders" is another name for miracles, inexplicable occurrences outside the laws of nature.

The Bible teaches us some significant facts about miracles. When God was about to deliver His people out of slavery, He told Moses and Aaron, "I will ... multiply



My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 7:3). God then predicted that the ruler of Egypt, Pharaoh, would challenge them: "Show a miracle for yourselves" (v. 9). Everything happened just as God said. When

Pharaoh challenged Moses and Aaron, the miracle that Aaron performed, through the power of God, was to "cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and

it became a serpent" (v. 10). Directly after, however, Pharaoh ordered "the wise men and the sorcerers," known as "the magicians of Egypt," to copy Aaron's miracle; and "they also did in like manner with their enchantments" (v. 11).

See, miracles are not always from God—they can also be counterfeits from Satan. And even though Pharaoh's magicians aren't around today, their equivalents are. There are psychics, mediums, and yogis. There are paranormal investigators, ufologists, and spiritual healers. There are Wiccans and New Agers—even "Christian" witches! Witchcraft is now a multibillion-dollar industry. They may have different labels for who they're coming into contact with—whether ghosts, aliens, reincarnations, or even professed angels—but the Bible reveals the single source behind these types of signs and wonders: "They are spirits of demons, performing signs" (Revelation 16:14). You read that right: The supernatural manifestations accompanying the false christs and prophets of the last days are demons. In fact, it is the end-time false prophet, also known as the second beast from the earth (19:20), that convinces the whole world by its signs and wonders to persecute all those who worship God (13:13–15).

## 7 Lovelessness



Jesus foretold, "Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). And Paul warned, "In the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1, 2, 4).

Perhaps this sign of the times, more than any other, has slid into sharp focus for the Christian in this generation. Between 1870 and 1970, the divorce rate in North America quadrupled. From cancel culture to hate crime, today's society has made it clear that it is fostering division, contempt, and entitlement. There are professed Christians who believe that social media gives them license to bully, gossip, and demean. Sure, it's easy to love someone who loves you back, but what about those who





don't treat you well, who aren't that likable, or with whom you simply have a disagreement of opinion?

Real, true love is dissipating—and it's about to get worse. As was previously mentioned, the Bible predicts terrible persecution upon God's people, "that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed" (Revelation 13:15). Indeed, this extreme hatred will only intensify until the Second Coming ends it. Jesus said, "Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God" (John 16:2).

## Are You Ready?

Look at these seven signs. Together, they paint a strikingly accurate portrait of the current state of the world. Fascinatingly, they also reveal the warfare Satan is waging against Christ. Notice that much of what the signs spotlight are deceptions and distractions. The devil is mounting an overwhelming offensive to turn the people's hearts from their Creator. But while the devil's stratagems are going every which way, notice that there is one sign that is never changing and never failing. It is God's straight and true path to salvation; it is the gospel to the world.


Thus, the real question is not whether the Second Coming is near but: Will you accept the gospel truth in the short time before Christ returns? How a person responds to these signs of the times indicates his outcome in the final judgment. The Savior charges you: "You also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44). The exact "day and hour" (v. 36) of Christ's return are hidden from us, but these signs leave us without excuse. Don't repeat the mistake of Harry R. Truman.

Christ said, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work" (Revelation 22:12). "I am coming quickly" (vv. 7, 20)—He reiterated this three separate times in the last chapter of the last book of the Bible. Do you think that the signs of His coming might be important? Through these signs, He's telling us, "Pay attention!"

On that final day, Christ will already have His reward for you, eternal life or eternal death. The time to choose that reward is now: "Behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2); "now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11).

That's why God has given us these signs, so that we can be ready, so that we can have a fair-and-square choice between salvation and destruction. Now is the time to honestly examine yourself. Are you prepared to meet your

Savior? Have you given Him entrance to write His law upon your heart? If He were to come tomorrow, would you really want Him to? If the answer to any of these questions is "no," I urge you to make this passage your daily prayer: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23, 24).

I want to be part of God's last-day remnant; I want to proclaim the everlasting gospel to the ends of the earth and usher in that great and awesome day of the Lord. Do you? 



# From Convert to Gospel Powerhouse

By Shenalyn Page

*"Only one life, 'twill soon be past.  
Only what's done for Christ will last."*

Unearthly noises crackled from the stereo. Floyd Miller, a 30-year-old car salesman, listened with fascination as the eerie sounds faded and an announcer began speaking about visitors from outer space—angels.

It was 1966 and Amazing Facts' very first broadcast. Joe Crews had recorded the program in a makeshift basement studio on borrowed equipment. But that program grabbed Floyd's attention. Crews' sermons occupied Floyd's daily commute in Baltimore from that moment on. "Every program was drawing me closer to God," Floyd recalls. "I was receiving the spiritual food I needed for each day."

A self-described "party animal" in those days, Floyd was soon convicted to stop smoking and drinking. "I found that I could only do it by seeking the Lord in prayer," Floyd explained in the first letter he wrote as the Amazing Facts business manager. "Every time I felt the urge to smoke, I would again seek the Lord in prayer and gain another victory."

"Floyd Miller had a most unusual sense of spiritual integrity," Crews wrote in his book *Souls Under Siege*. "He not only heard the messages on the radio, but he also believed them and had started practicing them. Great changes had already taken place in his life as a result of the broadcast."

## A Soul Under Siege

Floyd's wife, Jean, was unhappy with the changes he was making. She despised the "radical radio preaching" and left, taking their baby with her. Crews encouraged Floyd to stay faithful to God, sharing with him Matthew 6:33 and 19:29.

Years later, Jean was converted through the religious materials Floyd brought whenever he visited their





daughter. "Her unexpected decision and commitment represent the most surprising turn of events I have ever witnessed," Crews wrote. "When I saw what God performed in Jean's life, my faith in the impossible was forever settled."

Floyd's mother and sisters also opposed his new faith, but he was determined to follow his Lord all the way. On April 15, 1967, Crews baptized Floyd. He was "the first of the first-fruits to be won solely from the radio program," Crews recalls. "Little did I visualize at that time how many thousands of others would be led to Christ as a result of the Amazing Facts radio ministry."

## Blessings on Blessings

As a car salesman, Floyd worked six days a week. He requested time off for Sabbath and eventually received permission for a six-month trial. "If your sales don't suffer, you can keep your job," his boss said.

Over the next six months, Floyd went from placing third among the company's ten salesmen to being their top seller. "After the first year of being faithful to God, I finished the year by outselling the next man by 26 cars," Floyd reminisced in that first letter to Amazing Facts' friends. "Yet I worked some 40 fewer days that year! The Lord surely opened the windows of heaven and filled my barns!"

"I buried myself in my sales work and witnessing for my newfound faith," Floyd added. "I threw myself into every phase of lay ministry, and God enabled me to be a driving force behind many of the missionary projects in my church."

## Called to Amazing Facts

By 1975, almost 200 souls had been baptized as a result of Amazing Facts broadcasts. But the ministry had also grown beyond its mostly volunteer beginnings. It was time for a full-time business manager.

One man seemed ideal for the job: Floyd. "His zeal and leadership ability were so apparent that [we] invited [him] to be the manager of the rapidly expanding Amazing Facts evangelistic ministry," said Crews. Floyd threw himself into the ministry for the next six years. He was responsible for all aspects of day-to-day operations. Under his leadership, Amazing Facts grew from 8 to 42 radio stations, went from 200 to 400 annual baptisms, increased from 5 to 18 evangelistic events a year, and to receiving over 44,000 letters each year from seekers.

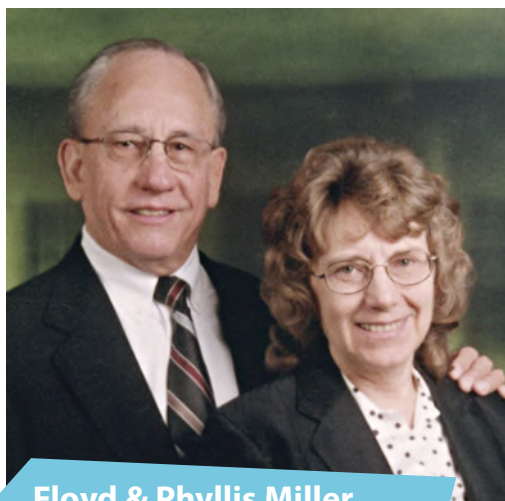
Crews attributed all the phenomenal growth to Floyd's leadership. And according to William May, co-founder of Amazing Facts, "[Floyd's] management skills and business ability turned the organization from a weak, deficit operation into a thriving, strong entity with large reserves. ... He is an innovator of the first magnitude. His integrity and loyalty are beyond reproach. ... The bigger the challenge, the finer his performance."

## A Life of Fruitful Ministry

Floyd continued to serve his Lord following his departure from Amazing Facts. He served with distinction in a variety of church ministries and preached evangelistic meetings in India, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

In 1985, Floyd married long-time friend Phyllis, who had also once served at Amazing Facts. Together, they ran GODLY Art, producing and selling religious artwork throughout the Southern United States for three decades. "Everywhere he went, he looked for opportunities to share his faith," Phyllis recalls. "He's planted a lot of seed. And he's seen many people get baptized through his efforts."

Floyd and Phyllis are now well along in years, and Floyd's hearing is failing, but their zeal for sharing Christ remains as strong as ever. They carry Amazing Facts literature everywhere they go and give it to as many people as they can. Truly, the ministry's first convert has produced amazing fruit! 🌱





# ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

By Joelle Worf

Even as a child, Craig always admired his grandparents and the lifelong example of their commitment to the Lord. His father's parents were faithful Sabbath-keeping believers, so when he and his wife, Lowana, received an invitation to a Sabbath-keeping church, they gladly accepted.

A church member there offered to watch their kids, a son and daughter, fraternal twins, so that the couple could enjoy the worship service. Impressed, they signed up for Bible studies—and have been faithful followers of Christ ever since.

Years later, their daughter and her family happened to move near Amazing Facts International headquarters and began attending Pastor Doug's church. The new congregation made "a big difference" in their son-in-law's life. Craig and Lowana were curious and began to investigate Amazing Facts' ministry and listen to Pastor Doug's various programs. They loved what they found.

Today, Craig and Lowana use Amazing Facts materials to share the good news. They give Bible studies and hand out literature and CDs whenever they can. Lowana says, "We want to see the three angels' messages proclaimed to the world." They also love watching Amazing Facts' television channel, AFTV. "The programs help us continue to grow, and we want to see others come to the Lord."

## Making a Gospel Legacy

Because they know the positive impact of Amazing Facts' outreach, Craig and Lowana long to spread that blessing to as many other truth seekers as possible. That's why they decided to sell their home and relocate closer to the Amazing Facts campus. They also hope to volunteer and give financially through the sale of their house.

But the couple wanted to make an even deeper impact for the Lord's work, partnering with Amazing Facts International to set up a charitable remainder trust, which will also pay them a regular income for a set term (e.g., 20 years) or the remainder of their lives. They were able to transfer their rental property assets tax-free to fund the trust. Then, when they pass away, what remains in the trust will benefit the gospel work through Amazing Facts.

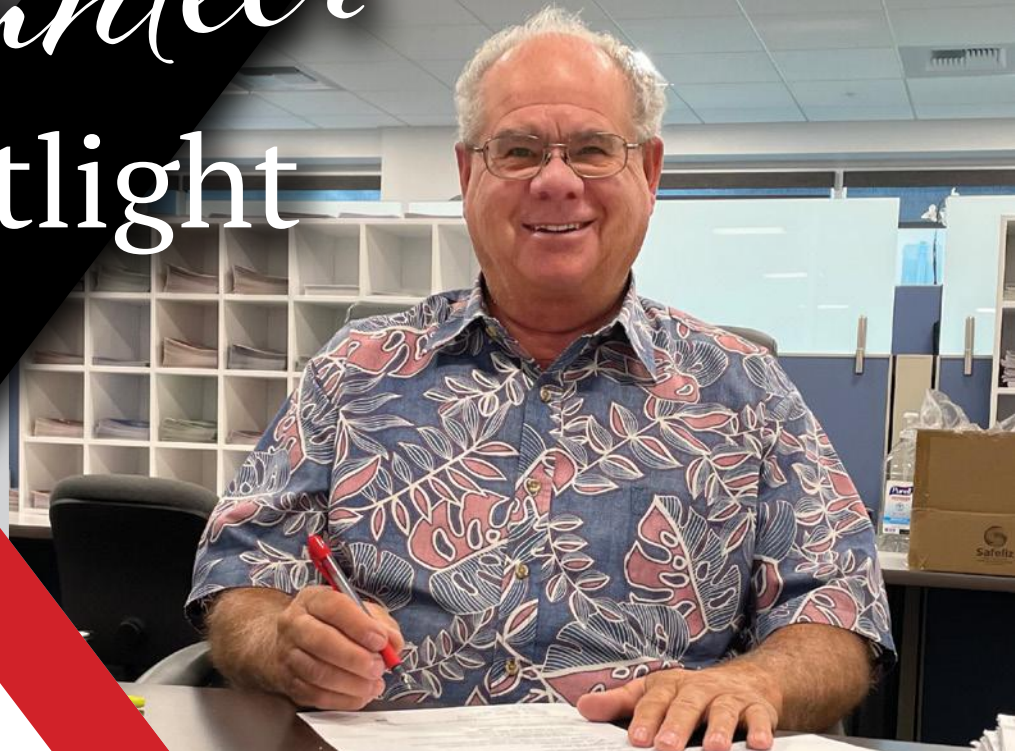
Lowana shares, "With the charitable remainder trust, we know there will be a remainder that will go to Amazing Facts for its evangelistic work. We give monthly and annually also, and we want the work to continue through our trust even after we pass."

To find out if a charitable remainder trust can help you accomplish your giving goals, contact our office of estate and planned giving at **800-436-2695**. God can use your generosity to reach across the generations with His good news!



# Volunteer Spotlight

By Tamme Steenson



*M*EEK and humble are the words that come to mind when David Hamilton enters the Bible School to volunteer. He is always eager to assist in whatever needs to be done, no matter how “menial” the task.

Each Monday morning, David rises bright and early to chauffeur a small band of volunteers from the Magalia Church to Amazing Facts—a roundtrip of 184 miles! With the price of gas these days, that’s a voluntary act of sacrificial love, yet you will never hear a word of complaint about his long drive nor the cost. On the contrary, he arrives with a smile and a heart full of generosity, ready to open and sort three bins of mail with his friends from Magalia.

The sorting of the mail here at the Bible School is a full day of work. Yet, when David has finished for the

day, he is ready to take a cart of additional work home for him and the others to complete and bring back the next week.



You would think that would be enough, but David doesn’t stop there. We need to remove lots of staples from resources here at the Bible School so that we can send them to thousands of inmates throughout the United States. Finding just the right tool to do this without tearing the resources has been quite a challenge. Wouldn’t you know it: David came to the rescue and made a tool that works beautifully!

If there were ever a soul that fits the verse, “Let us not grow weary in doing good,” it’s David. We thank the Lord for David’s willingness to serve here at the Bible School!

# AMAZING FACTS BIBLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES

# 50 YEARS!

In August, the Amazing Facts Bible School celebrated 50 years of life-changing ministry.

Says Pastor Doug Batchelor, president, “We are always in grateful awe considering what the Lord has done through our Bible School over the past 50 years. Many think that snail-mail ministry is no longer viable or necessary, but our correspondence school is still reaching into homes and prisons and changing lives for Jesus. I’m thrilled that the Bible School remains a powerful soul-winning instrument at Amazing Facts, and I hope and pray it is active and vibrant for years to come!”

## Powerhouse Evangelism

In 1967, the ministry developed Bible lessons called Information Folders. These ten studies, advertised at the end of Joe Crews’ radio broadcasts, focused on vital doctrines unknown even to most Christians. Five years later, the Bible Correspondence School was established. Ever since, this busy outreach has sent millions of Bible lessons—redesigned, expanded to 27 lessons, and now named *Study Guides*—to seekers everywhere.

The school has been an integral part of our evangelism, reaching those not open to personal visits or attending live prophecy seminars. The course begins by introducing basic but vital Bible truths, such as obedience and salvation by grace, and then leads students into advanced prophecy teachings. The clear, simple presentations are easy to understand and rewarding

even for those new to the Bible, while also empowering people to witness for Jesus.

The Bible School does so much more than mail lessons. Our dedicated staff, composed of employees and volunteers, grade each lesson and answer students’ Bible questions, often sending additional materials to enhance their study. The team strives to build positive relationships and encourage seekers individually. Though these steps do require a higher level of resources, we believe it will mean more souls in God’s kingdom. Says Tammey Steenson, Bible School director, “Our goal is to lead each student into an intimate relationship with our beloved Savior and Friend, Jesus—to awaken their understanding of their purpose in life and to experience His breathtaking love.”

## An Enduring Ministry

Today, seekers can also enroll at our website and complete all 27 lessons, in English or Spanish, on their computers or smart devices. Appealing to the tech-savvy student, this method offers the same soul-winning content as the mail-based course while enabling thousands more to learn key Bible truths.

Over the past three years, 120,000 students have enrolled—from prisoners to youth to pastors. Many have written to say they have learned more from our lessons than they have in their personal studies, and thousands have been baptized into God’s remnant people. One student, Jennie, says, “My mother has been mourning the loss of my brother’s death for 62 years now. He died when he was eight months old. After she read my *Amazing Facts Study Guide* about death, she was finally at peace. Thank you so much for these lessons!”

All of the Amazing Facts Bible School courses, including *The Amazing Adventure* course for children, are absolutely FREE—meaning truth-seekers rely on the generosity of our friends to learn Bible truth. It is only through your gifts that the Bible School can introduce people to God’s undying character of love. And it is only His Spirit working on their hearts that has made our school an ongoing and successful tool in transforming lives and connecting people to Jesus.



Four original 1967 covers and their current counterparts.





# Garden

## Your Way to Better Health

By Laurie Lyon



Gardening is in our blood; after all, each of us has ancestors who were avid horticulturists. Plus, we're created in the image of God, who was the very first gardener on the planet: "The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden" (Genesis 2:8). And He immediately had humanity follow suit: "Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it" (v. 15).

So it's no wonder that whenever springtime rolls around, many of us feel a deep, primeval urge to dig and plant. But even if that desire doesn't come naturally, or you feel you lack a green thumb, you might want to take a closer look at the advantages of gardening.

Planting and caring for a garden can help to:

- Rev up your immune system<sup>1</sup>
- Reduce stress, anxiety, and depression
- Significantly lower your risk of dementia<sup>2</sup>
- Improve your cardiovascular health
- Raise your vitamin D level
- Tone your muscles and strengthen your bones.

And that's just a sampling of the fringe benefits! Digging in the soil improves mood, and researchers have identified a link to a soil microbe called *Mycobacterium vaccae*, which helps to increase the serotonin in our brains, making us feel happier.<sup>3</sup>

Whether you choose to plant flowers, an edible garden, or both, you can reap better health. If you include fruits and veggies, you'll have the added bounty of fresh produce. If you lack space at home,

consider working in a community garden, where you will discover the extra bonus of social connection, which is particularly health-boosting for those who struggle with loneliness or isolation.

Caring for plants out in the pure air and sunshine is highly beneficial, but even gardening in a bright window or on a patio can enhance your health—which might work well for city dwellers or those with limited mobility.

Growing food can be a challenge for the inexperienced, so plan ahead. Invest in a good instructional book or Google some articles on basic vegetable gardening for beginners. Choose your garden spot carefully, noting the amount of sunshine that area receives each day.

Round up the right tools for the job, such as a shovel, rake, and hoe.

You may want to hire someone to till the soil for you; you can also opt for raised beds. Either way, it's a good idea to start slow and simple. Don't wear yourself out!

During hot weather, work during the cooler morning and evening hours. Wear gloves to protect your hands, and always shield your skin from excessive sun.

In the future, by God's grace, we'll all learn to be great gardeners. Isaiah prophesied about this: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth ... They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit" (Isaiah 65:17, 21).

But for now, don't expect perfect results every time. Even the best gardeners have crop failures sometimes. Just consider that if your whole garden flops (and that's unlikely), if you've been outside working on it a couple times a week or more, you'll have improved your health—and that's something to be grateful for! 🌱



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mindfood.com/article/benefits-of-gardening/#:~:text=It%20boosts%20your%20immune%20system,University%20of%20Copenhagen%20research%20discovered.>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16411871/#:~:text=In%20a%20proportional%20hazards%20model,no%20significant%20prediction%20in%20women.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/66840#1>





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—Pastor Doug Batchelor

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