Mawwyn Succat’s legacy to Ireland is both ironic and inspirational. Born to a Christian family around A.D. 380 on the banks of the Clyde in Scotland, he was kidnapped by a gang of ruffians, smuggled to Ireland, and sold as a slave to a cattle and swine herder.

At the time of his capture, Succat was unconvinced about following Jesus. By the age of 15, the troubled boy was given to the earthly pleasures of lust, hate, and deceit, and he ignored the teachings of his father, a respected church leader. Succat believed this selfish incredulity doomed him, albeit temporarily: “It was according to our deserts, because we drew back from God and kept not His precepts.”

But during his six years of harsh captivity, wearing rags for clothing and with minimal shelter from pounding rains and frigid nights, he soon gave his life to God. During long evenings of endless hunger and immense suffering, he would hear the voice of his mother and father urging him to follow Jesus. Finally, he began to listen rather than just hear them. And at last, he realized there was something more to life than just himself.

Gazing into the starry heavens, he said to God on the evening of his conversion, “I will arise, and go to my Father.” Soon after, he escaped and returned to his homeland, ready to follow heaven’s call. Invigorated by his new devotion, Succat found and joined a church whose voice in history is unfortunately, though not surprisingly, silent to the general public.

Against the grain of the day’s religious teachings, the Celtic Church not only kept the Sabbath as holy, they followed God’s health laws and practiced baptism by immersion. They believed God’s Law was paramount, and they would give their allegiance only to Christ. In short, they believed there was no difference between obeying the law and morality—faithfully obeying God’s Word was the ultimate sign of their love and devotion.

Succat quickly rose in the ranks of this church, fighting against the onset of paganism from the outlying British isles and Europe. Sometime in his late twenties, he began to dream of the green island he once regretfully called home. He dreamed of how the heathens there suffered under economic and spiritual poverty—and eventually he believed God was calling him to return to Erin, which once held him prisoner, to set it free with His Word. He followed without hesitation.

The conversion of the island is both baffling and miraculous. Succat led a band of like-minded believers across the isle, establishing churches that would glorify the kingdom of God by expressing their faith through obedience to the Decalogue. Queen Margaret wrote about this and other “peculiar” practices of the growing Celtic Church, complaining “They are accustomed … to neglect reverence for [Sundays].”

Though the major religious leaders of the day threatened, cajoled, and attempted to otherwise provoke allegiance to their doctrines, Succat’s church continually turned these temptations away. Because of his strict adherence to God’s desires, Succat is believed to be directly responsible for the establishment of more than 350 churches and the conversion of over 120,000 souls.

In the centuries to follow, Succat’s legacy as a faithful Sabbath-keeper would quickly be shrouded with half-truths and mysticism due to the eventual overthrow of the Celtic Church. The victors always write history.) Indeed, the ire of all of Europe eventually besieged the tiny, peculiar island until it capitulated and adopted under force more culturally acceptable norms.

Succat is still revered and celebrated as few others—he is as much a cultural icon today as he was when he conquered a nation for Christ. As someone who took a keen interest to this godly man during a school trip to Ireland, I believe he is worthy of remembrance and honor—though he, through his writings, directed all the glory to his Savior. Sadly, the truth behind his powerful work is twisted and dimly lit, but that doesn’t mean the real truth can’t be told. For someone who wishes to have the same profound effect on even just a few souls if possible, it seems the right and necessary thing for me to do.

It is a lesson we should not forget. Ireland prospered in peace for centuries as it obeyed God’s commands by Succat’s lead. After it incorporated unholy doctrines and practices, it fell into despair and was subjugated by oppression and cruelty.

An amazing fact: If you haven’t guessed it yet, Succat is better known by the name Patrick of Ireland—or even more familiarly, Saint Patrick.

God bless!
High-Tech Outreach

What a blessing that I found your online messages, which are making a difference in my life. I have been a Sabbath-keeper almost all of my life, but not a Christian. Pray for me.

JR, e-mail

Some fellow church members shared with me your Panorama of Prophecy CD. It is AMAZING! (Pardon the pun.) What a delightful way to share God’s Word.
Keep the fresh ideas coming.
PY, Texas

Grateful for Bible-Based Ministry

I’m very grateful for this wonderful, Bible-based ministry that you have. I’ve been a Christian for many years and have studied the Bible. With those beautiful Study Guides and the sound Bible doctrine they offer, I’ve been able to truly understand God’s Word and how to apply it in my life.

RD, Florida

Sabbath Truth Brings Joy

I am 19 years old, and for a number of years I worshiped God on Sundays. But a few months ago, I accidentally got tuned to Bible Answer Live on my Walkman. I’ve listened ever since. I wrote and asked you more about the Sabbath and you sent me a Study Guide and a few booklets. Because of the ministry, I am now a Sabbath-keeper. God’s Word is so clear to me now, thanks to Amazing Facts. I have such joy in my heart; I can’t describe it!

JI, New York

Audio Blessings

Thank you for your audiotapes; they have been a real blessing in my life. It is so refreshing to hear real biblical truths. So many other religious programs have so many wrong ideas that lead so many astray. I’m so thankful to you. May God bless you in your work.

DS, unknown

Backyard Miracle

Are you ready for an amazing fact? We live up in the hills, and our neighbors told us that a garden was out of the question unless we built a fence to protect it from all the deer in the area. Well, we couldn’t build a fence for many reasons, but we really wanted a garden. So we decided to give the garden to God; we would buy the produce from Him and send the money to help spread His gospel. God has taken such good care of His garden! Deer have passed right over our lettuce without even one nibble! It is so exiting to have our very own miracle in our backyard! We’ve also enjoyed carrots, beets, onions, green beans, parsley, squash, peas, and potatoes. It’s the most exciting garden we’ve ever had. So here is the garden money, and we hope it can help Amazing Facts in some way!

B&VP, Canada

Better Bible Studies

We just wanted you to know that your ministry is very valuable to individuals like me in giving personal Bible studies, and not just in public evangelism.

CH, North Carolina

We ordered your Amazing Facts Bible studies and use them to help do a weekly Bible study in our home. So many are learning things they didn’t understand before. We have friends from other faiths coming to our studies, and we are so excited at what they are learning.

DA, British Columbia

Wired Evangelism

Hi, I live in Germany and have been listening on the Internet to programs with Pastor Doug, and I love it!

II, Germany

The Christian and Alcohol

Your article “The Christian and Alcohol” is more of an “article of God” on that subject! I thank you and am grateful to God for the time and effort and action you gave to proclaim your revelation of truth to me (and countless more, I pray). The article clearly manifests the excellent spirit of truth working in your ministry.

AY, New York

Prison Outreach

I have been using your Storacles of Prophecy series at one of the local prisons in Portland, Oregon. The people have been genuinely blessed by the lessons and what they have learned.
Many have requested to read your book The Richest Caveman, which I have supplied to them. They really appreciate your “down to earth” style and attitude. It speaks directly to them, and they seem to be able to relate to you much better than other videos we have shown.

TL, Oregon
**Something to Learn**

During a recent trip to Chile, a friend took me to visit some old churches. Virtually all the towns in Latin America are laid out with a plaza in the middle with a church standing as a central focus of that town square. Once inside these mini-cathedrals, I was amazed how quickly the atmosphere transitioned from the noisy streets with the commotion of traffic and flea market vendors. Inside the church, I was met with an awesome silence. Sometimes only a handful of people would be praying, but they still maintained an air of extraordinary reverence.

In these churches, they have a deep concept of God as holy. God is to be revered; you are to come trembling before His presence. I wonder if some Protestant churches are losing an important aspect of real Christian worship by ignoring the issue of reverence. I believe there’s a special message of reverence that God wants to go to the world in the last days.

**An Important End-Time Message**

In Revelation 14:7, we hear the first of the three angels’ messages; it is a special admonition to “Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come.”

We often understand the word “fear” in terms of terror—to be afraid. But the word used here as “fear” is the Greek phobos (the root word of phobia). It doesn’t mean only to be afraid of something—like claustrophobia or some other phobia. This word also translates, according to Strong’s, as “to be in awe of, to revere, to fear exceedingly and to reverence.”

I believe God is telling us that in the last days, the church is to teach the world to revere Him—to be in awe of their Creator. But to a great extent, the church has lost this attitude of reverence. Reverence is also defined as “a feeling of profound awe, respect, often love, veneration, honor.” The Bible tells us that it does not come naturally to the proud, fallen hearts of man. Humans need to be taught reverence for sacred things.

So let’s address some areas where we as Christians can better demonstrate and express our reverence for God. Titus 2:1–7 says: “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior. … Likewise, exhort the young men to … [show] integrity, reverence” (NKJV, emphasis added). It is obvious from these Scriptures that God wants us to be more reverent, more humble, and show more respect to Him and others.

**Reverence Is Happiness and Strength**

Worship is a central theme in the Bible. “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14). It’s very important to exhibit reverence during worship; it demonstrates your concept of the level of greatness of the one being worshiped. The devil hates when we revere God. He wants us to jeer and be sarcastic or indifferent regarding holy things—the opposite of reverence. If we do not make a conscious effort in remembering reverence, Satan is going to do everything he can to chisel away at the foundation of our worship, which is a sense of awe and respect for God and His greatness.

Yet reverence is not something that should make you sad or somber. Proverbs 28:14 says, “Happy is the man who is always reverent” (NKJV). Isn’t that good news? Being reverent isn’t supposed to cast a cloud on your worship experience. It’s supposed to enhance the true happiness of your worship experience.

“Reverence is a sign of strength,” someone said. “Irreverence is a sure indication of weakness. No man will rise high who jeers at sacred things. Real strength can be verified in reverence.” This reverent strength can be demonstrated in many ways.

**What’s in a Name?**

“Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.”—Psalm 99:3

First, let’s consider this foremost sign of reverence: God’s name. Psalm 111:9 says, “Holy and reverend is His name.” I once had a meeting with ministers from various denominations, and I was given a nametag that said, “Reverend Batchelor.” That’s more like an
God's name should always be spoken with solemnity on our lips—for He is the highest Monarch in all of the cosmos. We need to reverence His name. The Levites were chosen as the priests of God because when other Jews worshiped the golden calf, Levi's family refused to because they revered the name of God. “My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me and was reverent before My name” (Malachi 2:5 NKJV).

Augustine said, “God is not greater if you reverence Him, but you are greater if you serve Him.” Reverencing God’s name doesn’t make God more holy—He’s great no matter what you say or think. But you are greater when you reverence His name.

God’s Word

“For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.” —Psalm 138:2

Imagine that! This Scripture says God Himself exalts His Word above His name. So we need to treat the Bible, His Word, with particular reverence.

I’ve watched preachers shake, pound, and throw their Bibles like some puny pulpit prop when they preach. The Bible isn’t just some Christian “policy book.” It’s a sacred revelation from God.

At home, the Bible should be placed somewhere where you won’t just pile things on it. Would you do that with a rare photograph of someone you love? Of course not! The Bible is much the same: It’s a sacred love letter from God to us. During family worship, we demonstrate to our children a reverence for God’s Word. We take time every day to read from the Bible.

In our church in Sacramento, we stand during the Scripture reading. The reason for this is found in Nehemiah 8:5; when Ezra opens the book in the sight of all the people, they all stand up out of respect for the sacred Word. You stand when you greet a person of honor; it’s a gesture of respect and esteem. So when God is getting ready to speak, should we show Him any less honor?

The Bible is a holy book; its words are precious. They should be spoken clearly and accurately. Remember that Revelation pronounces a curse upon anyone who alters His Word (Revelation 22:18, 19).

Consider also how God placed ultimate respect on His Word when He delivered the Ten Commandments to His people. They were set in a golden safe, the ark, in the center of the temple called the holy of holies. In fact, each of the Ten Commandments addresses reverence. Think about it: They deal with respect for God’s position and Person, His name, His Sabbath day, for parents and for life, marriage, truth, and property.

God’s message to us in the Bible is full of reverence, so let’s show His Word the kind of reverence that He expects and deserves from His creation.

Showing Honor in Worship

“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints.” —Psalm 89:7

In the conversion experience of Isaiah described in chapter 6:1–8, he sees God seated in His temple in regal holiness, and the house shakes with the voice of God. Six-winged seraphim hover around the throne of God, covering their faces and feet and perpetually singing “Holy, holy, holy.” (Like that wonderful hymn!) Someone once suggested that “holy” is sung once for the Father, a “holy” for the Son, and a “holy” for the Holy Ghost. Whenever God says something three times in the Bible, He is emphasizing its eternal quality. When beholding this awesome scene, Isaiah responded by falling to the floor before the Lord, saying, “Woe is me! I am undone.” Please don’t miss this truth that a picture of the holiness of God brought about the conversion and the call of the prophet Isaiah! We diminish these converting powers of our services when we are irreverent in worship. Daniel and the apostle John also fell down like Isaiah when God appeared to them in visions. They revered God in their worship.

What would happen if God Almighty suddenly appeared before you right now? Would you survive? He said to Moses, “No man can see my face and live,” which is why He put Moses in the cleft of the rock. He covered Moses’ eyes with His hands so he couldn’t see God’s face. The Bible says man will someday see God the Father, but right now in our impure condition, we can’t endure His blazing glory. This is the most glorious, powerful, awesome Being. When we come together to worship Him, there should be a sense of awe in His presence.
Reverence during worship means our posture and conduct too. Adults should sit up in church, and not sit with their feet up on the pew or slouching like our skeletons have been removed.

I also believe we should be respectful in our attire. Now I’m not saying you need expensive clothes to show reverence—the Bible doesn’t teach that. But the Bible does say that we should come before the Lord clean. When giving His Law, God told the people, “Wash your clothes before you meet with the Lord.” Furthermore, if we have good clothing—wear your best for God. Some people wear a suit through the week, yet they come to church in their gym clothes. If that’s all you have that’s fine, but don’t give God the leftovers. Don’t be more respectful for your employer than you are for your Creator.

There’s a real danger that unless we remind ourselves of this awe, our sense of reverence can evaporate. How you worship God says volumes about who you think He is. If we worship God in a disrespectful manner, we send a message to unbelievers of a diminished concept of God’s greatness. Josephus said in his writings, “The Jewish temple was held in reverence by nations from all over the earth.” You can tell a lot about people by how they take care of their houses, can’t you? A front yard can reveal much about the family that lives inside.

**The Sound of Silence**

“Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.” —Ecclesiastes 5:1, 2 NKJV

There are many ways reverence in worship can be demonstrated through quiet contemplation and listening. For instance, the words we say in church should be few and carefully chosen. Children should be taught to sit quietly. (I’ve got a litter of kids; I know it’s a challenge!) People shouldn’t blurt out or talk loudly in times of solemn assembly. You know, an important sign of intelligence is learning when to speak and when to be quiet. “But the Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him” (Habakkuk 2:20).

Sometimes while the Word of God is being proclaimed, I think the devil deliberately creates a disturbance through loud children and restless teens to detract from our sense of reverence during worship. How can it not distract when a cell phone rings or someone starts to snore! It’s offensive when adults are gabbing during the sacred service in God’s holy place. We need to remain humble and quiet during worship, because this is how we respect our teachers in school and our judges in court. Why would we do less for God?

**In Prayer**

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.” —Psalm 95:6

It is not necessary to always kneel when you are praying. Nehemiah prayed while working, and Peter prayed while swimming. Indeed, we are to “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We’d be crawling on our knees wherever we went! But I also think that at the start of formal worship service in God’s holy place. We need to remain humble and quiet during worship, because this is how we respect our teachers in school and our judges in court. Why would we do less for God?

**An Amazing Fact:** The U.S. flag is a respected symbol of this nation’s freedom—and rightly so. USFlag.org provides the following standards of flag etiquette, among others: it must never be dipped to any person; should not be used merely as decoration or advertising; should not be marked on or embroidered onto any temporary item. It is not to be part of a costume or athletic uniform. It must never be used as a receptacle for holding anything. It should remain clean and no part should touch the ground or any other object when lowered. It should be received with open arms and folded neatly and ceremoniously. How much more so should we treat God’s Word?
We also ask them to close their eyes. The Bible doesn't say you have to close your eyes. When you get older, you can pray with your eyes open. I do sometimes. You might even pray while looking up. The Bible talks about that. But when they’re little and so stimulated visually, they can be easily distracted. We’ll often hear, “Mom, Nathan’s eyes are open.” And we’re thinking, “Well, Stephen, how did you know? Your eyes must have been open too.” And then sometimes I catch myself: I’ll be peeking at them to see if their eyes are open, and they’re peeking at me to see if I’m peeking at them! This is all part of the learning process. But you know, you have to teach it. It’s disrespectful when someone is speaking to you and you are not paying attention. Likewise, in prayer, when communing with God we should keep focused.

**Remembering the Holy Sabbath Day**

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” — Exodus 20:8

God calls only a few things holy; those things should absolutely be revered. The Sabbath is one of these very holy dimensions of worship to God. It’s not a day for common conversation or activity. Through the week, my mind is always racing with work that needs to be done around our house. But on the Sabbath, I say “God, it’s your Sabbath now. Help my mind stay on sacred things.” If you pray this, the Holy Spirit will help you. And whenever I catch my mind starting to drift away to the next construction or repair project, the Holy Spirit will say, “Doug, it’s the Sabbath.” I respond, “Thank you, Lord. I don’t have to worry about those things now.” Our minds need to rest, and to keep the Sabbath holy in your mind is where it all begins.

Keeping reverence for Sabbath is also a matter of the way we spend our time and money. The Bible says we should prepare our food and other needs in advance so that we don’t scurry and hustle about on the Sabbath. In Exodus 16:23, God rained down the bread from heaven for six days, but He stopped on the Sabbath. Why?

He set a precedent for gathering food in advance. “Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves and all that remains, to be kept until morning” (NKJV).

We should also keep the Sabbath as a sign of reverence to others. We shouldn’t go out to eat on the Sabbath and hire others to work on a day when we know God wants His people to be an example to others. Having this kind of reverence is a powerful witness. Many like to argue specific points on what is permissible on the Sabbath; I believe when in doubt, don’t do anything you even think might dishonor God. Pray, and God will provide the answer.

**Conclusion**

“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell.”

—Hebrews 11:32

If space permitted, I could talk in detail about the lost reverence for life that is seen in the insensitive way the secular world views abortion and euthanasia—or reverence for creation that has been lost to the polluters and litterbugs. I could also address reverence for our bodies that would revolutionize our thinking in everything from healthful living to pornography. And I could also discuss the reverence needed in our giving that would influence better offerings and prevent the looted tithe so many bring to God. The list is a long one, and it would all be about reverence! So remember that in everything given by our God, be reverent and respectful for what it is: a holy gift.

People pay big bucks to go to the symphony. They dress up in formal clothing. They shut the doors and turn off cell phones before the concert begins. Perhaps they think Mozart's musical creations are so beautiful that they feel they owe this respect. But why are we doing this increasingly less for the Almighty?

Are we losing this concept of what is truly great and awesome? Let me tell you, God is awesome! Have you ever had one of those epiphanies where suddenly you’re reminded with the reality of God—like something in His creation that makes you go “Wow!” In Chile, I visited some huge volcanoes high in the Andes Mountains. Steam puffed out from these majestic, beautiful snow-capped peaks. And it is breathtaking. Seeing that splendor, God, be reverent and respectful for what it is: a holy gift.

Would you like to have a closer relationship with Jesus? Do you want to have a joyful experience with Him both here and when He returns? Well then, don’t forget that “Happy is the man who is always reverent.” I believe if many of us would rediscover and experience a revival in our reverence, God will meet us in a special way. I truly believe that when we remember reverence, it will invite the angels into our homes and churches and seal God’s throne in our hearts.
AFCOE Students Get Crash Course

By Anthony Lester

“And the Lord … goes before you. He will be with you, He will not … forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31:8 NKJV).

Recent Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE) graduates Ben VanFossen and Jarod Thomas had a thrilling, if not a particularly enjoyable, “turn” of events on their way back to Colorado after graduation. Somewhere in Nevada during a chilly December morning, while Ben slumbered peacefully in the passenger seat, Jarod lost control of his cargo-laden truck at precisely 7:28 A.M.—what followed is both frightening and a miracle!

As the sun just began to peek over the serene, quiet desert landscape, the truck lurched sideways on the otherwise empty road and then flipped itself onto its head, waking the snoozing Ben into a thundering nightmarish reality. In its final fit of angst, the battered beast lunged forward and glided across the gray, unwelcoming pavement like a sled on snow. More than 490 feet later, the heaping black mass gradually groaned to a quiet, restful calm—and, quite inconveniently, in the middle of nowhere.

Now overly familiar with Interstate 80’s gravel, the two men managed to squeeze their way out of the truck that had now packed them in like sardines. Obviously, they addressed their most pressing issue first: “What are we going to do with all our stuff?” asked a now confused but wide-awake Ben. Jarod shrugged his shoulders sheepishly. After a few blank stares between them, Ben followed with, “Hey, what happened anyway?”

Moments later, some good Samaritans pulled over to render aid and call the police, who, with lights flashing and sirens wailing, arrived shortly on the scene. While Jarod and Ben scratched their heads in disbelief at the wreckage before them, they both began to realize they were, quite miraculously, unharmed. Though a pitch-black glob of skid-marks told the tale of their experience, the landscape, the truck lurched sideways on the otherwise empty road...
This month, Gary Gibbs, Amazing Facts evangelism coordinator, is leading AFCOE graduates and other volunteers to Accra, Ghana, in a major effort to win souls for Christ. This effort, spotlighted by 26-simultaneous evangelistic meetings around the city, will also prepare the continent of Africa and the 10/40 Window for the dynamic, far-reaching satellite series by Doug Batchelor, called Hope for a Hemisphere, to be held in November.

The Return of Dynamic Evangelism

The local church in Ghana is truly excited about the return of Amazing Facts to Africa. Its leaders believe the people of the beautiful and vibrant continent are more open to the light of Jesus than ever before. In addition, through incredible providence, Gary will be teaching the good news from the same spot that founder Joe Crews preached more than a decade ago.

Samuel Larmie, an African church representative, says, “The original series brought new life into the church.” It was so remarkably effective that the people of Ghana have not forgotten it. “The entire city knows about Amazing Facts’ return. The quality of its evangelism is truly unmatched here,” he says. “We’re praying that the ministry’s efforts from before will be continued.” He also believes this new mission will produce an even greater harvest, “God bless Amazing Facts!”

As a direct result of Joe Crews’ series, several Amazing Facts churches were established. And with the sacrificial efforts of church leaders, God’s message in Ghana took a firm hold. Through this new effort by Gary and AFCOE graduates, Amazing Facts is praying and believing that more churches will follow.

In addition, the harvest from the original effort is now planting new seeds. Many who were brought to the Lord those many years ago are now energizing and preparing the church for this new endeavor. The church there is on fire, and the word of mouth is incredible—hundreds of baptisms are expected as a result of the Ghana meetings alone. Praise God for His amazing timing!

Several AFCOE graduates will be joining Gary in this exciting vision. David Morgan, a graduate of the 2001 class, is looking forward to seeing his fellow students put their new skills into action for the people of Africa. “It’s really exciting to be going,” he says. “I feel God will lead us to do great things.”

The 26-site series will enable thousands to attend the meetings all across the city of Accra—increasing the potential for mass revival in a mighty way. The convenient access to live Bible learning will be an important component for these meetings as well.

Responding to an Incredible Need

Gary Gibbs says, “Not many churches here keep the Sabbath or know about God’s life-changing health laws—an incredible reserve of souls have yet to hear God’s end-time message.” He also believes this outreach will touch the hearts of Muslims, as well as pagan culture, in Ghana. “Through the Holy Spirit’s leading, Amazing Facts will be able to do great things in Ghana and beyond.”

Director/Speaker Doug Batchelor comments, “Since joining Amazing Facts, I’ve always felt impressed to go to Africa to do something significant for the Lord.” He believes that Gary Gibbs’ series of meetings in Ghana is a vital and exciting step in the big picture of Hope for a Hemisphere. “I now see God opening these huge doors of opportunity, and I think we must act now to take advantage of them.”

The ministry has already taken tremendous steps to ensure the greatest possible impact with God’s resources. As part of this evangelistic outreach, more than a million pieces of literature will be printed, shipped, and distributed to lay additional groundwork. Indeed, in November 2001, while Gary Gibbs and Charles Lawson, media editor, traveled to Ghana to make final arrangements for the Ghana meeting, 20,000 sets of Bible studies arrived to begin this facet of the program. The truth-filed guides will increase interest and active participation in the Accra meetings.

With the incredible partnership of Light Bearers Ministry, Amazing Facts has sent these and additional resources and materials—and even more are planned. (Read more about this exciting partnership in Behind the Scenes.) The Storacles of Prophecy series will also be printed in French for a much broader reach! The colorful, fully illustrated guides are provided free of charge to the local church for distribution.

Prayers Needed

Gary Gibbs adds, “Thousands of souls will be prepared to learn the truths found in Jesus Christ” like never before. Leaders and laypeople will continue to work hard before, during, and after the meetings. They are very excited about playing their part in this God-led mission.

Gary also asks that you please pray for the safety of his team of evangelists as they preach the good news in Accra, Ghana. We know that the enemy is poised to strike hard to prevent God’s message from reaching the people of Africa. “We’re mobilizing prayer warriors for God to pour out His spirit.” Won’t you join us? Pray with us that the Holy Spirit will use Amazing Facts to reach the hearts of these precious and beautiful souls. “We look forward to God doing mighty things in Africa.”

Africa, 10/40, and Beyond in November

In November, Hope for a Hemisphere will culminate in a far-reaching evangelistic effort. “Pastor Doug will conduct an extraordinary series in the capital city of Cameroon,” says Gibbs. “That meeting will be broadcast to cities all across the great continent and beyond.”

Indeed, this major event will be one of Amazing Facts most-expansive outreaches ever. Since the signal will eventually circle the globe, the ministry has an opportunity to reach more people than ever with the saving truths of Jesus. This means that the footprints of the series will indeed envelope the entire world for a long time to come.

Please continue to support Amazing Facts in its efforts to teach all nations about the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Susan Kollenberg Joins the Bible School Team

Amazing Facts extended a warm welcome to Susan Kollenberg in October of 2001. She joined the ever-growing Bible School department, and her responsibilities include processing mail, enrolling students, and mailing Bible lessons. She also corresponds with students to offer encouragement and support.

Born and raised nearby the ministry’s headquarters in California, Susan graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Sacramento State University. Susan has been married to Rich, who works as a construction trust officer for Ride to Walk, a nonprofit organization benefiting neurologically disabled children.

During a very difficult time in their lives, Susan and Rich learned of Amazing Facts through Pastor Doug’s A New Millennium series. As a result of their relationship with the ministry, they were both baptized into a Sabbath-keeping church in December of 2000.

She feels blessed to hear about the life-changing decisions that students make and the joy and hope they find through the Bible School. She also enjoys working with other committed Christians seeking to spread the gospel.

In her off-peak time, she enjoys strengthening her faith through Bible study and prayer and working with children and teens through ministry. (Please look for Susan’s powerful testimony in an upcoming issue of Inside Report.)

Guide to Jesus

Did you see us in your January issues of the TV Guide and on the TV Guide Interactive Program Guide? The magazine has an estimated 31 million readers, and the Program Guide reaches more than 2 millions homes. The ads will be followed-up by several 30-second commercials on networks that air the Amazing Facts program, as well as on the local stations in major markets. Many of these stations are adding additional ads for free. Praise God!

Please pray that our advertising increases the number of viewers who are exposed to the love of Jesus and His life-changing truths.

Immediate Openings at Amazing Facts

Amazing Facts’ outreach is growing rapidly, meaning we need devoted Christians to fill the following positions immediately.

**Director of Planned Giving**
Looking for self-starter with experience in gift and estate planning, including knowledge in gift annuities, wills, and trusts. Will market and administer gift annuity and non-cash gifts (securities, real estate, etc.) programs. Prefer trust officer certification, five years of experience, bachelor’s degree.

**AFCOE Director**
Searching for experienced, dedicated teacher to train and equip Bible workers and lay pastors/evangelists. Candidate must possess deep spiritual concern for souls, comprehensive knowledge of Bible doctrines (Sabbath, health laws, etc.), strong leadership, and administrative and organizational skills. Masters of divinity or equivalent preferred.

**Marketing Director**
Seeking multitalented individual to oversee all aspects of marketing and public relations. Will develop comprehensive marketing program. Should have strong writing, oral, and personal relations skills. Working knowledge of photography, publishing, design, and desktop publishing a must. Prefer MA or BA in marketing and at least three years of experience. Some travel.

All positions require a history of Christian dedication and willingness to relocate to Sacramento area. Please call 916.434.3880, ext. 3020, for more details. You may also send e-mail joef@amazingfacts.org.

Light Bearers Ministry Shares the Vision

Amazing Facts extends its gratitude to Light Bearers Ministry (www.lightbearers.org) for partnering with us in Hope for a Hemisphere, the 10/40 Window outreach. Light Bearers has printed and distributed more than 200 millions tracts of gospel literature to Third World countries—free of cost to those who need them most.

Laying a foundation for the effort is a crucial facet of our mission, and Light Bearers has helped pick up this burden in a mighty way by providing millions of pieces of literature. “Amazing Facts is thankful to God for Light Bearers’ support,” says evangelism coordinator Gary Gibbs. “Their selfless devotion will make Hemisphere even more dynamic and successful, meaning more souls baptized for the Lord.”

The literature, not normally available in Africa, “will arm hundreds of thousands of laypeople with the tools to spread the light of Christ, which would otherwise be impossible for them to do on their own,” says Charles Lawson, media editor.

This partnership will also help mobilize the local church to expose seekers to key biblical doctrines and generate interest prior to Pastor Doug’s arrival. “The church will use this literature to magnify the impact of this important effort,” adds Charles. “When seekers show up, they’ll already be familiar with these truths. The meetings will then bolster their growing interest in the Word, and they’ll find it easier to give their lives to the Lord after hearing the lessons reinforced.”

There is already a massive hunger for this type of material, and they will be circulated among the people for years to come. Please pray that our efforts in Africa will reap an enormous harvest of souls.
You are invited to meet the members of Amazing Facts’ evangelism team at any one of the following locations. This schedule is subject to change without notice, so please call Amazing Facts to confirm appointments or get more information.

**Doug Batchelor**

February 28 – March 2
Oakwood College
Huntsville, Alabama

March 28 – 30
Camp Meeting
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Jaime Jorge**

March 2 Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada
March 9 Patterson Ave. Church, Richmond, Virginia
March 11 – 15 Tidewater Academy, Virginia
March 16 Capitol Hill Church, Washington DC
Mar 29 – 30 Walla Walla City Church, WA

**John Bradshaw**

March 1 – April 6
Redwood Empire Fairgrounds
1055 N. State Street
Ukiah, California

**Brian McMahon**

March 1 – April 6
Amazing Facts Seminar Hall
5655 Gallup Dr.
San Jose, California

**Rich Cavaness**

February 22 – March 30
Florence Conference Center
10 Hightower Place
Florence, Alabama

**Jason Morgan**

March 1 – April 6
Winterset Church
Winterset, Iowa
Call 515.462.3060 for details

**Eric Flickinger**

March 1 – April 6
Siloam Springs Community Building
Corner of Mt. Olive and University
Siloam Springs, Arkansas

**Jack Pefley**

March 1 – April 6
Texarkana Church
Texarkana, Arkansas
Call 501.772.0074 for details

**Lowell Hargreaves**

March 1 – April 6
Meridian Community College
1000 Highway 19 North
Meridian, Mississippi

**Vern Snow**

March 1 – April 6
Jackson Church
Jackson, Tennessee
Call 901.427.1255 for details

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you would like to schedule an Amazing Facts evangelistic series or a weekend of revival meetings at your church, please contact the evangelism department at Amazing Facts by phone or mail.
The Bible tells us clearly in Ecclesiastes 12:7 that at death, “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” The spirit of life, the power of life, returns to God—but it is not conscious or awake. It is unable to reason or remember anything at all, because the Bible says, “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6).

Jesus describes Jarius’ daughter in Luke as sleeping before He raises her from the dead. He also says this about Lazarus, who had been dead for four days. “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I know that he shall rise again again” (John 11:11). Remember also that after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead after the four days, Lazarus made no comment at all about his experience in death. He didn’t know anything.

So it is a peaceful, dreamless sleep without consciousness of time. Of course, the next thing a believing person will be aware of is at the first resurrection with a new body. That’s why Paul says, “Behold, I show you a mystery; . . . we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump” (1 Corinthians 15:51, 52). Adam died several thousand years ago, but he’s going to come up with a new body instantly. Imagine that! (Job 27:3; 33:4).

**What’s the purpose of fasting? Why do we do it?**

There are several reasons why Christians might fast as part of their devotion to God. In the Bible, many of God’s faithful turned to fasting to achieve varying and important ends to further His will. Many times, a person would fast for the purpose of repentance. For instance, when King David was exposed about his sin with Bathsheba, he fasted for seven days on his face (2 Samuel 12). In the New Testament, Paul fasted with no water or food for three days after it had been revealed to him that his killing of Christians was fighting against Jesus.

In addition, sometimes a person fasts for the purpose of pleading a special prayer before the Lord. In the book of Esther, all of God’s people fasted for several days because they were seeking God’s special attention. Jesus also said that when interceding for a soul captive to the devil, it might require a deeper level of prayer to have them delivered. “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting” (Matthew 17:21 NKJV).

A person might also fast because they want to better understand God’s truth and seek the Lord’s countenance. A great example of this is Daniel. His fast included not eating foods that were pleasant; he ate only very simple foods to keep his mind clear. In doing so, he would be better able to hear the voice and counsel of the Holy Spirit. Fasting also helps people control their appetites. The Bible warns, “And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite” (Proverbs 23:2).

Fasting also has many health benefits. As the body’s digestion rests, the mind seems to be more open to hear that “still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12). Of course, if someone struggles with low blood sugar, they may have more trouble with this—I encourage those with special medical conditions to seek the counsel of their doctor before fasting.

**John 10:34 is quite puzzling. It seems to say that men are gods. I’d just like some light on that.**

Let’s back up just one verse to John 10:33. Jesus is debating with some religious leaders about His deity. They’re angry with Christ because He says to them, “I am the Son of God.” They respond angrily in verse 33, saying “For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.” Then Jesus answers, “Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?” I believe Jesus is referring to a quote from Psalm 82:6. Here the Lord is talking through King David, saying, “I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.”

Now you notice that in John 10:34 and in Psalm 82:6, the word gods begins with a lowercase “g.” The writers of these books were not saying that men are divine. Though we were made in His image, we certainly do not possess the attributes of God. God is omnipotent (all-powerful), He’s omnipresent (everywhere), and He’s omniscient (knows all things). Humans are neither omniscient, omnipresent, or omnipotent—they aren’t anything like the one true God. In addition, God is self-existent and eternal, whereas man is not.

When the Lord says, “You are gods,” it means that God made man (Adam) in His own image. In the same way that God rules the universe, providing, leading, and governing, God originally made man to be the ruler of this planet. Man was to be the leader of this planet, having all the things of this world, like the fish and cattle, under his dominion. Man was made to rule this world, and God placed him here in His own image in the same way that the Father creates life. Man and woman were given the ability to procreate in their own image—out of an act of love, they can produce another human being in their likeness. In these ways, man is described as a lesser god of this world—but we certainly are not divine!
**Christian Growth**

*You Ask, God Answers: Vital Questions on Salvation*

*Erwin R. Gane.* This important book addresses many questions that have dogged the church’s unity for centuries. Immortality of the soul, Marian apparitions, predestination, judgment, and the issues surrounding God’s law. Highly recommended.

BK-YA/GA ............ $14.95

*Call to Joy*

*Don Jacobsen.* Jesus invites us to find happiness by thinking differently; by doing the unexpected. The Sermon on the Mount is a call to a radically different lifestyle, transformed by grace that transforms the world. From this fresh study of the Beatitudes, you’ll hear God’s call to get your priorities straight, to be a peacemaker, and to be touched by those things that touch God’s heart.

BK-CTJ ............. $9.99

**Inspiration**

*My Escape from the Auto De Fe’ at Valladolid*

*William Timms.* Because of his reformed beliefs, Don Fernando de la Mina, a 16th century Spanish nobleman, was arrested by Inquisitors and sentenced to death for heresy. About to be burned at the stake, he escapes through several incredible miracles of Providence. This faith-strengthening and captivating story of intrigue, suspense, humor, and hope is sure to inspire.

BK-MEADF ............ $9.95

**Children**

*Paula the Waldensian*

*Eva Lecomte.* The inspiring story of a young orphaned girl who joins a family in which religion is forbidden and reading the Bible is prohibited. But Paula can no more keep her love for Jesus to herself than she can stop breathing. Her overflowing love for everyone she meets wins the hearts of family and neighbors alike and changes an entire village.

BK-PTW ............. $6.95

*Have You Ever Heard a Catfish Purr?*

*Bernadette McCarver Snyder.* Fascinating stories introduce young ones to the mysteries of life under water and stir them in an awesome appreciation for our creative God. Similarly entertaining and thought-provoking titles include *Have You Ever Seen an Elephant Sneez?, Have You Ever Seen an Ant Who Can’t?, and Have You Ever Heard a Hummingbird Hum?* Fun books for children.

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**Gospel Primer**

*J.E. White.* Child training is the most important work given to parents. These Bible stories teach the noble qualities of love, reverence, charity, and purity. This classic training guide also helps teach reading and writing skills. A very valuable resource.

BK-GP ............ $12.95

**Out of the Pit**

*Larry Lichtenwalter.* Find out how you can conquer life’s difficult challenges through these contemporary illustrations drawn from the circumstances of Joseph’s life. Find God’s way out of life’s pits of betrayal, discouragement, resentment, rejection, and the enticing traps of passion, power, and prosperity.

BK-OOP ............. $11.99
WITNESSING

Christ’s Way of Reaching People: The Fine Art of Relational Witnessing
Philip G. Samaan. Focuses on six progressive steps Christ used in witnessing. Shows how we can, through an intimate relationship with Him, follow this pattern to bring God’s love, power, and compassion to those around us. Develop meaningful, unconditional friendships that create trust and a yearning to associate with Jesus. Gain powerful ideas to share your testimony and use intercessory prayer.
BK-CWRP .......... $9.99

HEALTH

Food for Thought
Susan Jen. This provocative book will tell you what kinds of foods are the most conducive to robust health, fitness, and well-being in all dimensions of our life. Discusses balanced diet, causes and solutions to diseases, and examines what current research is discovering about the benefits of plant foods and how they fit into God’s design.
BK-FFT .......... $10.95

PROPHECY

The Illustrated Guide to Bible Prophecy
It is only as we understand past history and current events that we will be able to stand in that great day of crisis. This thoughtful study of the books of Daniel and Revelation presents a brief explanation of important biblical prophecies and vital truths with illustrations. A great resource for group Bible study, evangelism, prison ministries, and witnessing.
BK-IGBP .......... $6.96

CHURCH HISTORY

The Reformation and the Advent Movement
W.L. Emmerson. Get the fascinating story of the full recovery of “the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints” from apostolic times, to the great Reformation of the 16th century, to today. Clearly presented, well-documented, excellent historical work.
BK-TRAMM .......... $12.95

VIDEO

Changed in a Day
Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime video! Pastor Doug Batchelor, along with Pastor Mark Finley, and Danny and Linda Shelton, minister to New York City during this global broadcast in the wake of the 9/11 disaster. Includes inspiring music performances by John Lomacang, Kelly Mowrer, and Jennifer LaMountain; plus thrilling interviews with NYC firefighters. Two hours.
VD-CIAD .......... $14.95
In Loving Memory
Matilda “Syd” Nowell Barker from Pretha, Eunice, and Oswald Boyce
Miech Batchelor from Dan and Eva Aerni; from Inez M. Kirk; from Mr. and Mrs. William Lowe; from J. Wayne Maples; from Lois Rigo; from Magnolia Patrick; from Dot Willkerson
Vasco T. Boyle from Pretha, Eunice, and Oswald Boyce
Carl and Anna Brockmann from Ethel Simeone
Dr. Harold Brockmann from Ethel Simeone
Edna Carter from Paul Carter, her son
Juanita Maak Catledge from Donna Melliish, her daughter
Nanalee Clement from Charles and Stacia Merikkel
Lucille Coffin from Clifford and Eunice Wager
Everett Craik from Mrs. Everett Craik
Joe Crews from Lu Ann Crews, his wife
Ronnie Crews from Lu Ann Crews, his mother
Clyde Cronic from Betty Jacoby
Silas Crook from Nels and Mary Ann Angelin
Robert Darnell from Lu Ann Crews
John and Alta Davidson from Jim and Dottie Davidson
Peggy Dowler from Paul and Marie Kral
Earnest and Ethel Eastin from Margueriete and Glen Hartman
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Ekroth from Margueriete and Glen Hartman
Bob Ensminger from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger
Stanley L. Folkenberg from Ruth and Frank Waxter
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Alan R. Gair from Jackie Gair, his wife
Alden Gandy Jr. from Thelma Gandy
Alden Gandy Sr. from Thelma Gandy
Montez Genton from Fred and Dorothy Galbraith
Maggie Goodwin from Kate Goodwin, her daughter
Walter E. Haase from Helen H. Haase, his wife
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Philip and Edith Hartman from Margueriete and Glen Hartman
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Pauline Lastine from Rozella Reule, her daughter
John Laudenslager from Richard and Emily Hammond
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Jack Lynn from Vonsella and Floyd Scott, his daughter and son-in-law
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Fritzie Maples from J. Wayne Maples, her husband
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Jim Potter from Ingrid Johnson
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R. Eugene Prout from Phyllis Prout-Wright, his sister
Ralph and Fern Prout from Phyllis Wright, their daughter
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Freda Reder from John and Ellen Thornton
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Leonard and Edna Wright from Warren and Phyllis Wright
Bill Zima Jr. from Patricia Zima
Bill Zima Sr. from Patricia Zima
Happy Anniversary
George and Ruth Sisson (70th) from Sharon and Ellsworth McKee
Happy Birthday
Anna M. Wright (80th) from Doris Beane, her daughter
In Honor of
Karen and Roger Hawthorne from Connie and Alfred Day
Hubert and Emma Pierce from Connie and Alfred Day

Amazing Facts is happy to recognize contributions to the ministry that are made as a tribute to the deceased or as an honorarium celebrating significant milestones in the lives of friends or family members. Listings normally appear two to three months after requests are received.

Please type or print all request legibly to ensure correct spelling. We are unable to verify confusing spellings due to volume received. Due to space limitations, a maximum of four names will be printed per donation per issue.
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