

# SURVIVING

## THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Plus:  
**Hungry for  
Answers**  
Page 17



AMAZING FACTS

P R E S E N T S

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# Table of Contents



## 14 Amazing Facts in 2019

You've made a tremendous difference in 2018 with your gifts of support to the ministry of Amazing Facts. But God's last-day work isn't finished. See the awesome plans the Lord has in store through our partnership. Prepare to be blessed and inspired!

### FEATURE

## 6 Surviving the Great Tribulation

Are we at the threshold of end-time prophecy? Is the planet about to plunge into the great tribulation promised in Scripture? And if so, what does it mean for Christians—how should you prepare? Get real and practical Bible answers to these questions and more as Pastor Doug Batchelor explores this timely topic!



## 4 The President's Perspective

As we approach the end of time, too many people in our world still don't know what to expect. Let's change that!

## 21 Bible Answers

What is the "abomination of desolation"? If Jesus is coming "as a thief in the night," how can anyone know anything about it?

## 17 Hungry for Answers

Yes! Live, local church evangelism still works! See how one church in Florida experienced growth and true revival when it offered an Amazing Facts Bible prophecy seminar to its community.

## 22 Health Bite

Isn't it just so easy to fall off the health wagon when the winter holidays approach? With so many friends and family gathering around the table, who has time to worry about diet? Here are seven tips to help you keep the weight off this winter!



5 Connect with AF

10 Broadcast Schedule

12 Christian Resources

11 News to Note

16 Prophecy Seminars

23 Special Recognition



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# THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR

I remember reading about a photojournalist sent to document wildfires several years ago. When he tried to drive close to the blaze for the most dramatic pictures possible, the firefighting crews refused to let him through their defensive lines. So the photographer called his editor to let her know that he couldn't get any quality pictures. The editor said, "We'll contact the local airport and secure a plane and a pilot who can take you up for some powerful shots. They'll look amazing!"

The journalist hung up and raced to the nearby airport and, sure enough, a plane was already waiting for him, engine running. He opened up the passenger side door, threw his camera bag in the back, jumped in, and said, "Let's go!" The person in the pilot seat nodded, taxied, and took off—all while looking a little unsure about what was happening.

The journalist said, "Okay, I want you to go over to the wildfires, making several turns around it while avoiding the smoke." While the pilot cautiously flew near the fire, the journalist wasn't satisfied. He said, "Look, you've got to get much closer. Try to skim the treetops while you're at it." At this point, the pilot was looking more than a little nervous, but he obeyed.

Eventually, the journalist started clicking away with his camera, taking hundreds of incredible pictures. Finally, the pilot, who was sweating quite a bit at this point, said, "Why are you taking so many pictures, sir?"

The journalist answered, "I'm a photographer; it's what I'm supposed to do."


The pilot swallowed hard. "You mean, you're not my new flight instructor?"

I imagine that journalist was suddenly feeling a great tribulation, don't you? He's watching the destruction, even watching terrified people flee the scene, all from the comfort of his seat in the sky—and suddenly it dawns on him that he's the one in danger.

I'm saddened that billions of people will find themselves in this same shock and awe as we approach the end of time. While they see on television the last-day birth pangs taking place, they have no idea that the end is really just around the corner—and they have no idea that a time of major decision is upon them. They also have no idea that only the Lord Jesus can save them from ultimate destruction.

That is why your compassionate support of the gospel through the ministry of Amazing Facts is so important right now. We're not sitting back and waiting for the sky to fall.

Quite the opposite! We're escalating our output— websites, broadcasts, publications, and more—while we're still able to share the full and everlasting gospel. Thank you for making this all possible!

It is my prayer that this issue of *Inside Report*, the last of 2018, will not only guide you in preparation for the great tribulation soon to come upon the world, but that it will inspire you to share with your neighbors, family, friends, and coworkers so that they too can be ready to shelter under the saving grace of Jesus Christ. 



# Connect with Amazing Facts

## From the Mail Bag

### The Sabbath Revealed!

"Thank you for sharing the truth of the Bible with this dying world. It was through Amazing Facts that I discovered the Sabbath and other Bible truths. I had been a born-again Christian for more than twenty years, yet I never realized that the true Sabbath is on Saturday. I just read right over the fourth commandment, believing it was Sunday, as I had been told since my childhood. It wasn't until I discovered Amazing Facts that

I realized the true Sabbath of the Lord. I then contacted Amazing Facts, and they led me to a Sabbath-keeping church. I have been attending there for over a year and have been baptized. Thank you, Amazing Facts. Keep sharing the truth!" Robert, New Jersey

### A Valuable Resource

"I come from a Pentecostal background. ... I was using online resources to research the Bible, which led me to your messages on YouTube. I listened to many of your sermons and found them very simple, yet scriptural. I am now a believer of the Sabbath and the eternal nature of God's moral law. These studies have ignited my spiritual curiosity, and I find your ministry through amazingfacts.org a valuable point of reference. I now lead our English-language Sabbath School class, and *Sabbath School Study Hour* has been a great blessing and help. God bless your team." Manesh, Sri Lanka



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# SURVIVING

## THE GREAT TRIBULATION

By Pastor Doug Batchelor

### AN AMAZING FACT

In August 2018, the government of New Zealand passed legislation cracking down on a surge of foreigners buying property in their country. One reason for the high demand is the mounting global anxiety about the increase of natural disasters and political turmoil plaguing the globe. Some of the world's richest people are seeking to build luxury bunkers in New Zealand, which is considered to be an ideal remote location in the event of nuclear apocalypse. These hi-tech bunkers are buried 13 feet below the surface and feature bullet resistant doors, advanced air filtration systems, backup batteries, and even luxury accommodations, such as bowling lanes, media rooms, and swimming pools. However, if you're looking for this kind of first-class survival shelter, it will set you back \$11.5 million—not including installation.







## HAVE YOU EVER

experienced a great tribulation?

Considering the headlines these days, you might feel as if you're in the middle of one right now. And no doubt, we're living in very interesting times. Every day, it seems there is another scary crisis in the news. Whether it's potential war with China or Iran or massive wildfires and hurricanes plaguing the United States, we're inundated with news of major troubles—that is, tribulation.

Some even believe that things are so bad, we're at the threshold of an apocalyptic event in time the Bible calls "the great tribulation." While different denominations debate the timing for this period, virtually all churches agree those living on the earth in the last days will experience a great tribulation. And most believers look upon it with different degrees of apprehension.

With that in mind, I am not sharing this information to frighten you; I don't lose any sleep worrying about the great tribulation. But suppose your family were taking a rafting trip; wouldn't you want the river guide to tell you about any rough rapids around the corner so you could be prepared to hang on to the ropes?

Well, in Matthew chapter 24, Jesus warns us there will be some turbulent times for those living on the earth just before His return. Let's take a close look.

Here we find the disciples and Jesus discussing the Jewish temple. One of the Lord's statements certainly shocked His followers. "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (v. 2).

On a recent trip to Israel, Karen and I saw some of these very stones. Some are massive, weighing 150 tons. The idea that not one stone would be left upon another is flabbergasting. This prompted the disciples to pry from Jesus deeper details. "When will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (v. 3). Let's look at Jesus' answer, found in verses 4 to 22:

Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.

See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place ... then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ... For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Notice the wording in verse 21:

"There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be." The language used is breathtaking, isn't it? Those words frighten many people.

I remember my church being filled with anxious people on the weekend following 9/11. They had seen those apocalyptic images of buildings imploding in downtown New York. They never dreamed this kind of calamity could come to America's shores. But truth be told, that event pales in comparison to the bombing of Dresden and the siege of Stalingrad. And consider Pearl Harbor and the atrocities of the Holocaust. Think about the monstrous tsunamis that hit Japan or Indonesia. And what about the Black Death and the Dark Ages? There have been so many horrific events in history—a relentless stream of great tribulations.

Many times, the things we worry about don't actually end up so bad. Most of the pain is found in the anxiety and



anticipation. But in the case of *the* great tribulation, you probably cannot over-imagine how bad it will be. Jesus said regarding that time, “Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved.” In other words, without God’s intervention, nothing would survive.

## THE FOUR TRIBULATIONS

It’s important for us to note that there are really four different types of tribulation encompassed in Matthew chapter 24—a tribulation that applied to Israel, a tribulation of the church, a global final tribulation, and a personal tribulation.

Obviously, when Jesus said there wouldn’t be one stone left upon another in the temple, He was talking about the fall of Jerusalem and the literal destruction of the temple. This is the first tribulation, the one that profoundly affected the nation of Israel. The historian Josephus tells us that 1.1 million Jews died when the Romans sacked Jerusalem in AD 70.

But then His prophecy becomes broader, more comprehensive. There’s also a tribulation that especially afflicted the New Testament church. Verse 9 says, “They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations.” That phrase “all nations” implies a global persecution, and Revelation chapter 11 speaks of a specific time for this tribulation. “They will tread the holy city [God’s people] underfoot for forty-two months” (v. 2). Since a Jewish month has thirty days, forty-two months equals 1,260 days, which in prophetic terms equals 1,260 years.

And once again, this prophecy was precisely fulfilled. The pure church was ground down and oppressed by spiritual Babylon during this vast age, the time of great papal persecution—from AD 538, when the papacy gained military power, to 1798, when it temporarily lost its political power because of Napoleon. For 1,260 years, those faithful to God and His commandments fled into the wilderness.

These Dark Ages were a time of intense tribulation. Historians estimate somewhere in the neighborhood of 50

million Christians and Jews were killed, in various campaigns like the Inquisition, over this span of time.

With this background, what is the great tribulation of the last days? Simply put, it’s the seven last plagues. “I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth’ ” (Revelation 16:1). Scripture goes on to describe men being scorched by great heat and afflicted with sores because they worshiped the beast. The waters of earth are turned to blood. When Jesus says it will be a time like there never has been, He is quoting from the book of Daniel.

At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt (12:1, 2).

From the reference to the book of life and the resurrection, we can see that this passage applies to the church and the “mark of the beast” end-time tribulation occurring just before the Second Coming. Daniel tells us that Michael, whom I believe to be an Old Testament term for the Messiah, stands up at that time. When a judge is seated, he’s listening to evidence. When the judge hits his gavel and stands up, it means “case closed.” With judgment concluded, Michael stands up to come rescue His people.

But there’s another implication: the closing of probation. What do I mean? There will be a period of time just before Jesus returns when the lost cannot be saved. Life will go on, but the saved are saved, and the lost are lost. (See Revelation 22:11.)

While God is patient with all people, it’s possible to reach a point of no return. Consider that Jesus said the end time will







be as it was in Noah's day. When Noah stood at the entrance of the ark and made his final appeal, nobody but his family responded. He then went inside and the door was shut. The Bible says that life went on for the doomed souls outside the ark. Their probation had closed, yet they still got up the next seven days—eating, drinking, building, marrying, and laughing at Noah—unaware that it was too late. Likewise, there will be a similar period of time near the end when probation has closed but life goes on.

Before the great tribulation of the end time, before the seven last plagues, there will be a "small time of trouble," a testing time, during which a law will be passed that you cannot buy or sell unless you bear the mark of the beast. (See Revelation chapter 13.) From there, problems will escalate until those who refuse to worship the beast are threatened with death. Once probation closes, I don't believe there will be any martyrs, but there may be some put to death for their convictions during the small time of trouble. Indeed, there are Christians dying for their faith in many parts of the world today.

The small time of trouble will involve persecution through religious laws. Many will flee from the great centers of population when the "abomination of desolation" occurs—when our freedom to worship according to the commands of the one true God will be taken away. At this time, apostate Protestantism will join Papal Rome in sponsoring laws that tell us how and whom to worship.

Many people question whether the United States could actually sink to this level of religious persecution. But as we've seen historically, when people are afraid, they're willing to sacrifice freedom for some illusion of security. When severe problems strike, people also look for someone to blame. In this case, the majority will believe that God is

punishing the planet because of the insubordinate minority. Those who refuse to cooperate will be seen as religious fanatics and will become obvious targets. I can easily see how all of that could unfold. Can't you?

## SURVIVING TRIBULATION

Most of us who have lived a few years can honestly say, "I've gone through tribulation." We all experience major troubles in this life. For you, it might be a health problem, a serious family issue, a financial crisis, or you might live in a country that's at war.

But perhaps the biggest tribulation you and I face occurs within our hearts. "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood," says Ephesians 6:12, "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

The greatest tribulation in the life of Christ was probably the Garden of Gethsemane, just before the cross. His suffering was so intense, "His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). But what happened? Jesus fully surrendered to the will of the Father, praying three times that "not my will be done." The surrender of self is the greatest tribulation faced by believers. The apostle described the battle in this way: "You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:4).

We all experience tribulations that we would prefer to avoid. But at the same time, tribulation produces character. "We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3, 4). Do you want hope? Do



*(Continued on page 18.)*

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

# Broadcast Schedule



### AMAZING FACTS WITH DOUG BATCHELOR

Daystar Network	Wednesday, 6:00 PM ET
Hope Channel	Sunday, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM; Thursday, 6:00 AM; Friday, 12:30 PM PT
Inspiration Network	Sunday, 9:00 AM ET
Lifetime Network	Sunday, 8:00 AM (All Time Zones)
Safe TV	Monday, 9:30 AM; Wednesday, 9:00 AM CT
TBN	Thursday, 10:00 PM PT
The Word Network	Sunday, 1:00 PM ET
3ABN	Tuesday, 10:00 PM; Wednesday, 9:00 PM; Thursday, 1:30 PM CT

### SABBATH SCHOOL STUDY HOUR

Hope Channel	Thursday, 1:00 PM; Friday, 6:00 AM PT
Safe TV	Friday, 9:00 PM; Saturday, 7:00 AM CT
3ABN	Thursday, 7:00 PM; Friday, 5:00 AM; Saturday, 12:00 PM CT

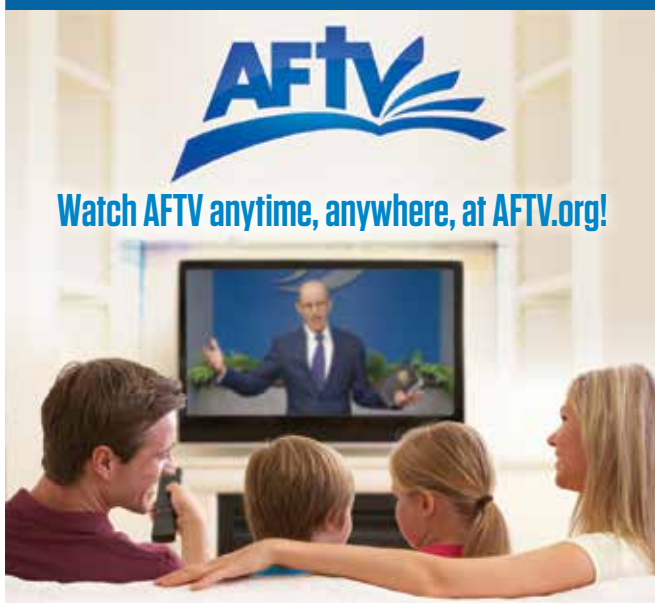
## RADIO

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Amazing Facts

# NEWS to NOTE

## The Everlasting Gospel Is Blessing Lives in China

奇妙真相

Amazing Facts continues to bless tens of thousands of people in China with the good news! Through August of this year, nearly 91,000 unique seekers accessed



our Chinese-language website, with 80 percent being new visitors. More than 6,500 have enrolled in our online Bible School, and we are also reaching thousands through WeChat, a popular social media platform in the region.

Nearly 10,000 seekers have requested answers to their Bible questions so far this year. While we cannot provide specific details of our work, we know of 82 people who have started keeping the Sabbath after watching Amazing Facts programs this year.

The devil does not discriminate; he uses the same temptations in China as the ones we face in the West to destroy lives. For instance, one man had been struggling with pornography. He said, "I struggled to resist temptation, but I was too weak. I failed again and again. Days ago, I was impressed that there had to be a way to overcome this sin. So I began to look through the videos from Pastor Doug. I found a sermon called "Striving for Purity" from the series *Mighty Men of God*. This message was especially for me. I realized the seriousness of this sin, and at the same time, I became aware that if I draw near to God, He would draw near to me. With the help of God, I could definitely live a holy life!" This man told us he deleted all the pornography from his phone and removed all the adult DVDs from his home. Our Internet evangelist

encouraged him to daily pray the prayer that Pastor Doug recommends in that video—for God to put a hatred in his heart for this sin and give him the grace and strength to live a pure Christian life. Thank you for making a difference in China—not just in sharing Bible truth, but in leading to totally transformed lives.

## AFCOE Around the World

In September, AFCOE Africa launched a new round of training programs—with 70 students learning how to reach their communities for Jesus, including 24 students in our comprehensive course. In the first week of their outreach efforts, students received 246 Bible study requests and conducted 55 in-home studies with interests!

One of these was with Adam, a Muslim man who speaks Arabic and knows very little English or Luganda (the language of Uganda). He had never read the Bible but was willing to do a Bible study with students on-the-spot. The AFCOE students patiently waited as Adam

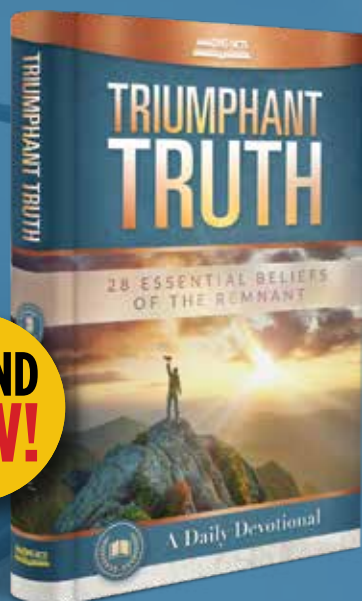
read each text, praying that God would help him to understand the words he struggled to read. After 30 minutes, it seemed that God had illuminated Adam's mind, and he began reading the Bible clearly. He was even able to answer all the questions in the *Storacles* Bible lessons himself. At the end of the study, Adam invited

Jesus into his life in prayer and requested continuing Bible studies to learn more about Jesus and the Bible. From June to August, 413 souls were baptized through AFCOE efforts in Africa!





# CHRISTIAN



**BRAND  
NEW!**

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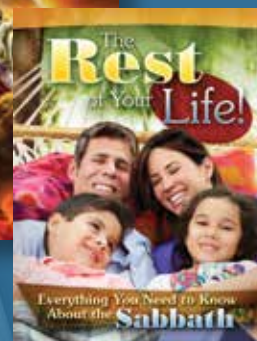
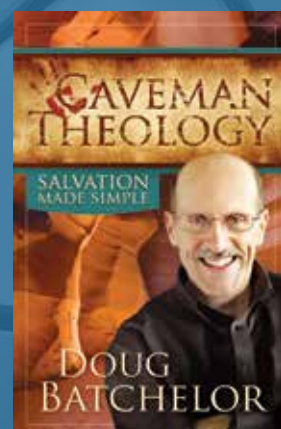
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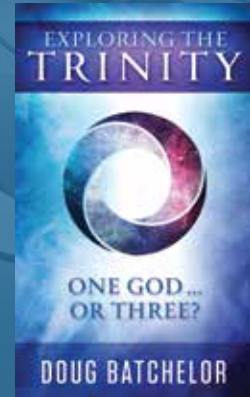
## The Final Events of Bible Prophecy (Magazine)

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An Exciting New Year Offers Promise for  
Evangelism that You're Making Possible

# AMAZING FACTS IN 2019

By Mark A. Kellner

**With God's blessings,** 2019 holds the promise of becoming an extraordinary year of evangelism for the ministry of Amazing Facts. This is our deepest desire—to share God's message with a world that desperately needs His Son Jesus Christ.

This multifaceted ministry, with more than half a century of witness under its belt, is moving forward quickly to meet the needs of an ever-changing media landscape here in North America, as well as increasing demands overseas for the ministry's resources.

"We're so very grateful for what God has done in the past, and we're equally excited about where He will lead us in the coming new year," says Pastor Doug Batchelor, president of Amazing Facts.

"We're receiving evangelism requests from every corner of the globe to help the church expand and strengthen, for media and study materials, and for people to come and share the three angels' messages and train their

people in soul winning. As long as God provides, our goal is to meet those needs and reach the hearts of those seeking for truth in these very uncertain times."

Indeed, beginning next year, the ministry's name will change to Amazing Facts International to highlight that it now serves the last-day church on a global level, including branches in six nations, such as Australia, Canada, and even a team working in China. Explains Pastor Doug, "This step is an overdue recognition that Amazing Facts has expanded its operations and now reaches far beyond what was envisioned when it was first formed in 1965, when

we had just three employees." Today, Amazing Facts reaches around the world, going far beyond a local, state, or even national area.

## W.O.R.D. Center to Open

In addition to Amazing Facts' plans for nonstop evangelism, 2019 will be a special year in another way: The ministry's new World Outreach, Revival, and Discipleship Center—the W.O.R.D. Center, for short—will open its doors. The new office headquarters and media center, including a new production facility for radio and television programming, is expected to open in May, followed in September by a new media-friendly sanctuary for worship services, training, and other broadcasts.

The seeds for the new location were planted in 2004 when 75 acres in the Granite Bay area were purchased by the ministry, thanks to the generous support of our friends. It would be another 13 years before construction would begin. During



this time, Pastor Jean Ross, vice president of evangelism, helped plant a new congregation in Granite Bay, a community on the outskirts of Sacramento. The Lord greatly blessed these efforts and, eventually, Pastor Doug moved fulltime to the Granite Bay Church, which recently surpassed 600 members.

This new facility is a key step in the ministry's future evangelism endeavors. Providing ample space for the ministry's outreaches, the W.O.R.D. Center will allow the Amazing Facts team to do more, and more quickly, than ever before, as new state-of-the-art facilities and equipment are designed for maximum effectiveness and production.





Building the W.O.R.D. Center is not only the culmination of a dream, but it's also a demonstration of God's faithfulness in supporting His work. When construction began, donations covering 75 percent of the cost had already been received or pledged. As we draw near to completion, only \$500,000 remains to be raised from the original goal, and we're trusting God to provide the balance, enabling the center to open debt-free.

## Overseas Appearances

From the start of the ministry under Joe Crews in 1965, Amazing Facts has been committed to fulfilling Jesus' mandate as found in Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." During these nearly 54 years of ministry, the "going" has increasingly been in person as well as by means of radio, television, and the Internet.

The year 2019 promises to be no exception. Beginning with a series of meetings in the Central American nation of Belize in January, Pastor Doug hopes to personally call tens of thousands to Christ as he travels the globe throughout the year.

In mid-April, he's expected to preach in the Republic of Seychelles, a nation of 115 islands some 900 miles east of the African coast and situated in the Indian Ocean. Numbering fewer than 95,000 residents, the Seychelles has the smallest population of any African nation. Despite this, there is a hunger for the Word of God, and the local church there has invited Pastor Doug to preach—and where God calls, Amazing Facts goes.

At least two overseas events will be connected to events sponsored by ASI. The first will take place in Paris at the conclusion of a month-long evangelistic series taking place in Northern France, which will cover one hundred locations. The campaign is part of a four-year effort to


increase God's kingdom by five thousand souls in a part of the world that has been decidedly non-religious for decades.

Pastor Doug says, "It may seem like an epic goal to try to bring people from such a highly secular society into the church, but God is at work in many hearts, preparing them



for the message they'll hear in 2019. Our commission is to present the Word boldly and compassionately—and ask God to move powerfully on the hearts of those who are seeking."

The second trip will be a series of evangelistic meetings in Taipei beginning August 29. There are just under 24 million people living in Taiwan, yet less than 4 percent claim any sort of Christian affiliation. But the technology-driven affluence of recent years has also created a society where many are searching, and Pastor Doug will bring the three angels' messages to this dynamic society.

These opportunities complement the ministry's existing outreaches on television, radio, the Internet, and in print. As always, we do not take the support of partners like you for granted. Instead, we are grateful to God for you—for aligning with this ministry to reach the world for Christ. Thank you for your continued and dedicated partnership with Amazing Facts! 

# PROPHECY SEMINARS

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

## SPEAKERS



Doug Batchelor



Wyatt Allen



Darrin Bartell



Dakota Day



Carlos Muñoz



Dave Steward

### Doug Batchelor

**January 4, 5**

Faith FM Radio  
9 Eden Drive  
Cayo District, Belize

**March 26 – 29**

National Religious Broadcasters  
Anaheim, California

**April 21 – 27**

Hope 2019  
Paris, France

**April 18 – 20**

Seychelles Mission Camp Meeting  
Roche Caiman Sports Center  
Mahe, Seychelles

**August 29 – 31**

Asia Pacific ASI  
Taipei, Taiwan

**September 3, 4**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Mission

### Wyatt Allen

**January 4 – February 9**

Church Auditorium  
638 S. Eden Gardens Avenue  
Inverness, Florida

### Dakota Day

**January 11 – February 2**

Church Auditorium  
401 Weston Road  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

### Carlos Muñoz

**January 4 – 19**

Costa Rica

**February 1 – 16**

Auditorio Maranatha  
Carrasquilla, Panamá  
*\*Spanish language seminar*

### David Steward

**March 8 – April 13**

Church Auditorium  
950 Cleveland Avenue  
Loveland, Colorado

This is a great time to book an Amazing Facts evangelist and grow your church! Our Bible prophecy seminars feature can't-beat price breaks and a marketing team that will help you advertise your event. Call today for more details.

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Times and locations are subject to change. Please confirm at [prophecyseminars.com](http://prophecyseminars.com) prior to attending.



# Hungry for Answers

by Carrie Purkeypile

*Even before Amazing Facts evangelist Wyatt Allen arrived in Inverness, Florida, God was working in the community to prepare hearts to know and love His truth.*

**K**atie had a hunger for God. She longed to fully understand His Word. But when she signed up for small group Bible studies at her church, she was dismayed to discover that they were more like social clubs, centering around bowling and other activities. It seemed that no one was actually studying God's Word.

As a mother to three curious children, Katie wanted to understand God's truth for their benefit too. Her oldest son, Taylor, had expressed an interest in being baptized—but he was asking questions about God that she simply couldn't answer. She didn't know where to turn.

Then one day, Katie was sitting in the hallway at school waiting to pick up Taylor. That's when God impressed a local teacher, Jane, to approach her and start up a conversation. Jane, a devout Christian and Sabbathkeeper, worked at the school teaching character development to the many students.

As they talked, Katie shared that young Taylor was interested in being baptized. "That is wonderful!" responded Jane. "But does he know his Bible? Does he know why people are called to be baptized? Does he know what happens to people after they die?"


"No, he doesn't, even though we go to church," answered Katie. Soon eleven-year-old Taylor appeared and joined in on their discussion.

## Real Bible Studies


When Jane asked the pair if they would like to study the Bible together, Katie instantly said yes. "I wanted somebody to do deep Bible studies, not just inspirational stuff. My son had questions, and I couldn't answer them. I wanted to know the Word."

Along with Taylor, Katie also brought her sister Kelsey and niece Bailey to meet with Jane for Bible studies every week. They

*(Continued on page 20.)*



"My son had questions, and I couldn't answer them."



(Continued from page 9.)

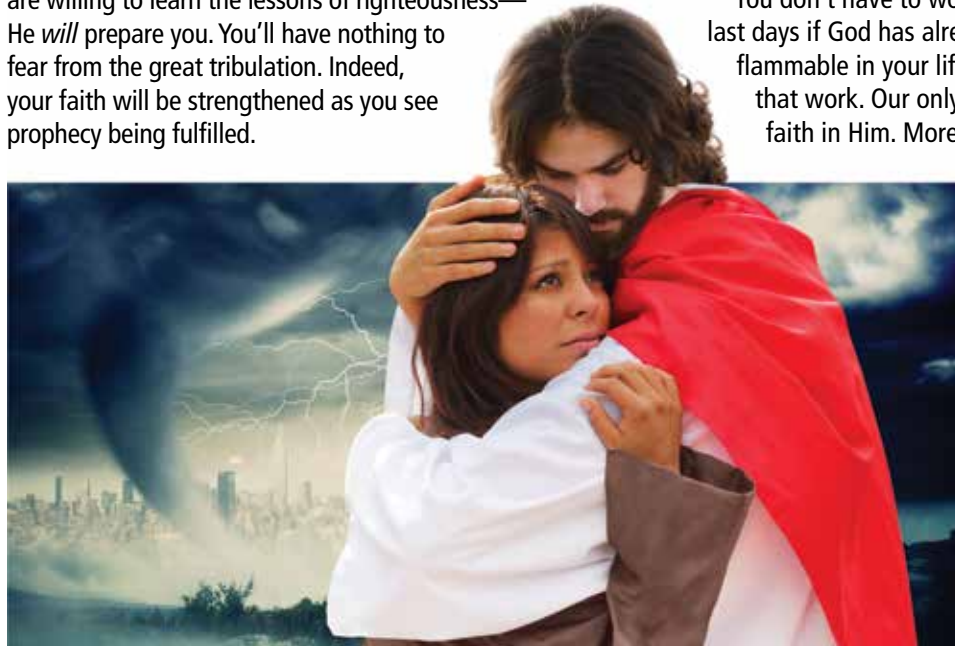
you want character? You can actually rejoice in tribulations because these qualities are produced by troubles.

Do you want to be found pure when Jesus comes? It's through the tribulations and the trials we experience that our hearts are made ready. We must pray, "Lord, not my will but thy will be done."

Nowhere in Scripture are we taught that God will vacuum up His people before the great tribulation. The Bible says, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Does God promise to save His church *from* tribulation or *through* tribulation? It's an important distinction. Did God save Noah from the flood, or did He save him *through* the flood? Did God save the young Hebrews from the fiery furnace? Or did He save them *through* the furnace? The children of Israel were *in* Egypt when the plagues fell, but God saved them *through* the plagues. He didn't snatch away any of these people before these crises happened.

That might sound scary, but look closely—it's also why you don't need to fear the seven last plagues. God even promises, "No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling" (Psalm 91:10). But while I'm not worried about the plagues, I do want to make sure that any tribulation that comes into my life before then prepares me so that I'm ready for the tribulation.

Thus, the key to surviving the great tribulation is to allow God to transform you now. If you're faithful in the little tribulations that come, in the fiery trials you go through, saying, "Lord, purify me, purge me, whatever You need to do"—if you embrace those things that humble you now, if you are willing to learn the lessons of righteousness—He *will* prepare you. You'll have nothing to fear from the great tribulation. Indeed, your faith will be strengthened as you see prophecy being fulfilled.




## NOTHING TO FEAR

I remember hearing a story about a wagon train of settlers who were crossing a great Western prairie. Suddenly, off in the distance, they saw the thing they feared most—smoke and a raging wildfire. The grass was four feet tall, and the wind was driving the scorching flames toward their company. Not knowing what to do, the settlers were about to panic, but the wagon master said, "Trust me." He then lit a fire behind their caravan, and the wind blew it away from them. A grass fire burns quickly, so the grass immediately turned to ash. Then, just in time, he directed the whole camp to move their wagons and animals to the large section where the grass was already burnt. The children cried as they saw the approaching wildfire, but their parents reassured them, "The fire cannot hurt us now because we're standing where it has already burned." The flames roared around them, but other than some annoying smoke, they were safe.

You don't have to worry about the trouble of the last days if God has already purged everything that's flammable in your life—but you must allow Him to do that work. Our only safety comes through putting our faith in Him. More important, if you are abiding in

Christ, He has already taken the wrath of the Father upon Himself on your behalf.

To be prepared for the great tribulation, we need to face with faith the fiery storms that come into our lives now and embrace the things that transform us into the image of Christ. Jesus assures us that if we remain in Him, we can be of good courage—through *any* tribulation—because He has already "overcome the world" (John 16:33). 



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80	7.3%
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70	5.6%
65	5.1%

\*At time of application

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[mylegacy.amazingfacts.org](http://mylegacy.amazingfacts.org)

(Continued from page 17.)

worked through the *Storacle* Bible lessons from Amazing Facts, taking time to discuss everything and search out each text. "You could tell they were ready for it," says Jane.

And Katie adds, "When we met the first time, I said, 'Thank you, Lord. This is a *real* Bible study!' "

A few weeks into their study group, Jane's church brought in Amazing Facts evangelist Wyatt Allen to present a Bible prophecy seminar. Jane slipped some event brochures into her bag and presented them to the family at their next study session. Katie's eyes widened when she saw that the series would have more than twenty meetings. *Oh heavens! I am busy. I don't know if I will go to all of them*, she thought.

## Straight from the Bible

But when Katie and her family attended the first presentation, they were blown away by what they heard. "Our mouths were literally hanging open," remembers Katie. The family eagerly drank in the information. "It was like Wyatt was feeding us," says Katie of the seminar. "It was extremely in-depth, yet it was easy to understand. It was amazing!"

On the way home that night, Katie was glowing. "Let's go to the next one!" she said.

But eleven-year-old Taylor quickly answered, "Mom, I'm going to *all* of them." The decision had been made!

Katie, Kelsey, Taylor, and Bailey attended the meetings several times each week, while still meeting with Jane on Wednesdays for Bible study. Rather than the multiweek series being a drudgery, the whole family was energized and loved learning more about the Bible. Katie's youngest daughter, five-year-old Abigail, rushed to put on her dress after school each day, anxious to get to the meetings and participate in the children's program.

Wyatt was there for the family not only during each meeting, but also to discuss their inquiries and concerns. One evening, he sat on the steps of the church with young Taylor to talk through his questions for more than an hour.

## An Infusion of Joy

Before the meetings ended, Katie, Kelsey, Taylor, and Bailey each made the decision to be baptized. "We had learned so much," says Katie. Our eyes were opened at

every meeting with new information about the end times, the Sabbath, and the antichrist."

"The baptism was so special," says Taylor.

Each candidate was versed in the Scriptures and requested a favorite hymn and Bible verse for their part of the ceremony.

And they were not alone. The small church brought in many guests who connected with the messages presented by Wyatt. "We had one of the largest participations that we have seen since we've been on the road," he says. The onsite Bible school held a graduation for 38 people. In total, there were 14 baptisms and two professions of faith—with many more preparing for baptism!

The Amazing Facts series brought an infusion of joy to many local families. Katie describes their life before as chaotic, on-the-go, and never home. But the Sabbath truth has transformed their family. "We love to spend that time outside in nature, getting closer to God and one another," says a smiling Katie. "It has brought us all together and given us a lot more happiness."

Jane's heart is happy too. "It thrills my heart to see people's faces light up. As a teacher, I love to see kid's light bulbs go off. But when it's a spiritual light bulb, it's for eternity. That's the greatest! That is what we are here for."

Thank you for making it possible for Amazing Facts to send our evangelists on the road to places like Inverness and to equip church members, like Jane, with Bible study resources that change lives. You have made an eternal difference in the lives of Katie, Kelsey, Taylor, Bailey, and so many more! 📖





# BIBLE ANSWERS

WITH DOUG BATCHELOR



## Q What is the “abomination of desolation”?

**A** “When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place ... then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains” (Matthew 24:15, 16). Jesus’ comments regarding the abomination of desolation come as a response to two questions from the disciples—first, about the destruction of the Hebrew temple, when there would not be left one stone upon another; second, about the signs of His coming and the end of the age (Matthew 24:3). Christ then speaks of this abomination, saying, “There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (v. 21).

Jesus tells us directly that to understand this subject, we must go back to Daniel the prophet. Daniel 8:13 speaks of “the vision ... concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot.”

The first fulfillment of the desolation happened when Roman armies destroyed the Jewish temple in AD 70. This is why Jesus says in Luke 21:20, 21, “When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” This brought a great tribulation to the Jewish people. Jesus even uses the same words as Daniel: “Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:24).

The final desolation spoken of by Jesus and first mentioned by Daniel (8:13; 11:31; and 12:11) speaks of the rise of an evil religious power that will, at the end of time, bring desolation into God’s church, His spiritual temple, mingling paganism with Christianity. Just as God gave early Christians a warning to flee Jerusalem, so at the end of time, the Lord gives us a similar warning to come out of Babylon or receive of her plagues. When a corrupt world church unites with worldly powers, we know that the time of the end is at hand. Like the apostles, we might need to flee to more desolate places before the great tribulation begins.


Tune in to **Bible Answers Live**, Amazing Facts’ live, nationwide call-in radio program, and listen to Pastor Doug give biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To get times and stations in your area, or to listen to answers online, visit [www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org).

## Q If Jesus is coming “as a thief in the night,” how can anyone know anything about it?

**A** “The day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night” (1 Thessalonians 5:2). This question illustrates the importance of reading an entire passage and not just a select part. First, the apostle Paul says, “Concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you” (1 Thessalonians 5:1). Paul is telling the believers in Thessalonica that they know about Jesus’ soon coming. They are aware that it will be like a thief in the night, but not for themselves (v. 2).

“For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape” (v. 3). It is not the believer who experiences the coming of Christ as an unexpected robber, but those who live in denial of the second advent. “But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief” (v. 4). Only those who are unprepared experience the Second Coming as a thief. Paul goes on to explain, “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” (vv. 5, 6).

Many interpret this text to mean that Jesus will come like a silent thief to steal believers out of this world. Then cars will collide, planes will crash, sacked quarterbacks at football games will vanish, and babies will be missing from their cribs. While popular Christian films present this perspective of a “secret rapture,” it is a total distortion of the text.

The apostle Peter also wrote: “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise” (2 Peter 3:10). According to Peter, this coming of Jesus is definitely not a silent, secret event that precedes a seven-year period of tribulation. Rather, this day arrives suddenly, with “a great noise” and is clearly connected with the end of the world! 

# 7 Biblical Principles to Help Keep the Weight Off This Winter

By Laurie Lyon



**Is** it really possible? Can a person actually lose or control weight amidst multiple holidays and a reduction in physical activity that winter often brings? The answer is yes!—but especially if we embrace the important principles shared in Scripture—principles that hold true even during the frigid months and can help us be healthier and happier all year long!



## 1 Acknowledge that our bodies are God's temple.

The Bible tells us that we were “bought at a price” and our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). While we should honor God by the way we care for our bodies, we don’t have to go it alone. He will strengthen and help us (Isaiah 41:10) so we can sidestep dietary temptations and make health-promoting choices for our body.



## 2 Consider a whole-foods, plant-based diet.

According to the Bible, humanity’s original diet came from plants. Dozens of scientific studies have demonstrated that a simple, plant-based diet is generally the healthiest option<sup>1,2</sup> and greatly reduces one’s risk of obesity.



**3 Don’t overeat.** Proverbs 23:2 says, “Put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite.” Overeating causes chemical changes that produce food cravings.<sup>3</sup> Overburdened digestive organs absorb fewer nutrients, so hunger returns sooner. It can also make you drowsy, which means you’ll be less likely to burn off the extra calories.



**4 Limit sweets.** The Scripture that says “it is not good to eat much honey” (Proverbs 25:27) has been confirmed. Studies point out the dangers of eating too much concentrated sweeteners, such as sugar or honey, including unwanted weight gain.<sup>4</sup>



**5 Avoid rich foods.** The Bible calls delicacies “deceptive food” (Proverbs 23:3). Rich foods, which are generally high in fat and calories, can sabotage weight-loss goals and contribute to a host of other problems.



**6 Get up and move!** Exercise is an important factor in weight management. To get the best results, make exercise a permanent part of your life. God’s Word confirms that “physical training is of some value” (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV). And you don’t need to belong to a gym to reap benefits. Something as simple as walking regularly can go a long way toward optimizing your weight. So bundle up and get out there!



**7 Minimize anxiety.** Holidays can be stressful, and many people eat when they are worried or anxious—gravitating to food as a way of calming their nerves. But it can easily become a habit leading to unwanted weight gain. Instead of automatically eating when you’re worried, try praying first (see Philippians 4:6, 7). Giving your burdens to God and allowing Him to relieve your mind of problems will free up your cognitive powers to make healthier choices.

The Bible makes it clear that God wants us to “prosper in all things and be in health” (3 John 1:2). By looking to Him for wisdom and strength, making intelligent choices for our bodies, and being persistent, we can reach and even exceed our expectations this winter and beyond.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3662288/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nutritionfacts.org/topics/plant-based-diets/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2010/12/01/131698228/overeating-like-drug-use-rewards-and-alters-brain>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.health.harvard.edu/heart-health/the-sweet-danger-of-sugar>



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





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