

AMAZING
*Inside
Report* **FACTS**

January/February 2004

THE
POWER
OF
PLODDING

THE DAY OF MY HEART'S GLADNESS

BY ANTHONY LESTER

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

—Revelation 19:7

It sounds unbelievable to me, but the arrival of 2004 means that my role as editor for the *Inside Report* spans four calendar years. It is a privilege that still invigorates me every workday morning. As I've joyfully acknowledged many times to you before, Amazing Facts, through the Holy Spirit, sparked my spiritual awakening. I am honored to now serve God through this multifaceted outreach, even as it still ministers to me every day.

I came to Sacramento in late 2001 to follow God's call on my life, leaving a loving family and close friends to pursue a passionate dream. It was challenging to come here with such uncertainty about the post-9/11 future and not knowing anybody, but God had already answered my prayers for the chance to serve Him, so I went forward with a sure faith that He would complete the work.

In return for this trust, my Creator gave me a fantastic job. But as awesome as that is, I feel He has also *rewarded* my faith with something even better: a wife. In September, I was blessed to marry an extraordinary woman. (See page 25.) It seems to me that God lovingly crafted us specifically for one another, two individuals coming together to form a complete person. As it was for Solomon, my wedding to Haley is “the day of the gladness of [my] heart” (Song of Solomon 3:11).

But this beautiful gift is not without great responsibility. God has commanded through Paul, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25 NKJV). As still yet a flawed man, this is a demanding charge.

Despite my overwhelming love for my new companion, I am inherently selfish and, thus, rarely truly selfless. I have desires to serve my own interests, and times will come when the temptation to give in to these desires will threaten to shake the foundation of our marriage.

Praise God, then, that I have an example in Jesus.

Jesus did not leave *selfish* desires behind, as we must, to save lost souls, because He didn't let them into His heart to begin with.

Instead, He continually acted on a *selfless* desire to rescue humanity and fully accepted the extreme challenge of the cross. Though tempted greatly to be selfish, His heart remained pure and His mind was one with God's will—and what seemed impossible was accomplished miraculously through His faith.

I know this same possibility is offered to you and me today. Should I choose each day to abandon my selfish heart and commit myself to God, He will provide me a selfless heart like Jesus'. I will *serve* my wife with cheerfulness, without undue expectation, because that is the nature of God's love. All I need is faith and the desire to act on it.

We're often told it's okay to be selfish in marriage to get what we want out of a relationship; it might even sound practical, but I wholeheartedly disagree—that is a worldly deception, not a Christian ideal. Rather, our goal is to be selfless, like the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are to each other in their perfect union, each giving fully to serve a common purpose.

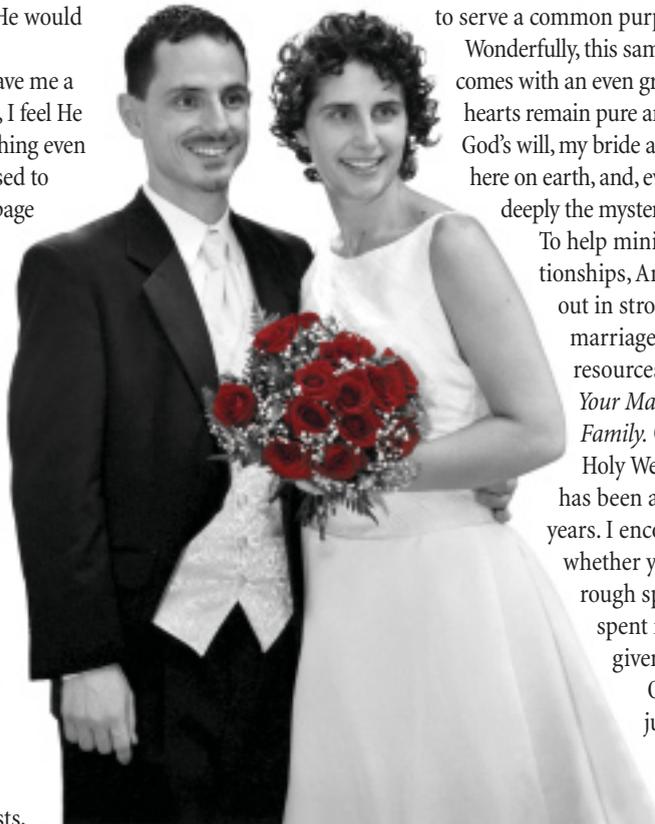
Wonderfully, this same responsibility for our marriage comes with an even greater opportunity. For should our hearts remain pure and our minds remain as one with God's will, my bride and I will know a little bit of heaven here on earth, and, even more, we'll understand more deeply the mysterious truth of our triune God.

To help ministry friends in their family relationships, Amazing Facts has recently come out in strong support of God's plan for marriage by publishing two excellent resources—Jim Hohnberger's *Revitalizing Your Marriage* and *Reconnecting the Family*. Of course, our Study Guide “Has Holy Wedlock Become Unholy Deadlock” has been a blessing to thousands for many years. I encourage you to check them out—whether you're newly wed, experiencing a rough spot in your marriage, or have spent many good years with your God-given spouse.

Of course, I know my marriage is just an inkling of another wedding day that, God willing, my wife and I will experience together.

Soon, our Bridegroom will split the skies open with His majesty, call His bride up to Him, and then lead us to the Father's throne room somewhere in the cosmos. There, the most spectacular wedding ceremony ever will become the day of the gladness of all our hearts.

Until then, keep the faith. 



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A free, color catalog of materials sold by Amazing Facts is available on request. It contains information and prices on all books, videotapes, CDs, audiotapes, and other soul-winning materials available through the ministry.

For more information, please call Amazing Facts Monday through Thursday 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. Pacific.

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Mail Bag

Bible Answers Live, International



I have been listening to your program for the past few weeks, and I really love hearing your biblical answers every program. Praise the Lord, and I hope you continue with your ministry. You are doing a great job. God richly bless you and your family. *C.T., Singapore*

Bittersweet Blessings

My mother-in-law, who lived with us for seven years, just passed away. We had 3ABN in her room and she just loved Pastor Doug and looked forward to his programs. Amazing Facts helped to make her closing years much more enriched. She became a Sabbathkeeper at the age of 60—and died at 97! She looked forward to meeting you in the earth made new. May God pour His blessings on you. *M.M., Maine*

Opening Eyes

I just wanted to say “thanks.” I’ve finished the online Bible course, and it opened my eyes to many things. Bible prophecy has really peaked my interest and I plan to study more of it. I pray that my eyes will be opened even more and that, eventually, I too can start spreading the news. *K.P., e-mail*



A New Direction

I am shocked! I attended parochial schools and taught Bible classes in church for years, but I had never heard of the seventh-day Sabbath before. But it is clearly what the Bible teaches. Now I need to reorganize my life to follow Jesus’ plan. *Wenatchee seminar attendee*

POP Still Going Strong

I was recently getting my hearing aid repaired when I saw your *Panorama of Prophecy* software on the counter. I picked one up, and a lady said I could take it for free! I went home and found an excellent Bible study, so much so that I found it difficult to log off. I would like 24 copies for use in our church Bible study group. *G.C., California*

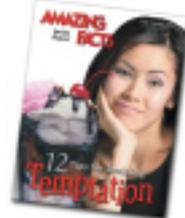
A Soldier in God’s Army

I cannot begin to tell you what a blessing it has been to have recently received Amazing Facts publications and the *Songs of Inspiration and Praise* music CD. I am currently stationed in Ft. Lewis, Washington, waiting deployment orders in the Middle East. Since the events in Iraq have been changing rapidly, training has been intense. I thank the Lord that I have been able to share my faith and use Amazing Facts literature to conduct Bible studies with other soldiers. I have also found the music CD to be very inspiring, especially during the hard times and uncertainty and separation from the family. *The Book of Amazing Facts* has been popular with the other nurses I work with at the medical center. The information contained in this book has allowed open discussion and an easy avenue to introduce God’s love and Christ’s second coming. *Captain J.R.*



His Providence

Hello, Mr. Batchelor. I just wanted to say something about timing. I just received the July/August 2003 *Inside Report*. I have had a bit of a problem lately with temptation, so praise God for “12 Tips for Resisting Temptation.” Even though every magazine has been important, I really needed this issue. God always has His perfect timing. *Anonymous*



Live Evangelism Really Works

In 2001, I heard about an Amazing Facts prophecy seminar held by Lowell Hargreaves. I attended the entire series, but was not among those baptized at its conclusion. I would very much like to give a message to Pastor Lowell thanking him for helping lead me to the truth—for leading me to Jesus. God’s Spirit has worked wonders in my life. This past Sabbath, both my fiancée and I were baptized. I have listened to Lowell’s



audiotapes of the seminar many times, and realize the heartbreaking disappointments that one in his position must endure watching so many hear God’s Word, but reject the message.

I want Lowell to know that he can remove two from that category. *J.I., Iowa*

Oops!

I really appreciate the *Inside Report*, both in content and appearance. But the reason I am writing is in regard to a book ad for *The Guilt-free Gourmet* cookbook [July/August 2003 *Inside Report*, pg. 18]. I just wanted to mention that it’s not the only “excitotoxin-free” vegan cookbook available, as your ad suggests. In fact, another cookbook in your lineup also features excitotoxin-free vegan recipes—it’s called *The Genesis Diet Cookbook*. Thanks, and God bless. *D.K., Idaho*

Editor’s Note: In an effort to give you the best possible magazine for spiritual growth and for sharing with others, we always welcome and appreciate your corrections and suggestions.

Inside Report welcomes all correspondence regarding the magazine and other Amazing Facts ministries. Letters and other materials sent to Amazing Facts may be used—in whole or in part and edited for content, grammar, and readability—in future publications unless otherwise requested. We thank you for your thoughts, suggestions, and financial and prayer support in our endeavor to reach others for Jesus and equip them to do likewise.

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Did you also know the U.S. government actually encourages gifts to your favorite charity? For instance, if you're 70 years old and give a \$20,000 gift annuity to Amazing Facts, you will receive \$340 every quarter for the rest of your life—along with a \$8,085.00 tax deduction! You only pay tax on \$496, which makes the 6.8-percent rate of return effectively a 10.6-percent pay out.

As students of prophecy, we are seeing the signs of the end all around us. Even those lost in worldly pursuit sense a stupendous coming crisis. But Jesus says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19–21 NKJV).

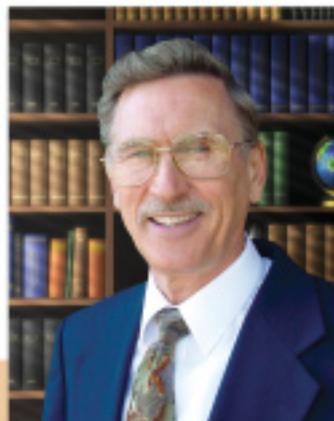
So I encourage you to partner with Amazing Facts ministry to receive an excellent income for life and save on taxes—but more important, to rescue souls for Jesus! If you would like to know more, call me today at 800-436-2695, ext. 3005, or Judy Schachten, secretary, at 3029.

John Bridges

John Bridges, Director of Planned Giving

John Bridges, Certified Specialist in Planned Giving

John Bridges is a graduate of the University of California and has been a Certified Specialist in Planned Giving (CSPG) for many years. This professional designation signifies Bridges' and Amazing Facts' commitment to the highest standards and practices for the philanthropic community. Developed by the American Institute for Philanthropic Studies, the CSPG designation requires continuing professional education credits each year and is comparable to similar requirements for attorneys and financial planners.



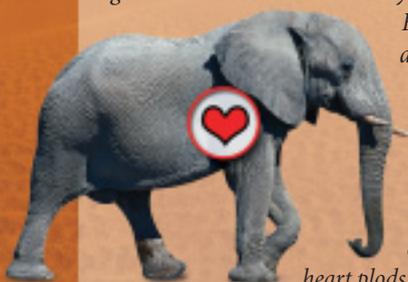
THE POWER OF PLODDING

PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR

An Amazing Fact: If you want to know approximately how long an animal is going to live, determine how fast its heart beats. Most creatures get about 800 million heartbeats per life, so animals with a rapid heart rate will reach the 800 million average sooner than those with a very slow metabolism.

For instance, a mouse's heart beats about 700 times per minute, and they live less than three years. The hummingbird's heart beats up to 1,260 times per minute during the day, but it actually slows to 50 beats per minute at night, and they live twice as long as mice. But an elephant's

heart plods along at about 35 beats per minute, and they have been known to live more than 80 years.



"Ploddin'g." It's not generally thought of as a pretty word. It conjures up images of a person trudging along with their legs knee deep in mud or crossing sandy dunes in a blistering desert. Ploddin'g means "to work or to act perseveringly or monotonously; to drudge; the act of moving or walking heavily and slowly making laborious progress."

We can sometimes get discouraged when we're ploddin'g, because we aren't seeing results soon enough. Our dreams don't quickly materialize, so we consider throwing in the towel. But many times, if we would just plod on a little longer, we'd reach our goals.

Christians likewise must often plod our way to the kingdom. We need to adjust to the idea that being a Christian is not always a dazzling mountaintop experience, but involves ploddin'g through the lowly valleys. And sometimes these spells of ploddin'g may even last years.

That's why I believe God loves the plodders. The Christian life is not so much of a sprint as it is a marathon, and it's better to have a good finish than a quick start. Many people have had very bad starts, but if you are to be in the kingdom, what matters most is a good finish, and that is often determined by how you recognize the power of ploddin'g.

DESTINATION UNLIMITED

It's a new year. We need to have goals. If we're ploddin'g, we might as well plod toward something worthwhile.

Thomas Edison, one of my ploddin'g heroes, set very ambitious goals. He planned to come up with a major new invention every six months, and a minor one every 10 days. That might sound like a crazy goal, but by the time he died, he had 1,092 U.S. patents and more than 2,000 foreign patents. He knew that by setting goals for

himself and relentlessly striving to reach them, he was bound to increase his output.

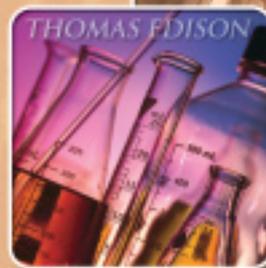
Edison was the embodiment of a plodder. One time, he challenged his scientists and chemists to find a solution that dissolved rubber, which at the time was still a new invention. So his chemical crew got out their pencils and paper and started calculating their formulas. After many fruitless days, Edison got frustrated at their lack of progress.

But instead of giving up, he took a strip of rubber and went to a well-stocked chemical warehouse and began going from jar to jar. He would open a jar, stick in the rubber, and pull it out and watch what happened. If it remained intact, he went to the next jar. Finally, after a week of ploddin'g through the huge chemical stockpile, he found the solution that would dissolve rubber. When he got back to his lab, the scientists were still working on their formulas.

That's a practical explanation of ploddin'g, and that's how you achieve what you want. With determination you can find a needle in a haystack, but you have to persistently pull the haystack apart—one straw at a time.

THE PERIL OF IMPATIENCE

Are you impatient with reaching your goals? If so, you're not alone. I think Americans are more chronically impatient than anyone else. We get irritated at the drive-through if our fast food isn't fast enough. "I've been here five minutes," we groan. "I'm starving!" But you go to Russia, and they'll stand in line all day just for basic needs.



This chronic impatience also means we're quickly impatient with ourselves and even with God. So many give up on the Christian life because they don't see rapid progress. You're tempted to quit because you want to be like Christ overnight, but it seems as though it's taking forever. You say to yourself, "I'm not getting anywhere. I'm a failure." What's the answer?

God's plodders must have patience. Like Joseph, for instance. He has these fantastic dreams that God has big plans for his life, but they aren't being realized because his brothers sell him into slavery. Where did his dreams go when he's sweeping a pagan's house? Then things go from bad to worse when he is falsely accused of adultery and is tossed into a gloomy jail. For 13 years of his life, he was a prisoner or a slave—and none of that by his own fault. Would you be discouraged? Would you think your dreams are over? We know Joseph's answer by his actions. Though he doesn't know why God is allowing it, he decides to plod along by being the very best he could be at what God gave him.

And one day everything changed: Joseph went from the prison to the palace.

Joseph is a great example for you and me to not lose patience or give up. Romans 2:6, 7 says God "will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by *patient continuance* in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life" (emphasis added). I've got big dreams, just like Joseph. I want to live and reign alongside Jesus. Do you know how I am going to get there? By patient continuance; in other words, patiently plodding.

CROSSING GALILEE

In John 6, Jesus orders His disciples to voyage across the sea as He withdraws into the wilderness to pray.

"Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum" (vs. 16, 17 NKJV). As the disciples are rowing, it's very dark and cold. Then quickly, "The sea arose because a great wind was blowing." By this time, the disciples had paddled three or four miles, so they're actually in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.

Would you be able to row? It's one thing to paddle around lazily in a swimming pool, and quite another to row across an ocean with the wind against you. The monotony of one stroke after another, hour by hour, must have worn the disciples down, yet the Bible says they were doing what Jesus had commanded. They were in the dark, going against wind to do God's will, and that's when the Lord came to them.

Don't miss this! I believe it is a profound point: Christ came to them as they were rowing, not when they were simply sailing or drifting. He came to them as they plodded, stroke after stroke, in the midst of tribulation. When the disciples first see Jesus, they are afraid because they don't recognize Him. But when Jesus identifies Himself, "they willingly received Him into the boat." Then miraculously, "immediately the boat was at the land where they were going." The author specifically lets us know the distance, because only a miracle could have taken them so quickly

from the middle of the sea to the shore. I don't know if it was angels or if God simply "beamed" them to the beach, but they were suddenly at their destination.

What really conveyed them there? The disciples' rowing? No. By receiving Jesus into their boat, they were brought to shore. But when did He come? While they were rowing, doing what they could to fulfill His will.

This is a very important spiritual truth! When at those times you are doing everything you can, and it seems as though you're getting nowhere and the wind and waves are beating you back, Jesus will pick up the slack and carry you forward. He'll take you the rest of the way. But I'm not sure He'll get in that boat if you're not rowing or at least willing to row. You need to do what you can, because God calls the plodders in life.

Remember that the Lord calls people when they're busy plodding. God called the apostles when they were busy fishing for one more cast of the net, Moses was patiently watching his father-in-law's sheep. Gideon was threshing wheat, Elisha was plowing, and Matthew was counting. Jesus calls those who are at it!

NAOMI AND RUTH

Naomi had plenty of reasons to be discouraged. First, her family was experiencing a famine, which is by itself a horribly dispiriting trauma. Next she was forced to move from her home into a foreign land with a foreign language. She also loses her husband, and still yet more discouragement, her sons too begin to die. At the end of all this, she has no husband, no house, her sons have died, and all she has left are pagan daughters-in-law.

Would you be discouraged? She was so distraught that she says, "Call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me." But God, having mercy, gives her a gift in Ruth. Although Naomi tells Ruth to go away, Ruth answers, "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me" (Ruth 1:16, 17).

But what could Ruth do? The only work she could find was picking up sheaves that reapers left behind. How many of us would do that today—not work as a farmer, but as a beggar to farmers, picking up the scraps of grain not considered worth the trouble? Yet Ruth never complains, not even one gripe nor moan escapes her lips. She keeps going because she made a commitment—doing what's close at hand until God opened another door.

And what a door that was! The land owner, a prince in Israel, takes her as his wife, and she receives a great inheritance. Later we





see that she is not only an ancestor of the great King David, but she is also an ancestor of Jesus!

Ruth was a plodder. She did not give up. Many of us may have jobs where we feel, “Lord, is this really my lot in life? I have greater gifts!” But even Moses watched sheep for 40 years, until God opened another door. Keep plodding.

THE ULTIMATE PLODDER

If you want to be a Christian, you’re following someone who refused to be discouraged. A prophecy in Isaiah 42, about Jesus, proclaims, “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; . . . *He shall not fail nor be discouraged*” (vs. 1, 4, emphasis added).

Jesus is a plodder. He refuses to be discouraged. Did He have reason to get discouraged? Plenty! Once Jesus watched a crowd turn their backs on Him because they didn’t understand His words. He was also betrayed and forsaken by His own friends. It looked to others like He was a total failure, but He did not give up.

Paul says, “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). God’s people are a determined people, and we should be as determined to be saved as Christ is to save us. So how determined is Jesus to

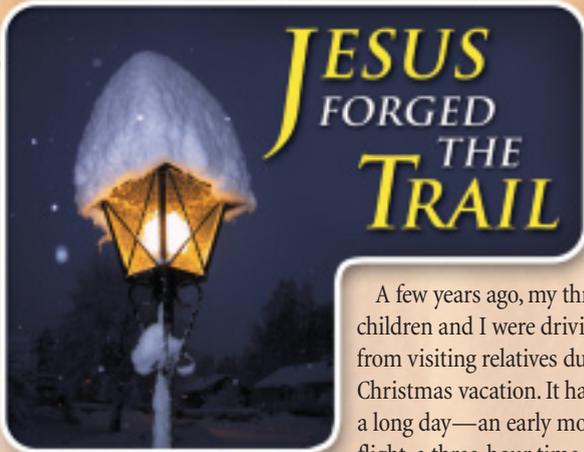
save you? He is *desperate*. He wants to do everything He can; He died a horrible death for you.

But how determined are you to be saved? He’ll get in your boat if you’re rowing. If you are doing what you can do, God will perform a miracle of grace and take you to your destination. We are saved by grace, even as we are out in the middle of the sea. But He wants you to be plodding, looking for Him, until He comes. Even if you are the thief on the cross and it looks as though there is no hope for you. He said, “Lord, remember me.” At the very last moment of life, that thief had faith to take one more step. Did Jesus save him? Yes, because He wouldn’t give up on any soul, even at the end. God wants us to be a people that will plod on persistently.

In Philippians 3:12, 14, Paul says, “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but *I press on*, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. . . . *I press toward the goal* for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (NKJV, emphasis added).

JESUS ENDURED

Christians can get discouraged during the fierce battles. We are almost always fighting with temptation, as if life was nothing but a series of wars. During World War I, a British soldier fighting in



A few years ago, my three older children and I were driving home from visiting relatives during Christmas vacation. It had been a long day—an early morning flight, a three-hour time change,

a five-hour drive—and now it was 2:00 in the morning! As we neared our mountain home, we could see that there had recently been a heavy snowstorm. We still had 10 miles of dirt road ahead of us to reach our home—and the last two weren’t maintained by the state. I asked the kids, “Are you sure you want to go home? Wouldn’t it be better to stay with friends in town tonight? I’m not sure the truck will make it.”

But they all pleaded to go home. So we started out. There was a lot of snow on the road, but our 4X4 made it the eight miles to our driveway. However, after driving only a hundred feet of the last two miles, the truck got caught in deep snow. The wheels spun in midair—we were hopelessly stuck!

It was now 3:00 AM. I considered staying in the truck and looking for help after dawn, but we were all very anxious to get home, so we decided to hike the last two miles by moonlight.

As we started out, it seemed like a lot of fun. The kids played in the snow, and each one forged his own trail. It was actually refreshing to plug along through two feet of snow after sitting all day in an airplane and a truck. Yet the adventure quickly wore off as our legs began to give out and the cold set in. After the first quarter mile, with thick frozen snow sticking to their tennis shoes, the children discovered it much easier walking behind me, putting their feet in my footprints.

About halfway home, the depth of the snow increased to three-foot drifts, and it took an enormous amount of energy for each step. I had to lift each leg up to my chest! On top of this, we were underdressed having returned from a vacation in Florida. I was so cold, hungry, and exhausted, I didn’t think I could make it home. I felt like just lying down in the snow and going to sleep. But I knew if I did, not only would I freeze to death, but the children would never make it to the house either.

So then, instead of walking, I fell forward to the ground, made an impression in the snow, then another five feet, nine inches ahead, I struggled to my feet, labored forward, then fell forward again. After each “step,” I prayed for “one more step!” The children followed close behind in the trail I fought to forge.

After plodding for two hours, we finally made it to the house. I don’t remember ever feeling so good to be home—with the glow of a warm fire and my children! In the same way, Jesus came to forge the trail from this world to heaven. Only as we place our feet in His steps will we reach our heavenly home. Plod on!

France saw his friends around him dying. Some were killed by mustard gas, and the trenches were full of the sick and dying. He thought, "What is this for?" He decided to give up and desert, so one night he slipped out of his foxhole and headed to a small coastal village. There he would steal a boat and row his way back to England.

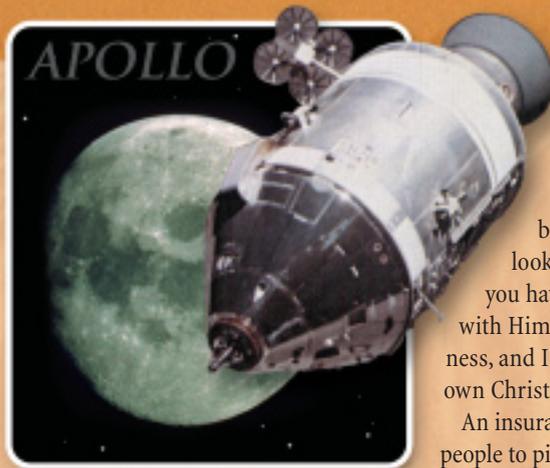
On his way he soon came upon a fork in the road, but it was dark and foggy and he didn't know which way to go. The top of the sign was in the dark fog, so he climbed up the pole for a closer look. At the top, he took out a match, struck it, and held it to the sign. The eyes of Jesus were staring back at him. The soldier soon realized he hadn't climbed a sign, but a crucifix, and now he was looking at the pain-filled eyes of Jesus. He thought to himself, "Christ suffered on the cross for the sins of the world, and here I am giving up on my friends and my country." His heart changed, he climbed back down and headed back to the trenches. When we consider how much Jesus suffered, it's a little easier for us to plod through life's challenges even when we fall down. Remember that Jesus not only has scars on His hands, but also on His feet, because He was a plodder.

Psalm 37:23, 24 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall . . ." Stop here for a moment! This is a "good man" who loves God's commandments, and he falls. Can a good man fall going in the right direction? Yes! That's what the Bible says. "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." God picks up those who love Him, so would you still rather not take the risk of trying and failing? Thomas Edison said, "He who is afraid to fail is afraid to succeed." So we need to set goals—like reaching God's kingdom. We might fall and suffer, but if we keep plodding, one day we can look back and say, "I've made progress. I'm at least halfway across the Sea of Galilee!"

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

There is absolutely no virtue to plodding around in circles—we must have a goal. During the moon shots, NASA didn't tell the public the scary reality that the spaceships were not always under complete control. The spacecrafts would veer off course about every 10 minutes, frequently forcing the crew to make precise corrections. NASA would warn the pilots, "You're drifting off course!" And then the pilots would hit a button to fire small rockets, and they would be on course again. Over and over again, from the earth to the moon and back again, the pilots would make continuous course corrections. Of course, because of those constant corrections, no astronaut was lost in space during the Apollo missions.

For Christians, those little rocket firings are our daily devotions and prayers. If we're going to reach our heavenly destination, we need constant course corrections from His Word.



We also need a little bit of plodding in our own witness. Have you ever felt discouraged and said to yourself, "I'm not bringing anyone to Jesus"? You look back and can't think of anyone you have led to a saving relationship with Him. God has called us to be a witness, and I believe it's important for our own Christian experience.

An insurance salesman might call on 45 people to pitch his product, but only 15 of those calls will even talk to him. Of that remaining 15, maybe only one or two will actually buy some insurance. Yet that's how they make their living. They manage to survive by plodding along, expecting an 80-percent rejection rate, and that's often how it is with witnessing.

PLODDING IN PRAYER

In Luke 18:1–7, Jesus tells us the story of a poor widow being treated unjustly, so she goes to a judge, but the judge is also unjust and ignores her because she doesn't have money to bribe him. He dismisses her, yet she continues to plead, "Please! Appeal on my behalf. My adversary is mistreating me!" And the woman returns, every day. She perseveres, plodding back and forth to the courts each day. Finally the judge reaches his breaking point and realizes he has to deal with her.

Jesus closes the parable by saying that our Father in heaven will answer the cries of those who persistently pray day after day, much more so than a corrupt official trying to be free of annoyance. Do you not think the Father hears the persistent prayers of His people? He does! Don't give up; keep asking.

You also don't ever have to get discouraged in seeking and doing God's will. Galatians 6:9 promises, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." He wants you to keep plodding. Remember, we will be rewarded only if we do not lose heart—do not faint.

Are you praying for a lost loved one, yet see no progress? Are you going to quit? No! James 5:11 promises, "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." Job had to be patient to the end, and his last was better than his beginning. Why? He hung in there. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

SAND DUNES

There was a pile of bones found over a sand dune. Somebody had died in the middle of a blistering desert in Saudi Arabia. Next to the pile of bones lay a note scribbled on tattered parchment. It said, "I can't go on." Evidently, that person made a makeshift shelter and just sat down to die. Where they found him, just on the other side of the



dune, there was an oasis. He could have survived if he just kept on plodding a few more feet.

Nothing concerns pastors more than when we see people become discouraged with their Christian experience. They stop coming to church because they don't see the progress they want to see. But I've got good news for you. It doesn't always come in spurts; in fact, almost all of it comes through plodding.

Are you discouraged with a financial situation? Keep on plodding, because you're still here. Are you troubled about a relationship? Keep plodding, because you have one with Jesus. Are you unhappy with your job? Keep plodding, because God will open doors.

Are you discouraged about anything in your life? The answer is to keep on plodding. Set goals, and if you fall short, get up and keep plodding. It will be that much sweeter when you finally make it.

THE RACE BEFORE YOU

Hebrews 12:1 says, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the

race that is set before us" (NKJV).

As I said earlier, being a Christian is something like running a marathon. My wife once ran in a marathon, and it is a grueling experience even for the most well-trained athlete. While many experienced runners jog the whole way, the average person walks a little bit of the way. They get tired, so they can't keep running, but that doesn't mean they give up. They walk when they have to, but they don't stop until they reach the end. And they aren't carrying a load—maybe a little water, but nothing else. They lay aside every useless weight, just as Christians should lay aside every weight, except for the Water of Life.

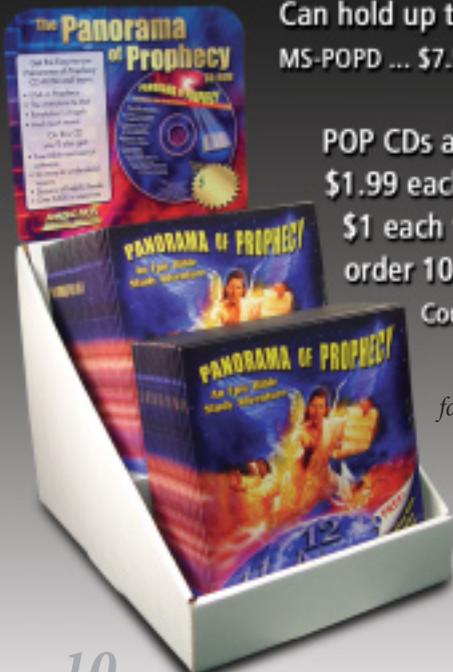
Jesus is coming back. The wait is nearly over. So keep your eyes on the Promised Land. Be a plodder. Keep letting your heart beat, your lungs breathe, and take one step at a time. God will give you the victory. "If we endure, We shall also reign with Him" (2 Timothy 2:12 NKJV). That's a promise. A greater reward is coming. Run this race with endurance, looking at our Leader, the Author and Finisher of our faith. —

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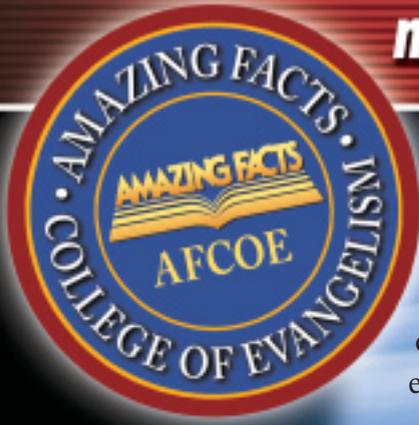
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See page 17 for ordering info.

“The Amazing Facts College of Evangelism gave me the training I need for ministry!”

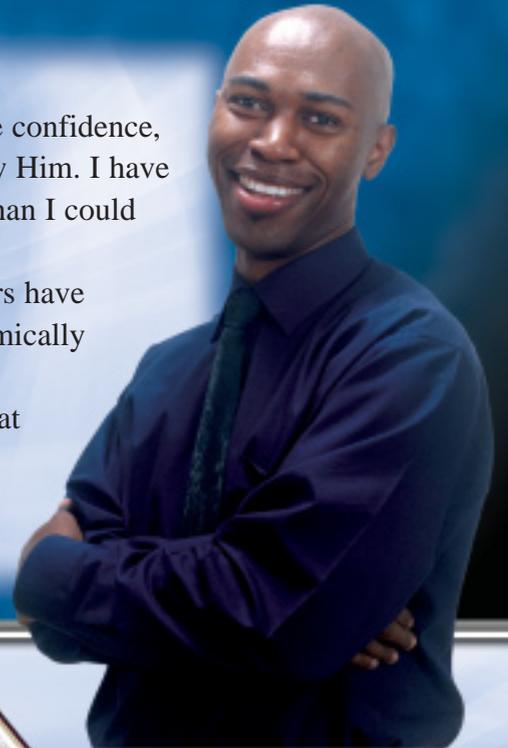


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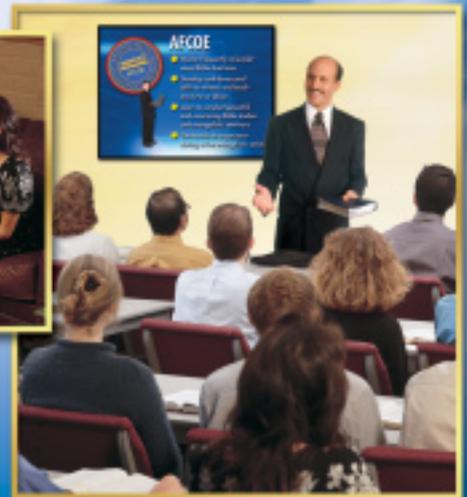
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해복한 미래를 찾아서

Korea

BY RICHARD CALDERON

DISCOVERS BIBLE KEYS
FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Fall is a cool and fresh season in Korea—its colors are painted everywhere. The misty morning overcast often gives way to dazzling sunshine in the afternoon. It's a time when harvest comes to an end and people in the villages can begin to rest.

But in November 2003, Korea's end-time church, her remnant people, and Amazing Facts began a new harvest. One hundred years ago, God's last-day work began in Korea. And to commemorate this milestone, the Korean church opened the celebration with a nine-day reaping satellite series. They invited Pastor Doug Batchelor to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the spiritually hungry people of Korea. Even as the drums of war still beat loudly, God's message was boldly proclaimed to these precious people, and that call was received with gladness!

From early on, the Korean church showed a great willingness and commitment to make this one of the most successful outreaches in that nation's history. More than 550 churches participated at 400 downlink sites, and the average attendance at the main site was nearly 3,000 people.

Amazing Facts worked side-by-side with ATN and AMP to incorporate some of the most attested-to technologies in satellite evangelism, beaming the message of hope to the entire Pacific Rim, including as far south as Australia and as far north as Russia. In addition, Internet streaming added an additional 1,215 viewers, and many of those responded by filling out decision cards on the Internet.

The impact of the series will be felt for a long time to come, as 3,267 people have been baptized through the meeting's pre-work and presentation. In fact, the response to the series has been so overwhelming, the Korean church hopes to conduct similar outreaches every year. Here are





just some of the wonderful soul-stirring stories from Koreans personally touched by hearing the three angels' messages!

The Seoul Sanitarium and Hospital staff gathered every morning for a special session of prayer for the meetings at their downlink site. The usual attendance for nightly worship averages 30 people, but for this series the average was 200 people per night! (The parents of Robert Kim, the South Korean spy convicted in the United States, were baptized after attending our series at this location.)

A Buddhist woman responded to Pastor Doug's appeal after the fifth night and requested baptism. When a local pastor visited her, she had already rid her home of all her idols. She said, "I didn't need them anymore because I worship the true God now." She and her husband were both baptized.

A leader in the world's largest Protestant church said she could not sleep after she heard the message about the Sabbath. She wrestled all night with the conviction of truth, and by morning she decided to follow God's teaching on the Sabbath. She and another friend joined the church by baptism.

In Chicago, the local Korean church experienced 60 mph winds that left 50,000 homes without power. Their banners and church sign advertising the event had been swept away, yet the church still had power and was able to host the meeting.

A mother attending the meetings woke one morning to find her 3-year-old with a fever and her 6-year-old covered with red spots all over his body. She prayed all afternoon that God would heal them so she could attend the meetings. In faith she drove to the site with her children that evening, and by the time she arrived, they were both miraculously healed.



The city of Kangnung is often plagued by typhoons and flooding. In September 2002, 150 people died or were missing after the worst typhoon in more than 40 years. Typhoon Rusa battered wide areas of the country, submerging roads and railways and destroying shops and homes. The following year, the city was hit by another powerful typhoon that killed more than 100 people and triggered vast floods that forced 25,000 people to evacuate.

But the local pastor at the downlink site at Kangnung now writes that the people of Kangnung are experiencing a new flood—a flood of healing as they listen to God's Word being preached by Pastor Doug Batchelor. Many have been attending the meetings and are finding comfort through His promises.

We ask ministry friends to keep praying for these special people. ☺☺



Photos courtesy of Sherie Currice and Richard Calderon.

Amazing Facts

EVANGELISM TEAM



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



Doug Batchelor



John Bradshaw



Byron Corbett



Eric Flickinger



Lowell Hargreaves



Brian McMahon



David Morgan



Jason Morgan



Jack Pefley



Dennis Priebe



Mike Troxell

Doug Batchelor

January 16 at 7:00 P.M.
Weimar College
Weimar, California

February 13 at 7 P.M.
Sharon Church
920 N. Sharon Amity Road
Charlotte, North Carolina

February 14 at 9 A.M.
Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center
2100 Bush River Road
Columbia, South Carolina

February 19 at 8:00 P.M.
Central Time
3ABN Live

John Bradshaw

January 9 – February 14
Sonora Church
40 North Forest Rd
Sonora, California

February 27 – March 27
Ramada Inn
1205 North 43rd Street
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Byron Corbett

January 15 – February 21
Jackson State Community College
2046 North Parkway
Jackson, Tennessee

February 27 – April 3
Courtyard by Marriott
1080 28th Avenue South
Moorhead, Minnesota

Eric Flickinger

January 9 – February 7
Texarkana Church Auditorium
3100 Pleasant Grove Road
Texarkana, Texas

February 20 – March 20
Waterford Church
Waterford, California
Call 209-874-2496 for details.

Lowell Hargreaves

January 9 – February 14
Tracy Community Center
400 E. 10th Street
Tracy, California

February 20 – March 27
Escalon Church
Escalon, California
Call 209-838-7815 for details.

Brian McMahon

Note: Evangelist Brian McMahon was involved in a serious accident over the Thanksgiving holiday (see page 25 for details), which has temporarily interrupted his seminar schedule. Please keep him, his family, and all of our evangelists in your prayers as they continue in the Lord's work.

David Morgan

January 9 – February 7
Old H & M Lumber Company Building
4 Plaza Street
West Helena, Arkansas

February 20 – March 20
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Call 479-435-0500 for details.

Jason Morgan

January 9 – February 14
Savannah Church
Savannah, Tennessee
Call 731-925-3162

February 27 – April 3
Cambridge Church
Cambridge, Minnesota
Call 612-689-1633 for details.

Mike Troxell

January 9 – February 14
Pinewood Elementary
815 Mel Branch Memorial Drive
Deridder, Louisiana

February 27 – April 3
Mayo Civic Center
30 Civic Center Drive SE
Rochester, Minnesota

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to schedule an Amazing Facts evangelistic series or a weekend of revival meetings in your church, please contact the evangelism department at Amazing Facts by phone at 916-434-3880 or by mail.



Youth for Jesus

by LaVonne Long

My husband Tyler Long received a call in early 2003 to coordinate Bible work in the Albuquerque, New Mexico, area in conjunction with the ASI convention. We asked God for guidance, and He soon led us to accept the call.

We never could have imagined the blessing this opportunity would be! It was the first time Amazing Facts worked with the ASI Youth for Jesus program, and it was a wonderful learning experience. The program is designed to teach young adults, from 15 to 22 years old, that evangelism is a lifestyle, not just an event. These youth would assist in all aspects of evangelism, led by peers and seasoned evangelists, including: door-to-door witnessing, registration, child care, in-home Bible studies, baptismal preparation, and much more.

In all, 11 churches in greater Albuquerque hosted the seminar epicenters. Then these sites would gather at the annual ASI convention. If this amazing event sounds exciting, it was! We were so blessed!

The Work Begins

Our pre-work began in April, and God blessed tremendously the efforts of Amazing Facts, which was given the task of reaching the areas of Los Lunas and Belen, located outside Albuquerque. Tyler had the privilege of conducting the seminar in Belen, and Amazing Facts evangelist Mike Troxell presented the seminar in Los Lunas. A powerful team of five gospel workers was employed to assist the evangelists,

“These youth brought many people to Jesus, trained numerous laity in Bible study activity, and energized a great number of youth in the Albuquerque area. It is exciting to see youth on fire for Jesus and His last-day message.”

—James L. Stevens, conference president

(AFCOE), and even church leaders took note of their training.

The highly energized team not only went out door to door obtaining Bible studies, they also trained church members in the art of Winsome Witnessing, a program designed by Gary Gibbs, the former evangelism director at Amazing Facts. As a result, many church members them-

including Ben See, Rafael Rosa, Jason Struthers, Ben Vanfossen, and Jarod Thomas. Each was specially trained at the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism

selves were giving in-home Bible studies to contacts they had made in their communities. One Spirit-led woman who just recently accepted God’s end-time message participated in the training and went door to door conducting community interest surveys. Praise God for her new passion for Jesus, and she even started giving Bible studies to a young girl!

By God’s grace, we had three baptisms at a church rally in June, and the meetings had not yet started!

Reaping the Harvest

A few days before the meetings began, 12 youth from the ASI Youth for Jesus program began work at the Belen and Los Lunas meeting sites to help. A few were still skeptical about their participation, but it didn’t take long for them to be convinced that God was leading them.

They were able to work in all aspects of an evangelistic seminar, and by the end of the meeting, three were re-baptized and many more were strongly considering AFCOE training in their futures. In less than a



month, these youth had been bitten by the evangelism bug; praise God! Please pray for these young people and their efforts to reach the lost.

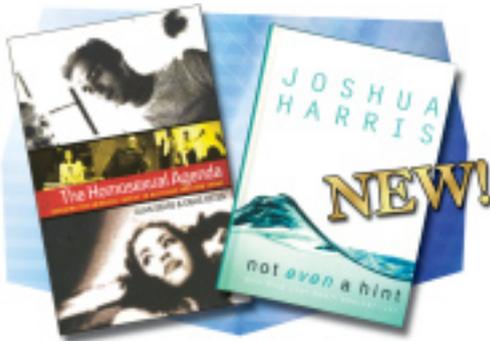
Church leaders were praying for many baptisms and were hoping for five baptisms at each site. But God poured out His Spirit richly, blessing the efforts of Amazing Facts evangelists and graduates with 32 new church members at Belen and Los Lunas alone! And not only that, church members were revived with the spirit of evangelism and community outreach.

We are so pleased to announce that more are planning for baptism in the coming future.

God blessed us abundantly here, and it was a privilege to be working with ASI, great Bible workers, passionate youth, and a wonderful church body.

LaVonne Long is married to Tyler Long, who worked as an Amazing Facts evangelist during the ASI convention. They both travel together, gladly following God’s call to reach searching souls in these last days.

Great Deals!



The Homosexual Agenda

Alan Sears & Craig Osten. A fascinating exposé into the homosexual movement and its rising activism. A timely book for Christians concerned about losing their religious freedoms.

BK-HAGE ... \$14.99

Not Even a Hint

Joshua Harris. God calls every soul to a higher standard—to live our lives without a trace of sexual impurity. And He gives us everything we need to make it a reality. With popular culture bombarding our sense with every impure temptation, everyone needs strong spiritual counsel to follow God's plan for love and marriage. This book, therefore, is written for both men and women, because lust is not just a male problem, it's a human problem.

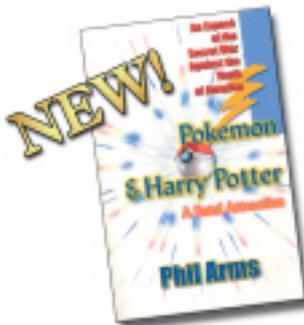
BK-NEAH ... \$12.99



The Ten Commandments

Taylor Bunch. A classic work that brings the Ten Commandments to life unlike anything else. It emphasizes the spiritual nature and lessons of God's moral law. And discover how Christ's righteousness, imparted to all believers, makes it the "law of liberty" that all should obey.

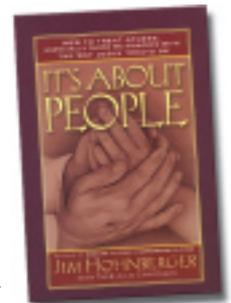
BK-TC ... \$12.95



Pokemon & Harry Potter: A Fatal Attraction

Phil Arms. Every parent should own a copy of this eye-opening journey into the deftly disguised diabolical nature of today's most popular children's entertainment. Violence, witchcraft, murder, demons, and more are all a part of the Harry Potter and Pokemon universes, and they're specifically designed to influence your children! Are they really safe from the demonic influences?

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It's About People

Jim Hohnberger. Learn how to share your faith in a powerful new way by remaining loving and compassionate even with those who disagree with you and your faith. Learn that how Jesus treated those who would not receive Him was just as important as the truth He taught. An excellent resource for anyone who values people above politics, yet has a passionate zeal to uphold the truth.

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Paul's Epistle to the Galatians

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BK-PETG ... \$10.95



The Two Republics

A.T. Jones. If you like history, you will love this book! Explore the rise of two great nations, destined to play a part together in the coming end-time crisis. The church of Rome stands as a nation of religious power—the United States was founded on religious liberty. Learn how each power arose and how the abandonment of sacred principles, already underway, will unite them into a frightening world government. Illustrated. Hardback. 895 pages.

BK-TREP ... \$39.99



The Raw Gourmet

Nomi Shannon. Enjoy an Eden diet and all its benefits in your home without sacrificing your palate! Learn how fresh, non-cooked fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and grains can boost your vitality and have you feeling better than ever. Includes mouth-watering recipes and beautiful illustrations.

BK-RGOU ... \$24.95

Great Deals!

Real Grace for Real People

Larry Kirkpatrick. Grace—it's the only way can be saved. It's a beautiful gift from God, so why is a battle raging over its true meaning in the Christian church? Discover the origins of this controversy and, more important, find the real meaning of grace by exploring the book of Romans in a whole new way.

BK-RGFR ... \$12.95



Drums, Rock, and Worship

Karl Tsatalbasidis. Explore the complex relationship of today's church and modern music in worship, especially the drum set. Is rock music justifiable praise, or is it a dangerous compromise? A call to reform that will change attitudes and win hearts!

BK-DRW ... \$5.95



How to Be a Victorious Christian

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

BK-HBVC ... \$12.95

Truth Triumphant: The Church in the Wilderness

B.G. Wilkinson. God has preserved His Word in miraculous ways throughout the centuries, using His faithful workers to spread the gospel even in the most dangerous times. An amazing narrative that will increase your faith for the coming time of trouble.

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the Bigger Picture

by Willietta Hufana

Amazing Facts often gets the question, "If Jesus' name in Hebrew is 'Yeshua,' shouldn't it stay that way in English?" Bible School volunteer Willietta Hufana offers an inspirational answer!

“Yeshua” comes through Aramaic, not Hebrew. When Aramaic replaced Hebrew as the common language of the Jews after the Babylonian captivity, the name “Yehoshua” became “Yeshua” and the form transliterated into Greek as “Iesous.”

When Acts 22:2 states that Paul spoke to them in the “Hebrew” language, it was the vernacular language, Aramaic, the spoken and written language of that time. In Acts 26:15, the words “I am Jesus” come from the Greek “ego eimi Iesous.” It is noteworthy to mention that the name of Jesus did not remain in the Hebrew form “Yehoshua” when Aramaic was the common language. Neither did Christ’s name remain as “Yeshua” when Greek became the international language.

In the English language, we close our prayers with “In the name of Jesus, Amen.” In 2004, both Hebrew and Arabic Christians close their prayers, “In the name of Yeshua, Amen.” I believe that our Savior would be pleased to hear and answer a prayer addressed to Him in whatever vernacular name given to Him.

He would be just as glad to hear the Italian address Him as the “Gesù” or the Thai Christian who says “Pra Yesu.” And the Spanish-speakers spell His name the same as we do but pronounce it differently—giving the “J” an “H” sound. The Chinese do not have an alphabetic script, but have more than 6,000 characters. In Mandarin, the language of China, Jesus is called “Yel Sul.” So from language to language, there are many variations. Aren’t we glad that heavenly beings speak all languages!

A Look at the Original Bible Languages

Some who promote returning to “Yeshua” refer to the “missing J.” And indeed, taking a look at the Hebrew and Greek alphabets, we do not find a “J” in either of these first Bible languages. Hebrew also does not have “C”, “F”, “V” or “X” and none of our vowels! In Koine Greek (biblical Greek), there are more letters and vowels included, but still no “J.”

The “J” entered into English by way of our Savior’s name, and today it is an integral part of the Bible’s vocabulary. In Young’s Analytical Concordance of the A.D. 1611 King James, there are numerous “J”/“j” entries, totaling around 9,000! If the “J” letter were to disappear, English-translators would have to re-educate readers to bring words like “Jews”, “judgment,” and “Jerusalem” into modern

English with a new first letter. (Of course, concordances do not date back to 1611, so the entries come more recently.)

But today, only the “J” in the name of Jesus is under attack. It is worth our time to take a candid and historic look at the proposed elimination of the “J” in the “Jesus” name. To draw a correct conclusion whether or not to return to “Yeshua” or to retain “Jesus,” we need to take a brief look at the ancestry of the “J,” the ancestry of the Bible, and at the history of divine names in Bible history.

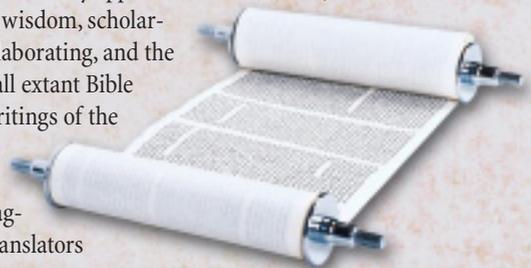
The History of “J”

The “J” is the tenth letter of the English alphabet and the last letter to be added. It began in Egyptian hieroglyphics as a symbol of a hand. The Semites simplified it, and in about 1,000 B.C. the Phoenicians changed the letter to “yod” (which means “hand”). The Greeks then changed it to one stroke (“iota”) about 600 B.C. and called it “iota.” Early in the second century, the Romans gave the “iota” its present capital form: “I.” In Northern Europe during the Middle Ages, scribes began giving the letter “I” a long tail in certain instances of double vowels at the beginning of a word. The letter eventually developed into the consonant “J.”

History also indicates that the letter was brought to England during the Norman invasion of A.D. 1066; however, it did not appear in Old English writing until the 1200s. During the next 300 years, it took on the hard “J” sound in masculine names such as “James” and “John.” Wycliffe and Tyndale’s Bibles translating Luke 2:1–11 show that Joseph and Judea are spelled with “Js.” Wycliffe retained the Latin form for the name of Jesus, but by Tyndale’s Bible the name appears in the Greek form of “Iesous.”

Even though the “J” appeared in the names of ordinary Bible characters and places first, many scholars acknowledge that many centuries ago the hard “J” eventually appeared in the name of Jesus as well.

It took much wisdom, scholarship, prayer, collaborating, and the comparison of all extant Bible manuscripts, writings of the church fathers, and all secular writings and fragments for the translators



to bring the Bible from more simple languages into the complex English. The task has always been the same—to give the Bible to the people in the vernacular. How amazing a South African reading the Bible in Afrikaans can become a Christian who believes in the same Jesus as we do!

It reminds me of one of my favorite Bible promises, “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever” (Psalm 12: 6, 7).

The Need of Translations, a Historic Look

How did the need for translations develop? Soon after the Flood, the book of Genesis informs us, “And the whole earth was of one language, and one speech.” This situation came to an end when the tower of Babel was being built. “And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4). God called a halt to building at the Babel site for it was for man and He had commanded them to populate the earth (Genesis 9:1). He also confused their language!

At this point, people who spoke the same language congregated together and spread over the whole world. Confusing the languages accomplished God’s original purpose, but it created a problem for world communication. Those who worshiped God were cut off from those who were not God-fearing.

Today, five basic family languages are recognized, and under each of these are dialects. The main divisions are the Semitic, Hamitic, Indo-European, Negroid, and Mongolian. Each language group has its own distinct identifying qualities that separate them from another language family. English comes from the family tree of Indo-European languages.

Reaching the World Through the Written Word

God always provides a way to solve problems. He called one nation to maintain and share knowledge of Him by planting them in Palestine, a heavily used caravan trade route between three continents—Africa, Europe, and Asia. To the Hebrews, He gave the “oracles of God” (Acts 7:38; Romans 3:2). Those “oracles” were for the nations of the world. God declares, “For mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people” (Isaiah 56:7).

God shared the first books of His Word through Moses in the form of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). More than that, He gave a great miracle in order for Moses to transcribe the books—the alphabet. Transcribed languages known at that time and place in history were Babylonian cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphics. These difficult scripts were written and read only by the elite and educated. The common people were illiterate. It is interesting that today both of these languages are dead languages. Hebrew, an alphabetic language, is not.

The Miracle of the Alphabet

In the Sinai Peninsula, the Canaanite slaves who worked in the turquoise and copper mines became weary of not understanding the

Egyptian hieroglyphic writings, so one of the Canaanites ingeniously developed from the hieroglyphic picture symbols an alphabet of about 25 letters. Since that day, men have written shorthand and tried many forms of written communication, but the miraculous alphabet is still the most accepted form of written communication in the world.

Unlike the other nations around them, every man, woman, and child among the Hebrews could write his or her mother tongue. This is attested to in the days of Gideon when he could call a boy from the field and have him write the names of the 77 elders of the boy’s hometown of Succoth! (See Judges 8:14.)

Yes, the alphabetic script that Moses learned while wandering in the Sinai wilderness for 40 years created the written vehicle to communicate and preserve the knowledge of the true God on this planet. But it was in one language family: Hebrew of the Semitic family. There was still a need for the Bible to be translated into the vernacular of the other four language families.

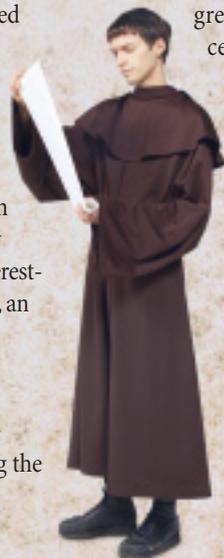
The First Bible Translation

Over the centuries, the scrolls of the Hebrew prophets and singers grew from five into the 39 books of the Old Testament, ending with Malachi in about 400 B.C. During this time, the Jewish people were scattered throughout the world during the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. As such, the Jews lost touch with spoken and written Hebrew. This created the need for the first complete translation of the Old Testament.

Since Greek was the international language, displaced Jews in Alexandria, Egypt, succeeded in the translating of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. This version is known as the Septuagint, or LXX (285 – 140 B.C.). At that point, the Septuagint had a much wider circulation and influence among Jews than the Hebrew Scriptures, which they could no longer read. From Mesopotamia to Italy, it was the Bible for millions of Jews. Its greatest accomplishment was to bring Hebrew concepts into the Greek language that was spoken by Jews and Gentiles alike.

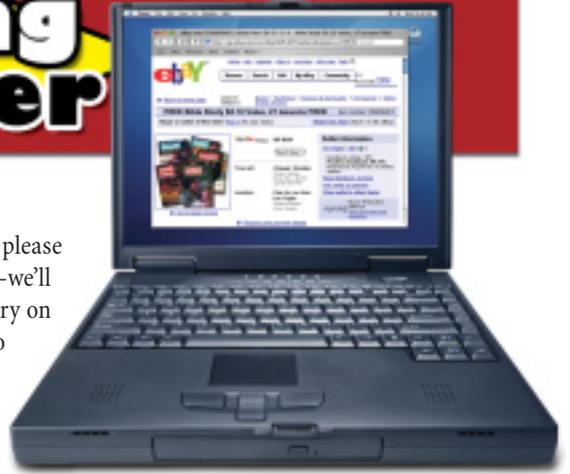
The LXX was to maintain its acceptance and prominence among Jews and Gentiles until the New Testament Christians took it as the vernacular Bible for Christendom. At that point, the Jewish sector of worship no longer accepted or promoted the LXX.

It should be noted that the Old Testament Hebrew names for divinity took different forms in the Greek. “The Hebrew word *Elohim* is most commonly translated in the LXX by the



Continued on page 29.

Witnessing Corner



Leading Others to the Light

The Amazing Facts Correspondence Bible School provides one of the most detailed, practical, and—more important—biblical set of studies you can find today. By the power of the Holy Spirit, this ministry backbone has changed countless lives over the years. One student says, “Thanks for the lessons. ... I am learning so much, and it has given me a shot in the arm!” Every day, our Bible School volunteers and staff work vigorously to grade lessons, answer tough questions, and correspond with soul-searching students. By the end of October 2003, 31,787 seekers were enrolled in the mail-based course. We praise God for His awesome power!

But did you also know that our online program is growing by leaps and bounds, in large part because ministry friends are promoting the school and adding links to our online studies on their own websites? Still other friends are passing out Bible School enrollment cards that direct seekers to either our online or mail-based



Pack of 100 cards.
SG-EC ... \$2.50

See page 17 for ordering info.

course. This is such an important effort that we're spreading the news—and hope you'll do the same.

And by directing students to our online Bible schools, you'll help increase our potential to reach thousands who might prefer the greater privacy afforded to online participants.

Bible School, please share them—we'll pass your story on to others who want to join efforts to reach lost souls.

You just might be an important reason why we receive letters like this:

“I have not learned as much about the Bible in my entire life as I have learned in the past three months—and I am 56 years old. I am now attending a Sabbathkeeping church. Thanks to your ministry, my knowledge has been tremendously increased.” *G.H., North Carolina*

Did You Know . . .

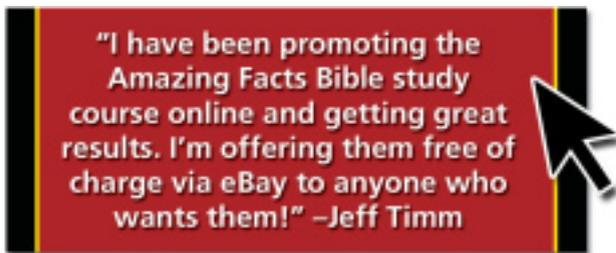
We are also aggressively translating our online Bible School into other languages—with Spanish just around the corner. Currently, other translation work for our Study Guides are in Mandarin, Thai, Portuguese, Romanian, and others. (Please pray for this important effort!) Soon, the whole world will be able to find sound Bible studies that lead them to Jesus.

In addition, the *Storacle* study lessons have been, or are being, translated into French, Spanish, Farsi, and other languages. We will also soon have pocket books available in Italian, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Swedish, Ukrainian, and Indonesian!

We hope you'll choose to be part of this wonderful development, and we'll keep you posted of our progress in future issues of *Inside Report!*

Sharing Great Ideas

We'd like to share an awesome story from Jeff Timm of Las Vegas, who is using a unique and very successful method to attract interested seekers to our online studies!



Amazingly, 313 people signed up through Jeff's ingenious witnessing tool in just three months! And now he's averaging 10 a day! He's also posted a link to his eBay listing and updates his stats regularly on his own website. Check it out at www.jefftimm.com/interest.htm! If you have any ideas on how to promote our mail-based or online

Billboard Success Story

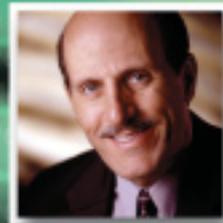
Do you remember the billboard we told you about in the 2003 July/August issue of *Inside Report*? Well, take a look at this!

“I learned of you from a billboard in Junction City, Kansas, as I was passing through to visit my brother in prison. It stuck with and nagged me until I visited your website to see what you were all about. I am a Christian, one that struggles daily to stay in the good graces of the Lord. I have been saying how I needed to get back into His Word, but I have been procrastinating. I tried out lesson #1, and I was very impressed. It takes the “hard” out of the struggle to learn. It made it fun, and I think that I can devote an hour a day to this. So I wanted to say thanks for the tools, and for the billboard in Kansas that was the answer to one of my many struggles. The pastor in lesson #1 said he believes that people of all faiths from today, not just from one church, will accept the truth and are going to greet the Lord someday. That was important for me to know.” *V.J., Kansas*

Praise the Lord!

BIBLE Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



In 1 Samuel 28, King Saul converses with someone who claims to be the dead prophet Samuel. If the dead are sleeping, how can this be?

A At initial glance, this can appear to be a confusing passage in the Bible, but with a little detective work, things begin to quickly make sense.

First of all, does the devil, or the witches who work for him, have the power to resurrect? Obviously not! Only God can create, and only He can truly animate life. Second, this “Samuel” asks Saul, “Why did you bring me up?” If Samuel was in heaven, he wouldn’t have come up; he would’ve come down.

Then you have the many emphatic statements in the Bible that teach the dead are not conscious and know nothing. In Isaiah 8, it says, “And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (vs. 19, 20).

Jesus also says that the living and the dead do not communicate, even though many say the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus suggests they do. But this is a grave mistake, and we have a book on this subject called *The Rich Man and Lazarus* that clears this up.

In addition, the Bible strictly forbids on every level any attempt to communicate with the dead. The reason is that the Bible says Satan can be transformed into an angel of light. Revelation 16:14 says, “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles.” So devils can work miracles and masquerade as departed loved ones.

So I firmly believe this apparition that claimed to be Samuel was in reality a demon, or the devil himself, masquerading as the deceased prophet. Can Satan appear as something he is not? The Bible warns in 2 Corinthians 11 that we shouldn’t be surprised, because Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. So the devil can look like Samuel if he wanted. He is a master of deception and illusion. The devil created the appearance of serpents for Pharaoh in Exodus.

You will also notice that in verse 14, Saul asks, “What form is he of?” He’s asking the witch to say what “Samuel” looks like. So really, he’s not seeing things clearly. The devil is using a medium, which

was also strictly forbidden. And the message that he gives is an utterly hopeless message, saying, “You’re going to die. Your sons are going to die.” But God usually has mercy mingled in with His warnings to wayward humans. It really seems that the devil is kicking Saul for the last time while he was down.

This is a very important question, because on television and in movies today, people are supposedly communing with the dead, telling the audience what their dead ones are saying and doing. And they’re teaching reincarnation. But this is an absolutely diabolical kind of pre-programming that’s preparing the world to be deceived by the devil.

What day was the Pentecost? Was it on Saturday or on Sunday?

A I believe Pentecost occurred on what we would call Sunday. The root word “penta” means five or fifty; for example, the pentagon has five sides. Now after Passover, there are seven weeks, and after the last Passover Sabbath, which is the 49th day, comes the day Pentecost, or 50th day (Deuteronomy 16:9).

So Sunday must have been when the Pentecost took place. In fact, the disciples were beginning the work as it was a customary work-day then. They were beginning the work of spreading the gospel, just as Jesus rose on Sunday to continue His work as High Priest. Christ rested in the tomb on the Sabbath and then commenced His work on our behalf when He rose Sunday morning.

Unfortunately, some people use the Pentecost as a justification for going to church on Sunday and ignore the Sabbath as a holy day. But that is quite a stretch. There is nothing in the Bible that says to keep Pentecost, Sunday, or even the day of Jesus’ resurrection holy.

By that logic, we could keep Thursday as the Sabbath because that’s when the Lord instituted the new covenant at the Lord’s Supper. You could even argue that it should be Friday, because that’s when Jesus was crucified.

But nowhere in the Bible does God pick any other day to replace the seventh day of the week. So I think it’s pretty reckless for Christians to start altering the law of God, the one He spoke with His voice and wrote with His finger. Jesus said, “Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?” (Matthew 15:3).

Show me a Scripture that says, “Keep the first day as the Sabbath,” and I’ll do just that. But until I find that, are we going to take men’s traditions over the very clear Word of God?

The Bible says that the Lord blessed and sanctified the seventh day. He wrote it in stone with His finger; He spoke it with His voice, saying, “Remember,” meaning that we’re not to forget it. We can’t get away from the Word of God. “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).

Tune in Sunday nights to *Bible Answers Live*, Amazing Facts’ live, nationwide call-in radio program, and listen as Pastor Doug gives biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To get times and stations in your area, or to listen to answers online, visit www.amazing-facts.org. You can also request a free program guide by phone or mail.



GOD'S BOOT CAMP

By
Anthony
Lester

Sergio Navas joined the Navy in 1978 and endured the rigors of basic training—boot camp. On arrival, he was handed a copy of the Navy's Unified Code of Military Justice, the code of honor he was expected to live by while in the service. He spent the next two months in intense physical and mental training in preparation for selfless duty, learning to work as a team with a ragtag group of soldiers with little knowledge of combat. And by the end of his training, he and his diverse brotherhood of soldiers were prepared to do whatever their nation asked of them.

But it's another basic training that has him preparing for service throughout eternity.

"AFIOE is heaven's boot camp," Sergio says. "It's God's ordained method of preparing soldiers for the Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ." It's four months of thorough mental, physical, and spiritual training for the cause of Christ—and the Bible, God's law, is its code of honor.

Instead of running obstacle courses, Sergio learned the principles of effective Bible study and persuasive preaching. In place of the firing range, he was shown how to shoot for the mind and appeal to the heart. And for battlefield strategy class, he studied tried-and-true outreach tactics and "hand-to-hand combat on his knees." Then, to pull all that training together, he participated in a "live-fire exercise" at an evangelism seminar conducted by Byron Corbett—resulting in a harvest of 25 souls for God's remnant church.

In November 2003, Sergio, along with more than 40 other soldiers—a diverse blend of men and women—graduated from the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism. They are now prepared to do whatever the Lord asks of them. Indeed, many have already been placed in Bible worker positions, and others are taking their new skills to support their local churches. This means that a once ragtag group of Christian soldiers with little knowledge of effective evangelism are now unified in spirit and mind to take God's end-time truth to the world.

"If you are a Christian, you are in the Lord's army," Sergio concludes. "The question is what are you going to do about it now?"

A Soldier's Story

One graduate, Buddy, has been through basic training with Amazing Facts more than once. First, he found God's Sabbath-keeping church while attending one of our prophecy seminars, and now he is a well-trained soldier after graduating from God's evangelism boot camp. Here's his story of amazing grace:

I started riding motorcycles when I was seven, and I was already racing motocross when I was nine. Racing was a blast, and I was very successful at it. But it all came to an end on June 7, 1980.

I'd already won a race that night, but a feeling of foreboding washed over me. When I heard the announcer call my race, I hesitated going to the starting line. Mom saw my fear and asked me what was wrong. I said, "Someone's going to get hurt tonight. It's going to

be bad." She told me to be careful. I had never done it before, but I even looked across the track for the ambulance.

As the gate dropped, the race was on. I was already leading by the first turn and took charge for several laps. Then I came upon a jump that I had completed easily just a lap before, launching my bike 20 feet into the air. Suddenly, the back end began to flip over my head. I held on tight, thinking I could control it, but it kept spinning.

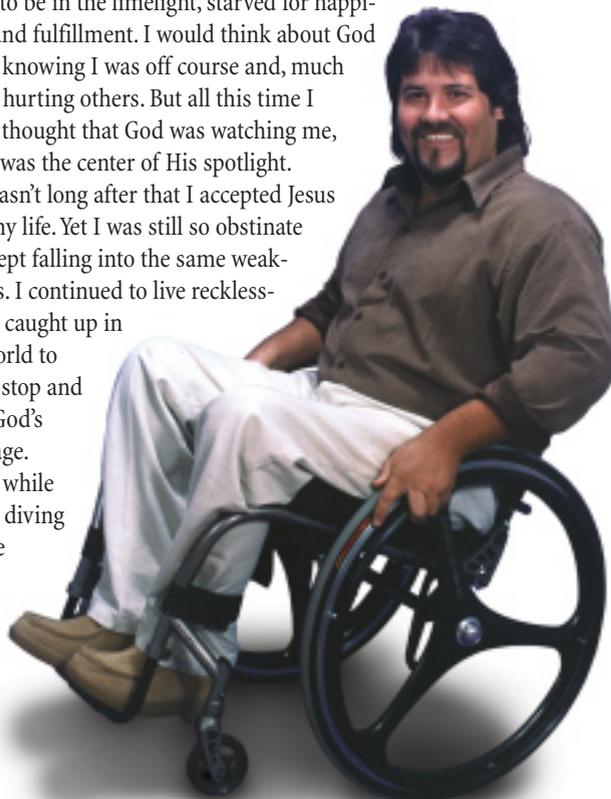
Out of Control

I landed directly on my head. Then the motorcycle landed on me. I lay there limp with six cracked ribs and a back broken in multiple places. I reached for my left leg and pinched it, and I didn't feel a thing. At that moment, I knew I was going to be in a wheelchair for the rest of my life.

In less than six months after my accident, I was in two car accidents that happened only five days apart. In both, I was driving recklessly at speeds nearing 100 miles per hour. Both cars were totaled, but God spared my life each time. I think He was trying to get my attention, and today I praise Him for being so patient with someone so stubborn. He didn't let me die—I was unsaved, so I think He wanted me to have the second chances.

Yet I was caught up in living life on the edge, searching for some kind of happiness. I didn't know my purpose in life, and my thoughts were almost always negative. In response, I would do anything to be in the limelight, starved for happiness and fulfillment. I would think about God often, knowing I was off course and, much more, hurting others. But all this time I never thought that God was watching me, that I was the center of His spotlight.

It wasn't long after that I accepted Jesus into my life. Yet I was still so obstinate and kept falling into the same weaknesses. I continued to live recklessly, too caught up in the world to really stop and hear God's message. Then, while scuba diving off the



coast of Mexico, God really spoke up. While 50 feet below the surface, the air in my tanks ran out. I nearly drowned.

I hit rock bottom and realized the Lord had spared my life so many times for a reason. I cried out to Him, "God, in Jesus name, take control of my life. Give me strength, courage, wisdom—whatever You feel that I need. Mold me into whatever You will." I never truly understood that you must die to yourself and live for Jesus until that moment.

Changing of the Guard

God placed a desire deep within me to serve Him soon after. I was baptized, and He found me a wonderful woman to marry. We both searched Scripture and sought out a church that taught it plainly.

I pleaded with the Lord, "Jesus, I know nothing about Your Word. I'm not so bright, so you have to spell it out for me!" He led me to Luke 7:27, 28, which can be paraphrased: "I will send my messenger John, who will prepare your way before you." The moment after I read that passage, my wife walked into the front door with a flyer. It advertised a Revelation Seminar ... with John Bradshaw.

Two years ago, I lost my wife to a long illness. Because of my past experiences, I knew God would never allow something to happen that I could not handle. And soon after her death, I heard God tell me it was now time to go forward in faith with my dream to

spread His gospel. Not long after, donations to attend AFCOE began rolling in from family and friends. One precious soul even sold her house so that I could come.

We serve such a loving God. If He would accept someone like me, He will accept anybody. He had to dig deep down into me, even knock me around, to wake me up. I was a bitter person after my accidents, but now I see this disability differently. Like Paul's thorn, I have asked God to heal my injuries but also see this wheelchair as a blessing. It has taught me that the weaker I become, the stronger Christ becomes in me. And so my life is full of happiness, joy, peace, and surpasses any words I might have.

The wheelchair is also a great tool to use with all my new training—

people seem less threatened by me and they open up their hearts. I enjoy listening to people and helping them, and after being at AFCOE, my mind has been opened to many possibilities I had never considered. It's been a true blessing.

I'm not sure where I am going after AFCOE. But whatever God has for me, I will follow Him. If it's teaching, church planting, evangelism, or whatever else, I will do it. 

Amazing Facts gratefully acknowledges the original source material of

Sergio Navas and Buddy Ivey, graduates of AFCOE and soldiers in God's army, for the composition of this report. Please pray for them, and all our graduates, working for His service.



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Behind the Scenes



What's new at Amazing Facts...

New Director of Evangelism and Officer Appointed



Alan Parker has been selected as the new Director of Evangelism for Amazing Facts. He helps fill a vacuum left by former director Gary Gibbs, who was called to a new position within the church.

Parker continues to oversee the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE) and will also serve as an officer for the ministry. By taking on both positions, Parker sees greater potential.

"There will be much greater synergy with our evangelists, AFCOE program, and local churches. At our live seminars, we'll be able to offer a complete package by using AFCOE students and graduates to assist with pre-work, training, and follow-up. It will be like having a mini AFCOE at the local churches."

Parker has a distinguished career working in the church, serving as evangelist, pastor, chaplain, church planter, evangelistic coordinator, and college lecturer. Pastor Doug Batchelor believes Parker will be a tremendous ministry asset, and says, "Alan is an astute thinker with vision and clear judgment way beyond his years."

Please keep Parker and his family in your prayers as they embrace their new and demanding role in God's work. The ministry is still seeking an evangelism coordinator, so we also seek your prayerful intervention.

New Amazing Facts Team Member

On September 28, 2003, Alan and Nicole Parker were delighted by the birth of their beautiful daughter, Anaya Elise Parker. It was a wonderful home birth, and she weighed in at 8 pounds 12 ounces. Her name, Anaya, is both African and Hebrew in origin, and the combined meaning is "look up to the God who answers." From the beginning she has been a bubbly, happy baby, and her parents request your prayers that she will grow to be a mighty soldier in the Lord's army!



Bible School Success

We wanted to update you on the exciting progress at the Bible School. Currently, 64,924 students are enrolled in all of our available courses as of October 2003. This includes 31,787 students in our mail-based course! In addition, our hardworking volunteers and staff have graded an amazing 86,228 lessons and have mailed 124,131!

More than 2,900 students have graduated, and many of those have gone on to be baptized and join God's remnant church. Our correspondence team answered well over 1,800 letters, ranging

from questions on doctrine to desperately needed spiritual encouragement and support.

Of course, we have so many to thank for our success. Our volunteers contributed 541 hours of sacrificial service in this massive endeavor, and we give them our enormous gratitude for their help. We also extend a very warm "thank you" to all our friends who gave for this effort. Because of our combined efforts, and God's Holy Spirit, we'll see many more of His children in heaven!

Media Department Gets New Talent

Amazing Facts welcomed Danai Chutination as a media associate in March 2003. Danai is responsible for designing and creating the motion graphics for Amazing Facts commercials and program openers. He also operates video cameras and audio equipment for promos, as well as assists in media editing.



Danai was born and raised a Sabbathkeeping Christian in Bangkok, Thailand. After moving stateside in 1996, he attended Pacific Union College and graduated with a degree in digital media technology in 2001. He first heard of Amazing Facts during NET '99 with Pastor Doug Batchelor.

Prior to joining Amazing Facts, Danai worked in Hawaii developing websites and promotional video for a local outreach ministry. When not working, he can often be found in the nearby Sierras riding a snowboard or volleying during a game of table tennis. One of his favorite Bible verses is Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Al and Bernie Denslow visit Amazing Facts with their 3ABN RV. They tour the country ahead of 3ABN to promote the station and do public relations.

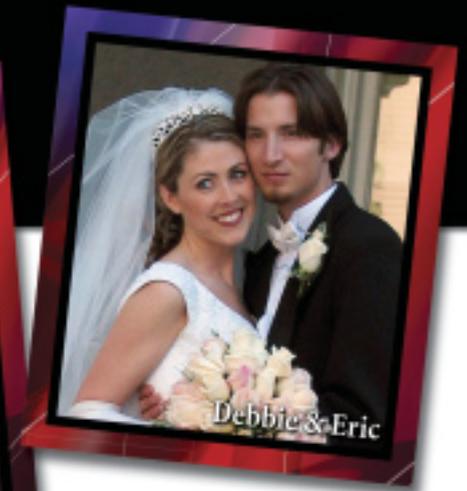
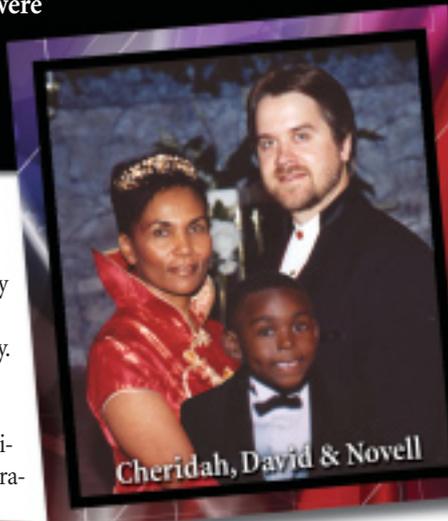


Wedding Bug Bites Amazing Facts in 2003

A number of Amazing Facts employees were officially relinquished from singleness during 2003. They ask for your prayers as they begin their new lives together.

Cheridah, Media Director, Weds

Cheridah Walters, who joined Amazing Facts as Media Director after NET '99, wed David Smith on July 13, 2003, at Sacramento Central Church. Pastors Doug Batchelor and Walter Groff presided over the ceremony. The newlyweds traveled to London for their honeymoon. The two met at a Sabbath luncheon, and, says Cheridah, "After David's relentless pursuit and our decision to spend an eternity together, we sealed our celebration of love in marriage." David works as a computer information systems specialist.

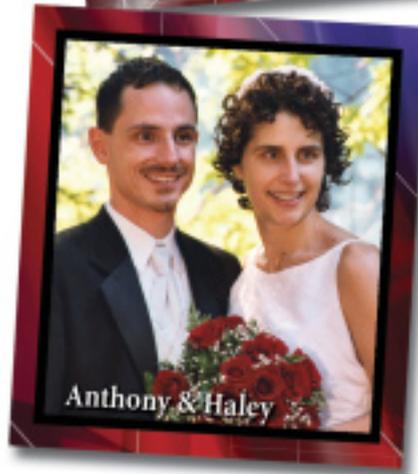


Network Administrator Marries

Eric Kippel, the ministry's network administrator for nearly three years, married Debbie Thompson on October 12, 2003, at Sacramento Central Church, where they both attend every Sabbath. They met when Eric first arrived from Phoenix to work for Amazing Facts during a luncheon with his boss, Director of Information Technology Andrew Taylor. Debbie's father, Mike Thompson, is a pastor for Central, and her mother, Helen, works in the ministry's order department. Pastor Doug officiated the ceremony with Pastor Art Branner, and the newlyweds took their honeymoon in the British Virgin Islands. If Debbie looks familiar to you, she can also be seen leading music during *Central Study Hour*.

Editor, Graphic Artist Marry

Haley Trimmer, Amazing Facts' graphic design artist, and Anthony Lester, the editor of *Inside Report*, married in September of last year in Humboldt National Redwood Park along the Avenue of the Giants. The two first met when Anthony toured the office during his first interview, and it is rumored that Pastor Doug predicted that very day the two would marry! Haley began working at the ministry about a month before Anthony arrived to fill his position, but it was a year before the two realized God had something more in store for them as a couple.



Thanksgiving Tumble

Evangelist Brian McMahon's spirits soared as he climbed into his pickup early Wednesday morning. He felt blessed as just the night before he had witnessed 20 new baptisms from his Bible prophecy seminar in Lincoln, Nebraska, and now he was going home to spend time with his deeply missed wife Heidi and two daughters, Kara and Kelly, for Thanksgiving.

But it wasn't long before things went terribly wrong. Just 30 minutes into his drive, a semi-truck slammed into Brian's trailer, sending his truck and trailer soaring into the air. As his seminar equipment and personal belongings spewed onto the road, the truck smashed into the concrete and began flipping. Brian saw the world spin violently as metal and glass exploded toward him.

"This isn't going to be good," he thought. "I think this is it!"

Gripped with jarring pain, Brian still managed to crawl out of the passenger window onto the road. There he lay in



shock, his body shivering and cold. Moments later, a Good Samaritan was rendering aid and prayers on Brian's behalf. Shortly after, God sent an army of helpers to soothe his discomfort before an ambulance arrived.

Six broken ribs. A punctured lung. Broken scapula and chipped humerus. Satan's attacks aren't always easy to endure. But God's grace is even stronger. Despite the severity of Brian's injuries, none were life-threatening. And even though his Bible and briefcase were imbedded with hundreds of tiny glass shards, Brian's face wasn't cut—a miracle!

Heidi remembers praying, "Thank you, God, that he's alive. Thank you that he escaped serious injury!" They spent Thanksgiving together rejoicing for the gift of life, good friends, modern medicine, and of course, each other and God's grace.

Brian is healing nicely, and he is already anxious to get back to sharing God's good news with many more searching souls. He, his family, and the ministry are thankful for your ongoing prayers.





Special Recognition

In Loving Memory of

Fern Anderson from Donald Hunt
Ruth Anderson from Tom and Doris R. Kopko
Dorothea Anfenso from Leon Rich

A

Oliver Bailey from Rebecca Boydth
Walter T. Baker from William S. Tyler
Mary and Walter Barker from Bonnie Lorenz
Ruth Barragon from Myra Christianson, her mother
Nellie Barrios from William S. Tyler
Micah Batchelor from Phyllis Dietz; from Robert C. Seemann; Camille Smith

B

Cecil Bechthold from Alberta Ballard
Viola Bechthold from Alberta Ballard
Boris Belko from Nellie Sowers, his aunt
Betty Bietz from Charles Merickel; from Leo and Helen Warren
Floyd Bolton, M.D. from Paul and Pearl Genstler
Joshua Brady from Charles Merickel
Sylvia Brickman from Betty Jane Teters, her sister
Joshua Brody from Beulah Griffith
Steve Brown from Beulah Griffith; from Max and Barbara Qualley
Eva Bruder from John Jacobson
Ron Bryan from Christine Erickson, Aunt
Pastor Howard Burbank from Thomas Ipes
Harold Burr from Ravila E. Burr, his wife
Shannon Burton from Emanuel and Cathy Pavlik, her parents; from Spurgeon Lail, her grandparent
Bruce Bush from Lucille Bush, his wife; from Homer and Teresa Lynd
Glen Byers from Bonnie Byers, his wife

Laura Collins Campos from Beverly Carini
John Carlock from Wilhelmina Wilson
Flossie Carr from Lois Taylor
John Carr from Stanley and Roberta Chaffee
Betty Carson from Phyllis Lacey; from Gilda Wuerstlin
Henry Carubba from Bernice Carubba, wife; from his children; from Verdune Burnham; from Lu Ann Crews; from Kent and Dee Dickinson
Julia Chadwick from Joe Pack
Phyllis Chaffee from Stanley and Roberta Chaffee
Dr. Stanley Chartier from Helen Chartier, his wife
Richard Christianson from Myra Christianson, his mother
David Clavidge from Beulah Griffith
Kenneth Cole from Dorothy Cole, his wife; from Anna Wright

C

Verlyn Cole from Albert Wiggins and Arlene Wiggins
Lyndell Cote from Frances Cote, his wife
Evelyn Crews from Lu Ann Crews
Joe Crews from Lu Ann Crews, his wife; from Mary Darnell, his sister-in-law; from Eleta Sandstrom, his sister-in-law; from Mel and Jean Dury; from Shelly Lowe; from Pastor and Mrs. Ritchie; from Joe and Della Trenchuk
Ronnie Crews from Lu Ann Crews, his mother
Lester Culpepper from Jim and Judy Culpepper; from Ben and Betty Barton; from Leila Busch
Irene Curtis from Evelyn Neal, her daughter
Julia Cusson from Celia Melvin
Ott Stan Custer from Betty Petersen

Ira Daharsh from Albert Lorenz
Tor Dahlberg from Sylvia Dahlberg, his wife; from Homer and Teresa Lynd
Hazel Damazo from Joseph Damazo, her husband
Robert Darnell from Mary Darnell, his wife; from Eleta Sandstrom, his sister-in-law; from Lu Ann Crews
J.D. Davis from Wanda Davis, his wife
Ruth DeFluiter from Pauline Mazat
D.A. and Evelyn Delafield from Merlin and Janice Wittenberg

D

Joe Dickerson from Everett and Yvonne Dickerson
Agnes Dickinson from Kent and Dee Dickinson
Marjorie Dickinson from Kent and Dee Dickinson
Mervin "Bud" Dobbins from Pearl Dobbins, his wife; from Glen and Rose Ross
Clifford Dorland from Yale and Grace Brand
Peter Dovich from Lillian Hrenyk, his sister
Earlena Dudley from Ed and Esther Brummett
Lillian Dugger from Larry Miller
Edith Durham from Anita Lowe; from William Lowe; from Shelly Lowe
Freda Durichek from John and Helen Strahle
Harriet Echols from Mamie Bean, her sister
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Ekroth from Ann Ekroth, their daughter
Marion Elmendorf from Jim McFarland
Ward and Lucille Erhart from Gerion Dunks
Ruby Evanenko from Mildred Tarasenko, his sister

E

Arthur Fairchild from Gertrude Lazarakis
David Felter from Agnes Breitigam

F

G.R. Ferguson from Gerion Dunks
Richard Fertig from Margaret Fertig, his wife
Arleen Finn from Alden Roth
Gail Fischer from Jeannette Muse
Edward Flower from M. Florence Flower, his wife
Jewel Foutch from Frank and Gayle Tyroff, her father
Alice Fowler from Charles Merickel
Lynn Fox from Drusilla Fox, his wife
Elmo Foxworthy from Lola Genton
Jerry Freeman from Hazel Freeman, his wife
Caroline French from Mildred Keith, her cousin
Bill Fulton from Edith Fulton

G

Alan Gair, M.D. from Jackie Gair, his wife
Annette Gentile from Lucille Bush; from Gene Ronning; from Young at Heart Club of Hendersonville Church
M.J. Genton from Ila Genton, his wife
Hugo and Albertine Gerst from Albert and La Verne Gerst
Rosalie Ghilardi from Ron and Linda Ghilardi
Lorna Golladay from Elizabeth Marcussen, her daughter
Garn and Virginia Goode from Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Alvarez
Waldemar Gottfried from Thelma Gottfried
Ethel Gover from Paul and Pearl Genstler
Iva Grabo from Joe and Della Trenchuk
Cornell and Mary Greavu from Thomas Ipes
Elaine Green from Max and Barbara Qualley
Geneva Green from Beulah Griffith
Gerald Greene from Leda Smith
Alline Greenley from Beulah Griffith
Dale Griffith from Betty Phillips
Mode Griffith from Beulah Griffith, his wife
Taletha Grizzell from Beulah Griffith
Juanita Guinn from Douglas and June Ackermann
Carolyn Hazleton Gustafson from Rosalie Hogarty

Edith Haak from Everett and Yvonne Dickerson, her brother and sister
David Haines from Olga Haines, his wife
Pastor Alex Hall from Alyce Hall, his wife
Linda Haney from Priscilla McNeily, her sister
Arderly Hardt from Ellen Hardt
Fred Hardy from Luella Hardy, his wife; from Millie Dunn, his sister; from Ada Nerness
Joe Harris from Charlotte Harris, his wife
Robert Hartloff from Evelyn Hartloff, his wife
Rowena Hastaran from Evelyn Neal, her mother

H

Tom Hayward from Ann Hayward, his mother
Richard Hein from Goldie Hein
Joseph Herzberg from Thelma Herzberg, his wife; from Debra Fechik, his daughter; from Kathy Woodhall, his daughter
Stella Hess from Ralph Hess, her son
Bernese Hester from Celia Melvin
Carl Hibbs from Shirley Heller
Earl Hibbs from Lilly Hibbs, his wife; from Bill Lynn
Erwin Hickman from Dorothy Robinson
Joshua Hicks from Kent and Dee Dickinson; from Shelly Lowe
Joseph Hillebert, Sr. from Mildred Hillebert, his wife
Rose Hinger from Alice Hinger
Ruby Hinger from Alice Hinger
William Hinger from Alice Hinger
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hoffman from Stephen and Donna Dickie
Dr. Duane Houck from Lucille Bush
Ellen and James Howell from Frank and Gayle Tyroff, grandparents
Albert and Sarah Huether from Joe and Della Trenchuk
Donald Stephen Hunt from Donald Hunt, his grandfather
Harry and Irma Hushold from Udene Allen, their daughter
Vernon Hutchison from Paul and Pearl Genstler

Ruth Ipes from Thomas Ipes

John Janzen from Agatha Janzen, his wife
Clarence Jennette, Sr. from John Mann
Don Jennings from Gerion Dunks
Herluf and Bernie Jensen from Kent and Dee Dickinson
Ben Johnson from Stephen and Donna Dickie
Blaine Johnson from Evelyn Neal, his mother
Cleburn Johnson from Jo Ann and Lenard McKay, his sister and brother-in-law
Eula Johnson from Everett and Yvonne Dickerson
Jack Johnson from Evelyn Neal, his mother
J.R. and Eva Johnson from Lucille Bush
Laura Johnson from Wes and Donna Haynes
Treva Jones from Celia Melvin

Shirley Kammeyer from Harriet Macomber
Marie Katcher from Tom and Doris Kopko
James Katchevar from Anne Cameron, his sister-in-law
Glenn Kingery from Nellie Kingery, his wife
Beverly Kinsey from Alyce Hall
Dale Kline from Muriel Kline
Walter Knittle from Irene Zumwalt
Ralph Krauss from Catherine Krauss, his wife
Joseph and Julia Kredl from Mr. and Mrs. Lessner, their children
Clarence Kreiter from Loretta Kreiter, his wife

George Lacey from Phyllis Lacey, his wife
Marvin Lang from Olga Lang, his wife
Carris Lauda from Gerion Dunks; from John and Idy Freeman
Gus Lazarakis from Gertrude Lazarakis, his sister
Katherine Lazarakis from Gertrude Lazarakis, her mother
Luther and Florian Lee from Harriet Bos
George Lefebvre from Tom and Doris Kopko
Audrey Lehman from Harvey Lehman, her husband

Lauren Lendle from Jackie Gair, her grandmother
Nicholas and Lillian Lessner from Mr. and Mrs. Lessner, their children
Emlee Lester from Anthony Lester, her son; from C.K. Lester, her son
Martin Lewis from Helen Marlin
Alan Dean Long from Pauline Long, his mother
J. Murray Long from Pauline Long, his wife
James and Mary Lorts from Albert and La Verne Gerst
Loved Ones from Mildred Tarasenko
Edwin Low from Vyvyan Low, his wife
Helen Lowry from F.W. Lowry, her husband
Arliss Lundberg from Kent and Dee Dickinson
Lisa Lungu from John Lungu
Delia Lynd from Homer and Teresa Lynd

Larry Macomber from Harriet Macomber
Ron Macomber from Harriet Macomber
Wayne Macomber from Harriet Macomber, his wife
Fritzie Maples from J. Wayne Maples, her husband
Lester Marcussen from Elizabeth Marcussen, his wife
Earl and Edna Marlin from Helen Marlin
Hugh Marlin from Helen Marlin, his wife
Julie Marlin from Helen Marlin, her grandmother
Robert Marquis from Donald Hunt
James and Minerva Masters from Viola Skala, their daughter
Viola Mathe from Justine Slack
Bill May from Alma May, his mother; from Kent and Dee Dickinson; from Shelly Lowe
Gilbert and Mildred McConnell from Marissa McConnell
Lois McCormick from Arthur Caviness; from Greg and Sharon Constantine; John and Katie Harlow; from Aurelia Holman; from John Lungu; from Bill and Alix Mansker; from Sarah Kate Ross; from Peter Sciambia; from Minerva Straman; from Muriel Tomblinson; from Mable Towerton; from Glen and Helen Wilkens

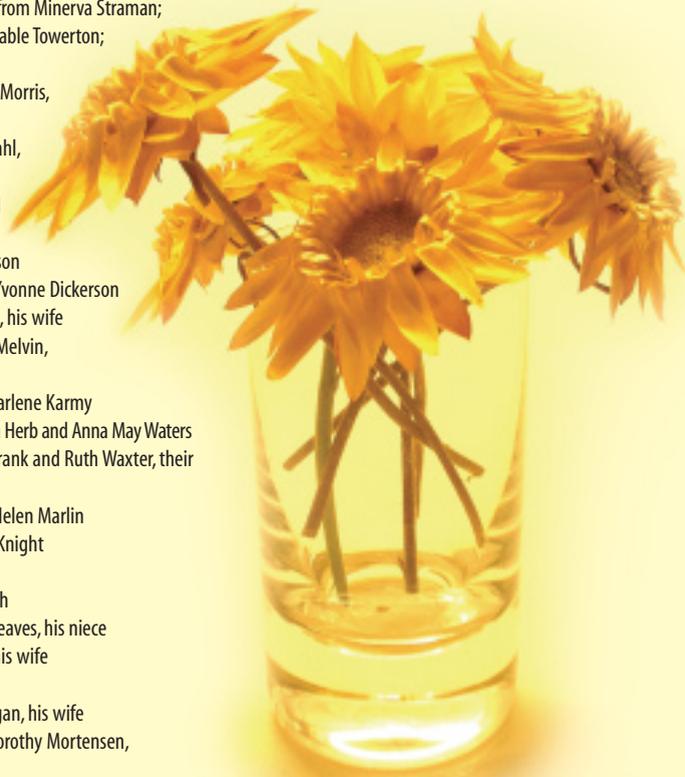
Nola Jean McElvain from Thayer Morris, her brother
Helen McEntire from Ferna Surdahl, her mother
Donald McIntyre from Robert Trial
Isaac and Alice Meier from Everett and Yvonne Dickerson
Mildred Meier from Everett and Yvonne Dickerson
Charles Melvin from Celia Melvin, his wife
Cynthia Joan Melvin from Celia Melvin, her daughter
Mildred Merritt from Paul and Darlene Karmy
Henry Meyer from Iris Jensen; from Herb and Anna May Waters
Jacob and Alwine Meyer from Frank and Ruth Waxter, their son-in-law and daughter
John and Harriet Meyers from Helen Marlin
Rachel Millard from Gwendolyn Knight
Major Miller from Robert Trial
Shirley Millington from Leon Rich
Harold Miner from Maxine Hargreaves, his niece
A.J. Minor from Margaret Minor, his wife
Alan Moore from Betty Adams
Edward Morgan from Joyce Morgan, his wife
Eric Mortensen from John and Dorothy Mortensen, his parents; from his sister

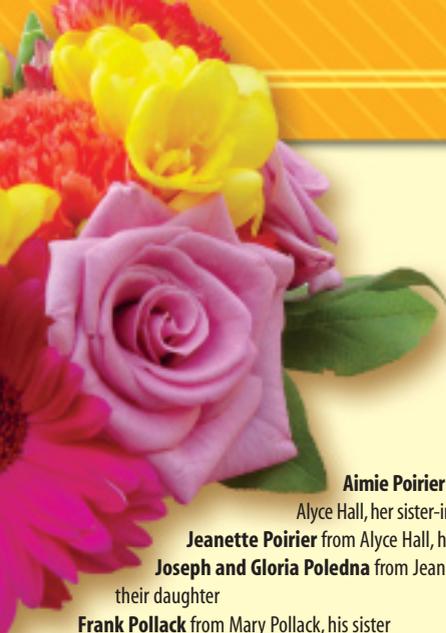
Jay Mortenson from Ramona Mortenson
Jerry Mortenson from Ramona Mortenson
Flossie Morton from Catherine Krauss
Winifred Mundt from Keith Mundt
Mildred Mundy from Homer and Teresa Lynd
Allen Murphy from Glen and Rose Ross

Irene Nagy from Joe and Della Trenchuk
David and Mary Negley from Bob and Mary Huntzberry
Daisy Ruth Nichols from Gerion Dunks
Gus and Julia Nichols from Merlin and Janice Wittenberg
Dorothy Nicolay from Lindsey and Myrna Greene, her children; from Don Nicolay, her son; from Bob Nicolay, her son; from Esther Brown; from Larry Fuller; from Leo and Helen Warren

Jack Orr from Homer and Teresa Lynd

Betty Paisley from Jack Paisley, her husband
Thomas Pangborn from Shirley Turner, his mother
Golda Parkman from Alberta Ballard
Freddie and Bert Parrish from Leila Busch
Percy Paul from Joe and Della Trenchuk
Oscar Payne from Beulah Payne, his wife
Dorothy Peters from Homer and Teresa Lynd
Wilma Peterson from Gerion Dunks
Irma (Landis) Phillips from Leon Rich
Randy Phillips from Lawrence Claridge; from Beulah Griffith
Ruth Phillips from Gerion Dunks
Annie and Isaac Pierce from Frank and Gayle Tyroff
Maxim Pivovarov from Andy and Anna Creutzburg
Bill and Lulu Plubell from L. Alden Roth





Aimie Poirier from Alyce Hall, her sister-in-law
Jeanette Poirier from Alyce Hall, her sister
Joseph and Gloria Poledna from Jean Kendall, their daughter
Frank Pollack from Mary Pollack, his sister
Pauline Pollack from Anne Cameron, her sister; from Mary Pollack, her sister
Grace Pottorf from Denver Hoatson
Wanietta Pratt from Doug and Karen Batchelor; from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger; from Joe and Shirley Fields; from Allen Hrenyk; from Duane and Betty Peterson
Ralph Puterbaugh from Lu Ann Crews

Doris Mundy Quarles from Lucille Bush

Q

Ed Radke from Herb and Anna May Waters, his nephew and niece
Berdie Rasmussen from Margaret Minor
Mrs. Williard D. (Norene) Register, M.D. from Courtney Crowley
Nedra May Renshaw from Walter Renshaw
David Ross Repine from Greg and Carol Barry, his son-in-law and daughter
Earl and Grace Reuss from Max and Barbara Qualley
William and Mable Reynolds from Lucille Bush
Roland Rhymus from Stanley and Roberta Chaffee
Emagene Richards from Fred Tiede
Max Ritchie from Lu Ann Crews
William Robinson from Kathryn Robinson, his wife
Lodena Rogers from James and Dorothy Aikman
Dr. Lloyd Rosenvold from Ruth Rosenvold
Fawn Roth from L. Alden Roth, her husband
Elsie and Iver Running from Myra Christianson, their daughter

R

Ed Safford from Beulah Griffith
Henry Ford Scheller from Margaret Scheller
Harold Schneider from Elsie Schneider, his wife
Thoyne Schneider from Eugene and Donna Dorsey
Lillian Schubert from Marian Phillips, her daughter; from Gladys Dawson, her niece; from Virginia Lee Wolf, her niece; from Shirley Guthrie; from Paul and Kathleen Stevenson

S

Eldon Scott from Joe Waggy
Ray and Jane Seals from Barry and Cathy Seals
Adeline Senner from Lillian Johnson
Annabel Sevison from Stanley and Roberta Chaffee
John Shatzley from the Barrett and Shatzley families
Lillian Shubert from Linda Frey, her daughter; from Donald and Doris Fiol
Robert Sica from Christine Kummer, his sister-in-law
Aaron Silva from Ila Genton
Gerald Silvestri from John and Anita Silvestri, his parents; from Lauren and Cheryl Moulton
Ann Simpkins from Frank and Gayle Tyroff
Clifford Smick from Barbara Stewart, his sister
Duane Smick from Barbara Stewart, his sister
Sam and Leah Smick from Barbara Stewart, their daughter
Stanley Smick from Barbara Stewart, his sister
Lyndon Smith from Camille Smith, his wife
Violet Smith from Violet Lewis
Walter Smith from Helen Smith, his wife
Henry Sonsel from Ron Petersen
Carl Soth from Peggy Rees, his sister
La Mar Sprout from Lu Ann Crews
Wilbert Stebbeds from Gerion Dunks
Bob Stewart from Barbara Stewart, his wife
Marjorie Edna Stone from Melvin Judkins
Marjorie Strong from Phil and Marcene Zurmuhlen
Lavern Sulzle from Joe and Della Trenchuk

T

Arnold Tarasenko from Mildred Tarasenko, his wife
Mychal Tarasenko from Mildred Tarasenko, his grandmother
Roy Tatttrie from Jennie Tatttrie, his wife
Pearl Thompson from Betty Dull
Wilbur Tillman from Lorene Cacka; from Beulah Griffith
Nel Timothy from Charles Merickel
Jim Toay from Eldon Allram
Wayne Towerton from Mable Towerton, his wife
Bertha Bender Travis from Esther Dunton, her daughter
William and Caroline Trenchuk from Joe and Della Trenchuk
Harold Tucker from Leo and Helen Warren
Mr. and Mrs. T.E. Tunison from Eleta Sandstrom, their daughter

Roy Ulmer from Kent and Dee Dickinson

U

Robin Lee West Valdes from Robert West
Fred Van Dolson from Leo Van Dolson
Velora Van Gorden from Stanley and Roberta Chaffee
Verda VanSyoc from Dianne Jeter, her granddaughter
Ethel Allen Vincent from Frank Sanders, her husband

V

David Wagner from Lucille Bush
Finis Walker from Irene Zumwalt

W

Irene Walker from Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Alvarez
Oren Wammack from Roy Dunks, his cousin
Milton and Fannie Waxter from Frank and Ruth Waxter, their son and daughter-in-law
Bill Wayman from John Decker; from Kent and Dee Dickinson
Frieda Wearner from Kent and Dee Dickinson
Lila Weir from Margaret Minor
Del Wiggins from Albert Wiggins
Ruth Wiggins from Albert Wiggins
Arland Woodscovich from Beulah Griffith
Elizabeth Wylie from Joan Christenson; from Shirley Gillenwater; from Marvin and Joy Georgeson; from June Nowell; from Rita Owen; from Harvey Retzer; from Marilee Taylor

Dane Young from John and Therissa Young

Y

Bill Zima, Jr. from Patricia Zima, his mother
Bill Zima, Sr. from Patricia Zima, his wife
Amelia Zurmuhlen-Williams from Phil and Marcene Zurmuhlen

Z

Happy Anniversary

Doug and Karen Batchelor from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger
Ed and Tillie Ensminger (69th) from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger; from Lileen and Ken Troutman
Bill and Mary Hoatson from Denver Hoatson
Leo and Helen Warren (50th) from their children
Millard and Doris Wesbey (70th) from Joseph and Carol Stone

Happy Birthday

Zoey Babylon (101st) from Roy, Dolan, and Maxine Dunks, and the rest of her big family
Martha Burton and Marjorie Long, each 98 years young, from Lloyd Austin
Dorothy from Mercer Straw
Bryan Ensminger (19th) from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger
Ed Ensminger (93rd) from Ed and Bonnie Ensminger; from Lileen and Ken Troutman
Thelma Herzberg (81st) from Debra Fechik, her daughter
Promise Moffett (100th) from Warner McClure
Philip Peng
Millard Wesbey (91st) from Joseph and Carol Stone

In Honor of

Robbie Bockmann from Ron Petersen
The Colporteurs from Lenore Roffey
Lorraine Evans from Amos Lawson
Ethel Lawson from Amos Lawson
Andrew Lyon from Kathy Jameson
Mr. and Mrs. N.D. McDowell from Gwendolyn Knight, their daughter
Tammy Roberts from Joyce Pinke
Barry and Cathy Seals from Ray and Jane Seals

Amazing Facts recognizes contributions made as a tribute to the deceased or as an honorarium celebrating significant milestones in the lives of loved ones. Please type or print legibly to ensure correct spelling; we are unable to verify confusing spellings due to volume. Due to space limitations, a maximum of five names will be printed per donation per issue.

Continued from page 19.

Greek word *Theos*, "God," and *Yahweh* by the Greek *Kurios*, "Lord." The Hebrew word "Adonai" ["Lord"] is changed to "Kurios" as well.

The LXX Used by Jesus and the Apostles

With the Old Testament in Greek, the way was prepared for the Greek New Testament. The LXX was widely understood. Most all the quotations from the Old Testament found in the New are given according to the LXX. It became the Scriptures in the hands of the apostles to proclaim the gospel story through the prophecies of the Old Testament, the prophecies of Messiah to come and salvation.

We have no record that Jesus tried to change the LXX names back to their Hebrew forms of "Elohim", "Yaweh" (the Tetragramaton, YHWH the most sacred name of the Old Testament) or "Adonai." He taught the disciples what He wanted in the new church. He did not teach them to go back to the Hebrew forms of divine names, nor did He teach them to retain the Aramaic name of "Yeshua." The New Testament in Koine Greek followed the same pattern for divine names as that of the Septuagint.

We know too that the disciples quoted from the LXX freely, never once mentioning other than the Greek forms of the sacred names and the New Testament name of "Iesous" for the name of Jesus. In his Pentecostal sermon in Acts 2, Peter makes a bold statement before the Jews present from all nations. In verse 21, he declares, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord" ("Kurios" the LXX form of the Tetragramaton). This statement showed that Peter accepted the highest claim of divinity for Christ.

Jesus and the apostles had set precedence for the bridging of holy names into the vernacular of other languages, and they accepted the LXX names for God in their New Testament writings. It was an example to be followed in preparation for the soon-to-develop Neo-European language family.

"Iesous" Becomes "Jesus"

As the gospel spread into areas where Greek was not known, other translations appeared. The next major transition was into Latin, a Neo-European language. Soon the Vulgate (A.D. 382) became the author-

ized Latin Bible version. The name of Jesus when transliterated from the Greek "Iesous" into Latin was "Iesus." This Latin form

of the name of Jesus dominated Bible translations in the Neo-European language family for 1,000 years.

Yes, it was Latin that bequeathed the transliterated "Iesus" into English translations. When the "I" became "J" in the English language, it became natural to change the "I" of Latin into the "J" of English in the name of Jesus.

Conclusion

The Hebrew language preserved the Old Testament for the world, as Greek did for the New Testament. But it is English that has spread God's two witnesses to the world. The British and Foreign Bible

Society in 1804 and the American Bible Society in 1816, still active now, and other Bible societies

have given the Bible to the language groups of the world. The Semitic, the Neo-European, the Hamitic, the Negroid, the Mongolian languages all have a translation in their language families. And the Wycliffe Bible Society continues to study new dialects, taking the Bible to the ends of the earth. By the end of 2002, parts or all of the Bible have been translated into 2,303 languages or dialects. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Should each of these 2,303 languages and dialects go back to the Hebrew "Yehoshua" or the Aramaic "Yeshua" forms? Or the Greek "Iesous"? Or the Latin "Iesus"? When viewed from a worldwide perspective and the example of Jesus and the disciples, the answer is a definite "no!" Each language deserves the name of Jesus in its own vernacular form, including the English "Jesus" spelled with "J".

Jesus understands all languages and reads the love in the heart when an individual prays in "His name," not by specific letters and words, but by the respect held for His nail-pierced hands and the shed blood and the reverence with which His name is breathed in prayer. Let all nations pray on in His name in their own vernacular form. —

Pray on in the name of "Yesuha"
Pray on in the name of "Pra-Yesu"
Pray on in the name of "Gesu"
Pray on in the name of "Yel-Sul"
Pray on in the name of "Jesus"

Interested in learning more on this topic?

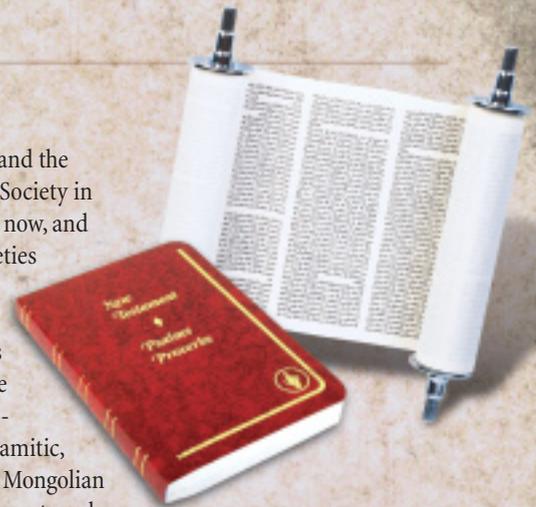
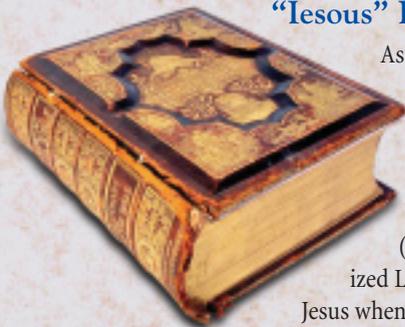
Exploring the history of the Bible can be very rewarding. So increase your faith in God's Word with these two great resources. And don't forget to share them with your friends and family!

Truth Triumphant
BK-TTRI ... \$14.95

The Faithful Witness
BK-FW ... \$0.95



See page 17 for ordering info.



Health Bite

Good News About the Sun

Winter is in full swing, and that means less time in the sun for most of us. And though in the summer months we're slathering on sunscreen, ducking under a hat, or suffocating under long-sleeve shirts to dodge the sun's potentially dangerous ultraviolet rays, the right amount of sunlight is actually very good for you!

The sun affects many of the body's most vital systems. Here are just some of the amazing benefits of our solar system's brightest companion.

1 Feel Happier!

It's true; sunlight is God's special treatment for the blues. It increases the production of serotonin, a natural mood-elevating hormone. It also suppresses melatonin, which is believed to contribute to SAD—that is, seasonal affective disorder, which is a depression that occurs most often in the winter months.

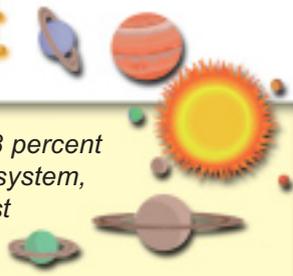
2 Control Your Appetite!

Because serotonin increases in sunlight, you're less likely to abandon your diet and take in mood-altering foods, such as those loaded with sugars and other carbohydrates. It's not just the holiday feeding season that causes many to gain weight over the winter, but also a reliance on comfort foods because serotonin levels fall.



An Amazing Fact

The sun makes up 99.8 percent of the mass of our solar system, and it's one of the biggest stars in the galaxy (in the top 10 percent)! It's so big that a million earths could easily fit inside it. It also generates 386 billion billion megawatts every second, but still has enough fuel to warm the earth for another 5 billion years!



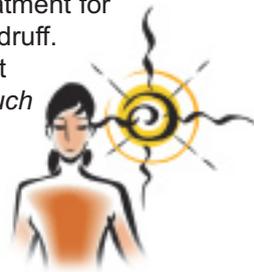
3 Be Stronger!

The body needs plenty of vitamin D, and spending time in the sun is a great way to get your recommended daily allowance. Not only does sunlight cause the body to synthesize vitamin D, it also aids in the absorption of calcium. This means healthier bones and teeth, and an upper hand in battling osteoporosis!



4 Renew Your Skin!

Sunlight can be a great treatment for eczema, acne, psoriasis, and dandruff. Wait? Isn't exposure going against everything we know? Well, *too much* exposure ... yes ... but otherwise, ultraviolet rays actually interfere with the growth of abnormal skin cells that trigger some annoying skin problems.



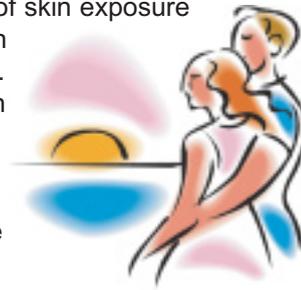
5 More Good Tidings:

Amazingly, the sun's light provides even more benefits, and more are being discovered all the time. It is already known to boost the immunity powers of your body, reduce the risk of breast cancer, and can even battle jet lag!

Your Time in the Sun

Much of the sunlight's benefits comes through your eyes, so you can still wrap up and don some sunscreen—just don't hide your eyes behind sunglasses too much. Just 30 minutes can help you if you're feeling lethargic or "down in the dumps." It will also battle junk-food cravings. And more exposure to the sun in the summer helps store up vitamin D for the winter months.

And 15 to 30 minutes of skin exposure can relieve common skin ailments, including acne. But remember, too much unprotected skin exposure increases the risk of skin cancer. Consult a physician to determine your sun-block needs.



So just because cold weather is upon you, don't forget your time in the sun. And also don't forget to get some exposure to the Sun, who can brighten your days, heal your ailments, and change your life completely. —

Live Life to the Fullest!



Foods for Thought Kit

The real battle over health today isn't obesity, diabetes, or heart disease—but the brain! How we eat can affect mood, memory, learning, and behavior, so this incredible new series provides simple but effective tools for increasing your brain health. You'll learn how food affects your mind, get delicious brain-friendly recipes, and more! Attractively presented materials include:

-  Beautiful Full-Color Book
-  Double CD Audiobook
-  Dynamic One-Hour Video

Foods for Thought Kit
BK-FFTK ... \$39.95

Diet & Stress Simple Solutions Kit

Is what you're eating, eating you? Stress is a way of life for most people, but the simple, quick, and safe lifestyle tips in this amazing kit will help protect you against the ravages of stress and depression, while lowering your risk of diabetes, heart-disease, strokes, and more—all without drugs! This awesome series includes:

-  Beautiful Full-Color Book
 -  Double CD Audiobook
 -  Dynamic One-Hour Video
- Diet & Stress Simple Solutions Kit**
BK-DSSK ... \$39.95



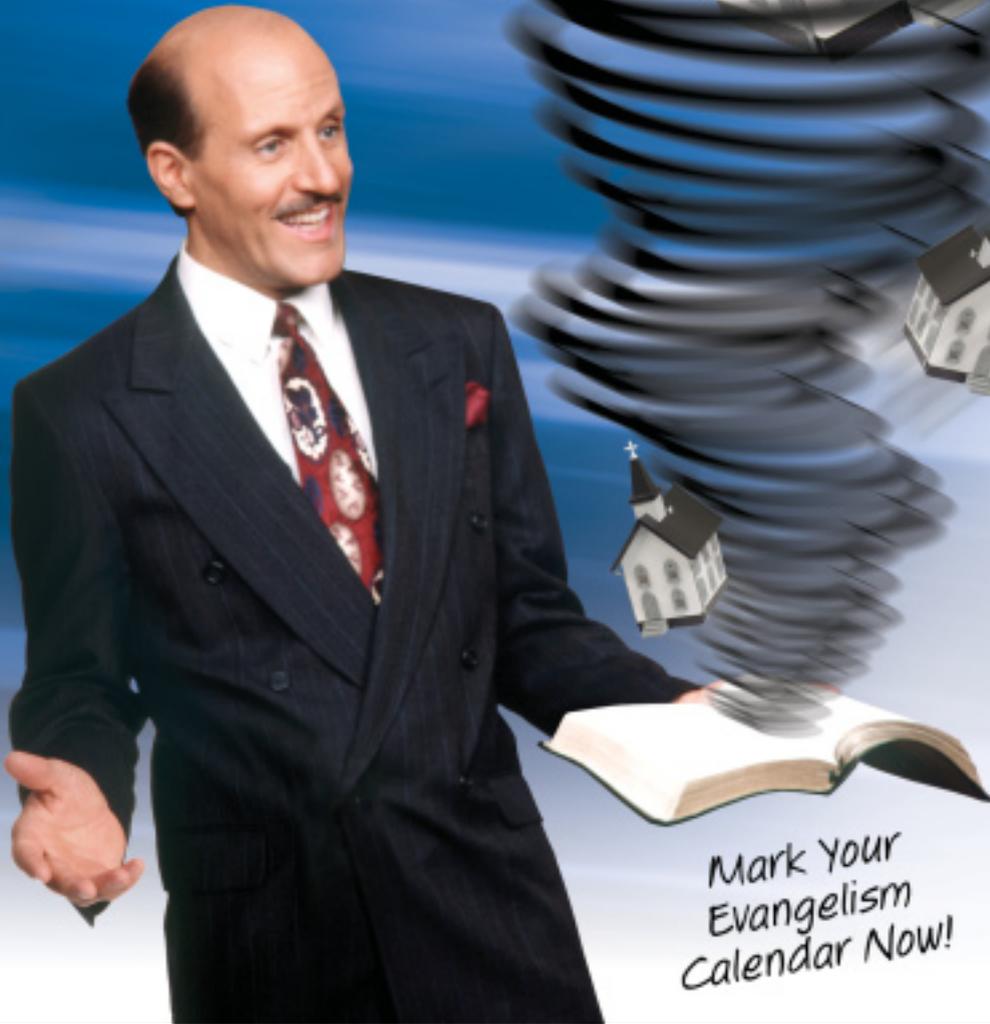
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See page 17 for ordering info.

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Evangelism
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Plan now to join Amazing Facts, the North American Division, and ATN/ACN, **April 15 – May 22** for this fresh, dynamic evangelism event. This unique satellite series will include:

- ✓ Thorough pre-work training available for churches and individuals
- ✓ Interactive programs
- ✓ Online resources
- ✓ And much more!



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