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REPORT

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER  
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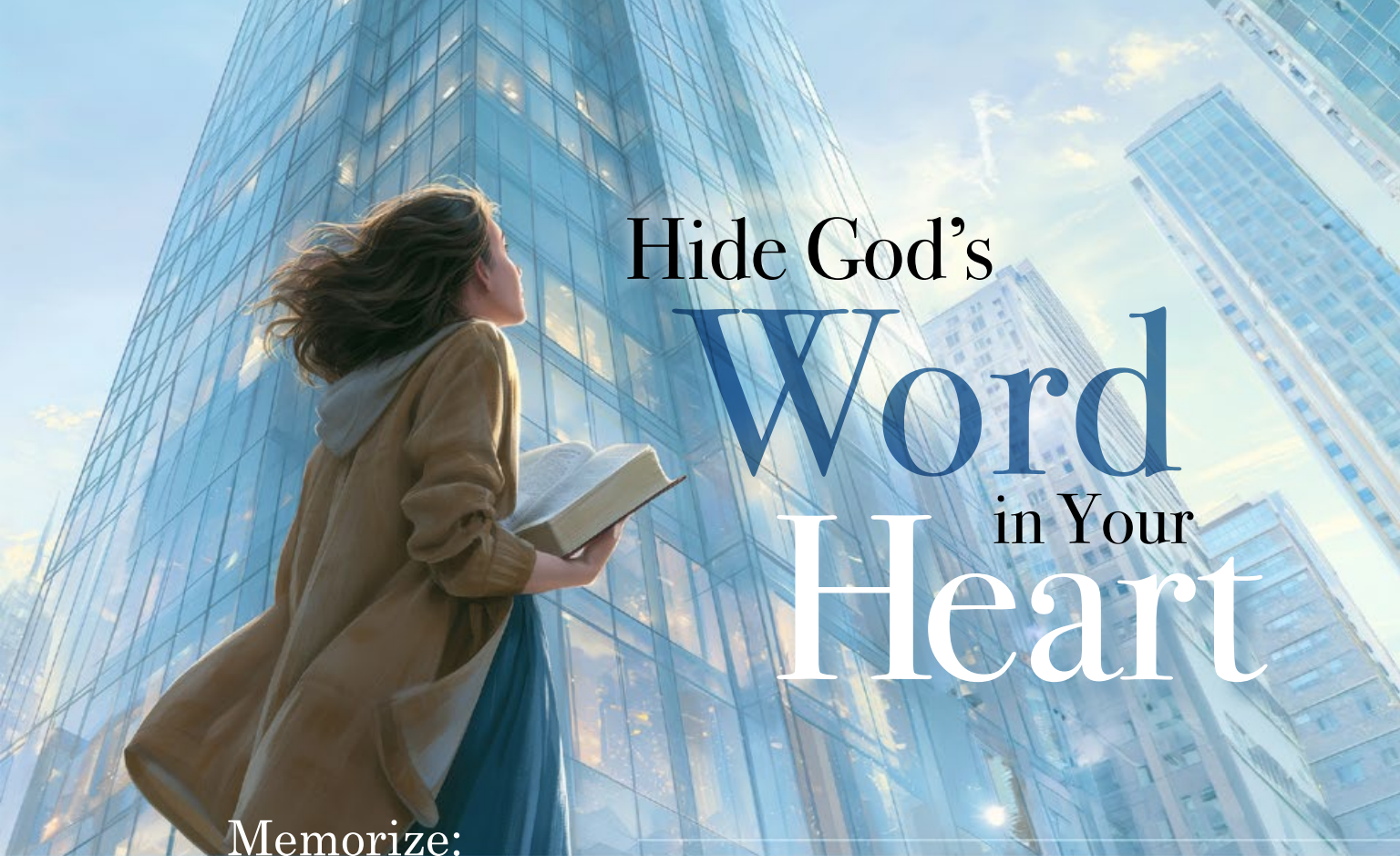
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# Hide God's Word in Your Heart

## Memorize:

“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1).

**T**he world's biggest cities are not known for stellar reputations. New York is relentless in its ambition. Los Angeles is a hub of cultural influence marked by brokenness. Paris is admired but cynical. Tokyo is efficient yet lonely. Mumbai displays extreme wealth beside deep poverty.

Cities concentrate sin. The worst elements of society often congregate in them to indulge in vice. Yet these same cities are filled with people Christ died to save—men and women searching, struggling, and longing for hope.


Like Jonah, Christians sometimes distance themselves from the city. But Scripture points us in a different direction: toward it. We are not called to share in its corruption—but to reveal God's goodness and call its sinners to repentance. This is what our Savior did: “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people” (Matthew 9:35).

The story of Jonah especially reveals God's heart. He calls Jonah to Nineveh, “that great city,” to warn it of coming judgment (Jonah 1:2). After fleeing and being

redirected by the great sea creature, Jonah finally obeys. The result? The entire city repents, and God spares it. Sadly, Jonah resents the outcome, but God's final words are a rebuke and an invitation: “Should I not pity Nineveh, ... in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left?” (Jonah 4:11).

Do we pity the cities? Do we feel compassion for those perishing in them? Jesus did—He wept over Jerusalem. Will we be like Jonah or Jesus?

Today, more than ever, God needs consecrated disciples willing to reach the cities with the everlasting gospel through every possible means—preaching, literature, media, personal ministry, and acts of compassion. We must share the three angels' messages while there is still time.

Will we answer His call to shine “as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life”? (Philippians 2:15, 16). Someday soon, Jesus will return to take His people to the heavenly city. Will there be souls from Earth's great cities there because you obeyed? 



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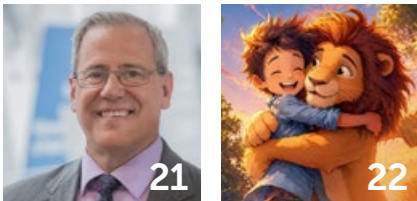
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# Connect with Amazing Facts

## From the Mail Bag



### From Brokenness to Purpose

As a young adult, I drifted from God. After losing my wife, my life spiraled into drinking and substance abuse, and I lost everything. In my lowest moment, I cried out to God. He answered! He took away my desire to drink, and I returned to church the same week. Through the Amazing

Facts Bible studies, my faith was rebuilt. God has provided me a purpose in sharing His truth with others. —James

### Comfort in Grief

From a young age, I experienced deep loss. Family members were taken, and I had seasons where grief felt overwhelming. At one point, I lost someone very dear to me, and the pain was more than I could bear. I felt alone, afraid, and unable to find peace. Then I came across messages from Amazing Facts about what happens when we die. For the first time, I felt comfort and understanding. I was finally able to rest. I thank God for using these messages to bring peace to my heart. —Lucy, Canada

### Fully Surrendered

I was baptized when I was younger, but I drifted into the world and didn't fully understand God's truth. By His grace, I kept seeking Him, and He led me to the seminars and resources on amazingfacts.org. As I listened, especially to your message about Rahab, it pierced my heart. I knew it was time to fully surrender my life to God. May God continue to use you and your team, Pastor Doug, to spread His Word to reach many who are hungry and thirsting to know Him. —Tamara

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COMING SOON:  
**The Magnificent  
Kingdom**  
By Pastor Doug Batchelor

**An Amazing Fact:** Surveys reveal that about 75 percent of people in North America believe in heaven, but only about 23 percent believe in hell. Perhaps even more surprising, among those who believe in heaven, nearly 90 percent believe they're going there. These statistics tell us something important about the human heart ...

Deep down, people sense that life has to lead to something better than the suffering and death we experience every day on this sin-sick planet. There is a longing inside us for a world that is healthy, joyful, and permanent.

Well, the Bible explains why: God "has put eternity in their hearts" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

But while many people believe in heaven, there is much confusion about what it actually is.

Of course, popular culture typically mocks the idea of a Christian heaven—picturing people as ethereal beings with harps floating on puffy clouds or winged



babies drifting through the sky. Still others think heaven is nothing more than a poetic idea meant to comfort people in difficult times.

The Bible, however, describes something far more concrete and wonderful. The word "heaven" appears hundreds of times, but when you focus specifically on the place where God dwells and where the redeemed will live, there are still well over a hundred passages.

Heaven is not imaginary. It is not merely symbolic. The Bible writers treat it as a real kingdom prepared by a real Savior for real people who love Him.

Jesus said plainly, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). Christ didn't say He was preparing some vague spiritual experience. He said He was preparing a **place**. That means heaven is tangible. And if Jesus promised it, we can be certain it is true.

So let's learn more about it ...

## A Glimpse of Heaven on Earth

In the Bible, one of the closest pictures of heaven is found during the reign of King Solomon. If you were to choose the moment when Israel experienced its greatest earthly glory, it would likely be during Solomon's early years as king.

It was like a tiny moment of heaven on Earth.

The temple had just been built. Remember, God had told David that he could not build it because he had been a man of war, but Solomon, a name related to the word *shalom*, meaning peace, was allowed to complete it during a time of peace (1 Chronicles 22:8, 9).

Jerusalem was also flourishing with wealth and beauty. The Bible tells us that gold was everywhere, and silver became so plentiful that it was "accounted as nothing" (1 Kings 10:21). Israel enjoyed peace on every border, and people from distant nations came to learn about the God of heaven.

Among them was the famous Queen of Sheba. She traveled from a far country with a huge caravan loaded with spices, gold, and precious stones. Of course, she did not come merely to admire the beauty.

She also wanted to discover the source of Solomon's wisdom.



Still, the Bible says that when she saw the temple, the palace, and the orderly service of Solomon's kingdom, "there was no more spirit in her" (1 Kings 10:5). In other words, she was left breathless! Everything she had heard about Solomon was impressive, but the reality was far greater.

She finally exclaimed, "Indeed the half was not told me" (1 Kings 10:7). That reminds me of 1 Corinthians 2:9: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into



# 12



the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

## A City Prepared by God

The Bible often describes heaven as a city. Indeed, it tells us plainly that God “has prepared a city for them” (Hebrews 11:16).

That can be jarring, because when we think about cities, we imagine traffic, noise, crime, worldliness, and pollution. We see it clearly—when large numbers of selfish people gather in one place, there will be endless problems. The challenge with cities isn’t the planning or architecture; it’s sin!

In heaven, there will be no greed, no violence, and no injustice. Imagine a city where every citizen loves God supremely and loves their neighbor as themselves. That is the kind of city that John saw while in vision: “I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:2).

Notice he calls it New Jerusalem. It means “city of peace” (again, from *shalom*). Jerusalem was the center of worship for God’s people. It was where the temple was, the place where the presence of God was symbolically revealed. The New Jerusalem represents the ultimate fulfillment of God’s plan—a place where peace will finally reign. After thousands of years of conflict and suffering, God’s redeemed people will live in a true “city of peace,” where sin and sorrow will never enter again.

## The Glorious City

Scripture provides several fascinating details about this city.

For one, Revelation says the city measures “twelve thousand furlongs” in length, width, and height (Revelation 21:16). In modern terms, that’s about 1,500 miles in perimeter, or about 375 miles on each side. That’s bigger than New Mexico! And because the city is described as a cube—with equal length, width, and height—it may rise 375 miles high. Whatever the exact dimensions, the message is clear: God’s kingdom will be vast, and there will be plenty of room for all who accept Christ’s invitation.

John also writes that this city has “a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates” (v. 12). Notice that the number twelve appears repeatedly in the description—twelve gates, twelve foundations, and the names of the twelve apostles written on them.

This is not accidental. Throughout Scripture, the number twelve is connected with God’s people and His kingdom. In the Old Testament, God built the nation of Israel around twelve tribes, the descendants of Jacob’s sons. In the New Testament, Jesus chose twelve apostles to represent the foundation of His church. The New Jerusalem reflects that same divine order. The city represents the complete family of God—the redeemed from every generation who have followed Him.





Some Bible students note that twelve divides evenly in many ways—by two, three, four, and six—making it an ideal number for construction and organization. God is a Creator of order, not confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). The repeated use of twelve in the New Jerusalem reminds us that heaven will be a place of perfect structure, balance, and unity among God’s people.

The Bible reveals that each gate is made of a single pearl: “The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl” (Revelation 21:21). A pearl is created when a tiny grain of sand or another irritant enters an oyster. The oyster responds by covering that irritation with layers of a beautiful substance until, over time, it becomes a pearl.

In a sense, a pearl is born out of suffering.

Likewise, sin entered this world like a painful irritation in God’s perfect creation. But through the sacrifice of Christ, that tragedy is being transformed into something glorious. Just as the oyster covers the irritation and produces a pearl, Jesus covers our sin and produces redemption.

It is fitting, then, that the gates of the New Jerusalem are made of pearl. Every person who enters that city will do so because of the sacrifice of Christ. The gates themselves will stand forever as a reminder that heaven is possible only because Jesus paid the price for our salvation.

I also love this detail: “The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass” (v. 21). In this world, men fight wars over gold. They hide it in vaults. But in heaven, God uses pure gold as paving material. That should remind

us that the things we treasure most on Earth are not nearly as valuable as we might believe.

## The River and the Tree of Life

Flowing through the New Jerusalem is something even more beautiful than golden streets: “He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Revelation 22:1).

All life depends on water. Without it, nothing survives. In the earth made new, the source of life will be this magnificent river flowing from God’s throne. No wonder Jesus calls Himself the water of life—a source of life-giving spiritual hydration (John 4:14).

Along the banks of this mighty river grows the tree of life. “On either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month” (Revelation 22:2). Again, notice the number twelve!

This is the same tree Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from after sin entered the world. Humanity was driven from Eden so they would not eat from the tree of life and live forever in sin (Genesis 3:22–24). But the story comes full circle in Revelation. The redeemed are restored to the garden and once again receive access to the tree of life. “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

Why is one tree accessible from both sides of the river? The picture John describes seems to be a marvelous

*(Continued on page 18.)*



# Prison Ministry Partnerships

## Reach Inmates for Christ

By Shenalyn Page

**T**his call is from an inmate at a California correctional facility. All calls are monitored and recorded. If you would like to accept this call, please press five ..."

Curious, the Amazing Facts receptionist pressed "5" on the phone keypad and, a moment later, was connected to Rocci (pronounced Rocky).

"Can I talk to someone in the Bible school?" Rocci asked. "I'm wondering if they can put their Bible studies on our prison tablets. Other churches have their materials there. Why not Amazing Facts?" Thus began an extraordinarily fruitful relationship between Amazing Facts and one dedicated, God-fearing inmate with a burden for souls.

### Rocci's Story

It's been 33 years since Rocci entered prison. At the time, he was a radio DJ who often worked in nightclubs and had just begun exploring his wife's strange ways as a Sabbath-keeper. Eventually, he began Bible studies with the pastor. "I loved them," he remembers. "But it was too late. My bad choices caught up to me, and I was arrested shortly after that."

Rocci took something precious into the prison with him—a Bible his wife had given him for Christmas. "I started to dig into that Bible. I had so many questions and knew

there was only one way to find answers." Shortly after his incarceration, Rocci was baptized as a Sabbath-keeper.

Over the last 33 years, Rocci has faithfully witnessed for his faith in every one of the seven prison facilities where he has been incarcerated. He's created groups for Sabbath-keepers, led Bible studies, and brought in speakers and truth-filled materials. "I finally had peace when I gave my life to God," Rocci says. "I want others to have that peace too."

### Growing Prison Ministries

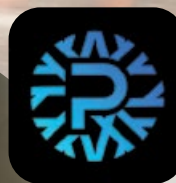
Rocci's suggestion was not the first time Amazing Facts had thought about getting its materials on prison tablets. The Bible School had been sending Bible lessons into prisons for decades, but it had also been searching for a way to post our materials on prison tablets.

Rocci put Cathy Bauer, Bible School director, in touch with the community resource manager for the prison.

Though government red tape ultimately prevented us from putting our materials on the California State Prison tablets, Rocci's monthly calls and other inmates' requests "encouraged us to keep searching," says Cathy. "Eventually God led us to the Pando App." In 2022, Amazing Facts partnered with Pando TV, a non-profit ministry, to place truth-filled materials on the Pando app, which reaches over 600,000 inmates in 423 correctional facilities.

To date, Amazing Facts has published over 360 video





titles on the platform and ranks among its top-performing content providers. The partnership has been fruitful: Over 12,000 inmates have expressed their desire to become Christians through this ministry!

“Rocci is like a special agent in the prison,” Cathy says. “He’s made it possible for us to do so much more for inmates.”

### *Prophecy Odyssey Goes to Prison*

During one of Rocci’s regular calls to Amazing Facts, Cathy told him about the *Prophecy Odyssey* series we had just held in New York City. “You could show the videos in the prison,” Cathy suggested. “It would make the inmates feel like they had actually attended in New York.”

Rocci loved the idea and immediately started the process of having it approved by the correctional facility. Then he gave out invitations. He expected maybe 25 to 30 men to show up, about the number that come for the regular Friday night and Sabbath services held in the prison.

God did better. Many more men attended, and 17 inmates completed all 15 of the *Prophecy Odyssey* Bible studies. “I knew some people would take the studies, but I didn’t expect them to be so excited about all they are learning,” says Rocci.

### *Facilitating Prison Ministries*

Rocci has not worked alone for the inmates in his prison. For almost 30 years, Joe Esposito and Jesse Mora have faithfully conducted Sabbath services in the prison. Their faithfulness and Rocci’s enthusiasm have blessed many, many prisoners. Now, they and Rocci are using Amazing Facts’ new study lessons on the book of Daniel to teach the interested inmates.

“The spiritual hunger is really great in the prison,” says Joe. “It’s very rewarding because you see the changes in the people when they accept the Lord. Working with Amazing Facts has been really helpful in reaching these inmates.”

Jesse agrees. “I’ve sentenced myself to life without parole. I’ll never stop doing prison ministry!”

Rocci says the same thing. “I’m supposed to get out soon, but I know I’ll be back. Prison ministry will always be a part of my life.”

### *Join Amazing Facts in Prison Ministry*

Do you have a desire to share Christ with the incarcerated? There are many ways we can work with you. We come alongside inmates like Rocci and volunteers like Joe and Jesse to bring the good news of salvation to those behind bars. To get started, please contact our prison ministry coordinator, Daniel, at [prisonministry@amazingfacts.org](mailto:prisonministry@amazingfacts.org).



# Living Trusts

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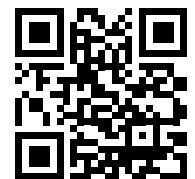
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# News to Note



## Where in the World Is Pastor Doug?

- July 13–18: Amazing Revelation VBS
- July 23–26: Camelback Phoenix Church Revival and AFCOE Training
- July 29–August 2: ASI, Phoenix, Arizona
- September 24–27: AFCOE to Go, Dallas
- October 22–25: Northern England Conference
- October 27–November 2: ASI Germany

## New Sabbath Truth Resources



**SabbathTruth.com** has recently expanded with two new features designed to deepen visitors' understanding of God's holy day. A new three-part series explores the physical,

mental, and spiritual benefits of Sabbath rest, drawing from current scientific research. In addition, the website now includes a "Sabbath Historical Highlights" section that presents primary-source quotations from church leaders and councils that trace attitudes toward the Sabbath and Sunday across the centuries. Together, these fresh resources provide further biblical insight, historical context, and practical encouragement for those seeking a clearer understanding of the Sabbath and its relevance today.

## Belize Mission Trip

A team of 210 volunteers from Amazing Facts and the Granite Bay Church traveled to Belize from April 12–19 to be the hands and feet of Jesus. The team served 1,374 medical and dental patients, helped build and paint churches, and ministered to 200 children during a weeklong vacation Bible school. The week concluded with a Sabbath revival attended by 4,000 from across the country.

## Reaching Souls in China

While it has become increasingly difficult in recent years to share the gospel in China, spiritual hunger there is greater than ever. In just four months, more than 200 videos created by our team generated nearly half a million shares and hundreds of thousands of positive reviews. Recently, our China team answered Bible questions



for 10,687 individuals and connected 18 people with local churches. We know of 29 souls who began keeping the Sabbath. Please pray that God will hold the doors open so the truth can spread rapidly in China!

## AFCOE Africa Relaunches in Kenya

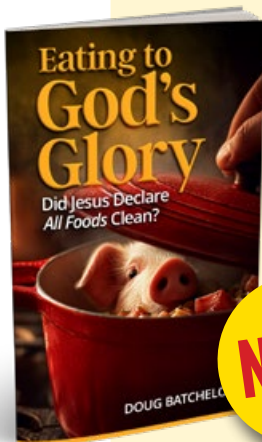
In January 2026, AFCOE Africa moved its headquarters to Nairobi, Kenya, launching a new class with 50 students and a 13-week canvassing program that distributed over 11,000 books. The team also recently hosted a health expo and evangelistic series near the entrance of the city's largest market. Students have reported many powerful testimonies of God's leading.



## New Study Guides Focus on Discipleship

Amazing Facts' new *Growing in Christ* Bible lesson series is designed to help new believers deepen their relationship with Jesus and build Christ-like character in daily life. These practical discipleship guides address topics such as prayer, addiction, stewardship, relationships, witnessing, and spiritual growth, making them ideal for both new and longtime Christians. The lessons can be completed through our Bible School. Printed lessons are also available through [afbookstore.com](http://afbookstore.com).





**NEW!**

## Eating to God's Glory

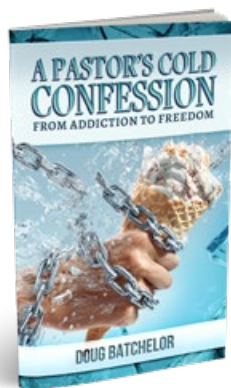
*Doug Batchelor.* Pastor Doug explores whether Jesus declared all foods clean, carefully examining key passages like Mark 7 and Acts 10. With clear, Bible-based insight, this concise guide reveals God's design for diet, health, and spiritual strength—helping readers understand Scripture and make thoughtful, faith-informed choices about what they eat.

**BK-EGG ... \$1.75 | Bulk pricing at [afbookstore.com](http://afbookstore.com)!**

## When Jesus Was a Little Child

*Doug Batchelor.* This fun illustrated children's book shares the story of Jesus' early years—from Bethlehem to the temple at age 12—in rhyme. With simple language, it introduces young readers to Jesus' kindness, curiosity, and love for God. Designed to touch tender hearts, the story invites children to connect with Jesus and respond to His love in a meaningful way.

**BK-WJC ... \$13.95**



## A Pastor's Cold Confession

*Doug Batchelor.* Through a relatable struggle, Pastor Doug explores how harmless habits can become spiritual strongholds—and how Christ offers real victory. Blending personal testimony, Bible truth, and practical encouragement, it reveals that Jesus saves us from sin, not in sin, and offers lasting freedom to all who seek Him.

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## Growing in Christ Study Guides

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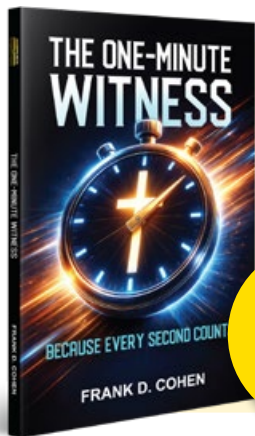
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# TV & RADIO Broadcast SCHEDULE

## ▶ Amazing Facts With Doug Batchelor

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

# AMAZING FACTS INTERNATIONAL

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>ROAR</b>	9:00 AM ET/PT 8:00 AM CT 10:00 AM MT						
<b>TBN</b>	3:00 PM ET 10:30 PM ET				10:00 PM PT		
<b>3ABN</b> <small>Three Angels Broadcasting Network</small>	9:00 PM CT		10:00 PM CT		1:30 PM CT		
<b>THE WORD</b> <small>Network</small>	2:00 PM (All Time Zones)						
<b>W</b> WORLD HARVEST TELEVISION		9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	



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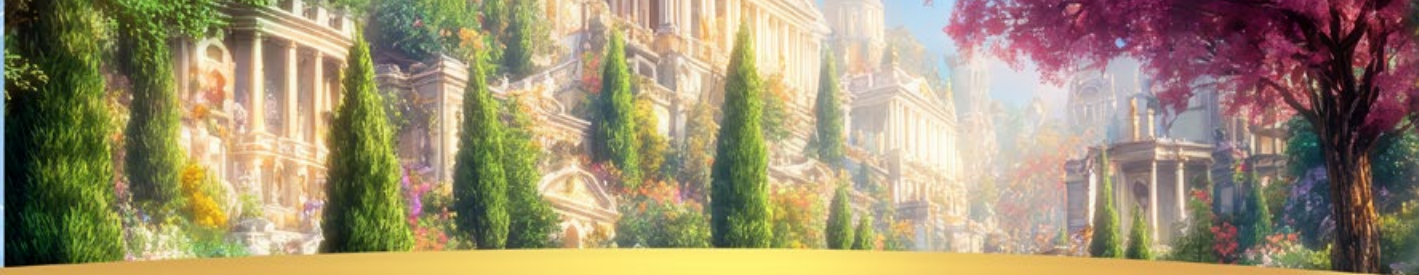
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**Bible Answers Live** airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 PM PT. It is a live call-in radio program during which you can ask Pastor Doug a Bible question and get a biblical answer. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate. You can also watch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



	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>AFTV</b>	7:00 PM PT <b>LIVE</b>			2:00 PM PT	7:00 AM PT 7:00 PM PT	9:00 AM PT	
<b>3ABN</b> <small>Three Angels Broadcasting Network</small>					7:00 PM CT		
<b>Sirius Family Talk Channel 131</b>	7:00 PM PT						8:00 PM PT
<b>Hope CHANNEL</b>	7:00 PM PT <b>LIVE</b>						



*(Continued from page 9.)*

tree that spreads across the riverbank, arching over the water so that its branches extend to both sides. I believe this is meant to convey that the tree will be accessible to everyone in God's kingdom. No one will be excluded from the gift of eternal life.

John also says, "The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2). This does not mean people will become sick in heaven. Rather, it symbolizes the complete restoration of humanity. The divisions that now separate nations—race, language, politics, and culture—will be healed forever. The redeemed from every nation will be one family under God.

## A World Without Suffering

One of the most comforting promises about heaven appears in Revelation 21:4: "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying."

Think about the sorrow that fills our world today—hospital rooms, funerals, broken relationships, and painful memories. The Bible says those things will not exist in God's kingdom.

Isaiah describes it in vivid language:

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer (Isaiah 35:5, 6).

Those who have never seen will behold the beauty of God's creation. Those who could not hear will listen to the songs of angels. Those who were crippled will run and leap with joy.

Another promise declares, "The inhabitant will not say, 'I am sick'" (Isaiah 33:24). Imagine a world with no disease, no hospitals, and no pain. The Bible calls heaven a place where these "former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

This restoration will also include the animal kingdom. Isaiah paints a remarkable picture of harmony among creatures that today are enemies:

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, ... and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11:6).

The prophet continues by saying that even the lion will eat straw like the ox (v. 7). The violence and fear that dominate nature today will disappear when God restores the earth to its original condition. Nothing will hurt or destroy in God's kingdom (v. 9).

## Glorified Bodies

Sometimes people imagine heaven as a ghostlike existence where we drift around without real bodies, but the Bible teaches something very different.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples and invited them to touch Him. He said, "A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (Luke 24:39). Christ even ate food with them to demonstrate





that He was truly tangible. The apostle Paul explains that believers will receive a body like Christ's resurrected body. "The Lord Jesus Christ . . . will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body" (Philippians 3:20, 21).

In heaven, we will not be disembodied spirits. We will live, eat, walk, talk, and explore the wonders of God's creation in perfect, immortal bodies.

People often wonder whether we will recognize our loved ones in heaven with brand-new bodies. The Bible strongly suggests that we will. Paul writes, "Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Heaven will not diminish our understanding; it will enhance our discernment. The redeemed will have clearer minds and deeper insight than ever before. Reunion with family and friends who love Christ will be one of the greatest joys of eternity.

## The Greatest Joy of Heaven

Golden streets, the river of life, and perfect health are wonderful promises. Yet the greatest blessing of heaven is even more profound.

Revelation declares, "God Himself will be with them and be their God" (21:3).

For thousands of years, sin has separated humanity from the direct presence of God. But in the new earth, that separation will be gone forever. The redeemed will see

their Creator face to face and dwell in His presence. "In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

The Bible also gives a solemn promise. Revelation says that nothing sinful will enter the city: "There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles" (Revelation 21:27).

Sin is what brought suffering into the universe. God would never allow it to rise again.


That is why Jesus came to this world—to forgive sin and transform lives. When a person accepts Christ, the Bible says they become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). God begins preparing them for the kingdom He has promised.

Jesus summarized the secret of life in one simple instruction: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). When we make God's kingdom our first priority, everything else falls into its proper place.

## A Glorious Finale

The Bible's story begins in a beautiful garden, where happy humans listened to an evil serpent and lost access to the tree of life. It ends with the serpent destroyed and paradise restored, where the redeemed once again eat from that tree and live forever.

In between those two scenes stands the cross of Christ, where Jesus gave His life so we could enter that eternal kingdom.

The good news is that God wants every one of us to be there. Heaven is not reserved for an elite few. It is offered to anyone, to whosoever will trust Christ and follow Him. Will you accept that heavenly invitation? When you finally walk through those gates of pearl and stand inside the city of God, you may look around in wonder and say the same words the Queen of Sheba once spoke: "The half was not told me." 

# BUILD BETTER BALANCE!

## Improve Your Stability at Any Age

By Laurie Lyon

**Every year**, about 1 in 4 Americans age 65 or older experiences an accidental fall.<sup>1</sup> That adds up to tens of millions of falls annually that cause millions of injuries. Tragically, more than 40,000 older adults died from such injuries in 2024, and the number is rising. Adding to the devastation of this statistic is the fact that most of these falls are preventable.<sup>2</sup>

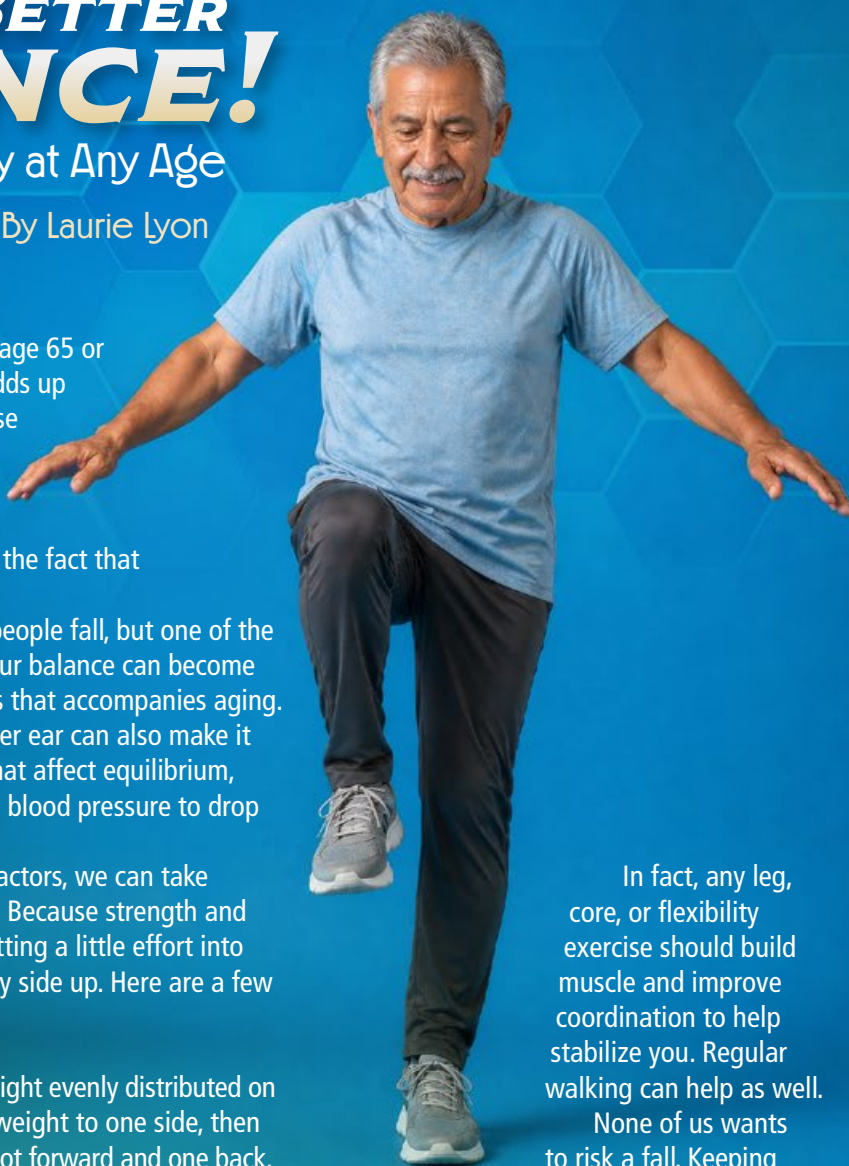
Of course, there are countless reasons people fall, but one of the most common is poor balance. As we age, our balance can become less reliable. This is partly due to muscle loss that accompanies aging. A decline in the vestibular system of the inner ear can also make it harder to stay steady. So can medications that affect equilibrium, or orthostatic hypotension, which can cause blood pressure to drop excessively when standing up.

Though we can't always control these factors, we can take steady steps toward enhancing our balance. Because strength and flexibility are essential for good balance, putting a little effort into building them is likely to help you stay sunny side up. Here are a few moves to get you started:

**Shift your weight.** Start with your weight evenly distributed on both legs. Gradually shift most of your weight to one side, then the other. You can also try putting one foot forward and one back, then shift your weight from one to the other. Or stand on tiptoes, raising your heels. Be sure to hold onto something solid if you need to steady yourself, such as a countertop or heavy table.<sup>3</sup>


**Balance on one leg.** Stand on one leg, lifting the other. Try to hold that position for 30 seconds. Then switch legs. Hold onto solid furniture as needed.<sup>3</sup>

**Do lunges.** Put one leg forward, bend your front knee, then lower your body until your thigh is parallel to the floor. Hold for 10 to 20 seconds, then step forward with the opposite leg and repeat. If you feel unsteady, hold on to a solid piece of furniture and lunge in place.<sup>4</sup>



In fact, any leg, core, or flexibility exercise should build muscle and improve coordination to help stabilize you. Regular walking can help as well.

None of us wants to risk a fall. Keeping your floor clear of loose objects, adding light to dim rooms, consulting a doctor promptly if you experience dizziness or lightheadedness, and practicing balance and other exercises should go a long way toward keeping you safe.

As you grow steadier on your feet, remember that God guides your steps in a deeper sense, for He is the One who keeps us from stumbling spiritually. His Word gives this encouragement: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, . . . be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever" (Jude 1:24, 25 KJV). 

1 <https://www.cdc.gov/steady/patient-resources/index.html>

2 <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/home-and-community/safety-topics/older-adult-falls/>

3 <https://www.verywellhealth.com/balance-exercise-for-seniors-11857703>

4 <https://www.webmd.com/healthy-aging/best-balance-exercises-for-seniors>

# RODNEY DALE THOMPSON



Pastor Rod Thompson was one of those rare leaders whose influence could be felt in nearly every corner of Amazing Facts International. As executive secretary, human resources director, and a member of the ministry's executive council, he quietly helped carry countless responsibilities while serving others with humility, wisdom, and unwavering dedication.

He passed to his rest in Jesus on April 24, 2026, after a brief but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He will be greatly missed by our ministry team.

## A Servant Leader

Pastor Rod joined the Amazing Facts team in 2019 after many years of pastoral ministry in his home state of Michigan. He had also served in the military and operated his own telecommunications business. Those experiences shaped a man known for strong leadership, practical wisdom, deep commitment to evangelism, and an extraordinary work ethic.

He often stepped into difficult situations others avoided, working behind the scenes to ensure the ministry functioned smoothly and efficiently.

"He exemplified the principle of servant leadership," says Craig Allred, assistant HR director. One of Craig's earliest memories of Pastor Rod was shoveling landscaping rocks together in dress clothes. "I'll never forget what I learned as we shoveled that pile of rocks in our suits."


Mike Rich, vice president of finance, worked closely with Pastor Rod on numerous projects. "You didn't always notice what he was doing," Mike recalled, "but he was very good at making things easier for everyone—both up and down the ladder."

Despite his military background and often serious demeanor, coworkers and friends remember him for his humor, kindness,

and genuine care for people. He enjoyed golf, go-kart racing, and spending time with friends, but many say his greatest gift was his pastoral heart.

"He was the consummate pastor to all of our team," Pastor Doug reflects. "His worship talks and sermons were always a blessing. The last time we saw him, he offered to pray for us before we could pray for him. That's what he was like—always watching out for others."

Pastor Rod will also be deeply missed at the Folsom church plant, where he served as pastor for the past four years, investing countless volunteer hours to help nurture and strengthen the young congregation. "Pastor Rod was a great teacher," remembers Daniel Barr, an elder at the Folsom church plant. "He exuded joy and the character of Christ. The Holy Spirit definitely filled him and spoke through him when he preached."

Pastor Rod leaves behind a legacy of faithful service, leadership, and Christlike love. Our prayers remain with his wife, Sabrina, and his family as they look forward to the blessed hope of Christ's return. 



# Hugging a LION

By Laurie Lyon



Christian the lion was only a few months old when two young men from Australia spotted him in the front window of a department store in London. Deciding to buy the little cub, they took him home to their apartment, which was above the antique furniture store where they worked.

The men were kind to Christian and took good care of him, but he grew rapidly. Soon, he needed a bigger space, so they made a place for him in the basement. Every day, they took him for walks and played with him. But a big city is no place for a growing lion.

Christian was over a year old and getting big when the men arranged for George Adamson, a conservationist in Kenya, to introduce Christian to the wild in Africa, so he could live a free life in his natural habitat. The plan was a success!

A couple of years went by, and the men missed their old friend. One day, they decided to visit Kenya and see whether Christian would recognize them. When they found him, he approached them very cautiously. But when he got close enough to see them clearly and recognize their scent, the lion knew they were the ones who had so carefully raised him. Running to the men, he jumped up on them and wrapped his huge, furry paws around their necks, hugging them. It was a happy reunion!

Can you imagine hugging a full-grown lion without fear of being eaten? Most of the time on this earth, it isn't possible—but in heaven it will be! When Jesus creates the new earth, all the animals will be tame. Even lions!

- LEOPARD
- SERPENT
- SHEEP
- LION
- BIRDS
- GOAT
- CALF
- WOLF
- BEAR
- COW

Besides interacting with beautiful animals, there will be thousands of exciting things to do in the new earth. For example, we will spend time with our friends and family members who love God—going for hikes, exploring new things, planting gardens, making music, building things, eating delicious food, making new friends, spending time with Jesus, and much, much more! Our new world will have no sin, sickness, pain, or death. Instead, it will be full of joy—forever.

Jesus loves you so much. Keep reading about Him, praying, and trusting Him every day so you'll be ready to go home with Him when He returns!

Below are the names of some of the animals the Bible says will be in the new earth. Find and circle them in the puzzle.

E	Z	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	M
E	T	G	O	R	E	L	P	O	T
S	G	W	X	T	W	X	I	S	G
M	E	W	X	H	T	E	B	O	S
O	S	R	O	D	S	C	I	V	N
Y	G	H	P	L	B	A	C	G	G
B	U	H	E	E	F	L	O	O	E
P	E	R	F	E	N	F	W	A	G
G	L	A	Q	J	P	T	Q	T	B
O	C	A	R	M	B	I	R	D	S

# Bible Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



## What is hell—and when and where does it occur?



While there are many myths that attempt to describe hell, among the most popular is the belief that it is a fiery chamber deep within the molten caverns of Earth, that people go there immediately at death, and that they remain conscious in torment forever.

However, a careful reading of Scripture reveals a different picture.

The Bible teaches that no humans are currently in hell. Peter says that God knows “how to ... reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2:9). Notice the timing: The wicked are *reserved* for a future day of judgment, meaning they are not presently enduring punishment.

Jesus also explained when the destruction of the wicked would occur. In the parable of the tares, He said, “As the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire” (Matthew 13:40–42). Christ places this event at “the end of this age.”


Where does this fire come from? Ezekiel says, “I will rain down on him ... and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” (38:22).

Revelation likewise says, “They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints. ... And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them” (20:9). The fire does not burn somewhere underground; it comes down from God above at the time of final judgment.

Scripture also declares, “Our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29), and, “The day is coming, burning like an oven, ... that will leave them neither root nor branch. ... They shall be ashes under the soles of your feet” (Malachi 4:1, 3). This describes destruction, not ongoing torment.

What about the “hell” mentioned in 2 Peter 2:4? The passage refers to fallen angels being cast down and held in “chains of darkness.” This corresponds to Satan and his angels being cast out of heaven to the earth (Revelation 12:9). The “chains” are symbolic of restraint and darkness, not a burning chamber beneath the ground.

Additionally, the Bible consistently teaches that the dead are not conscious. Jesus said, “The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28, 29). The dead are in their graves, awaiting resurrection—not suffering in hell.

Only after the final judgment will the wicked face destruction in the “lake of fire,” which is called “the second death” (Revelation 20:14). Until that time, there is no burning hell where people are now being punished. 



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



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