Hello,

Can you imagine receiving a special message in a bottle-years and years after it was tossed into the ocean? For many, it would be like a fairytale come true.

But for Buddy, drowning his sorrows in a bottle of alcohol was no fairytale at all-and it became more like a living nightmare when he was thrown into jail for burglary and selling drugs. Even after his release, life continued to spiral downward for him until... finally... he reached his rock-bottom breaking point. And that's when God moved in a powerful way.

Discover how God used your partnership with Amazing Facts to deliver Buddy and his family a transforming message of hope that turned their world around!
Message of Hope

An Amazing Fact: In 1914, British World War I soldier Private Thomas Hughes tossed a green beer bottle containing a letter to his wife into the English Channel. He was killed two days later fighting in France. In 1999, fisherman Steve Gowan found the bottle in the Thames River. The intended recipient of the letter had died in 1979, so it was delivered to Hughes’ 86-year-old daughter, who was living in New Zealand.

Message of Hope

Can you imagine receiving a special message in a bottle—years and years after it was tossed into the ocean? For many, it would be like a fairytale come true.

Yet far too often, people search for answers to life’s problems in another kind of bottle—a bottle of alcohol. That’s what happened to Buddy. Stealing, gambling, drugs, and liquor were dragging him through a never-ending cycle of pain, until …

Well, we’ll get to that in a moment. Let’s hear a little more about Buddy’s search for answers in his own words—

“I was baptized as a young teen into the church but soon rebelled and left that behind. My mother occasionally sent me religious materials to encourage me in the right direction. Among the things she sent years ago that I never forgot—a sermon by Pastor Doug Batchelor.

“At a young age I started a life of stealing. It began with shoplifting. It was like a sport, but it grew into burglarizing homes, joyriding in dealership cars, and eventually drugs and alcohol. At 15 I did landscape work and used this business to gain the trust of my clients so I could burglarize their homes. When I was 16 my father helped me get a job at a grocery store where I stole money from cash registers without it showing up in their system. Before I was 17 I had been arrested twice.

“I was also using alcohol and started looking to sell drugs. By 23 I was in jail. But this didn’t keep me from breaking the law. I helped smuggle in drugs and bootleg liquor. Soon after I was released, I went right back into a life of stealing, drugs, and alcohol. I was guilty of adultery too … and so much more.

“I got married, for a third time, to a woman involved in the occult. She tried communicating with the spirits of the dead. Around three months into the marriage, strange things began happening. At night the front door would open yet no one came in. I couldn’t sleep. Deep down inside I was afraid. We eventually divorced.

“In 2006, I got married again. God was calling me to change my life. … A coworker of mine gave my wife a prophecy DVD series. As we watched them, it brought back memories of things I had learned as a young teen. I recalled watching that sermon by Pastor Doug that my mother had sent me years before.

“One night I went to bed thinking about my drug habit. I slept restless and awoke early feeling unstable and shaky. After my wife left for work, I started searching the house for my Bible and the other things my mother had sent me. Then I secluded myself in my room.
Suddenly everything started breaking down inside of me, and I began crying to God to help me. I was shaking and tried to read. I had hit rock bottom. It was the first step toward change.

"I was at a crossroad. I knew in my heart that it was now or never. I had overdosed several times, and my health was a mess. This was a turning point that I could not pass by. I might not ever hear Him call to me again.

"The next day I felt an urgency in my heart to visit Pastor Doug's church in Sacramento. After a couple weeks my wife joined me. We were thrilled to hear the messages. Pastor Mike Thompson introduced himself and invited us to stay for the luncheon. Then he came to our home to study the Bible using the Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides. Soon after my wife and I were baptized, and my daughter was baptized three months later!

"My life has improved so much. Through God's power, I've overcome all my addictions. My health has improved. And my family is happy and united. God has also helped me to be a loving family man. The Lord is merciful. God has blessed me beyond measure."

Buddy and his family are now actively involved serving their church. And they continue to grow in their walk with Christ through materials from Amazing Facts. Buddy says,

"My wife and I visit the Amazing Facts web page to read articles. We have also purchased books and other items through the Amazing Facts catalog. The New Revelation Bible study series with Pastor Doug helped prepare us for baptism."

The turning point in Buddy's testimony was when he turned from looking for answers in a bottle to finding the answers in the Word of Christ. He says, "My life is much more peaceful and restful with Jesus in my life daily."

Amazing Facts is helping to change lives, like Buddy's. People are looking for purpose in all the wrong places. But because of generous supporters like you, Amazing Facts is pointing people to the only real answer ... Jesus.

That is why I love to share stories like this one with you. In many ways, Buddy's story is a part of your story of faith. God used your support to reach Buddy and his family at just the right time through the ministry of Amazing Facts. It's truly a blessing to me to have a friend like you to count on in this work.

Buddy's story also motivates me to keep reaching people who are searching. Our websites, live local Bible seminars, TV and radio programs, Bible study guides, DVDs and books, and training events are all focused on helping seekers find a more peaceful and restful life with Jesus.

But without your support, this work isn’t possible. And it certainly isn’t getting easier for Amazing Facts in this economy. That’s why I ask you to consider an extra contribution this month to help more people like Buddy.

Sending out a message of hope,

Pastor Doug Batchelor

Click here to give today!

Please partner with Amazing Facts. You can be part of more stories like Buddy’s ... and we will continue to build up the kingdom together through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Posted on October 19, 2011 16:07 by Anthony Lester

6 Comments

Diane
Thursday, October 20, 2011 6:50 PM

Well, Thank God for changing your life. But first of all, you were the one who wanted to be rescued and God saved. How wonderful. My son is going through a very strong link in his life of not being able to see 3 feet ahead of himself and even accepts things that are contrary to the Lords' wishes. In return, thank you for the hope you give me in knowing God answers prayers. My son felt liberated from sins one day and told me that he knows God had forgiven him and that he wanted to serve Him. 1 and 1/2 year later he is still living an unquestionable impossible situation that for him he just cannot get himself to get out of. He needs our prayers very badly, he is having a depression along with dependent affection syndrome which makes his life just unreal. Please pray for our beloved boy who is blinded by the evil side. Thankyou so much in Jesus' name. _

Mary Frances Groves
Thursday, October 20, 2011 6:53 PM

Every day I thank God for Amazing Facts. God has blessed this Ministry and used it in ways that make my head spin! Nothing is too great for God and He is using this ministry to reach young and old. Here I am nearly 80 and enjoying the new DVDs that arrived this week: Amazing Adventure, MIQ, and others! I ordered these to share with the young ones in my family and neighborhood but they are also a great blessing to me! Pastor Doug sticks right with the Bible and makes everything so interesting and clear. Oh how I wish I could send millions of dollars to Amazing Facts! My donations are small at this time but they come from a thankful heart that just wants to participate in this wonderful tool of God. Praying always for everyone connected with Amazing Facts and for everyone seeing and hearing these Bible Truths. Lovingly, Mary Frances
Don Walters
Thursday, October 20, 2011 7:20 PM

I would like to say that Amazing Facts and Pastor Doug have brought me back to the church and in September I was baptized or rebaptized. In 1992, I went to a Revelations and Daniel seminar and went to that church for some time but divorce and alcohol and drugs drew me away. I moved around a lot getting into selling prescription drugs. I was on a lot of pain meds and other people wanted me to sell them so I ended up in jail and at my age it was not pleasant so as I moved more I tried to stop my meds and almost died. I'm still dealing with my pain and I have cut down on my meds but I got to listening to Pastor Doug on Sundays then I found him on the internet, and the more I watched the more sense he made and because he had done things I had done it was helpful to see that God helped him, and the fact that he didn't take money from his father impressed me. He was glorifying our Father in heaven, so I had to find an SDA church here in Smith Falls and I did. I went a bit until our new Pastor who is a true Christian Peter Caran taught me so much on how to love people and not judge. I had to find a church where he was glad my new Pastor who is a true Christian Peter Caran taught me so much on how to love people and not judge. The day of my baptism Satan tried to keep me home. I had been sick the night before and we had dates mixed up, but for some reason I had my bag with my shorts and runners ready and I got a call from church some of the members wanted to know if I was coming. I got a ride to church and then to where we had pick out a spot me and the Pastor, because of my bad back Pastor worried about dunking me in backways but it went well and each day the Holy Spirit is working in my life. I had to find another since My God keep Blessing Amazing Facts and Pastor Doug and all at Amazing Facts.

Steven Pitts
Thursday, October 20, 2011 8:04 PM

The work of Christ. He shows up right on time. every time. "It is God who girds me with strength he makes my way perfect." Psalm 18:32

Carmelita H. Cooksey
Thursday, October 20, 2011 8:49 PM

Thank you so much for Buddy’s story. Until recently, I was donating $20 per month, but had to move to Pennsylvania because my oldest son has liver cancer and is undergoing chemo. My expenses here are greater than before, so I can only contribute $5 per month. But I want you all to know that I pray every night for Amazing Facts and the wonderful work you are doing. I ask the Lord to bless you by increasing your income, and that you can accomplish all you endeavor. God bless you all and the work you do. I look forward to the time when I can give more.

david bening
Thursday, October 20, 2011 10:28 PM

Amen, to that great testimony!

God Bless you all, David

IMPORTANT NOTE
To ensure a Christian atmosphere, comments are heavily moderated. They are designed for Christian support, fellowship, and inspiration. They are not designed to be a forum for debate. Please keep the following in mind. Comments will not be approved if:

1. They exceed 500 characters
2. They include links to or promotions of other websites
3. They use excessive all-caps (this indicates shouting)
4. They are rude, racist, or otherwise disrespectful
5. They have profanity or derogatory comments

Please submit prayer requests here, not in the comments and submit questions about articles here.

Post Comment
Name (required)
Email (required)

Enter the code shown above:
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