Hello,

Perhaps enchanted by the world, some slowly wandered from their church homes. Others stopped attending because of some conflict with another member or the pastor. Perhaps a sickness or a death shook their faith. For others, the stress of work and family might have eclipsed their vibrant relationship with Jesus. Whatever the cause, now their seats at the church are empty.

But it’s not hopeless!

Join Pastor Doug as he uncovers the tragic reality of souls who have wandered from the church-and learn how you can help restore God’s missing children to their church family. It's a message you simply can't miss if you know one of His
straying sheep!

Find out more!
Missing Children … Found!

An Amazing Fact: In 1991, 11-year-old Jaycee Lee Dugard was abducted at a school bus stop within sight of her home in South Lake Tahoe, California. With few reliable leads, friends and family feared the worst—Jaycee had vanished without a trace. Then 18 years later, 29-year-old Jaycee was located in Antioch, California, 150 miles from her home, living with her abductors, Phillip and Nancy Garrido. During her long captivity, Jaycee was kept concealed in Garrido’s backyard where she bore two daughters in connection with her abuse. On June 2, 2011, Phillip Garrido was sentenced to 431 years in prison; his wife received 36 years to life.

Have you ever misplaced a child? In crowded markets or airports, young children sometimes wander from their parents. It happened to me. Once in a busy mall, I lost track of one of our boys when he was about three years old. At first I anxiously called his name. Then as the moments passed, I became increasingly frantic as a number of frightening scenarios went through my mind. “Is he lost?” “Is he hurt?” “Has he been abducted?” And then … oh! … what a relief when I found him!

It is heart wrenching for me to even imagine what it would be like to go through 18 years wondering what had become of a son or daughter, sister, or grandchild who had vanished.

Missing Members
In considering this tragic reality, I’m reminded of another group of “missing children.” I’m talking about people who were once faithful and regular church members.

But then something happened…
Perhaps enchanted by the world, some slowly wandered from their church homes. Others stopped attending because of some conflict with another member or the pastor offended them. Perhaps a sickness or a death shook their faith. For others, the plain hectic stress of work and family might have eclipsed their vibrant relationship with Jesus.

But whatever the cause, now their seats at the church are empty.

Every church in the world has missing members. Some surveys indicate that more than 50 percent of the people who once joined and attended church no longer do. That’s not a misprint—50 percent! And with many churches, only a fraction of those “on the books” regularly attend. It’s staggering to think of literally millions who have gone missing from their churches. You can probably think of some names right now.

Just as an army is weakened when 50 percent of their soldiers go AWOL, so too is the church crippled in their mission through this multitude of missing members. The fallout of this can be seen not only in stagnant church growth and declining moral values, but also in the gaping vacuum of workers for God.

A Call to Return
So what can be done? I believe there is an answer, and I’m asking you today to take some practical steps to help combat this real and growing problem and to recover a harvest of these missing children.

God has opened a wonderful door of opportunity for Amazing Facts to address the enormous problem of church family members who have gone missing. January 13 to 15, 2012, we will present a special live television series on the Hope Channel called Restoring Your Faith.

In this special program, which will be an “all points bulletin” about missing members, we’ll address head-on the four main issues that cause people to leave the church or stop attending:

Division: This program will help people resolve conflicts and issues that left them feeling betrayed or wounded by another church member.

Distraction: In this presentation, we will expose the illusion that peace and happiness can come from the things of the world apart from Christ.

Doctrinal: Some cease attending because they believe their churches no longer teach the whole counsel of God or they struggle accepting some point of truth. We’ll tackle that problem in this program.

Dedication: Many have failed to recognize the crucial value of corporate church worship. This presentation will highlight the importance of regular fellowship with Christ’s body.

The Plan
We all know some missing members. So what if there was a unique program where you could invite some of these individuals into your home or church for some refreshments and a spiritual presentation? Some would surely come.

If we fervently pray and commit ourselves to this effort, I believe God can work miracles. This is not a hopeless problem! There is still power in the Word, and we can bring a multitude of these “lost sheep” back into the fold. That’s why I’m asking for your help today. Your support this month will help Amazing Facts produce the materials and purchase the airtime for the broadcast of this series.

Click here to partner with us in reaching our missing family.

I believe many of these people are just waiting to be nudged back to church. They can see the world is gyrating out of control, and they are apprehensive about the future. This program can be their first step back. We must make sure that when they do come home, we will welcome them with open arms.

Moreover, if God could open our spiritual eyes a little wider, we would see that there are multitudes in the church whose faith is hanging by a thread. This series will be just the thing they need to reinforce their commitment.
Think about how parents feel when their children “vanish.” How much more does the heart of Jesus ache when He sees the vast multitude of His children who have been abducted by the enemy?

Finally, I believe God has especially called and prepared this ministry for the challenges of our time, and I want you to know how much we appreciate your prayers and financial support as we do the work of the ministry all across the globe.

Yours in the search party,
Doug Batchelor

Please Give Today!
Click here to give.
You can play a crucial role in returning these “missing children” to their church families.
Please stand with us today in helping us make Restoring Your Faith outreach possible.