"There is a serious leak of members draining from our North American churches. If this breech is not soon addressed, it will eventually erupt... causing a tragic, escalating loss of souls." -Pastor Doug

Today you have the power to do something that can turn the tide and bring thousands of missing sheep back into the fold of Jesus Christ. Pastor Doug explores the awesome opportunities we have as a church and as individual members to reclaim former members and begin growing our church when it matters the most.

Read More...
Reclaiming Faith and Plugging the Leak

There is a serious leak of members draining from our North American churches. If this breech is not soon addressed, it will eventually erupt … causing a tragic, escalating loss of souls.

Reclaiming Faith and Plugging the Leak

I believe there are steps we can take together to help plug this leak.

More Than a Little Leak

It saddens me to even read these statistics:

- Each year 4,000 churches in America close their doors permanently.
- 150,000 people leave churches for good every week.
- 32 percent of people surveyed after leaving church report that no one from their congregations ever contacted them.

These are pretty awful numbers on their own, but compound these them with the fact that 50 percent of churches have not added any new members in the last two years—and you realize that congregations in America, no matter their denomination, are hemorrhaging!

Nearly three-quarters of those who once professed to love and accept Jesus no longer attend church. You probably know one close to your heart. I do, and it hurts deeply. What can be done to reach them?

Repairing the Breach

Amazing Facts has a plan to help plug this leak and bring many of these missing members back home. At the beginning of 2012, we're teaming up with Hope Channel to reach out to former members by broadcasting a new four-part program called Reclaim Your Faith. But this will only make a difference if we work together.

This special series will be broadcast on DirecTV and other television providers from January 13–15. I'm preparing these special messages to touch the hearts of Christians who have left the church for a myriad of reasons. The idea is to contact these former members, invite them into our homes and preparing these special messages to touch the hearts of Christians who have left the church for a myriad of reasons. The idea is to contact these former members, invite them into our homes and churches to view the programs, and pray for the Spirit to touch their hearts.

So why do people leave? About 2.7 million former church members reported they drifted from church activity due to their lives being too busy, while 25 percent said they no longer believed in some of the teachings of the church. Surprisingly, the vast majority indicated that they simply didn't like a pastor or had some conflict with another member. During the Reclaim Your Faith series, I will address all these issues in the hopes of helping people reconsider their decision to drift.

By God's wonder-working grace, Amazing Facts has already been successful at calling even the most hardened missing members back home.

Lori writes, “Jesus must have known I was going to see this email from you. I had to leave work early because one of my kids was suicidal, and this message was just what I needed to see because I almost lost all hope myself. I have enrolled in your online Bible course. Thank you for giving to the Lord. I was a life that was saved. … I will be praying and going back to church and reaching out to God.”

I want to multiply testimonies like these exponentially, don't you? And I believe Reclaim Your Faith is a powerful step. So please join with me today.

Express Your Faith By Sending a Gift Today.

Indeed, Jesus told us we should be especially involved in searching for the lost sheep who have drifted
from the church (Matthew 10:6). I want to attract these former members by addressing their valid, heartfelt objections in a kind, biblical manner.

**Perfect Timing**

Friend, I believe the timing for Reclaim Your Faith is perfect. Why? Because everything around it signals a global, spiritual convergence that gives us the highest chance for success.

As you know, many former churchgoers left during their teen or young adult years, becoming distracted with "the cares of life." Yet with the recent increase in major global disasters, many of these individuals are now pondering what they once learned in church. They are wondering if we are witnessing the end of time. They are reconsidering the faith they once held and thinking the Bible might be true.

Plus, at the dawn of a new year, people are reassessing their lives. It is a perfect time to move forward and invite these precious souls back into the fold of Christ. Do you know someone who has drifted? I believe God is calling you and me to work together to repair the breach and to gather our family together again!

**Making It Happen**

If the members of our congregations across America work with each other to call these missing souls back home, we can help stop the leak and see our churches grow.

So I hope you will not only commit to this outreach financially, but also prayerfully and actively. Please consider taking these steps in preparation for this one-of-a-kind event:

1. **Pray:** Without the mighty blessing of God, Amazing Facts has no power to trigger a mass return of missing members (Psalm 127:1). But God promises, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). Does anything more need to be said? Please pray!

2. **Invite:** "Come, and let us go up to … the house of the God of Jacob" (Micah 4:2). The biggest issue facing former members is how to reconnect with the church. Many are simply waiting for an invitation, but others might need a bridge. Reclaim Your Faith is a wonderful opportunity to invite them into your home for a little warm soup and bread and view the programs with you. This step can easily build a path back to the church.

3. **Receive:** “Receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7). The Bible says we should be prepared to receive with open arms those who return, as the father received the prodigal son. Our churches should be prepared to warmly welcome any returning sheep. Remember, we’ll have eternity to understand our differences.

4. **Give:** “Give, and it will be given to you” (Luke 6:38). Can you think of a better cause than to reclaim these wandering sheep? As we invest in this mission, I believe Jesus will honor our faith. And even if you don’t have a lot to give in this economy, even a small gift will make a profound difference—and will be noted by the angels in heaven (Luke 21:4–7).

As you follow these four simple steps, Amazing Facts will be doing everything in our power to reach the souls missing their church homes and eager to find a door back to God. It could even be one of your friends or family members.

**Thinking Big**

We’re going to aggressively advertise Reclaim Your Faith with an extensive Facebook and Google presence, as well as through television and radio ads. We’ll also be working to offer resources to churches to help them reclaim their missing members during the series.

The cost for this national outreach is significant—$170,000. And because it begins in just a few weeks, we urgently need your gift today to make this event happen. Friend, do you believe it’s worth it to reach that wandering friend or family member and see them worshiping again in the house of God? Please consider sending a gift this month kissed with a prayer in their name—and let us know that name too so we can specifically pray for them, that we will one day soon welcome them back home.

Working together to gather the missing lambs,

Pastor Doug Batchelor

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**Make Your Tax-Deductible Contribution Today**

Click here to get started!

These missing sheep are our neighbors, friends, and family. Let’s do something together to reach them. Reclaim Your Faith is a far-reaching opportunity for churches to minister to countless former members. Your gift today will ensure this program is most effective in welcoming them back home.
All the people who have been Justified (Re-Born into Christ) have been shortly after Baptized by a measured portion of the Holy Spirit without delay as per Jesus Christ Loving specifications “despite of what His very, very busy schedule may imply.” The longest delay or the only delay that I can think of was that of the Pentecost. Jesus Christ assigns us a measured portion of the Holy Spirit for so great Loving reasons. God’s people are among many churches including the Laodicea, & Antichrist’s.

Brian Fort
Monday, December 05, 2011 7:12 PM
Pastor Doug, I have a lot of respect for you. You have earned it by speaking the plainly about grace without sacrificing truth. I don’t expect anything here, as I know you are busy, so I just want to publicly share why I no longer attend any church regularly.

I was slandered by someone in leadership over a misunderstanding, and the person doing the listening allowed it. When the person who bent their ear to the gossiper let it slip, I talked to each discretely as directed in Matthew 18:15. However, rather than apologize they both came up with excuse after excuse. With out going into the legion of excuses, the primary one was that they “had good intentions”. So they don't think they trespassed against me, because they believe they kept the spirit of the law. By that logic I can take their car, and say “I have good intentions” for it.

You may say that I shouldn’t forsake church over this, but my reply is that they have gone so far as to publicly rail at, and revile me. And their is complete disunity that has been created (proverbs 26:20-26). God isn’t there. And why would I return to a place where I’m allowed to be emotionally ripped to pieces? I’ve even had members tell me that I should allow myself to be crucified by other church members. Pharisee’s much?

The problem goes deeper than this. The doctrine of grace isn’t taught correctly. Grace is taught at the expense of truth. It's pretty much dispensation doctrine. And every behavior that is culturally acceptable is allowed among church members, even adultery! Matthew 16:15-17 is seen as outdated, and many of the things the Apostles wrote as well (1 John 2-3, 1 Corinthians 5, Ephesians 4:26). And the primary OT lesson about disobedience is ignored, which is that God doesn't protect us corporately while disobedience is allowed.

amarlab
Tuesday, December 06, 2011 2:20 PM
God is always right on time! It's hard to stay motivated in a small group especially when you don't always feel like you’re being spiritually fed. I admit I have seriously thought about not attending anymore but I try to hang in there. I look forward to your series with great anticipation! God bless.

Bobbi
Tuesday, December 06, 2011 2:54 PM
Dear Church, I am a member who has "leaked out". I didn't want too and never intended too. I think severe stress in life played a part along with no out reaching of support from my churches. (I've visited many, signed guest books,gave out my phone number and never heard from anyone). I live in TN in a very Adventist populated area and still wonder where everybody is. Every Sabbath I get up and want to go to church but just can't. So I read my Bible or watch a sermon on 3ABN. I used to be very active in church, now I feel worthless. I'm lonely for fellowship but afraid to search it out. I know there are many other "leaked out" members who feel like me.

CJ
Tuesday, December 06, 2011 4:26 PM
I’d like to respond to Brian. Truly, I think most Adventists could say they have had reason to leave the ‘church’, including myself. However, I know that is not the answer and the only person really getting hurt would be me. I would strongly encourage you to give more thought and prayer to returning to your church family. God needs 'you' there as an example, a blessing to others and to your Lord. It's well worth the effort to stay connected 'within' the church family. "Press together" is what we are encouraged to do. God bless you Brian.

Joe Gagliano
Tuesday, December 06, 2011 5:57 PM
Two thousand years ago the Jews had an attitude toward Jesus Christ that was like: "What's wrong with Him?" "Doesn't he realize who we are?" "That we are the chosen ones?!" "If not us, who?!" "We are it!!!" No matter what they heard directly from the Word of Jesus Christ, as per Romans 10:17 when read in full context. My point among a good few here is that Jesus Christ eventually left their house desolate, and that 2000 years later he would like to save the Laodicea Church from repeating.

Reclaiming Faith and Plugging the Leak > Amazing Facts
Amen. for the faithful.

... and he who had stood for thousands of years as the center of all the attention, must now decide (with our will) to be one, by putting God at the first place in everything. Doing so, we will have a life full of purpose, love, joy and peace. That is what Christianity is about: serving others with our Heavenly Father at our side.

Sitting in the church and doing nothing is very boring. Theology is useless if it don’t change the heart, but practical gospel can change our life and motivate us to share it to others. Church members need to be challenged about what they really believe and why. They also need to realize the beautiful comprehension of the gospel we have and it’s transforming power.

I still think that your program can be useful for churches that are ready to welcome people in and give them a mission, but for the unprepared churches it will be good to wake them up before.

God bless your work, and thank you for your ministry. It is keeping my faith alive.

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Seru Sauliga

Tuesday, December 06, 2011 6:57 PM

@Brian. I am a third generation adventist, and have witnessed countless members ridiculed and reviled openly or subtly in the name of truth. For one stand by this simple rule that every adventist christian should live as the master lived. He was true unto death even though we know for sure that he was unblemished. However I share your view and sympathize with your challenge. I have witnessed the lack of love and judgemental attitude in the church and how love and forgiveness has changed an entire situation within a day.

I praise the Lord for Pastor Doug Bachelor for inspiring him to such an important mission in bringing home the lost who have wandered away from the fold.

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Charlotte Curtis

Tuesday, December 06, 2011 7:37 PM

The church has changed! The Preachers no longer preach truth, they no longer minister to the congregation. Sermons are geared to a "child's" age, at the end-singing a clapping childish song. There is no substance to the sermons. No "Meat", nothing to educate, inform or make one want to study more. Childrens bible stories are misrepresented. When a preacher tells you that the bible is not for this stray sheep so that the Holy Spirit will fill his heart with forgiveness; because if a true Christian cannot forgive, we can rest assured that he/she has not been forgiven of any of his/her sins either.

He was true unto death even though we know for sure that he was unblemished. However I share your view and sympathize with your challenge. I have witnessed the lack of love and judgemental attitude in the church and how love and forgiveness has changed an entire situation within a day.

I praise the Lord for Pastor Doug Bachelor for inspiring him to such an important mission in bringing home the lost who have wandered away from the fold.

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Evelyn Bertresse

Tuesday, December 06, 2011 10:52 PM

Dear Pastor Doug;

Brother Fort has expressed some distressing sentiments while listing the reasons why he has stopped attending church. It sounds like he’s been hurt to the core of his being by this particular incident (“wounded sheep”). I, for one, can understand perfectly how he feels, because I have had similar experiences with the slanderers within the church. Those individuals are planted there by the enemy for such a time as this, because the judgment must start in the house of God.

However, I want to take this opportunity to encourage dear brother Fort to not allow the seed of bitterness that Satan has already sown, to take root in his heart. If he is not able to fully enjoy the worship experience in a particular congregation, then it might be worth his while to go to another church where he can enjoy worshiping in peace and come out refreshed and equipped to serve his fellowmen.

Obedience to God’s laws is not limited to the Ten Commandments only. There other imperatives throughout the entire bible that are as good as the Ten Commandments. One of them goes like this: “Do not forsake your assembly…” so, no excuses, brother Fort. And in 1Cor. 5:17, it is suggested that if “someone is in Christ, that person is a new creature…” By new creation, I understand that if you get slapped on one cheek, you are to turn the other one- or not? And this brother did not even get slapped for such a stray sheep so that the Holy Spirit will fill his heart with forgiveness; because if a true Christian cannot forgive, we can rest assured that he/she has not been forgiven of any of his/her sins either (Jesus himself said this). And that is a very dangerous place for a child of God to find himself at this crucial time in the history of this earth.

By the way, the gospel has been preached throughout the whole world already. No doubt about it, because the Holy Spirit has been at work, compelling individuals who refused to waste time, meddling, or dealing with the petty, to go forward into lost places of the world, reaching out to people who did not know God at this time. We are now on borough-red time. The servants of God are being sealed on their forehead. Now, it is every man for himself. The time is not for anyone to be pointing the fingers at anyone else, by being judgmental- that is just as Pharisaical as hypocrisy can get. It is time for bro Fort to empty himself out and focus on the prize, which is the crown of righteousness that Christ reserves for the faithful.

Our heavenly Father is only one with all the power, and He is coming soon!

Amen.
Truth be known we are being judged by two very important bible texts; Col. 2:16-23 and Rom.14:1-6,13

Gene Tary
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 3:56 AM
I was one of those missing souls from the church, and by listing to Amazing Facts on the radio I have been blessed. I have been going back to church know for 2 yrs have started a Male vocal band, and we spread the word through Music and what a wonderful time we have spreading Gods word, some can preach, some can teach, we sing. The way I made my way back to church was I had my own lawn business in AvonPark, Fla and the only radio station I could pick up was Amazing Facts, because I was to close to the transmitter at the school well that was a blessing from God because in 2 yrs I learned so much. May God Bless all of you and Pastor Doug I will be praying for you and your programs and you keep praying for me.

Dick and Marion Hutter Verschut
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 4:47 AM
In these last days it is very important to give Amazingfacts as much as support as possible. We do live in The Netherlands and so we do not receive Tax Deduction for a gift to Amazingfacts, but let’s face it, we all deal with the money of God and it is a honer to give His money to support Amazingfacts. Marion and Dick Hutter Verschut.

Damian
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 5:13 AM
I am really happy for this and it has inspired me to pay more attention to this issue plaguing our Churches worldwide. God bless.

Debbie Fox
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 5:29 AM
To Brian Fort,

Sometimes a person has to withdraw from abusive people in for personal sanity and self-protection. But as you are withdrawn from them, pray for them. Pray that God will show them the error of their ways. Pray that God will heal you and bring justice for you. Then if there is another SDA church within driving distance, go to the other church. If not, you will have to have your own personal services. But you need Christian fellowship, so try to find someone in the church that you can have fellowship with. If there is no one, then pray for God to send you someone. God loves you and He will not leave you friendless.

Debbie Fox
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 5:46 AM
To Brian Fort,

Sometimes a person has to withdraw from abusive people in for personal sanity and self-protection. But as you are withdrawn from them, pray for them. Pray that God will show them the error of their ways. Pray that God will heal you and bring justice for you. Then if there is another SDA church within driving distance, go to the other church. If not, you will have to have your own personal services. But you need Christian fellowship, so try to find someone in the church that you can have fellowship with. If there is no one, then pray for God to send you someone. God loves you and He will not leave you friendless.

Stuart Dixon
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 9:21 AM
The key to the church is being born again. Mrs. White states many times that the believers need a conversion experience. This will make a difference she says in the way we treat each other and those outside the church. We need a love for souls and a burning desire to win souls for Christ. Until this happens things will not change. This lack of a conversion experience might explain why people leave when they have a conflict with other members. I have found that all the churches I have gone to that there are folks waiting to be crossed so they have an excuse to leave. Many church members balk at the notion of being born again because they figure they belong to the remnant church and they are all set. But we all need to be converted daily.My prayer is that we all have that conversion experience and we shall see a big difference in the way things are in North America.

Richard Mills
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 9:39 AM
12/7/11-Pastor Doug-Hear this good news on SAC CENTRAL SS the other day. I have re-arranged the 4 suggestions to an acronym-GRIP. Give, Recieve, Invite, Pray. I am placing much of your article into our local SDA church newsletter for January 2012. Thanks-God Bless
Richard Mills, Middletown, New York

Michele Grenti
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 10:01 AM
You can't imagine how thrilled I am to see this problem being addressed. I sit in church so often and hear of all the success our church is having in foreign lands while there are those sitting next to us who are barely hanging on and I am ashamed to say we don't even know it. . . . thank you, I will be supporting this effort whole-heartedly. May divine wind be in your sails!!

Linda Bennett
of it. So, I quit going. I get more satisfaction in communing with the Lord by just going for a drive in the
sanctuary. While in the sanctuary, I can worship in the privacy of my own thoughts, and I'm not being
observed by others. Proper attire and proper behavior should be taught. In the sanctuary, we are in the
presence of God. The Bible says, "If you converse in the temple and someone sees you, he will say, "What
are you doing in the temple?" But if you answer, "I am a Christian," he will say, "What is so special about
being a Christian?" It will be like this in all the churches of God. (Romans 14:10-12). The second
commandment tells us to worship the Lord our only God. Jehovah's Law has been thrown out. A new
law is being taught by some. This is the law of love, the law of tolerance. In the sanctuary, we should
be taught proper attire and proper behavior. We should be in the presence of God in the sanctuary. We
should be teaching the health message. Much more attention needs to be placed on Daniel and
Revelation, the end-time prophecies. All this plus our mission as the remnant church should be
emphasized until all people in the sanctuary know what the Lord expects of us. Proper attire and the
proper attitude in the sanctuary should be taught. You're in the presence of God while in the sanctuary
so we can always bring glory to God in our response to it by allowing God Spirit of love, grace and
grace and service to be revealed in us and flow thru us and allows us to forgive and treat others who
have persecuted us with the same love and grace we have been given thru Christ even when we don't
derserve it, this is the resurrected power we are given in Christ. We are told that the wheat and tares
grow together till Christ comes that seems to mean to me that they will be in our homes and churches
too, but that is not an excuse leave them, how will God's love and grace be able to be seen in us and
drowned out to others and bear His testimony that He is able to sustain us, if we remove ourselves from
them. Just a thought. Blessings to you in your journey.

Ray Navarro
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 3:06 PM
I am responding to Brian Fort's comment.

One of the greatest evils I have witnessed, as a pastor, is just what happened to Brian. Often there are
assumptions made about someone in the church, then those assumptions are shared with someone
else. If this assumption is in regards to a questionable behavior or statement made by the "guilty"
party, then Jesus unequivocally stated how this should be handled: go bravely to that person privately
in healthy and Christian confrontation.

Frankly, there is too much cowardice in this area. I know it is not easy to do--it doesn't come natural to
me. But it must be done in a loving spirit. In Brian's case, it was an unfortunate misunderstanding. To
underscore a truth, the person listening to the gossip is just as guilty as the gossiper. The best way to
kill a rumor is to not repeat it. In this case, the leaders involved should have apologized to Brian, and, if
this was made public, should have apologized publicly in a discreet and succinct manner. I'm sorry that
this led Brian to leave church but more sorry that this was not corrected in the minds and hearts of the
leaders--at least that is the impression.

Oh, how Matthew 18 is PERFECT counsel from Christ!!! If followed correctly, it would prevent countless
sins in the church!!!

And I do agree that grace is not taught correctly nowadays. In my opinion it has become a catch
phrase to attract people and has been cheapened at the expense of neglecting right and holy living.
Personal holiness, overcoming of self, character perfection, etc. have been negatively labeled in spite
of the fact that the NT is absolutely saturated with the concept. No, it is not the Ten Commandments
that teach me to say no (not merely verbal, but an inner, spiritual "no") to ungodliness, but the grace of
Jesus (Titus 2:11, 12). His forgiving and empowering grace leads me to walk like Him (Col 2:6, 1 Jn
2:6), not like my old self. Grace and Obedience are married. What God has joined together, let not
man separate. Better a public "scolding" of the congregation (and me) for not living up to Christ's
standards and living in obedience throughout the week--empowered by His grace as given to us with an
infilling of His Spirit--then to tolerate disgusting sentimentalism and a "grace" mentality that leads to
tolerating sins in the church as the one described here by Brian.

I hope you, Brian, find another SDA church to attend and not give up altogether on fellowshipship
with brethren. You may have been injured, yes, but don't let others rob you of your convictions, vis-a-vis
Hebrews 10:25.

Thom Fuhriman
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 3:41 PM
in regard to brother Brian Fort's situation, I experienced nearly the same circumstances when I was a
young newlywed. I left the church for many years with a chip on my shoulder! My mother would tell me
that I was not going to church to listen to people but to listen to God every chance she had. Well it
finally sunk-in, I returned to church with my wife who died two years afterwards. God directed me to a
second life-mate through Single Adventist Connection. We are both active, serving, and in love with
our savior. Amen

Dan Schultz
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 6:56 PM
Pastor Doug,
While there are many and varied reasons why a person may quit going to church, and your upcoming
event may bring some members back, I believe it's going to take a whole lot more than a few sermons
to bring a lot of us back to church. I quit going over 5 year ago because the church I was going to I
believe to be spiritually dead, and, the church has a liberal attitude that I don't agree with. Other area
churches are incredibly small (8-10 people) with no pastors. While some elders do their best, they just
seem to be lacking as inspiring leaders of their local church.

The few people I know who also no longer attend church, don't attend because of some of the same
reasons, among others. Many churches are asleep and nobody seems to want to wake them up. I
don't hear any bold sermons on present truth lest some people in the congregation become offended;
this led Brian to leave church but more sorry that this was not corrected in the minds and hearts of the
leaders--at least that is the impression.

This is in response to Brian Fort's comment

I can't help but respond for I was just reading in my devotional this morning title- what can persecution
prove? using 1Peter 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit
of glory, which is the Spirit of God is resting in you. Whenever "self" is alive in us we will persecute
those who we think are infringing on our "self" rights. However if we have died to self- then its feelings
can't be hurt because the dead know not or feel anything. And we have been resurrected to a new life in
Christ and we have been promised the Holy Spirit who will give us the grace in times of persecution so
we can always bring glory to God in our response to it by allowing God Spirit of love, grace and service
to be revealed in us and flow thru us and allows us to forgive and treat others who have persecuted us
with the same love and grace we have been given thru Christ even when we don't deserve it, this is the
resurrected power we are given in Christ. We are told that the wheat and tares grow together till
Christ comes that seems to mean to me that they will be in our homes and churches too, but that is not
an excuse leave them, how will God's love and grace be able to be seen in us and shown to others
and bear His testimony that He is able to sustain us, if we remove ourselves from them. Just a
thought. Blessings to you in your journey.
peace and quiet of the country on the Sabbath and marveling at the creative beauty of the Lord.

S. M. Shobe
Thursday, December 08, 2011 12:54 PM

I have prayed and prayed about adding my comments and I am impressed to tell you that you have missed one very important reason people have left the churches. What if the SDA churches in your area are not preaching the truth and are not really interested in evangelizing or growing? What if there is no Bible Study going on? Where do you bring people to share the truth? That is happening and the churches are in a Laodicean state now. They are happy with the way things are and they are rich and in need of nothing. They are happy with the members that finance their efforts and are not interested in bringing in new members that may realize that what they are doing is not Biblical. I cannot support this effort of Plugging the Leak because I have not left the church. My church has become Sac Central.org. It wasn't for your online services, I would have no church at all. I think the SDA churches have failed the people, at least in the AZ Conference. In the end times, where are we supposed to bring people that are coming out of Babylon? I am referring everyone to Amazing Facts.org.

Will
Thursday, December 08, 2011 1:11 PM

Hi Brian,
Thanks for sharing your experience, that is tough to have some people not be kind to you like that. It reminds me a bit of Luke chapter 4:28-29, where we read an even harder experience that Jesus had at His local church. The Bible says "So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him (Jesus) out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff."
Here the people of the church wanted to put Jesus to death! But if you read the next few verses it says "Then He (Jesus) went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbath. And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. Now in the synagogue... " here after the church in Nazareth rejected Jesus. He was soon after found in a church preaching again and doing great wonders. There were all the problems you mention and more, but Jesus was still found in church, I encourage all of us to follow His example.

M Walker
Friday, December 09, 2011 5:52 AM

Brian, please view this interview at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blbP1Matia4. I hope it will speak to you. I also left the church for many years, but then I came back...

Jason Williams
Saturday, December 10, 2011 12:56 AM

I would like to respond to the person Brian Fort. Brian I have been in the situation which you describe. It is very difficult to go to any place when something like that happens. I was in a church where the pastoral team were great, top notch people but the congregation was a bunch of back biting social climbers. Don’t let the actions of a few disuade you from your walk of faith, even if it means finding another church. You mentioned that the person in question was in leadership. Did you ever go up the chain of command and talk to a senior, elder, etc...? One of the reasons that the church in America is declining is because of materialism. When it boils right down to it people really care more about their kingdoms on this earth than the ones we are promised in heaven.

Keith Koehler
Saturday, December 10, 2011 1:44 PM

Dear Pastor Doug:
In my 4th year as an adventist I heard evangelist Lester Pratt say that the church is the only organization that shoots the wounded. At that time I didn't know what he meant, but after bearing my own cross and losing almost everything, it became apparent. The church considered me needy and probably negative, and distanced themselves. Finally emotionally drained I found myself going less and less. The New commandment as Jesus called it is still lacking in its practice.

Jennifer Baker
Saturday, December 10, 2011 5:45 PM

Thank you for this awesome weekend that will arm us with information and the Holy Spirit to help our friends. I've been burdened with this for the past two years but couldn't get it started and wasn't sure how. Well, now you have answered my prayers! I will definitely join you and Amazing Facts in doing my part along with the church to reintroduce our lost members to their Friend.

jon just
Saturday, December 10, 2011 8:47 PM

Our church has experienced these same problems. Some of our leadership have failed to reach out to members that have left. I believe you have identified one of the greatest needs in churches in the western world - to be relevant, engaging and supportive to our members, particularly those who have fallen away. Evangelism to bring people to Christ is vitally important but bringing back Christ's lost sheep is equally important. Brian's comments reveal how deep some divisions can go in churches and how successful satan has become in efforts to destroy God's church. I really look forward to this upcoming series. Thank you.

Joanne Kerin
Sunday, December 11, 2011 4:30 AM

I believe the number one reason people leave churches is because of evolution. It permeates through every part of society now and is taught as fact. Scientists such as Richard Dawkins have done massive damage and the fact that it is taught as fact in schools makes the bible the 'lie' or fairytale. Unless this issue is addressed there will be few believers. If someone doesn't like a preacher they may leave a particular church and join another but if they lose faith altogether then they drop out and
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