Feb 2012

Hello Friend,

Did you know that you make it possible for more than one million people to tune in and watch Amazing Facts programs every week? Some of these souls have come to the very end
of their ropes—people like Rich and Susan, addicted to drugs, in and out of jail, and unable to turn their lives around.

That's why I am thrilled to introduce to you these two precious friends who heard the Holy Spirit calling them after having watched one of our programs. Their testimony will bless you abundantly... and you'll see just how much a difference your gifts to Amazing Facts are making to grow His kingdom!
From Pastor Doug

**From Addicts to Disciples**

**An Amazing Fact:** A little more than 100 years ago, a person could purchase morphine, cocaine, and even heroin through mail order without a prescription. These powerful drugs were recommended for use to treat coughs, toothaches, and for general pain relief. People didn’t worry much about addiction in those days. Of course, things are a lot different now, as an estimated 30,000,000 Americans—about one in every 10—are addicted to drugs or alcohol … and that’s not counting caffeine!

**From Addicts to Disciples**

Rich and Susan thought they were perfect for each other.

He was the former high school star—valedictorian and president of his senior class. He was even considered for an appointment to West Point by his congressman!

She was the daughter of the mayor. She’d gone to a private school and had all the opportunities any girl could ever want.

But their shared successes and opportunities weren’t the things that made them perfect for each other. Instead, what drew them together was a common addiction to drugs. Rich had taken up drugs when he started playing in a rock band … while Susan had started using at the age of 10 to self-medicate her pain from childhood abuse.

Together they spiraled deeper and deeper into the darkness, reinforcing the worst in one another—until finally they reached the point where it all began to disintegrate. Susan says, “I would do anything I needed to do to get what I needed.” Even though she was a three-time felon for drug dealing, every time she got out of jail she would return to her drug use.

Rich says, “I was doing really stupid things—not only growing pot and dealing drugs but also stockpiling weapons.” Even after another drug dealer placed a gun to his head and threatened his life, Rich just couldn’t stop.

Their lives were on track for the typical tragic endings of prison and perhaps death—but then God’s marvelous grace intervened …

**An “Amazing” New Beginning**

After 25 years of addiction, Susan was at the end of her rope—locked up in jail again, 40 pounds underweight, teeth and hair falling out. She felt hopelessness. When a fellow inmate asked her why she didn’t quit, Susan answered, “I don’t know any other way.” Surprisingly, the inmate then asked if she could pray for Susan. She agreed and, by God’s grace immediately after the prayer, Susan’s obsession to use drugs was lifted!

Inspired by Susan’s resolve, Rich also made an effort to be free—and he also experienced a miraculous deliverance from the obsession. Of course, they both needed more. It’s one thing to cast out a devil … you must also replace it with something good (Matthew 12:45). They prayed that God would direct them to the truth!

In the tiny shack they shared as a home, one of their only possessions was a 13-inch, black-and-white television with one of those old “rabbit ears” antennas … and Rich and Susan found Amazing Facts. Now a new power like nothing they had experienced began to totally transform their lives.

One day I was at the counter of a Taco Bell restaurant when Susan walked in. She was sober that day, but I could see she had been through some rough years. She walked up and asked, “Are you the guy on TV?” I told her I was. After peppering me with Bible questions, Susan also shared that she and Rich had watched multiple religious programs, but none of them provided the answers they were seeking … except ours.

As we talked and I heard her amazing story, I couldn’t help but think of my own life. I know all too well the toll addiction can take on a life—and how the power of God is the only hope for lasting freedom. Before we parted, I ran to the car to
get Susan a book … and then I invited her to bring Rich and visit us at church.

I didn’t know if they would actually show, but I was thrilled when they did. I took them under my wing—we went back to my office and, after visiting for a little while, I learned they had access to a VCR. I got some old Amazing Facts videotapes off the shelf and handed them over to the couple. “These are my personal copies,” I explained, “so I need them back. Watch them this week and bring them back next Saturday; I’ll trade you for some new ones.”

**Watering and Growing the Seeds**

Week after week they kept coming back—studying the Scriptures at home and watching our programs. Everything started changing for them. So many spiritual things they had wondered about all started to make sense. They finally learned about the great battle between Christ and Satan and why the world was so twisted. They were awed by the truth.

Most important, they came to faith in Christ, were baptized, and started attending church regularly. It wasn’t long after that Susan started working as a volunteer in our Bible School. And today she is a fulltime employee, helping develop resources to help others learn the truth that can set them free. Rich helped build a church in his community where he now serves as an elder. What a transformation!

[Reach more people like Rich and Susan! Click here to give a tax-deductible donation.]

The gospel has taken them from addicts, to disciples, to ministry. They represent exactly what Christ commissioned Amazing Facts to do … to not only preach His Word, but also to make disciples who can teach those same truths to others.

God’s Word still has the power to change lives. But we need to take His message to those who need to hear it. Click here to make a tax-deductible gift today.

I’ve told you the story of Rich and Susan because it so beautifully illustrates how your generous support is transforming lives through our television outreach … but that’s just a small part of what we are doing thanks to your prayers and generous gifts.

Rich and Susan were reached through Amazing Facts television, nurtured through our Bible School, and grew in faith through Bible Answers Live radio. They contacted this ministry for free gifts over and over and sent letters requesting prayer. That pattern is being repeated every day. And it’s you who makes it possible for us to continue the full range of discipling outreach—AFCOE, Bible School, television, radio, publishing, and the Internet.

All of these things together have two central purposes-reaching people and helping them become disciples who in turn will teach others.

I hope you’ve been inspired to join me in finding the next couple like Rich and Susan. Their story is too good not to replicate. It is a wonderful testimony to the power of the gospel … bringing souls from addiction to discipleship. And it wouldn’t be possible without you.

I want to be sure you know how very much we appreciate your faithful support. When we say we can’t do it without you, we mean it! So please do your best when you give today. But whatever God moves you to give, I am most grateful … and it will make a difference.

Doug Batchelor

[Click Here to Give]

It wouldn’t be possible without you.

The only answer for people in bondage to addiction is found in the gospel. You are spreading the Good News through your support of Amazing Facts and making disciples for Jesus!
Joe Gagliano

Thursday, February 09, 2012 9:24 PM

Just like Satan could not change Eve without her accord, Eve could not change Adam without his accord. And after Mankind had fallen, Abraham could have not been changed back into righteousness without his accord! All I’m saying, God respects & requires Truth form us (Our Finite Free Will.) Fast forward to these last days, the Children of Israel (God’s People) are bound just the same. In other words “Conversion” or “Re-Birth” same as “Justification” is what I’m talking about & it hasn’t changed.

Kristine Casteel

Friday, February 10, 2012 7:01 AM

I was a baptized SDA in the 1960s. I drifted away until 1998. I got a severe case of the flu for 3 days and didn't smoke. Before I got out of bed, I talked to Jesus and asked him to maybe help me not smoke for one more day. I got out of bed-reached for the cigarettes and pushed them away. All that day I walked around waiting for the urge to smoke, but it never came back. I have not touched one since 1998. Every family member of mine has a miracle to tell. Amazing Facts is our lifeline.

richard morgan

Friday, February 10, 2012 8:26 AM

Trees of Life/Children of God

When I think of a Tree of Life, my thoughts turn to that patriarch live oak tree in the middle of an open prairie in South Louisiana. The live oak stands proudly, with a magnificent crown, yet it leans ever so humbly due to the four great seasons. A Tree of Life, that Child of God with his hoary head bowed in humble prayer and submission to the Heavenly Father (who strengthens and prepares him for the trials and temptations of life), does greatly resemble that old live oak tree.

SEASONS

The seasons try a patient earth but life and growth withstand Temptations, like the seasons, try the faith of earthly man Earth captures life in seasons, and, with each, the strength to grow Let temptation build your faith in God by the patience that you sow Yes, temptations are like seasons, and, for life we must endure Faith in God will bring eternal rest His Word and patience does ensure
“For as the earth brings forth her bud, and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations --- that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified”. (Isaiah 61:3, 11)

Lynelle DeRoo

Friday, February 10, 2012 9:24 AM
Thank you, Doug, for sharing that wonderful testimony of Rich and Susan. I know the feeling of sharing Jesus with others--for me, it's the only experience and definition of the word *JOY* I just met another person who's life was changed by your tapes from alcohol addiction to freedom and joy while I was on vacation in Florida. Praise God for the ministry of Amazing Facts.

Bobbie Kinsey

Friday, February 10, 2012 11:26 AM
What a truly inspiring story. Thank You for sharing their story with us. May The Good Lord continue to bless Rich & Susan, you Pastor Doug and your ministry, & Amazing Facts. I cannot help much financially, but will continue supporting with prayers.