

### CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

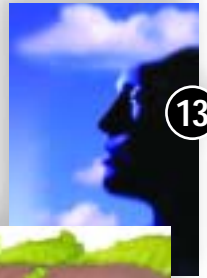
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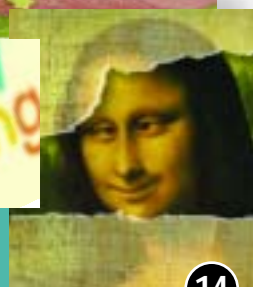
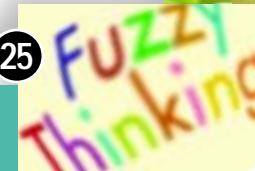
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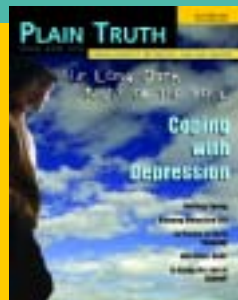
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## Cover Story

**Depression strikes people of all ages and races—both male and female—Christians and non-Christians alike. This article discusses the warning signs to be aware of and offers suggestions to find help out of "the long dark night of the soul."**

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## About This Issue

At this April's annual conference of the Evangelical Press Association (EPA) in Chicago, *Plain Truth* was awarded first prize for its article "Reparations or Reconciliation?" by Doug Trouten (May/June 2004). Racial reconciliation was EPA's theme for 2004. *Plain Truth* tied in this category with another publication, but both were awarded first prize. Susan Reedy's column, "Growing Places," appearing in every issue, also received an award. Last year, *Plain Truth* won first prize for the best evangelistic article. In other news, we recently received a letter from lifelong Michigan resident George Hobart (Hobe) Tidswell, who celebrated his 100th birthday on April 2. Greg Albrecht called Mr. Tidswell with our congratulations. Mr. Tidswell said that he reads every *Plain Truth* magazine from "cover to cover." He married his wife, Helen, in 1935. They were married for 54 years until her death in 1989. Mr. Tidswell sold tabulating machines for Remington Rand and computers for Univac until his retirement in 1970. Now he sings a tenor solo nearly every Sunday at the United Methodist Church in Manistique, Michigan—100 years old and still actively praising God! George, God has richly blessed you—and may he continue to do so!



Susan Reedy receives award from Editor-in-Chief Greg Albrecht.



*Plain Truth* reader George Hobart Tidswell—100 years old!

—Monte Wolverton, Managing Editor

## MISSION STATEMENT

Plain Truth Ministries proclaims authentic Christianity without the religion. We:

- Center our teaching on Jesus Christ and God's amazing grace
- Give hope to those burned out by religion
- Warn about and describe religious devices and detours, potholes and pitfalls that can lead us away from God
- Combat the deadly virus of legalism
- Base our ministry upon the essential, main and plain core teachings of historic Christianity

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## Many Churches, One Faith

I've been reading the *Plain Truth* for years. It is truly a tremendous blessing that God is using this magazine and ministry as one true voice for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The latest [May/June 2005] issue was a breath of fresh air for my soul, especially the lead article. It is just too bad that there's not more to read. I read it in 20 minutes and then it's all over till the next issue! I thank God for your work, as you are truly an inspiration to me and so many others.

**Rolland  
Ontario, Canada**

As an 87-year-old active Lutheran, I enjoyed your article on the Reformation in the May/June 2005 *Plain Truth*. I also enjoyed the page on "Favorite Hymns." I look forward to each issue of *Plain Truth* magazine—it's good!

**Olive  
New York**



## What? Me Worldly?

I love the *Plain Truth*! I am a fairly new Christian and your magazine helps me so much. I run into a lot of stereotypes about how a Christian should act and behave. Thanks for the article, "What? Me Worldly?" [May/June 2005]

I think Christianity is a personal choice, and that while we should witness for the Lord, we should do so not judgmentally but with love—as your magazine does!

**Connie  
North Carolina**

## Framed by the Master

The article "Framed by the Master" [May/June 2005] by Susan Reedy was so well written and comforting to my soul. As insignificant as I think I am, the article overwhelmed me with God's grace once again. Very uplifting!

**Ken  
Wisconsin**



## What They Didn't Tell You About The Passion

Your publication has informed and enlightened me for years. I've shared copies of past issues with unsaved and uninformed friends and family members. In the past I've regarded your articles and insight as valid and intelligent.

However, in the March/April 2005 issue, you attempted to dissect and disembowel Mel Gibson's agenda for producing *The Passion of the Christ*. I don't disagree with your "facts," because you did the research and are more aware of behind-the-scenes information than I could ever be. But nevertheless, I'm extremely disappointed and, frankly, "turned off" with your reasoning and judging of Mel Gibson's motives.

It doesn't matter what Mel Gibson used for his story line, or his personal connection with a sickly Catholic character. What matters is the power of God to work his perfect will in the hearts of those who see our Lord's purposes translated powerfully on the screen.

Please, rethink your purposes for writing the article. How clean is your heart? How honorable are your purposes? How much pride is in your motives? Does it bother you that a Catholic follower of God was able to touch the hearts of so many around the world, particularly in other Catholic follower's hearts?

**Lale  
Email**

Jerry Griffin, in his article "What They Didn't Tell You About the Passion" is guilty of the same things he accuses Mel

Gibson of. He includes references to characters Mel Gibson portrayed in other films such as *Mad Max*, *The Patriot* and *Braveheart*. What is the relevance of those characters to *The Passion*?

He argues about the truth of Scripture and how Mr. Gibson has deviated from it. But buried in the third footnote it states that "The film...is not meant as a historical documentary nor does it claim to have all the facts." It appears that Mr. Griffin is writing for sensationalism and hype, playing fast and loose with the truth—exactly what he accuses Mel Gibson of doing.

**M. L. Borrell**  
Vermont

• *Jerry Griffin, author of "What They Didn't Tell You About the Passion" writes: "My objections to the movie were two-fold: 1) to Mel Gibson's inclusion of numerous scenes from non-biblical sources, and 2) to the marketing of the movie to the public as biblically authentic and accurate (in fact, many Christian leaders and organizations were hyping the film as the most accurate portrayal ever made). Because Gibson's version contained so many non-biblical scenes, it was stretching the truth to claim scriptural accuracy. In fact, the movie actually blurs the line between what is in the Bible and what is not, thus making it more difficult for the general public to know the difference. My critique, therefore, tried to point out these facts."*



[www.ptm.org](http://www.ptm.org)

I'm the youth director at a PC(USA) church. On our website we have a section called "Ask Jeff" which is quite similar to your website. Kids are given the opportunity to ask questions, whether they be theological in nature, or about such issues as premarital sex, drugs or a friend who is cutting herself. I don't have as many questions answered, nor do I have the depth you have, but like you, I love to give people a forum to ask questions and hopefully receive a solid biblical answer.

I just came across your site recently, and I've already started utilizing it for answers to some questions that come up during our youth group discussions. You answer questions with depth, grace and understanding. I don't always agree with

what you say 100% of the time (nor would I expect to...I don't agree with 100% of what ANYONE says when it comes to matters of faith...I sometimes disagree with myself!), but it's rare that I find issue, and when I do, it's never over some essential doctrine.

I really appreciate what you are doing and wanted to let you know that your time spent is very much appreciated and well worth it. Keep up the great work and stay strong in the faith. You truly are doing the work of the Lord! God bless!

**Jeff**  
California

I want to tell you that when I put together in my mind all that PTM is doing—on the web, on the air and with printed media—I think "This is great!" And it's working. People are responding and lives are being changed. I praise God, and thank all of you at PTM for the work the Holy Spirit is doing through you all as you faithfully yield to his lead in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Wilfrido**  
Mexico

I just wanted to write a note of thanks. I went to your website because I wanted a subscription to *Plain Truth* magazine. I only started reading your articles online this morning. What a wonderful surprise! Most Christian magazines, TV broadcasts and ministers I've listened to preach legalism and the dire consequences of breaking the Law.

I've always believed that we are saved by grace alone. I know that grace sounds too good to be true, and that salvation seems just too easy. I was very happy this morning to read in your articles that you believe as I do.

**Gordon**  
Canada

## Plain Truth Radio

I listen to your program on the Internet almost every day, and I just wanted to drop you a note of encouragement. Your program "Two Liars" was unique, interesting and engaging. I suspect that once again you have afflicted the comfortable and comforted the afflicted.

**Steve**  
Tennessee

Thank you for putting your radio broadcasts in MP3. Now I can download and listen to your broadcasts anytime, anywhere! Thank you for the good work you do for the kingdom of God with your true and honest teaching of God's Word.

**Joan**  
Virginia

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