

CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

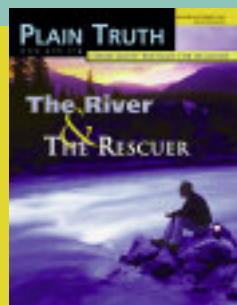
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Cover Story

God's selfless gift of grace and salvation is explored in a new and refreshing way in this story of rescue from certain destruction.

COVER PHOTO BY DESIGNPICS AND MARV WEGNER—PTM.

About This Issue

We like to think every issue of *Plain Truth* is unusual and valuable, but we believe this issue is exceptionally so. For example, our cover story, Mark Littleton's outstanding Christian fiction story, "The River and the Rescuer," may give you a fresh perspective on salvation. How many other Christian magazines would dare to run Ron Benson's article, "Seniors Shacking Up," much less confront the causes and consequences of this growing trend among elderly Christian couples?

How many other magazines will give you the straight-from-the-shoulder advice you'll get in "When You Forgive But Can't Forget," where you'll discover what you can do about the problem people in your life? And how many other magazines will draw the big lessons you can use out of an old and familiar Bible story, as in "Cain and Abel—A Really, Really Cold Case" by Bobby Neal Winters?

No other magazine that I know of offers such a unique selection of powerful and practical tools for living. Plus, we proclaim the message of the season—Martin Davis' "Incarnation: God Is With Us," Steve Brown's "Christmas Before Thanksgiving," Hank Hanegraaff's "Miracle or Myth" and Greg Albrecht's "He Came Anyway."

You get all this and more in this issue—and we believe the next one will be equally as good! You won't want to miss it. So, if you aren't already a contributor, now is a good time to consider a gift of \$10 or more to Plain Truth Ministries. Your tax-deductible contribution to Plain Truth Ministries will help tens of thousands of people find freedom in Jesus Christ through our ongoing work. We provide free subscriptions initially, but given the expenses of ministry, ongoing subscriptions are provided to contributors who in turn help us provide the many services we do.

We hope to hear from you soon. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this valuable issue—and we hope you have a peaceful and inspiring Thanksgiving and Advent season.

—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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Pilgrim's Voyage

Your September/October cover story, "Pilgrim's Voyage," was the best story I've read in any Christian magazine in years! It was interesting, enjoyable and it made everything so plain.

E. Young
California

I just finished reading *Plain Truth* magazine for the first time. Every article was excellent. By the time I was three paragraphs into the cover story, I knew I wouldn't have to battle any religious jargon, which was quite a pleasant surprise. I also want to thank you for printing Steve Brown's "He Doesn't Fit My Mold." God bless you all, and thanks for all you do. It's great to know there's actually a ministry and a magazine that reflects our faith.

Email



Battle of the Bibles

Thanks for the September/October article, "Battle of the Bibles." I was born in Europe, and the English language was quite a problem for me when I first started reading the English Bible. I purchased a KJV Bible and attempted to read it, without much success. I thought it was not really English.

After a while, I purchased an NIV Bible which I read for quite a few years, and I still love it. But a pastor told me to get the Life Application Bible. I did, and after reading it for over a year, I have really grown in understanding God's Word.

Someone in my congregation told our Bible study group that the only Bible we should read is KJV.

I challenged him, as I personally believe it is better to understand what one reads than to store a Bible on the bookshelf because it is just too hard.

People need to not only read the Bible, but be able to understand it.

Ruth
Arizona

I enjoyed Glen Moyer's article "Battle of the Bibles." If, as some say, modern Bible translations are Satanic, and we should only read the KJV, what did people think of the KJV when it was written? I say to those who think all modern Bible translations are evil—they better learn to read Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, because the Bible wasn't originally written in English either!

Tina
Alabama



Predator Priests

In the article "Predator Priests—Why Is This Happening in My Church?" by Kay O'Bryan in the September/October issue, the author appears to excuse homosexuals because they are "bashed" by the Roman Catholic Church and are wrongly accused of child molesting. The Church should welcome homosexuals only on the condition they are delivered from their sin. Jesus told the woman caught in adultery, "Go and sin no more."

Richard
Oklahoma



The Super Man

I love reading *Plain Truth* magazine, but the article on Jesus being compared to Superman was really "out of this world." The author failed to mention that Superman had a weakness, kryptonite. Jesus had none. Superman had a love interest, Lois Lane. Jesus had...Mary Magdalene? I don't think so. In the latest Superman movie, *Superman Returns*, Superman has a son from a one-night stand with Lois Lane. Should Jesus really

be compared to such a person? What will some Christian author come up with next? Compare Paul and Timothy to Batman and Robin?! Lord, have mercy!

Deo
West Virginia

• *The article to which you refer (as noted at the beginning of the article) was a compilation of excerpts from the book, The Gospel According to the World's Greatest Super Hero. The book itself goes into much greater detail about the similarities—and differences—between Jesus and Superman. Our intent in running the excerpts was to make people think about mankind's desperate need for a Savior and offer a springboard to share the gospel with friends who enjoy Superman but don't know the real Super Man.*

Talk to Me Like That

I thoroughly enjoyed Susan Reedy's article "Talk to Me Like That" in the September/October issue. Her column once again reminded me how often I fail to give God my undivided attention when I pray. How can we indeed comprehend the mystery of his being if we don't listen to that "still, small voice"?

Ken
Wisconsin



Plugging Headlines Into the Bible

After reading the July/August cover story, "Flaws and Fallacies of Plugging Headlines Into the Bible," I thought, "Finally! Finally! There are still evangelicals in the U.S. who realize that there is something extremely wrong with unconditional support of the State of Israel and President Bush's war in Iraq policies." Here in Quebec, many non-believers are suspicious about the gospel because they think evangelical Christians are promoting an American religion that is making a "Holy War" against Islam.

The damage done by American evangelicals to the true cause of the gospel is terrible. Thanks for your courage in publishing this article, because I'm sure many will criticize and condemn you. But please continue to stand firm in the truth of Scripture. Error must be addressed, even if it is painful and humiliating.

Claude
Quebec, Canada



Christianity Without the Religion

I am so glad to have found you. I have been a religious person most of my life. I love God, but I couldn't seem to break free of the quagmire of restrictions and rhetoric. I was basically a good person, knowing the right things to say and do to satisfy my church's unique culture. However, after 18 years in this faith, my mind is exhausted and I fell into a crumpled heap at the foot of the cross, realizing I can't "be holy" or keep God's commandments. I am a weak sinner pleading for mercy.

The beauty of it is, in this broken state, I know in my heart and my mind that I am saved. I've been running races that were already run and fighting battles that were already won by my beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ. He is growing my mind and my heart—I'm no longer looking down on those who think differently than me. I'm no longer of a separatist mentality—no, I have a healthy desire to mingle with others—whether they agree with me or not, simply because we are all God's children—even if some don't know it yet. Praise God for freedom, for victory and God bless you! I'm so glad I found Plain Truth Ministries—it has been of great encouragement to me!

Tennessee

There are so many Christians who have had to come out of the church (as you call it, the brick-and-mortar church) to survive spiritually. I have been a Christian for over three decades, but I have never fit into the evangelical mold, and I have often felt baffled by their "goodness." I have never gone along with all that man-made religion, to me it is chains. I have to admit that there have been times when religion succeeded in wrapping its chains around me, too! I have been struggling for years with the virus of legalism you talk about [in Greg Albrecht's book, "Bad News Religion"]. I think that virus has infected most of the body of Christ. We so appreciate PTM, and we pray for you, knowing that your message must mean that you have strong opposition from some. May God protect you from all the legalists out there—we need the message you preach!

England

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