

*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*a magazine of understanding*



# What our READERS SAY

## New Readers

"Your magazine was loaned to me, and I found it very interesting. Could you please send it to me regularly?"

CAPTAIN of the Salvation Army,  
Paris, France

"When I finish reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* I pass it on to the Seamen's Mission. The *Padre* says that the seamen appreciate it as it is *non-denominational*. They are all very interested in *The PLAIN TRUTH*. It passes from one sailor to the other and from one ship to the other!"

Reader, Cape Province,  
South Africa

## Willing to Change?

"Thanks for the booklets you sent me a while back, but I do favor the word used by Sir Julian Huxley, that the earth was evolved, rather than created. If you could work this into your philosophy of things, it might bring a great impetus, a wider range of believers. Even you must adjust to a changing world, Mr. Armstrong—and I say this with all due respect. For we know what happens to those who do not change. All survivors in nature adjust to a changing environment; the others pass away."

R.H.A., Riverside, California

• *God says: "I change not." And He is not about to pass away! Those who refuse to change, who refuse to obey His Law, will pass away! It's God's Law, not man's environment, that will judge every human being. God is about to change this world's social environment—its civilization. What are you going to do then, R.H.?*

## What College Students Think

"I am a college sophomore, and I must admit I subscribed to your magazine as a sort of joke. However, I soon discovered it was no joke. *The PLAIN TRUTH* has greatly helped me with my studies. I find your magazine extremely enjoyable and am greatly impressed by

your sincerity. *The PLAIN TRUTH* has made me think, reconsider, question."

T.C., Keuka Park, New York

"I am a college sophomore. . . . At the end of this year I will have completed a special program in which I am enrolled, which deals with the 'Humanities.' During this period of time in which I have been enrolled, I have become acquainted with the writings of many philosophers. I never realized before that it was possible for so-called intelligent men to make themselves such fools in their feeble attempts to give a philosophical meaning to life. Christ is called a 'crack-pot,' and the Bible is labeled with such words as 'archaic,' 'weird,' 'out-of-date,' and 'irrelevant.' I have seen students enter the program with a deep spiritual hunger for a meaning to their lives, and end up more confused than ever. I have seen them come with a somewhat stable belief in God, and end up becoming moral bankrupts. The perversion and misuse of the scriptures seems to be the standard, and the correct use has become the exception."

Steve B., Los Gatos, California

## Lost and Found

"May I have the *Ten Commandments* booklet at your convenience? I used to know where the Ten Commandments were found, but not now."

Alice S., Ontario, California

• *They're still there—in Exodus 20.*

## Marriage

"I just finished reading your two articles in the November and December issues of *The PLAIN TRUTH* entitled, 'Our Mad, Mad Marriages.' My husband had read your articles and left them out for me to read. You see, I had asked him only yesterday for a divorce. These things you wrote about are all things I had been taught, but because of the world around us, I have shoved these precious things aside, as had my husband. You've pointed out that with God's help and my obedience

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## the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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# Personal from the Editor

**O**UR READERS will notice another very important improvement in this issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

It is printed on a better and very superior grade of paper. No other magazine uses this very superior-type paper.

There is quite a story back of it. The paper mills manufacture only two kinds of paper for the big rolls used on the giant web presses—dull-coated, and full gloss. There are several quality grades of each, but only the two types have, until now, been manufactured.

Neither of these types is good enough for *The PLAIN TRUTH*. We are satisfied with nothing but the BEST. We have been using the best grade of the dull-coated paper. But it did not reproduce pictures as sharp and clear as the full gloss. Most high quality picture magazines use the full gloss paper. This reproduces pictures in top quality manner, but sacrifices a degree of readability. A strong light will often reflect and shine in the reader's eye.

*The PLAIN TRUTH* puts first emphasis on its reading contents, rather than the pictures. Hence, with only the two choices, we have, until now, chosen the finest quality of the dull-coated paper. But we were determined that *The PLAIN TRUTH* should have *both* the most perfect readability, and the finest full-color picture reproduction. This was impossible with any paper manufactured.

There is a saying that "the difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer." We were faced with "the impossible." So officials of the *Ambassador College Press* went into a huddle with officials of the paper company in Wisconsin which supplies our paper. The paper company experimented by taking a top quality dull-coated paper, adding 25% clay coating (gloss), then compressing it so hard that a roll of this paper now

weighs 1700 pounds instead of the normal 1250 pounds as heretofore. The experiment was a success. It produced a superior paper, with sufficient sheen to produce sharper, finer pictures, yet without sacrificing any readability. There is no glare to the reader's eye.

This new paper is exclusively ours. It is named "Ambassador Gloss." We feel it is a new break-through and progress achievement in the magazine and printing industry.

Nothing but the BEST for *The PLAIN TRUTH*! We shall not rest until *The PLAIN TRUTH* becomes, in appearance as well as in value of contents, the finest magazine in the world.

\* \* \* \* \*

**D**ID YOU ever make a mistake? And did you *admit* it? The fact is, *you* have done worse—you have *sinned*! A mistake may harm *you*, another person or persons, or cause damage to some *thing*. But sin is against **GOD**. And *all* who ever lived—excepting only the man Jesus Christ—have sinned. It now comes to my attention that I have made a mistake.

The matter of *first* importance in life is that we confess our sins, repent, and ask forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Secondary to it is to *admit* our mistakes and rectify them if possible.

We humans were put here on earth for a **PURPOSE**. The Creator is, as Winston Churchill said, working out a **PURPOSE** here below. That purpose is that we be born into the Kingdom of God. On our part, achieving that purpose *begins* with **REPENTANCE**. That is the first step. I took that step nearly forty years ago.

Yet we still do seem to make **MISTAKES**. I am here going to confess one I made.

Many of our readers in the United States and Canada noticed a certain

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UPI Photo

### OUR COVER

Unmanned Agena rocket leaves launching pad at Cape Kennedy in a burst of orange flame. To left is the gantry—a movable structure with platforms at different levels used for erecting and servicing rockets before launching.

full page advertisement some time ago for the Volkswagen car. I think I have previously commented on it in this column. It was captioned: "If it poops out in Padukah." The text admitted the possibility that a Volkswagen *might* "poop out" in Padukah. "After all, it's only human!" said the ad. That gave us a chuckle. The point is, however, that it is, indeed, *human* to err, but to forgive is divine. Yet mistakes should be rectified if possible.

Now I didn't *intend* to make this particular mistake. Actually, I didn't know that I *had* made it until it was called to my attention after the preceding number of *The PLAIN TRUTH* had gone to press. It involves something that appeared in the January, 1966, *PLAIN TRUTH*.

Actually, *my* mistake was one of OMISSION rather than commission. I OMITTED reading and checking a certain two or three sentences that appeared in the "Short Questions" column of that issue, before the copy was sent to the Composing Room to be set in type. Of course I am forced to refrain from reading most of the articles before they appear in the printed *PLAIN TRUTH*. That responsibility has to be delegated to competent personnel—the Executive Editor, the Managing Editor (it is chiefly his responsibility), or the Senior Editor.

Nevertheless, as Editor of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, I am responsible for what appears in it. We try to maintain the highest editorial, journalistic and ethical standards. *The PLAIN TRUTH* editorial policy requires that anything written about any individual personally, or any organization, company, society, corporation, or organized group, must not reflect against the character, reputation or integrity of that person or group. And, further, that any such mention of a person or group be carefully examined for approval by the Managing Editor, before going to the Composing Room to be set in type.

Now let me make plain what happened.

A reader from Gary, Indiana, had submitted a question. He mentioned a new book, *The Passover Plot*, which he described as suggesting that Jesus, mis-

takenly believing He was the promised Messiah, plotted and schemed, contriving events when necessary, to insure prophetic fulfillment. He asked us to comment on this.

The book referred to was authored by Hugh J. Schonfield of England. The author's name was not mentioned in the question sent by a reader of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, nor in the published answer. Yet, Dr. Schonfield feels his integrity might be construed to have been reflected against anyway, by two or three statements in our answer. Therefore *The PLAIN TRUTH* gladly retracts those three sentences objected to, and offers full apology.

In this particular instance, the letter from Gary, Indiana, was channeled into the hands of a young man on the staff, recently graduated from college. This young man devoutly believes in and loves and worships Jesus Christ as his Saviour and his God. I'm sure Dr. Schonfield—and all our readers—can understand how any devout person, reading of an account or book which seemed to him to assault and discredit his God and Saviour might be highly indignant, and stirred to write an answer upholding, and PROVING the reality of Jesus Christ as the true promised Messiah.

This young man had not seen the book. He did not attempt to quote or refute specific points in the book. Rather, he confined his answer to giving PROOF that Jesus *did* fulfill the prophecies concerning Him in the Scriptures, and, further, that He could not possibly have schemed and plotted to obtain such an objective. He was not replying to specific claims, theories, or statements in the book, but rather proving, by Biblical statements, several of which were *not mentioned* in the book, that Jesus was, in reality PROVED to be the Messiah, the Son of God.

But, in his zeal, and even righteous indignation in feeling his Saviour and his God had been impugned and misrepresented he did make two or three statements which Dr. Schonfield feels could be construed to reflect on *his* honesty and integrity as an author and a scholar. When the typed copy came to

Dr. Hoeh's desk for checking, he read it from a different point of view than Dr. Schonfield later did. He viewed it from the Christian's point of view—and that of our readers. He honestly did NOT feel that, in context, these three statements Dr. Schonfield objects to would, in the eyes of *our* readers, discredit him as a scholar or reflect on his personal integrity. Different people may approach and view statements from different points of view, and thus arrive at different conclusions.

But now, on learning of Dr. Schonfield's contention, and that it caused him pain and concern, Dr. Hoeh has expressed to me his sincere regret that he allowed those passages to remain in the printed copy. Since Dr. Schonfield feels hurt, he sincerely apologizes to him, and I join Dr. Hoeh in extending my personal apology and that of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. And we gladly retract the objected-to statements, which were: "From the foregoing, it should be abundantly clear that what the author contends is impossible." Further, "What kind of imagination worked forty years to come to the conclusion that all this could have been a massive plot—the greatest trick in history?" And, thirdly, "Who could possibly believe such a preposterous book? Probably not even its own author!"

The crux of this matter is NOT a question of whether *The PLAIN TRUTH* accepts or agrees with Dr. Schonfield's theories, statements and conclusions in his book. Emphatically we do not. To totally disagree is our right and our privilege. But just as emphatically, we do acknowledge Dr. Schonfield's right to his opinions, convictions, ideas, theories, views and conclusions. It is not our intention to question his sincerity in his conclusions. God made us all free moral agents. He *allows* all humans to be either right or wrong. Dr. Schonfield has as much right to publish *his* views, arguments and conclusions as we have to publish ours.

The young man was writing from the sincere and honest feeling of regret that his Saviour had been accused of plotting and scheming. His mind was

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RULE THIS EARTH (Rev. 2:26; 3:21; 20:4). And it's something NONE of you have ever done before. It will be your SOLO attempt. Your first job will be the very FIRST time you have ever tried it!

But you have a complete collection of information from many of those who have already qualified before you! You have plenty of eyewitness testimonies about the grueling emergencies they met; about their trials and troubles. You have a complete account of one who is RIGHT NOW sitting at the controls of just such a position of RULE!

Meanwhile, you're commanded to get busy to qualify!

You're commanded to be putting yourself WHOLLY into your job, with serious, practiced, earnest, daily DILIGENCE! You should be filled with ZEAL, with your goal constantly before you.

Even your relaxation should be filled with that over-all purpose!

EVERYTHING else should be subordinate to it! It may mean personal sacrifice, going without some of the temporary comforts and pleasures that have meant so much to you in your casual, accidental, unplanned life.

But just as surely as the inexorable ticking of the clock here at the Cape leads toward another of these awesome missile launchings, and one more giant step toward the moon—so is the clock ticking toward that moment when CHRIST WILL LAUNCH HIMSELF TOWARD THIS EARTH!

And THAT countdown has already begun in heaven!

You need to write for these booklets, and take your calling in life SERIOUSLY! You need to PROVE there is a God, and PROVE the Bible is His Word, and PROVE your very calling in life!

### The Second Blast-Off

As I watched the big, gleaming Titan being readied to hurtle Astronauts Armstrong and Scott into space, I marveled at the tenacity, the raw COURAGE it takes to put oneself so COMPLETELY into something in which one believes.

The commitment of these men is total!

And I marveled at how LITTLE there is of that kind of courage in most people today!

Most people lack the courage to investigate their own convictions—to get to the SOURCE of their own beliefs—to find out the source of the stuff of which their lives are made!

With our cameras again ready, and the moment of launch approaching, the same hush fell over the crowd of cameramen and reporters as the second blastoff of this most technically difficult twin countdown continued.

This time I found myself breathing a little faster than before—realizing two MEN were strapped in the black nosecone of that giant bullet just 2,000 yards distant!

Again the countdown. Again the white-orange ball of flame and the delayed explosion as the sound and shock wave reached us. Again a white-

hot brilliant jet of flame from the tail of the huge rocket as it barked and stuttered its way into the blue sky leaving a curling trail of white smoke as the second-stage engines cut in.

Even as the massive "G" forces were building up during liftoff I was quickly snapping, cranking, and snapping again the shutter of my Leica M2. Then the voice came over the loudspeaker that Neal Armstrong reported all systems functioning normally.

In contrast to the tremendous excitement I experienced in watching the launch, and photographing it, the astronauts were coolly calling back on the performance of their flight as they were shot upward.

### The Abortive End

The twin countdowns and launchings proceeded PERFECTLY, and what seemed to be the greatest achievement in space-age technology yet was under way. But

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## Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

filled with one thing—to EXONERATE with PROOF what seemed to him an assault on his Saviour whom he worships. I say that by way of explanation. But nevertheless I am sincerely SORRY that statements which Dr. Schonfield feels reflected against his personal integrity—even though his name was not mentioned—were allowed to slip into a magazine zealous of maintaining the very highest of ethical standards in every way.

It was not, and is not, the purpose of *The PLAIN TRUTH* to injure Dr. Schonfield or any man, but to UPHOLD the TRUTH of the One who gave His life for Dr. Schonfield as well as for us, and all mankind.

Let me state—and I do want our readers to realize—that I, personally, do NOT question Dr. Schonfield's integrity and sincerity as a scholar and

author. Nor do our Editors. Nor did we intend it to be so construed by our readers. Most emphatically I do not agree with his conclusions. To me, and, I feel, to all Spirit-begotten Christians and to the whole vast Christian world, these conclusions are absurd, utterly in error, and thoroughly repugnant.

The Word of God says *all nations* have been DECEIVED. A man who knows he is wrong and deliberately misrepresents is *not deceived*. The deceived person is *sincere*—believes, though falsely, he is *right*. With all the different religions, philosophies and concepts in the world, believed by even the most scholarly and the most sincere, it is self-evident many of high personal integrity are, nonetheless, DECEIVED. The Jews—and Romans—who crucified Jesus were deceived. Jesus said so, when He prayed saying they knew not what they did. Many Jewish people have been deceived ever since. A deceived person is a sincere believer in something false. But I love Jewish people. God loves Jewish people. Jesus loved Jewish people enough to DIE for them. I have no sympathy with anti-Semitism, or racial

antagonism. God loves sinners (all have sinned)—but He never condones SIN. There is a vast difference. That is God's spirit. I am grateful He has given me that spirit.

But, as I stated in the beginning, we are all only HUMAN, after all. And all humans do not agree. We do not all see alike, believe alike, or conclude, even after serious research, alike.

Dr. Schonfield claims to have come to his conclusion after some forty years of research. This forty years of research we have in common. I have come to the TRUTH, which *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine proclaims to the world, after forty years of research for facts and PROOF. I am honest in my disagreement with Dr. Schonfield's conclusions, and at the same time I can accept that he is sincere in his conclusions.

What we know to be the TRUTH, this magazine will publish without fear or favor, regardless of repercussions. But we do NOT intend to impugn any man's honesty, sincerity or integrity. We cannot read men's minds and hearts. Only God can do that. Therefore we do not intend to impute motives or intentions, good or bad. For those published words Dr. Schonfield feels could be construed to do that, we are sincerely sorry, and offer him full apology. And, let me say that it is my understanding that Dr. Schonfield does have a reputation in the world as an honest religious scholar.

We always say, "Don't believe us, because we say it. Check up *for yourself*. Get the PROOF. Believe only what you find proved."

Now here is an instance where *The PLAIN TRUTH* proclaims that Jesus of Nazareth *was* the then only begotten Son of God, born of the virgin Mary, and was, indeed, the promised Messiah and that He rose from the dead; that He *lives* today, and is very soon going to *return* to this earth in all the POWER and GLORY of the Great GOD to rule all nations of earth, and to bring us PEACE! All who are deceived about His Messiahship will know the TRUTH then.

On the other hand here is Dr. Schonfield's very new and startling book, *The Passover Plot*, advancing a new and quite astonishing concept that Jesus merely *believed* He was the Messiah,

but in fact was not the Son of God, but only *the son of man*.

Candidly, we present OUR proof primarily from the Bible—but we offer PROOF, in free booklets, that God exists, and that the Bible is His inspired Word to mankind—the foundation of all knowledge.

On the other hand, Dr. Hugh J. Schonfield is quoted in the inside flap around his book, as saying: "I have made it clear that I have written about Jesus as a historian, not as a theologian. There is, of course, a very big difference. The historian must not, in the first instance, see with the eye of faith. . . . If some of them [his conclusions] are startling, and even repugnant, to orthodox Christian belief, I must point out that I have included in the book in plain English all relevant quotations from ancient sources on which my judgment is based. . . ." So his *approach* is entirely different from ours.

He is further quoted, in the flap of his book: "My aim has not been to attack Christianity, but to reveal its original character as a Messianic movement, and through understanding of the dynamic purposefulness of Jesus to illustrate how he acted out the prophetic intimations regarding the Messiah. In brief, my object has been to reveal the man behind the myths and imaginations, an undertaking in no way derogatory of his fame and dignity."

We say, "LISTEN to us, with OPEN mind, without prejudice — PROVE all things before you believe them — then believe only what *you* find PROVED. Listen to the other side, where there is disagreement. Check, research. Look for PROOF. Don't follow us or believe us because WE say it. Search for TRUTH, believe what you find PROVED."

There is NOTHING more important to *your life for eternity* than what you believe about, or WHETHER you believe in, JESUS. For, as your Bible says: ". . . there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Forty years of study and research have proved to me that that statement is true. Forty years of study and research appears to have led Dr. Schonfield to an exactly opposite con-

clusion — that Jesus was NOT the Messiah, the Son of God, but only the son of man—He only *believed* He was the Son of God. More than 1900 years of study and research have proved to the whole Christian world that Jesus *was* the Messiah, the Son of God.

But now, what is the real moral—the real LESSON in all this?

It is simply this: YOU were put here on earth for a very great PURPOSE. You have a potential destiny far above anything your mind can now fully conceive. Your potential is to enter into the very divine Family of GOD—to be BORN as a very son of GOD. But you have human nature, which is SELF-centered in vanity, selfishness and greed. Your human nature is HOSTILE to the laws and WAYS that lead to happiness and joy and abundance here and now, as well as eternal life in God's own divine Family. Your heart and nature is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9) You have gone CONTRARY to God and your own happiness. You have rebelled against God and His Law. You have sinned, and brought the penalty of eternal death.

But Jesus of Nazareth gave His very life for YOU—paying the penalty for you in your stead. If you really REPENT—confess your sins—admit your mistakes and your sins—the *living* Jesus will forgive, and put within you His vital, dynamic, eternal LIFE-imparting Holy Spirit, making you a begotten child of God. Then, if you study GOD'S WORD—His Instruction Book to YOU—GROW in grace and the KNOWLEDGE of Jesus Christ, and overcome your carnal selfish nature, trusting in Jesus as your Saviour, His Spirit dwelling IN you, you shall, at the time of resurrection, be *changed* from a mortal human made of material flesh, into an IMMORTAL son of God, composed of SPIRIT, glorified with God, even as Jesus Christ now is.

It all BEGINS with ADMITTING YOU HAVE BEEN AND HAVE DONE WRONG—repenting of it, making what restitution you can, relying on Jesus for the rest.

Are YOU too proud to admit mistakes or sins?

I am NOT!