Why Does a Nice Guy Like Me . . . Keep Getting Thown in Jail?

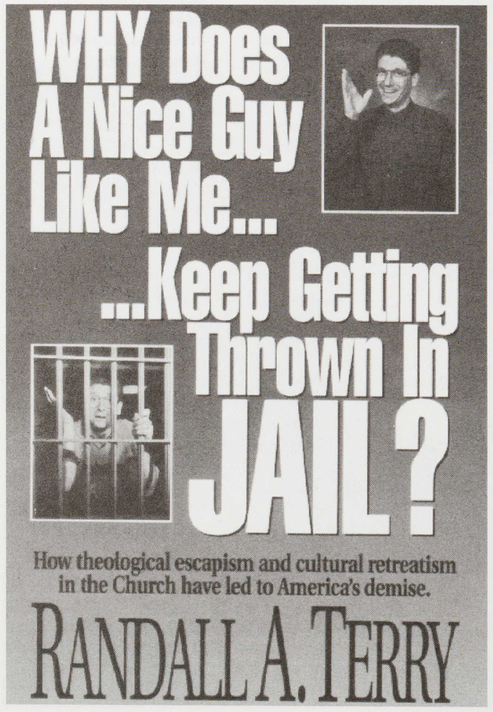
A book by Randall Terry

To order by phone,
call: 1-800-343-5483
List price: $8.95

Reviewed by Cathy Ramey

"It just so happened that the judge was watching television and heard my bold declarations. He saw me tell a reporter his injunction was meaningless as I threw it on the ground. That greased the skids for my slide into Sing-Sing."

In the way that only Randall Terry can pull it off, *Why Does A Nice Guy Like Me Keep Getting Thrown In Jail?* takes a candid look at America on the demise and how she got in the state she is in. With typical Terry humor and sarcasm the reader is given everything from a brief glimpse of family life in the now persecuted post-Christian America, as the author recounts a visit to the jail from his family, to thundering and prophetic warnings before judges. Parallels between the state of the Church in Nazi Germany and the Church in America run throughout as Terry quotes clerical and military authorities. A *theology out of hell* that created a literal hell-on-earth in the 1930s and '40s is resurrected and used to expose the glaring heresies that have contributed to the destruction of society today.



Because humor and biting criticisms set the pace, there is initially a sense that perhaps that is what the final product is all about. However, turning the corner on the end of Chapter Three, we are suddenly caught up in a race through some of the most readable and significant criticisms ever written of why the Church doesn't seem to work these days. Readable, because Terry's overview is simple, devoid of the complicated chatter between theological think-machines who justify their positions based on an endless lineage of commentators who have gone on (*and on and on*) before them. Significant, because the heresies, like a disease, once diagnosed, may eventually be remedied if not ignored until it hits a terminal stage.

The issue becomes one of deciding if it is worth the investment. And in that very decision we find just one of the society-crumbling notions prevalent in the Church today. From the "rapture date-setters" to the "America is dying — Maranatha!" enthusiasts who gleefully herald the death of our culture as a sure sign that eternity is only around the corner (so why do anything to revive her), many in the Church have justified away the responsibility to act against the godless agenda of the humanist culture around us.

As Terry points out, "*For the secret rapture watchers, the rapid collapse of America's families and the rampant immorality we see all around us are signs that we are fast approaching the end of time. Like a numbing theological narcotic that keeps people in their rapture-watching armchairs is the belief that the more corrupt America becomes, the more certain we can be that the rapture is any second. "Let it rot, baby! We're going up!"* The "*Mark of the Beast*" after all, is something coming down the pike in the future....OOPS! Or is it? Or have many in the Church already rolled up their sleeves and taken the brand? If you think that "The Mark" is just a post-Parousia problem, then Terry's book is something you need to read.

From a glance at the false theology of the faith movement (name it and claim it, blab it and grab it, command it and demand it, God is our heavenly bellhop just waiting to fill our order if we only believe hard enough); to the "*Just preach the Gospel*" rhetoric; to the "*War of the Testaments*" ("That's not in the New Testament," and besides, God got an attitude adjustment at the cross), "*Why Does A Nice Guy Like Me...*" challenges many of the convenient excuses that have kept the churched safe, and irrelevant.

And finally, Randall Terry does more than expose bad theology. In the final analysis, having diagnosed the problem, *Why Does A Nice Guy Like Me Keep Getting Thrown In Jail?* details a workable plan for the future; a plan that recalls the Church to stand for the faith passed on to us by our nation's Founding Fathers; a plan that liberates the believer of the baggage of "traditional family values" and "conservative" politics and allows him to stand on the basis of all good law, God's law; and a plan that refuses to share equal time with hell.

As Terry puts it, "*We don't want "equal time" with baby-killers, condom pushers, New Agers, one-worlders, and sodomite recruiters. We do not want them to have any access to public schools. We won't tolerate them having a single moment to expose our children or anyone else's to their godless agenda....We will not put the flawless, eternal Word of God on the same par with godless laws, or the ungodly lies of men and demons.*"

Repentance, Resistance, and Reformation, the final chapter, provides a framework where the true believer is unapologetic in his intolerance for a standard of justice that is less than God's standard. *Why Does A Nice Guy Like Me Keep Getting Thrown In Jail?* is packed with insights that make for powerful discussion and may well offer the remedy we need to put the Church back on the road to relevance in a society that desperately needs the answers that only she has. ■

"GETTING SERIOUS"

10TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE ACTION NETWORK (P.L.A.N.) CONVENTION

Sunday, August 8, to Sunday, August 15, 1993
at a church ranch in the mountains near Denver

The **Pro-Life Action Network (P.L.A.N.)** is an informal alliance of the oldest nonviolent pro-life direct action groups in the country. It includes the Pro-Life Direct Action League in St. Louis which has carried on a continuous rescue campaign since the 1970's. (Joan Andrews began rescuing with them in 1980.) It includes the Pro-Life Action League in Chicago, the Pro-Life Action Ministries in Saint Paul and dozens of other pro-life action groups around the country. Many national programs and organizations (such as Operation Rescue) grew out of previous P.L.A.N. conventions.

This year's convention (with the theme, **"GETTING SERIOUS"**) will coincide with the International World Youth Congress in Denver, August 8 - 15, which will be addressed by **Pope John Paul II**. There will be 200,000 young people in Denver that week from all over the world and almost 500,000 people will be present the latter part of the week when the Pope arrives. The temporary pro-abort occupants of the White House will be in Denver, one to greet the Pope and the other to see him off.

Most of the national rescue organizations will be in Denver in August and make presentations at the P.L.A.N. convention. We are planning to learn and profit from several days of open discussions and round table conversations at the beginning of the week. During the middle of the week we have scheduled a special youth rally, and a rescue rally at the end of the week. Rescues and other direct action projects will be carried out during the latter part of the week - while the Pope is in town.

This is **your invitation** to join us for the 10th annual P.L.A.N. Convention. It is a chance to show the world, and Pope John Paul II, how much you care about the babies. It is your chance to intervene in their behalf.

This years' conference will feature **no banquets** and **no banquet speeches.** It is **not for tourists.** It for **serious pro-life activists** who need to talk to one another. It will emphasize discussion seminars led by pro-life veterans. A few of the topics to be discussed include the following:

* **Old Timer's Seminar** - a history of the direct action movement.

* **The Christian foundation of nonviolent direct action** - relying on the spiritual power of the teachings of Jesus Christ to overcome the abortion holocaust.

* **Direct Action Tactics** - between going to jail for rescue and working in the political process there are dozens of things we can do to help win the war against the preborn.

* **Reforming the churches** - What can we do to turn our churches back into bearers of the moral high road to lead us in the fight against the twin evils of abortion and euthanasia?

* **Home schooling and church-based schools** - Why are Christian families raising pagan children? Why are religious colleges producing "pro-choice" students? How to get serious about Christian education for our children.

* **Pro-Life missionaries** - How to build up local support groups. How to have solidarity in jail. The spirituality of prison.

In addition to the seminars and discussion time, we are planning many projects all week long. Our main direct action projects will focus on the effort to **educate the young people** about abortion and the pro-life direct action movement in America. Please bring quantities of pro-life literature, especially in foreign languages, and your Life Chain signs. It is a unique opportunity to learn. It is also a great opportunity to spread the seeds of the pro-life activist movement to the rest of the world, while saving mothers and babies from the horror of abortion.