



**drama by george**

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# Testimony

**Synopsis:** Andrew, a college freshman who's drifted away from the Church, visits his old pastor to explain his reasons for not following Christianity anymore.

**Themes:** Doubt, falling away from God, pluralism.

**Characters:** 1 male (Andrew).

**Running Time:** 4 minutes.

**Staging Needs:** Bare stage with a café-style table and chairs in the center. No special lighting. Coffeeshop background sounds may be helpful, but don't let them overwhelm the dialogue. Andrew has a book and a latte mug with him.

**Acting Difficulty:** Moderate.

**Tone:** Dramatic monologue.

**Can It Stand Alone?:** No.

**Author's Comments:** Marina was a college friend of mine who was raised in church and very active in her high school youth group. But when she got past her senior year, she found that she *couldn't* believe anymore. The dual issues of intellectual doubts and lack of compassion in the church drove her away. There is a large percentage of the population that once "prayed a prayer" and attended church as a student, then walked away from the Lord as a teenager or adult. If we are really dedicated to making disciples, we need to reach out to people like Marina.

**Performance Tips:** Andrew can have fun with some of the lines, like the one about "mindlessly obeying Moses, Jesus, and Dr. Dobson." Still, we need to feel his struggle at the end. Andrew's doubting and wrestling are very real. Keep in mind that he isn't so assured as he'd like Pastor Allen to think he is. Gabe, a student actor who performed this piece, literally acted out the antics of the street preacher who threatens the "Lake of Fire"--and it made for good theatre. (Sadly, the words of that street preacher are based upon the actual message of a misguided campus evangelist--right down to the focus on "lust and masturbation.")

# Testimony

By George Halitzka

*For Marina, who wants to believe*

(As the lights rise, ANDREW walks onto the stage and sits down at a small cafe table. We hear the sounds of a coffeeshop in the background.)

ANDREW

*Look, Pastor Allen, you know why I'm here. My Mom wouldn't lay off until I came. Let's get this over with so I can go home, and you can--I don't know; read the Bible, or whatever you do.*

(A pause as Pastor Allen asks a question.)

Why don't I go to church? Well, Mom doesn't make me anymore. I hope this doesn't offend you, but I think Christianity is a hoax. Educated people know the Bible is full of mistakes.

(Again, the pastor says something.)

No, I don't mean you're not educated. But you went to, I don't know, preacher college or something. My profs say the Bible is great literature and all that, but it's archaic to think it comes straight from God.

Besides, a lot of Christians are really judgmental. And--present company excluded--most of 'em are fruits. On my campus, we have street preachers outside the Atrium all the time. A couple weeks ago, my one o'clock was canceled, so I stopped to listen to this guy. He had long black hair in a ponytail, and he was wearing this really bad polyester suit . . . like he was in "Pimps for Christ." I was the only one actually listening, so he started talking straight to me.

"You're bound for the lake of fire!" he says. "Repent and turn from your sin! Your drinking, swearing, and drugs. Only Jesus can save you from your lust and masturbation!" Lust and masturbation? Come on! He said, "Let Jesus light a fire under you!"

I remember in junior high, when Mom was still making me go to church, the leaders talked about "being on fire for God." I guess that meant closing your eyes and waving your arms while

ANDREW (*cont'd*)

you sang. And the sermons--it was always about what I should do and what I shouldn't do. Nothing about thinking for yourself--always, "This is what the Bible says."

I guess that's okay for people like my mom, or maybe for you. If it makes you feel good, fine. If you need those dos and don'ts in your life, great. But I don't. I wanna think for myself, not mindlessly obey Moses, Jesus, and--Dr. Dobson.

Pastor Allen, I wanna be the best person that I can be. I want to find the truth, no matter what it is. If Christianity has part of it, that's great. But Christians seem awfully narrow-minded. It's like, if you don't go to this church, you're going to hell. If you don't obey Jesus, you're going to hell. If you smoke or cuss, you're going to hell.

I'm still looking. When I find the truth, I think I'll know it. But until then, I can't go to church just to make Mom happy. I gotta keep searching.

(Blackout.)

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