

Concern

TOPICS AND NEWS FROM FIRST & LAST MINISTRIES

No5 Published quarterly CHRIST JESUS SAVES WATCHTOWER SLAVES

Spring 1993

CONTRIBUTION SYSTEM COMES TO BRITAIN

CHANGES in the way the Watch Tower Society sells its books in the United States of America has prompted a similar change in Britain.

Readers of the Watchtower may have noticed that starting with the 1 March 1993 issue, the price is missing from the inside cover.

This is because a letter from the Watch Tower Society has been read to all British congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses informing them that all literature is now offered on a contribution basis.

This follows a move in the USA which proved very profitable with the JW contributing the same for his literature and

by
Philip Mawson

then again when he has received a donation from the public who have "contributed" for literature. So the Society gets in effect a double donation.

In Britain the double donation does not apply as the society gives the Watchtowers free to its members for them to sell.

An experimental phone call to the Watch Tower Society's headquarters in Mill Hill, London, to request literature, informed us that postal requests for

LATE

THE Watch Tower Society has announced its new president as Milton G. Henschel.

Milton Henschel replaces former president Frederick Franz who died on December 22 aged 99.

NEWS

literature are now no longer possible and must be obtained through the local congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The JW caller who brings the literature will then ask for a suitable donation.

This will of course hamper Witness watchers who are blacklisted as opposers or apostates from obtaining WT source material, who will have to use alternative methods, i.e. get a friend or relative to order the literature for them.

SHOULD JWS BE BAPTISED?

SEE BACK PAGE

WELCOME

Dear Reader,

IT seems that with each issue published we are getting to know of more and more of the Lord's people willing to contact Jehovah's Witnesses. Our mailing list is steadily growing.

We want you to use CONCERN to air your own experiences with the Watch Tower Society. Perhaps you have never been associated with Jehovah's Witnesses, but nevertheless have a burning desire to reach them for Christ. Many who read our magazine and use our tracts were at one time controlled by the heady influences of the Watch Tower.

You may have wondered why you became a Witness in the first place - or why you stayed so long. You now know that God allowed it all to happen to work his purposes out in you.

If you have an experience to relate, let us know.

We would like to thank you all for the letters and articles being sent to us. Should anything you have sent not appear in this issue, it does not mean it has been rejected or discarded, but simply means we had no room and it will appear in a later issue.

Please keep writing and sending any information or news you have on the Watch Tower Society.

Thank-you for all your support. Each and every one of you are a great encouragement.

Les Kerr & Bill Bacon,
First & Last Ministries.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for your letter and further copies of tracts that you sent to me - sorry I have taken so long to reply - as Christians the thing that seems to be in short supply is spare time!

The summer edition of "CONCERN" has arrived which I found to be a great blessing and source of information. Continue in this vital ministry, I'm sure the Lord will use it to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ.

The note about the ex-JW now working for the Blood Transfusion Service was great - can anyone say that God doesn't have a sense of humour?

A lady and her daughter came to see me quite a while ago and I have shared the gospel with the mum four times now! She keeps coming back to me and I praise the Lord for this. As I have spoken to them I believe the Lord has shown me through my conversations with these lovely ladies that although the deity of Christ and where heaven is are vital subjects they are often the JW's favourite topic and one which they are well trained to discuss with people. I am going to concentrate on eternal life and that it is only received by faith in Jesus Christ because I feel that JW's, despite their "head knowledge", do not have any assurance of their eternal life at all. When questioned, they are hoping to receive it by works, often resulting in hours of door knocking and endless meetings.

There are many others who are

trapped in the same way (500 in the Kingdom Hall in Kettering) and prayer is the first step to release them from their chains.

Mrs Julie Buckingham,
Kettering.

TO THE EDITOR

Many thanks for the latest "CONCERN". The "Should JW's eat cornflakes?" article was great and is similar to an article I placed in our local newspaper recently.

I would like to put the "cornflake" article in the paper nearer Christmas as a Christmas greeting if that is ok with you.

God Bless,
Your brother in Jesus,
Russ Almond
Birkenhead, Merseyside

FIRST & LAST
C&G MINISTRIES

Send your letters to:
First & Last Ministries
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Loughton, Essex,
IG10 2LR.

The Testimony of Tom O'Donnell

Part Two

Tom O'Donnell was raised a Roman Catholic. After speaking to a JW friend at work he could see the Catholics were wrong and was about to join the Witnesses, but God had different plans. His story continues.

From Judo To JESUS

PROVIDENCE PAVES THE WAY FOR GRACE

At this time I went to a Christian group at work, who were meeting for fellowship and lunch each week. I went along to them and was going to convince them about Jehovah, but never told them that was what I was doing. As the weeks went by I could see that some of the Scriptures they were using had a different meaning from what the Jehovah's Witnesses meant.

By this time I was becoming very confused, I was now in a position of not knowing what to believe. Here was turmoil. I had had the beliefs of the Roman Catholic church taken from under my feet, only to be replaced by the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses, then to have that taken away from me and have it replaced by these born-again Christians. I wanted to know the truth but

didn't know what to do, or what to believe.

SCRIPTURE ALONE

I confided in a Christian female dental student, who advised me to read the Gospels for myself. What good would that do I thought? She asked me, "Do you believe that the Word of God is true?" I said, "Yes", although I was so confused I had just wanted to throw it away. I knew I couldn't, because it was just that, God's Word. She then asked me, "Do you believe that the Holy Spirit can teach you and lead you into all truth as the Bible says?", "I do," was my reply, "Well here is what I suggest," she said. "Don't go to any church, don't go to the Jehovah's Witnesses, don't go back to the Roman Catholic church and don't come here to us and don't speak to anyone about it. Just let it be

between you and the Holy Spirit, and if you mean what you say, that you want to know the truth, He will lead you and guide you into all truth." This sounded good to me because it was only through speaking to man that I had gotten myself into this situation.

So now all I had to do, was read and believe. I had to go and find out what the Gospels were, I didn't realize that it was Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the New Testament. So I went along to the Kingdom Hall and asked them not to call on me as this was what I was going to do. The elder there also advised me to read Acts as well.

TRUTH CASTS OUT ERROR

My search for God was now on in earnest. I was a very slow reader and it took me up to two months of reading every spare minute I could find, reading it word for word, every full stop and comma. By the time I had got to the fourth book, John chapter 3 verse 3 it said if you want to be in the Kingdom of God then you must be born again. I was now convinced that the Jehovah's Witnesses were wrong, since they teach that only a small number of them, 144,000, could go to heaven, and only these could be the born again ones. Yet in the same chapter it says in three different places, you must be born again, you can have eternal life. This had stuck in my mind, in John 3 - three times you must be born again and three times you can have eternal life. Jesus doesn't have to tell me three times, who was I going to believe the Jehovah's Witnesses or Jesus? I chose Jesus. So because of this I

could no longer join them.

Now where do I go? I found a church which advertised a "Prayer and Bible study Wednesday evenings". So I went along. I enjoyed it, so I decided that is where I would stay. But before I could stay I made a promise to the Jehovah's Witness elder that I would tell them what my decision was. So I went along to the Kingdom Hall, only unknown to me it was a special evening. It was the one evening they have what we call Communion or the Lord's Supper. The strange thing was that no one took it, they all just passed it around from one to another.

When the meeting was over I went up to one of the elders and asked them why didn't anyone take the bread and wine. The reply came back, "Well when you become one of the 144,000 class you become more spiritually aware of the Scriptures and a better teacher". Somehow this didn't ring true in my ears. It seemed strange to me. So I left the Kingdom Hall never to return. I went to the Baptist Church just across the road.

PART THREE OF

From Judo
To
JESUS

IN THE NEXT EDITION OF
CONCERN

Father died for faith

By JOHN COLES

A JEHOVAH'S Witness badly injured in a car crash died yesterday after refusing a blood transfusion.

Jehovah's Witness crash man refused blood

He was on Wednesday night the emergency, Blackpool 20 was held on board after the crash but was critical in the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford yesterday.

between Junction 16 and 17, near the town of Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, a motorist in his 40s is believed to have died early yesterday.

One of the witnesses, Mr. Dale, was a Jehovah's Witness. The friend who drove him to the hospital said that he and Mrs. Dale had two children, Christopher, 11, and Andrew, nine. Mr. Dale was released from hospital last night.

COMING
SOON
another case
for



*Inspector
Berean.*

A JEHOVAH'S Witness badly injured in a car crash died yesterday after refusing a blood transfusion.....

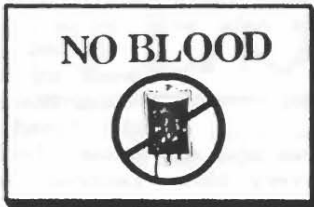
So starts another tragic story highlighting the power the Watch Tower Society has over it's members.

As most people are aware, the Watch Tower Society teaches that blood transfusions are unbiblical. But on what Scriptures do the Witnesses base their beliefs?

The Watch Tower Society uses three main Scripture references in support of it's theory. Genesis 9:4 Here a command is given that refers to the eating of blood, but not receiving transfusions. Noah is commanded not to eat flesh which still had the blood in it. In other words don't eat living animals, or animals not properly drained of blood. Leviticus 17:10-16 Again we find reference to the actual eating of the blood of animals; which is in no way connected with transfusions.

Acts 15:20 Here it says to abstain from things

contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. We read in Acts 15:21: "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the



synagogues every sabbath." It now becomes clear that abstaining from blood does in no way refer to receiving blood transfusions as the Watch

interpretation wishes it to.

Eating and transfusing are two completely different bodily processes. Blood which is eaten is digested and destroyed, but blood transfused is not eaten, but enters into the circulatory system.

A similar Watch Tower teaching regarding vaccinations was classified as unbiblical in the 1930s. However

Jehovah 'changed the teaching' in the 1960s!

Will the doctrine on blood be changed also? We pray, for the sake of its members, it will.



by
Tom
McCre

The Watch Tower Society is distributing documents to hospitals listing the names of local JW elders and

their phone numbers. The forms, put out by the Society's Hospital Liaison Committee, will put the onus of any flak, or problems concerning medical treatment for members, squarely on the local elders.

They will "carry the can" while the lords of Brooklyn sit untouched and clear of any blame.

144,000

THE Jehovah's Witnesses believe only 144,000 people are in the New Covenant. What does the Bible say?

In Galatians 4:22-31 it mentions how Abraham had two sons, one by Hagar the bond woman and another by Sarah the free woman (the sons being Ishmael and Isaac respectively).

Verse 24 clearly states that these two women "stand as a symbolic drama, for these women mean TWO COVENANTS." New World Translation of JW's.

Verses 24 and 25 further tell us that Hagar symbolises the

Old Law Covenant from Mount Sinai, while in verses 26 and 27, (Sarah) stands for the New Covenant and the Jerusalem above (i.e. the Christians mother).

In verse 27 Paul quotes from Isaiah 54:1, where Jehovah God is married to the Nation of Israel via the Law Covenant. Compare also Jeremiah 3:14 & 31:32.

Thus the barren woman, the desolate woman (the New Covenant) has many more children (NKJV) or more numerous (NWT), than the woman who has the husband (the Law Covenant between Israel and Jehovah).

So it is clear that the Law Covenant brought forth MILLIONS of children from the time of Moses to John the Baptist, Matthew 11:13 (a fact even the JW's wouldn't deny). Hence the New Covenant would bring forth

by Philip Mawson

MANY MORE than this, yes they would be **MORE NUMEROUS** as the NWT puts it.

This is because the New Covenant would comprise of Jews and Gentiles without any distinction (Romans 3:22).

Thus it can be easily and scripturally demonstrated that the New Covenant is made with MILLIONS of persons and not just 144,000 as is taught by the Watch Tower Society.

When I was a Jehovah's Witness, I recall using this argument with the Witness elders of my congregation, no-one could refute it. I have never seen this argument used in any polemic literature on the Watch Tower Society nor used by Christians in debating this issue with a Witness caller.

I thus present the case here, as I find it easily demolishes the Watch Tower's argument that the New Covenant is made only between Christ and 144,000 members of the Church.

So Christians, let's use this effective and simple argument of Scripture with JW callers and pray the Lord will open their heart to receive these things (Acts 16:14b).

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APRIL FOOLS?



AS another Easter approaches, so the Jehovah's Witnesses knocking on your door will no doubt start to warn you of its pagan origins and how Christians should never take part in celebrations.

In the Awake magazine of March 22, 1986 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 is cited by the Watch Tower as a warning to all those associated with pagan practices, concluding *"Surely that would include customs that are clearly derived from - or unmistakably resemble - false religious practices."*

The practice of baptism, however, pre-dates the Christian faith. It was employed in Babylonia and in ancient Egypt, where the cold waters of the Nile were thought to increase strength and bestow immortality. The Greeks also believed that baptism could bring regeneration or could procure immortality for the initiate. The Jewish sect at Qumran practiced baptism for initiation into their community. It was required that Gentile converts to Judaism be circumcised and seven days later be baptized by immersion before witnesses.

Watchtower, 1 April 1993

But, according to an article on page 4 of the Watchtower, 1 April 1993, nearly one million Jehovah's Witnesses, in the last three years, were guilty of carrying out a pagan practice. Their sin...being baptised.

Yes, the April 1, 1993 Watchtower tells us that baptism *"predates the Christian faith,"* and was used in ancient Egypt to bestow immortality.

If we were to apply the Jehovah's

Witnesses' reasoning to this, Jehovah's Witnesses should stop being baptised immediately.

Obviously the Watch Tower Society isn't going to stop baptising its members, yet why does it persist in criticizing those who celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection?

No doubt when brought to the attention of a JW it could be explained away as an April Fools joke.

We leave the Jehovah's Witness with the same challenge as the Watch Tower left celebrators of Easter in the Awake, March 22, 1986: *"The challenge now to those who know the truth about baptism is whether they will act upon what they know or not."*

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