

Concern

No. 20
Spring 1997

Topics and News from First & Last Ministries



INSIDE - Housewife
on a mission
see pages 4 & 5

New Study Sheet
see centre pages

**KINGDOM
CAPERS**
see page 11

Watch Tower Society's new promise to members.... **MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE**



Should we look
out for this
symbol in future
issues of the
Watchtower?

IT seems the Watch Tower Society has given up inventing new prophecies. Instead, if recent Watchtower magazines are anything to go by, it's started to re-cycle its old ones.

Back in the year 1920 the Watch Tower Society released its book "Millions Now Living Will Never Die", which prophesied that the resurrection of the dead would take place in 1925, thus necessitating Armageddon and the Millennium.

On page 97 of the book we read "Millions of people now on earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then based upon the promises set forth in the divine word we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die".

Despite the miserable failure of this 1925 prophecy the phrase "Millions Now Living Will Never Die" has remained a dandy little cliché featured in many Watch Tower

by
Philip Mawson

publications since the original 1925 application.

But, just in case any rank and file Jehovah's Witness thinks the phrase is past its sell by date, the Watch Tower magazine of January 1st 1997 has given the phrase a new lease of life stating "In the 1920's a featured public talk, presented by Jehovah's Witnesses, was entitled "Millions Now Living Will Never Die". This may have reflected over optimism at that time, but today that statement can be made with full confidence".

I ask on what basis can that statement be made today with full confidence as opposed to the 1925

proclamation?

Ray Franz, a former member of the Watch Tower Society's governing body, aptly described the whole "Millions" scenario in his book "Crisis of Conscience" as follows "1925, on which the prediction and slogan was based, proved empty of all the things foretold. The teaching was without substance, mere fluff, prophetic fantasy" p 194.

Surely the January 1st Watchtower only seeks to perpetuate that prophetic fantasy.

With deserved sarcasm I must say that, based upon the promises set forth in Watch Tower publications, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions of JWs now living have bought a lie.



NEWS REPORT

Witness rise halted in Britain.

Dear Reader,

IT is with good reason that we can celebrate with this issue of *Concern*.

If you have already looked at the news column opposite, then you will be aware that the number of Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain decreased last year.

Over the last decade we have seen the number of JW's gradually declining, and we praise God for this fact.

But, what can we put this decrease down to? Is it the work of the various ministries reaching out to JW's or is there another reason?

Of course, many ex-Witnesses will bear testimony to the fact that it was only through the intervention of a well-informed individual that they were able to break free from the control of the Watch Tower Society.

But, on the other hand, the Watch Tower Society has only itself to blame for its declining ranks.

Recent changes to its end-time prophecies has, while not producing a flood of people leaving, led to a lot more people questioning the authority of the Watch Tower Society.

But while we must be ready to reach out to those JW's who we will surely come into contact with, the real challenge for us is to educate the public more to the dangers of the society and prevent them from joining them in the first place.

It is with this in mind that First & Last Ministries will soon be announcing an exciting new outreach idea that could, if used correctly, see the number of members joining the society reduced dramatically.

Keep reading these pages over the coming months for more news about this exciting new venture.

In the meantime enjoy this issue and keep sending your news to us.

Les Kerr & Bill Bacon,
First & Last Ministries.

LATEST figures, printed in the Watchtower magazine show that the number of Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain fell during 1996.

According to the Annual Service Year Report, which was printed in the January 1st 1997 issue of the Watchtower, there were 124,623 Witnesses at the end of 1996.

This was compared to 125,138, Witnesses at the end of 1995.

However, across the pond, in the United States of America the number of Witnesses grew by 9,121, from 912,002 to 921,123, a rise of one percent.

Register now for new help-file.

IF you run or know someone who runs a ministry reaching out to Jehovah's Witnesses then let us know.

First & Last Ministries is to compile a comprehensive directory listing as many outreach organisations as possible.

Instead of searching through all your cult-related magazines, this one directory can be referred to when help is needed on a particular subject.

If you would like to be included, or would like to include any organisation you have found helpful in the past, then send us the details including the organisation's name, address, phone number and, most importantly, what it does, to:

HELP-FILE
248 Chester Road
Loughton, Essex
IG10 2LR

Over the next few months we will compile all the information we get and print it in a future issue of *Concern*.

TO THE EDITOR

MY friend Stan Howard recently wrote to me and told me about your newsletter.

He wondered if I might like to send you my testimony, which I have enclosed, I hope it is what you need.

At the moment I am involved with helping a young man, who is going through a very traumatic time, after coming out of the JW's.

Also, his mother is in need of healing from the effects of being involved with them.

At the moment everything is beginning to take shape, so we pray for the Lord to lift this situation and, by the power of His Holy Spirit, help us to help them.

The tracts you sent me were the best I have read. I would love to have more copies of *Aware!*, as I feel that I could send them to Jehovah's Witnesses I know personally.

I also found the newsletter *Concern* so true and reading the testimonies really encouraged me.

It is so easy, sometimes, to think that nobody knows what you are going through on a daily basis and that you are alone in your struggles.

Even though friends and family are helping, it's deep inside where the hurt and longing for healing is, not only for yourself, but for family still in the cult.

Concern brings such people together and it would be lovely to be able to write to people who give their testimony. If you print mine I would love it if anyone felt they would like to write to me.

The article you printed on the JW's new book *Knowledge* was very interesting.

What wasn't mentioned was the fact that the book was designed to bring people into the organisation in only six months.

Letters

out this information some time ago when her heart softened towards me. But, as I write, she now has returned to her hard hearted treatment towards me.

**Yours in the Lord,
Nora Osborne,
Chaddesden, Derby.**

● *Nora's testimony will be printed in a future issue of Concern.*

TO THE EDITOR

THANKS for your letter. I heard of you from a workmate who is also saved.

He'd read an article in your newsletter about the Kingdom Hall that was bought from the Jehovah's Witnesses in the Swansea area.

Yes please to the offer of free tracts, can you send me a selection?

**God bless you,
Tony Gingell,
Tonypandy, Mid Glamorgan.**

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

*First & Last Ministries
248 Chester Road, Loughton.
Essex SS10 2AD*

Concern 3

Concern 3



Come Out From Among Them

a book by Dorothy Banks

ROTHERHAM housewife Dorothy Banks knows that God has given her a mission in life.

After three years as a Jehovah's Witness she was led to start an outreach ministry which has kept her busy for the last 21 years.

Now Dorothy shares her experiences in a new book, released last year.

If someone had told Dorothy Banks that one day she would be running an outreach ministry to Jehovah's Witnesses all over the world she would have probably laughed at them.

On nerve tablets for most of her life, Dorothy first came into contact with the Jehovah's Witnesses in 1968 when two ladies knocked on her door.

Finding what they had to say very interesting, Dorothy was soon invited to take part in a "Bible Study".

It didn't take long before she was regularly attending meetings and taking part in door-to-door work.

But, despite her involvement, God still seemed very far away and none of her prayers seemed to be answered. Dorothy was never able to bring herself to be baptised.

Three years later, in the summer of 1971, Dorothy left the organisation.

Praying that Jehovah would lead her to the real truth, Dorothy and her husband Ray met some born again Christians who invited them to their church.

At first, Dorothy refused but, afterwards she changed her mind and decided to go.

Realising that this was where God wanted her, Dorothy surrendered her life to Christ in November 1971.

After her conversion to Christ, Dorothy had a burning desire to share Jesus with Jehovah's Witnesses, God having put in her heart a special love for them.



The burden of her heart was now to tell the Jehovah's Witnesses how to find the true Jesus

So began her studies to find out why the JW's teachings were wrong, and how best to win them for Jesus

Her studies finally led her, in 1976, into the "Help Jesus Ministry" which seeks to win JWs to Christ

ADVERTISEMENTS

Placing small advertisements in the local paper produced around 30 letters, the first coming from a woman who Dorothy was able to eventually lead to Christ

The adverts continued and the ministry grew to include telephone messages and tracts

Now 21 years, and some 500 letters, later Dorothy has decided to share her experiences in a new book entitled *Come Out from Among Them*.

But, unlike many of the books which deal the the subject of Jehovah's Witnesses, this is really two books in one

The first part of the book gives readers a detailed and glorious account of her life and eventual conversion to Christ

While the second half of the book deals with her ministry and details many of the Watch Tower's errors that she discovered during her studies

It also contains many testimonies from people who left the JWs and come to salvation in Christ, partly through her ministry

In explaining how the book came about Dorothy admitted that it wasn't something she had just decided to do

"I first wrote the book within a year of my conversion," she said

"Then I just kept adding to it as the Lord worked in my life"

"There are many answers to prayer, many trials, and many joyous occasions that I could have added, but I guess this would have made the book too long

"Maybe I could write another book, trusting my memory would produce the necessary details of the many happenings in my Christian life

"I pray God will bless and illuminate all who read this book and that He will use it to glorify His wonderful name and draw many unto Himself," she said

The ministry still goes well, although, Dorothy admits that she does not seem to get many serious talks with the JWs lately

She told *Concern*: "The last JWs I spoke to were last July and they soon guessed who I was, and wanted to be off

"But I am still sending out many tracts, which I get regular requests for, and I'm still in touch with many people who are seeking to win JW friends or relatives, and I seek to help them by sending books, videos or tracts

"I get plenty phoning me too So I praise God that He's still using me, although I long to talk with JWs face to face, even though I am nervous!"

Dorothy still receives letters of encouragement

"A few days ago I had a letter from a couple who have just left the Watchtower and wanted a copy of my book Please pray for Howard and Heather"



Come Out From Among Them

If you would like to read Dorothy Banks' new book then please send a cheque or postal order, for £11 95 plus £1 p&p, to her at

**126 Oaks Lane
Kimberworth Park
Rotherham
South Yorkshire
S61 3NE**



Is The Holy Spirit A Person?

by Robert Skynner



THE Watch Tower Society will go to almost any length to disprove the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ

So it's not surprising that the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, should also come under attack from the society, likening it to nothing more than just a radar beam or electricity.

In this issue of *Concern* Robert Skynner begins the first of a two-part article which asks "Is the Holy Spirit a Person?"

IS the Holy Spirit a personal being or an impersonal force, an "it" or a "he" and should we refer to the Holy Spirit as "him" or "it"?

Trinitarians do not mean by the word "person" that the Spirit is a person just as we are, nor do we mean that he has a human body

Trinitarians use the word person to describe the Holy Spirit, to imply that the Holy Spirit has all the attributes of personality, and is therefore a personal being, a "he" not an impersonal "it"

An impersonal "it" cannot possess the four attributes of personality which are, self-cognition, self-will, intellect, and emotion

For only a personal being, a "he" can say, speak and say "I", have a self-will, and possess both intellect and emotion

Self-Cognition, the Holy Spirit can speak and say "Me" and "I" (Acts 13 2) An impersonal "it" cannot do this, only personal beings can say "Me" and "I"

Self-Will, is an attribute of personality which is possessed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16 6-7, 1 Cor 12 11).

How can an impersonal "it" exercise self-will over personal beings?

Intellect, is possessed by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2 10-13) The phrase "searches all things" means to investigate a matter (with his mind) 2

At Romans 8 27 we read that God the Father knows "the mind of the Spirit" According to Arndt and Gingrich's highly respected *Greek-English Lexicon of the*

*New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*3, the word translated "mind"4 in this verse means "way of thinking, mind-set, aim, aspiration, striving"

How can an impersonal force "an impersonal it" possess such an attribute, also can "a force" teach (Jn 14 26) yet not possess the attribute of intellect?

Emotion, The Holy Spirit is grieved at Isa 63 10 and Rom 15 30) Yet can one grieve an impersonal force such as electricity?

Is not grief an emotion, which is something that one "feels", and therefore cannot be experienced by a force, (an it) which cannot experience emotions

To illustrate my point, the Corinthian believers experienced sorrow upon their reading of Paul's stern letter to them (2 Cor 2 2-5)

Yet here we find seven times within this passage, the same Greek word which is found also at Ephesians 4 30 and translated "grieved"5

Can an unintelligent force carry on a conversation? This is the question posed by the *Awake* magazine of December 8th, 1973, (page 27) where it concludes that Satan cannot be an "unintelligent force", as only a "person" can engage in such conversations.

To this I agree but add that as the Holy Spirit can also speak (Eze 3 24, Jn 14 16-17, Acts 10 19-20, 13 2), decree (Acts 15 28), command (Acts 8 29) and prophecy (Acts 21 11)

The Holy Spirit can also be "obeyed"

(Acts 13 2, and Peter obeying the spirit in Acts 10), but an impersonal force or thing cannot be obeyed, only a personal being can I thereby conclude this article by saying that the Holy Spirit must also be a personal being, "a he" rather than a force or impersonal "it"

1. The phrase "He wills" (1 Cor. 12:11) is translated from the Greek word "bouletai" (1014 in Strong's Concordance) which refers to "decisions of the will after previous deliberation". William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1957), page 146. The Holy Spirit therefore makes a sovereign choice regarding which spiritual gifts each Christian will receive. An impersonal "it" (a force) does not have such a will. Furthermore, this same Greek word "bouletai" is also found at James 1:18, where it is used to describe God the Father's will.

2. The word for "search" at 1 Cor. 2:10 is "ereunao" in the Greek (2045 in Strong's) and occurs six times in the Scriptures at Jn. 5:39, 7:52, Rom. 8:27, 1 Cor. 2:10, 1 Pet 1:11, Rev 2:33 and always means "to search with one's mind or reasoning faculty". This is clearly demonstrated at John 5:39 (first usage) where we read "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life." Just as the Jews used their minds to search the Scriptures, so too does the Holy Spirit use his mind in searching the things of God, hence Paul's usage of "ereunao" at 1 Cor. 2:10.

3. William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, page 874.

4. The word translated "mind" at Rom. 8:27 is "phronema" (5427 in Strong's). It occurs three times in the Scriptures (Romans 8:6, 7, 27) and derives from the root "phroneo" (5426 in Strong's), which occurs 21 times and means; To have understanding, to be wise, to feel, to think. This root word, "phroneo" is translated as "to think" at 1 Cor. 4:6, "understood" at 1 Cor. 13:11 and "mind" at 2 Cor. 13:11.

5. "lupeo" (3076 in Strong's), which means to make sorrowful, affect with sadness, cause grief and to make one uneasy, is translated as "make" and "sorry" (twice) at 1 Cor. 2:2, "grieved" at 1 Cor. 2:3, and "caused grief", "he hath" and "grieved" at 1 Cor. 2:5 (King James Version).

Next Issue - Part Two

COULD YOU WRITE FOR *Concern?*

COULD you write an article for a future issue of *Concern*?

We are currently seeking articles on various Watchtower subjects including news on the activities of local congregations in your area.

It doesn't matter how small or insignificant you think the news is, we would like to hear about it.

Perhaps you are yourself witnessing to members of the organisation and have prayer requests to share with us.

Or, if you run a ministry in your local area, you could give other readers the help and encouragement to start their own.

No writing experience is necessary, as we can advise and help you put an article together.

There is no limit to the length of the article but longer ones may have to be used in two or more editions.

To help us, articles should be written or typed out and be double spaced between lines.

If you would like to submit anything for publication, then please phone or write to the address on the back page, just in case somebody else is preparing a similar article.

To readers who have already sent in articles, still to appear in *Concern*, please be patient - they will be printed.

First & Last Ministries.

Witnesses for the PROSECUTION

LAST year BBC south-west screened a damning documentary against the Watch Tower Society.

This month *Concern* looks at some of the stories it uncovered.

REGULAR *Concern* writer Philip Mawson was a member of the Watch Tower Society for many years.

When his mother, Lyn, left the Witnesses for conscientious reasons Phil followed the Watchtower's rules and ignored her for a year and a half, forcing his mother to come back.

"It was painful for me but I knew I had to put the organisation first", said Philip.

"If I was to do that then I would have to comply with its strictures and one of those is that a person who voluntarily disassociates themselves is to be shunned as a person who is excommunicated for a heinous crime.

"The Watchtower uses terminology, which I applied, which says we must loathe with utter detestation.

"This was the attitude that I had to reflect against my own mother."

Lyn said "When I next went into town my son was coming along with his children and I automatically greeted them. But I was shocked when the children's faces turned away from me and I could not believe it. I felt so hurt."

Phil continued, "She called to me and I ignored her, and this shunning continued for a long, long time.

"This led to psychological pressure on her part and she felt the only way to have her family back was to make her way back to the congregation.

"But it wasn't done through her own decision making, but it was done by psychological pressure to get her family back."

Philip and his mother later left the society together and took a large number of family members with them.

SPECIAL REPORT

WINDOW cleaner David Frost met his wife Deborah while knocking "on the doors".

He was advised not to form a relationship with her because she was not a member of the Watch Tower Society.

Despite opposition the relationship blossomed and now the couple have three children.

But David claims the strain it put on their relationship was one reason he left the organisation.

Their marriage first faltered over the question of blood.

NO BLOOD



When Deborah went into labour, with her first child, David says he bullied her into signing a form which forbade her to take blood.

Deborah said "It was only because I loved my husband that I signed the form, but I felt like I was playing Russian Roulette with my life.

"As it happened I did hemorrhage but, luckily for me I'm still here to tell the tale."

Even if Deborah had had to have blood, David said he would have refused permission to give her a transfusion.

"I would have done exactly as I was taught to do and trusted in the society's understanding of the Scriptures. Even though I would have watched my wife die, just like many other Witnesses in the past have done."

Out of the Watch Tower.... but the pain still goes on.

JEHOVAH'S Witnesses who break the rules and refuse to follow organisational guidelines are shunned by their friends and family

Nigel Rapson was excommunicated after confronting elders with doubts about the Watch Tower Society

He said "Immediately my sister, her husband, my brother and his wife cut off all communication

"Although I may speak to my father, it's a very restricted communication but, more or less, I've been cut off from real family dealings completely. And as for the rest of the JWs I often see them in the street and they walk past me like I don't even exist"

Nigel continued "The pain goes on and on. It's used as an emotional blackmail this shunning thing. So, although they can't literally stone you to death, by separating you from your family and loved ones, they can figuratively stone you to death

"So, it's a very great wedge for people to conform, to not even dare criticise, the Watch Tower movement"

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE PROGRAMME IN YOUR AREA?

FOR the first time on British television this programme has revealed the truth behind the Watch Tower Society

But, only a small part of the population was able to watch it

The BBC may decide to give the programme national coverage if enough people write in and ask for it to be screened

We are asking our readers to write a letter, or organise a petition in your church, and send it to

BBC

Mr Jeff Wilkinson
Broadcasting House
Seymour Road
Mannamead
Plymouth PL3 5DB

ADVERTISEMENT



IF you've ever stood on your doorstep and found yourself wanting to close the door on a visiting Jehovah's Witness then this challenging booklet is for you

Containing 16 pages of helpful advice on witnessing to the Witness, *Will You Share Jesus?* is written by Bill Browning (a JW himself for 23 years) of New Malden, in Surrey

Bill is also the co-author of *Awake!* to the Watchtower, published by Reachout Trust

For prices and orders contact -
Tom & Ella McCrea
35 Church Crescent,
Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim
N Ireland, BT36 6ES
☎ (01232) 848185

KINGDOM CAPERS



"Father, how many people does the Watchtower say are needed to change a light-bulb?"

"Well son, you need one to change the light and another 30 Watchtower writers to explain why the new light was needed."

THE TRUE JESUS

The testimony of Pauline Causton - Part Two

AFTER the death of both her parents to Cancer, Pauline Causton's involvement with the Watch Tower Society was about to come to an end.

Along with Susan, her best friend, Pauline was to discover true peace as she came to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Her story continues.

To my amazement, Susan was thinking on my lines. We discussed the Holy Trinity in length that night.

We had rejected it before partly because of Jehovah's Witness doctrines and partly because we didn't take the time to understand it.

Afterwards I read the Christian literature and books which, in turn, made me read the Bible. I started with the gospel of John.

I seemed to read the Bible now with open eyes. It was wonderful.

I cannot remember the exact day I found our Lord Jesus. It was a gradual thing.

What I can remember is falling on my knees, in the privacy of my own bedroom, and I realised that Jesus was God - Almighty God - and I wanted to follow Him.

At last I had found my peace with God after all those years of searching

I realised that He was my brother, my friend, my Saviour and Lord

Yes, the truth had certainly set me free! Praise be to God.

My daughter Jacqueline also came to know the truth about Jesus.

That was nearly five years ago. And I can say, with all honesty, that I love and know the Lord Jesus more.

The Christian life is not an easy life. Many new things are to be learned and

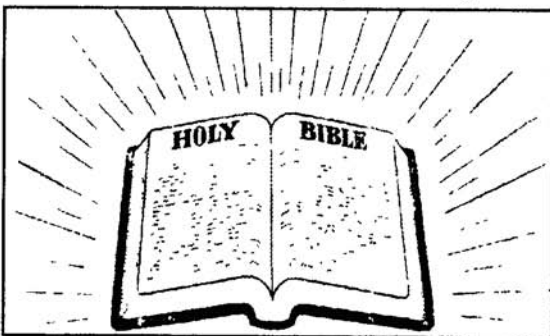
practiced, but it is a rewarding life.

I go to a Bible believing church and I mix with others who love the Lord Jesus.

My hope for the future is so unlike the hope of many Jews.

My hope is to see our Lord Jesus, face to face, as He promised in His word

Then, and only then, will I be truly whole.



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