

Concern

TOPICS AND NEWS FROM FIRST & LAST MINISTRIES

No 4 Published quarterly CHRIST JESUS SAVES WATCHTOWER SLAVES Winter 1993

WATCH TOWER PRESIDENT DIES AGED 99

Will
Fred Franz'
passing
cause the
winds of
change to
blow?

**WATCH TOWER president
Frederick W. Franz has died at the
age of 99.**

Born on September 12, 1893, Fred Franz first encountered the organisation in 1913, became personally acquainted with the Society's founder Charles Taze Russell in 1914 and joined the Brooklyn Bethel headquarters family in 1920.

His passing in December has the potential to produce the biggest crisis the Watch Tower organisation has faced in over 70 years.

Only twice before in history has the Watch Tower organisation lost its chief spiritual guide

and on both occasions, major change followed quickly.

The first time was in 1916, when founder and first president Charles Taze Russell had left behind detailed written instructions distributing his authority among several of his followers, second president Joseph F. Rutherford ignored his predecessors will and sought instead to consolidate power in his own hands. This resulted in a bitter factional battle that rocked the organisation.

Turn to page 6 ➡

WHO ARE WE?

FIRST & Last Ministries is an evangelistic outreach work exclusively to those deceived by the Watch Tower Society.

Can you help? Why not send for our tracts today. All our tracts are free, but second class stamps are welcome to offset postage costs.

Join with us in spreading the Gospel to JW's.

(Our Doctrinal Statement is available on request.)

WELCOME

WHAT KIND OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESS BECOMES A CHRISTIAN?

IN the last issue we asked the question "What kind of person becomes a Jehovah's Witness?" This time we look at who among them get saved.

Witnesses happen to be human beings, which means among them, like other walks of life, there are those who seem harder to talk to about the gospel than others. Who among us have not encountered a Witness and spent an hour with them, only to find at the end of it all we are thoroughly exasperated and no further on "getting them to see differently". The Witnesses' mind is still as firmly closed as ever.

While we should have a genuine concern for them to know the Lord, if we see that we are making no headway, then we must be sensitive to the indispensable work of the Holy Spirit. We can't convict anyone else of their sin and need of a Saviour. So if a Witness is only absorbed in "winning the argument" we should curtail our meeting there and then. By God's kindness there may be another time to talk. Or God may bring you into contact with another Witness who you sense is truly listening to what you say.

Isaiah said; "Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counselor hath taught Him?" (Isaiah 40:13).

Who among them will be next to be saved? That's in the Lord's hands.

The answer to our question is: All kinds of Jehovah's Witnesses become Christians. In this sense, they are the same as any other person who is lost. But, if WE have been saved by the mighty power of Christ, then there is hope for them.

Les Kerr.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

I live at Harold Hill, where there is a rather large number of JW's. I feel sorry for these lost souls, but a lot of people shun them. I run the prayer chain that links the churches of Harold Hill in united prayer.

We send out a news letter each month and I thought we could use this medium as a means to encourage people to pray for these poor misguided people.

I would like your permission to reproduce some of the material from you No.3 issue ie, Ex JW helps JW's to find Christ, by Dorothy Banks.

I would like to impress on people the importance of ongoing prayer for the JW's of Harold Hill and to say to our prayer chain members that they are not hopeless cases and that if we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us anything is possible; even converting the brain-washed.

Each of us must do what we can to further God's Kingdom.

Thank-you in anticipation.

Mrs Linda Hale,
Harold Hill Prayer Chain.

TO THE EDITOR

Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am very grateful to God for making it possible for me to write to you for the first time.

I am a native Pastor interested in witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses and other cults such as Mormons, Seventh Day Adventist, Roman Catholics and Church of Christ. This is one of my part-time ministries and through it I have converted many to Christ.

The purpose of writing to you is to ask for your assistance. I need good materials for reaching the above cults, especially Jehovah's Witnesses. I am getting new converts who need Holy Bibles and literature for their Christian growth. If you or your readers could help supply me with these materials I will distribute them to people who will use them to witness to the cults.

Lastly I would like to work with you in this ministry. May my request receive your approval with immediate effect. May God richly bless you.

Pastor M.N.Emehson,
Aba-Abia State, Nigeria, West Africa.

•If you can help Pastor Emehson, send any literature to us at the address below. We will then ship it to the Pastor.

FIRST & LAST
MINISTRIES

Send your letters to:

First & Last Ministries,
248 Chester Road, Loughton,
Essex, IG10 2LR.

The Testimony of Tom O'Donnell

Part One

EARLY LIFE AND CHILDHOOD DREAMS.

I was brought up in a staunch Roman Catholic home where all my relations were Roman Catholic. It was my childhood dream to be a Roman Catholic priest. I remember knowing all the Latin of the Mass, although I was never an altar boy. I also remember as a child of about nine getting up to go to early morning Mass on the first Friday of each month, which we were encouraged to do. We were told that we had to do it for nine months consecutively in order to be guaranteed a place in heaven. I don't know where this teaching came from in the church, just that this is what we were encouraged to do. Well I would get to about seven months and accidentally miss one, then I would start again and fail, then again and fail, until I gave up. I remember feeling a failure.

I was a faithful Roman Catholic, I did all the duties that were expected, Mass each Sunday, Holy Day obligations and confession very regularly. Much to the dismay of my family I

From Judo To JESUS

married a Protestant girl. I remember my father saying, "*You are not going to give your religion up for any girl you know.*" I agreed with this. As a staunch Roman Catholic I got my wife's twin sister and her boyfriend, all Protestants, married in a Roman Catholic church. This was unheard of, a double wedding in a Roman Catholic church and three of them non-catholics.

I have an unusual job, as a dental technician and worked at the Liverpool dental hospital. My duties there were to train apprentices and do the technical work for the maxillo-facial department, which would carry out routine fracture splints after someone has had a facial trauma. This included construction of facial prosthesis, which are artificial appliances for the face, such as an

eye or an ear or even part of a face that needs restoring after cancer has eaten it away. It was after constructing such an appliance and it had been fitted by surgeons, (our patient, an elderly lady could not tolerate it,) which caused me to think about God. I was now about 26 years of age. I looked at this appliance starting with the eye and thought how great God must be. Our normal eyes can see anything at a distance or near in an instant and relate this back to our brain, instant focus and multi-directional. Then I looked at the rubber that was to replace the skin. It was only one colour, it could not change as the normal skin does, for instance when we go into a room which is hot our skin changes, or if we go out into the cold it changes. If we prick ourselves with something it has sensitivity. This piece of rubber made to look like skin and the eye made to stay in one position, could never replace what God had made. Here were the most up to date materials and still are. (We have not advanced our technology to this day, and as far as I see, never will.)

SEARCHING FOR REALITY IN LIFE

At this point in time my marriage was running into difficulties. We were drifting apart. I cried out to God, *"If you are there answer me."*

Just shortly after this a Nigerian man came to be taught. He was supposed to stay here in England just three months, but he came and stayed for three years. After six months I had everything I had believed in taken away from under my feet by this man. He was a Jehovah's Witness. I had believed what the Roman Catholic Church had taught me without question, believing that they alone were the true Church and belonging to them was all you needed. As a Catholic I had never read the Bible. We had had the Gospels or should I say some verses of it read to us and some of the Epistles, but I had never read or owned a Bible. I had been to the parish priest and had asked him to explain to me more about the Mass, Mary, the Saints etc., but they were not interested in teaching me anything. The Jehovah's Witnesses were different, they would answer anything and appeared to have all the answers.

After about six months I was ready to throw my lot in with them. As I look back now I can see how very anti-Roman Catholic the Witnesses are. Unknown to me, if I joined the Witnesses, my wife was going to leave me.

PART TWO OF
FROM JUDO TO
JESUS IN THE
NEXT EDITION OF
CONCERN.



WATCH TOWER PRESIDENT DIES AGED 99

From front page

Although at first teaching that the dead Pastor Russell was still running the organisation from "beyond the veil" (*The Finished Mystery*, 1917, pages 144, 256), Rutherford soon began changing Russell's doctrines to suit his own taste. For example, while the Society under Russell had taught that the Great Pyramid of Egypt was inspired by Jehovah God², and so used Pyramid measurements as a guide for much of the chronology in the *Studies in the Scriptures* volumes, Rutherford credited the Pyramid to Satan the Devil³.

The second major change in leadership occurred in 1942, when Rutherford died and Nathan H. Knorr became president. Knorr immediately instituted a program of sending trained missionaries to foreign lands, arranged for the Society's literature to be written anonymously - giving credit to the Organisation, rather than individual authors and even more importantly changed the date of the 'invisible return' of Christ from 1874 to 1914.

Under both Russell and Rutherford the Society had taught that "The second coming of the Lord therefore, began in 1874" (*Creation*, 1927, p.289). But in 1943, the year following Rutherford's death, Knorr released *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, which declared "Christ Jesus came to the Kingdom in A.D. 1914, but unseen to men." (p.300).

Vice-president since 1949, Frederick W. Franz assumed the presidency in 1977, upon the death of Knorr. But he had already been 'the power behind the throne', doctrinally speaking for a considerable time.

Will Franz' death precipitate another vicious struggle for power, like the battle over seventy years ago? Will the new president abolish the ban on blood transfusions? (Earlier bans prohibiting vaccinations and organ transplants were abandoned following changes of leadership in the past.)

Will the 'invisible return of Christ' be moved up to a more recent date? Will the 'great crowd' of Witnesses be allowed to take Communion after being excluded for the last 58 years?

What 'new truths' will the new president teach? And, how will these 'new truths' impact the lives of Jehovah's Witnesses everywhere?

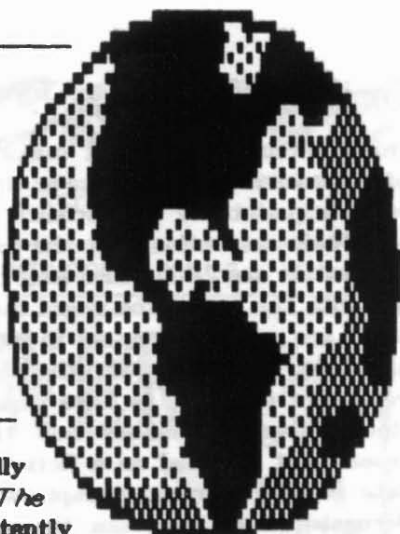
Time will tell. But, whoever his successor may prove to be, Fred Franz' passing will cause the winds of change to blow. As has happened so often in their past, Jehovah's Witnesses will again find themselves "tossed about as by waves and carried hither and thither by every wind of teaching" (Eph. 4:14, NWT).

¹Third president Nathan Knorr reportedly deferred to his vice-president Fred Franz on doctrinal matters, so, Knorr's death in 1977 and Franz' ascension to the presidency did not really constitute a change as such in spiritual leadership.

²*Studies in the Scriptures*, volume III, *Thy Kingdom Come*, page 362.

³*The Watchtower*, November 15, 1928, p.344.

The Creative World of The Watch Tower Society



THE Faithful Slave periodically includes an article on evolution in *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* and consistently claims to have opposed this teaching since the days of Russell.

But on p.37 of *The New Creation* we read, "We will concede that, if God chose, he could have brought all the different species of animal life into being by a development of one from the other, or he could have developed each from the protozoan slime" while two pages previously it says, "It is not for us to dispute that even the protoplasm of the palaeozoic slime may not have come into existence through chemical action of the highly mineralized waters of those seas" and that, "from the same original protoplasm different orders of creatures may have developed under differing conditions."

This position is called "Theistic evolution". In the *Photo-Drama of Creation*

by Dave Adams

"the fifth day or epoch" is said to have seen "amphibious developments of animal life, such as the crocodile" and "in the latter part of it appeared the mammoths and sloth." Today's JW's know enough biology not to call a croc an amphibian, or class mammoths and sloths as birds flying in the expanse of heaven or living things with which the waters teem. While their biology has improved, their geological concepts have not. In their eagerness to summon science against the concept of creation of the world in six days they neglect to add that on the same grounds 48,000 years is equally "unscientific" as an age for the earth. Nevertheless this double

Continued on page 8.

Continued from page 7.

think persuades the vast majority of interested ones who have little or no acquaintance with science.

Their contention that the days of creation are 7,000 years long ties in with the end of the world mess they are still managing to stay afloat in, for now. Six thousand years are supposed to have passed since Adam's creation, but this assessment is based on a fictitious date for the Babylonian capture of Jerusalem. In Victorian times it may have been a legitimate guess to put this event in 607 BC, but as archaeology has uncovered so much since it is inexcusable to place the event then. It is universally recognised as having occurred in 586 BC. (The 70 years of Jeremiah 25 are possibly symbolic of

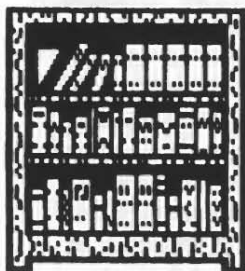
completion, or they could have started from a time before the complete devastation of Judah).

Interestingly, if the superfluous twenty years in the JW chronology were shifted forward, six thousand years of man on the earth would then end around 1994 - see *Concern* number 3. That date could be obtained from 1914 (which was obtained also from 607 BC and moving the phantom twenty years forward would take us to 1934 - a year before the "great crowd" was recognised... watch this space, perhaps?) in a more straightforward way than that described in *Concern* 3.

Psalm 90:10 says, "our years are seventy or eighty," and those born in 1914 will be eighty in 1994.

Quite straightforward when you know how to do it, eh?

Can You Help?



Is there a Christian bookshop in your area willing to place "CONCERN" on its counter?

Havering Christian Bookshop has displayed "CONCERN" on its counter with good effect, with customers and browsers in the shop taking a copy. If you can help, ask for extra copies.

We would like to point out that First & Last Ministries holds the copyright on all material appearing in CONCERN, and that it may not be reproduced in any form without written permission.

Published by
FIRST & LAST MINISTRIES
6 Chertsey Mount
Carlisle CA1 2PH
England

Telephones:
Carlisle - 0228 45323
London - 081 508 4202

FIRST & LAST
MINISTRIES