

Concern

Issue 31

Winter 2000

Topics and News from First & Last Ministries

WEB WARS!

Ex-Jehovah's Witness fights for the right to free speech.

AN EX-JEHOVAH'S Witness from Scotland has plenty to smile about after the Watch Tower Society failed to close his Internet site.

Anthony Roberts, who lives in Edinburgh, has run his site, called "Witness Aid UK" since October 1998.

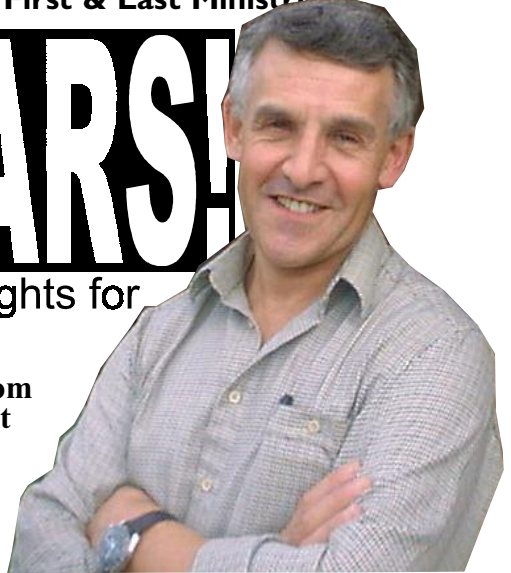
But, on November 29th 1999, Mr. Roberts received an email from his Internet Service Provider (ISP), Freeserve, telling him that they had closed the site because of threats of legal action by a complainant.

The complainant, who was later revealed to be the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, was unhappy about the content of Mr. Roberts' site.

For, as well as containing help and advice on the best way of leaving the Watch Tower Society, the web site also includes transcripts of four judicial committee meetings that Mr. Roberts was asked to attend.

Although the Watch Tower Society insists that these meetings should be held in private, Mr. Roberts decided to post full details of the meetings on his site for visitors to read.

The reports, which severely show the Society up, were ruled to be libellous by Freeserve who asked Mr. Roberts to



ANTHONY ROBERTS: "The Society is afraid."

remove them before they would allow him to re-open the site.

But Mr. Roberts disagrees. He said: "After discussing the matter with the British government Home Office, I can tell you that, if JW elders say that recording of secret Judicial Committees - where no independent observers are allowed - infringes the Data Protection Act, they are passing on false information.

"The transcripts as they stand are **in the public interest**, and do not infringe the privacy of any individual, nor are they libellous because they are accurate copies of what was said."

Although Mr. Roberts has agreed to remove the reports from his Freeserve internet site, he simply moved them to another ISP in the USA.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Now, in order to read the reports, visitors to his Freeserve site simply have to click on a button and are taken to the new pages.

Likening the Watch Tower Society's actions to the inquisition, Mr. Roberts said: "The Watchtower Society is afraid of the internet and its freedom of uncensored information.



"The Society has claimed to be a champion of religious freedom and Human Rights while simultaneously infringing the rights of its members and worse, its former members, who believed they had left the Governing Body's religious influence when they 'voted with their feet' to walk away from the Watchtower religion as I did, **over three years ago.**"

The Witness Aid UK site can be found at <http://wauk.freeserve.co.uk>.

Other attempts by the Watch Tower Society to ban internet sites

THIS current attempt to remove anti-Watch Tower information from the Internet is just one in a long line of failed attempts.

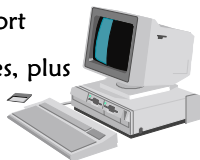
The Society has tried on numerous occasions to ban sites that publish its secret material, which includes items like its Elder's Manual.

But the nature of the Internet means that web site owners, like Mr. Roberts, can simply move the "secret" files to web sites in another country and so avoid prosecution.

In issue 29 of Concern we also reported how the Society was looking to close down an Australian web site which encouraged Witnesses and non-Witnesses to talk together. So far this site is still going strong.

Visit us on the Internet.

For help and support in reaching out to Jehovah's Witnesses, plus the latest news on the Watch Tower Society.



Website - <http://www.firstandlast.org.uk>
email: ministry@firstandlast.org.uk

Rejected Witnesses in suicide pact.

TWO Jehovah's Witnesses killed themselves after being shunned by their congregation for forming an improper relationship, an inquest heard in December.

Paul Wilson and Janet Pooley, who were both 41, left their own husband and wife to tour the country together but were overcome by guilt after a month. They were found at a beauty spot in Cumbria slumped in the rear of Mr Wilson's Vauxhall Cavalier. Both had taken fatal overdoses.

The couple had suffered depression for many years and had been prescribed drugs by their doctors, the hearing in Barrow-in-Furness was told. Ian Smith, the Barrow coroner, recorded verdicts of suicide.

The hearing was told that both had left their spouses as if to go for a day out with friends. Mrs Pooley, a nursery nurse, of Cleator Moor, Cumbria, had been married for 14 years and had two children. Mr Wilson, from Whitehaven, was also married with a child.

The couple were expelled from the congregation of the Kingdom Hall, in Kells, Whitehaven, when their relationship became known.

Paul Gillies, national spokesman for the Jehovah's Witnesses, said: "We expel people from the congregation if they are not living according to the moral standards that we accept from the Bible. We are convinced that is the best way to live.

"This is made quite clear before people are baptised and become Jehovah's Witnesses. Everybody understands that. So if they cease living by these standards, they cease to be recognised as Jehovah's Witnesses.

"If these people had come back to the elders and said, 'We need assistance - we are in the depths of despair' they would have been given it. That applies even if individuals are expelled."

Official: Jehovah's Witnesses growth rate slowing.

The growth rate of Jehovah's Witnesses in the world is continuing to decline according to Watch Tower Figures.

This year's increase of the average number of publishers is 1.98%, which is a striking drop from the last year's 3.57%.

The declining trend that started in many European countries in 1995 is expanding to many parts of the world and accelerating.

The following list shows the extent of this fall in numbers.

Decline in Watch Tower Membership 1998-1999

COUNTRIES WITH ZERO GROWTH IN 1998:

BRITAIN, Canada, Finland, Germany, Poland, Slovakia

COUNTRIES WITH ZERO GROWTH IN 1999:

Finland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, U.S.A.

COUNTRIES WITH NEGATIVE GROWTH IN 1998:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

COUNTRIES WITH NEGATIVE GROWTH IN 1999:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, BRITAIN, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

Witness World News



Witnesses attacked by "mad man" with meat cleaver.

SIX Jehovah's Witnesses were attacked by a man with a meat cleaver as they handed out tracts on a busy San Francisco street on New Years Day.

Ying Tan, who is 49, was booked for investigation of six counts of attempted murder, seven counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of assault on a police officer after the incident.

Witnesses told police Tan first launched an assault on a California Federal Bank branch, smashing a glass door and then attacking an ATM machine.

Then he started up the street, flailing at passers-by.

At least some of the injured were part of a group of half a dozen Jehovah's Witnesses handing out tracts and magazines, according to Don Garcia, a member of a nearby Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses.

Ingleside District Officer David Wright said Tan was "literally a mad-man."

Rey Serrano, the first officer on the scene, pulled his gun when Tan ignored orders to stop, but couldn't get a clear shot. He called for backup, then tackled a distracted Tan while a homeless man grabbed the cleaver.

The names of the victims were not available, but their injuries were not life-threatening.

Serrano suffered only a scraped knee.

"The guy was just crazy," said witness Darwin Rivera, 20. "He was hitting everybody upside the head. Whoever was in the sidewalk, he hit them upside the head."

If you have a JW related news story then send them to us at the address on page 7.

On call for..... **Jesus.**

**New 24-hour help-line launched to evangelise
Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain.**

AS Britain's population of Watch Tower members continues to fall, First & Last Ministries is taking further measures to reach out to Jehovah's Witnesses.

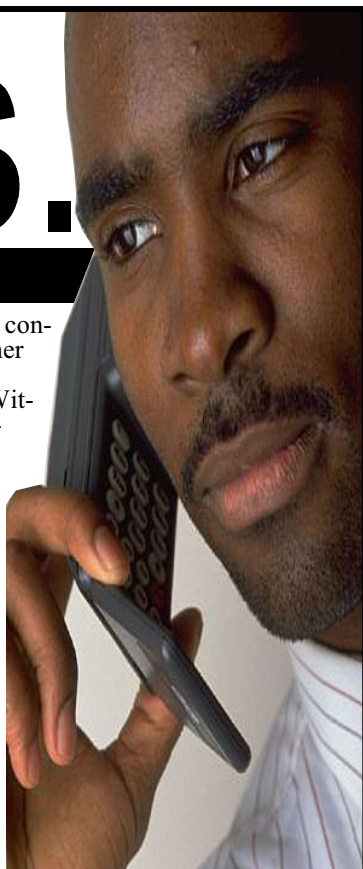
On January 1st, 2000 a new 24-hour Jehovah's Witnesses help-line was launched, offering active Witnesses, family members and those people studying with the society a choice of messages on differing Watch Tower Subjects.

The service, which can be reached by dialling 08707 415 738 (a national rate telephone number), is currently being advertised in local news-agents windows.

We are funding this line and advertising though donations received by our supporters, but we are also encouraging people led by the Lord to place adverts, like the one printed below, in shop windows in their local area.

If you feel led to help this ministry please photocopy the advert and paste it onto a postcard. This can then be placed in the shop window.

Please pray that many JW's may be freed from the clutches of the Watch Tower Society.



BETH SARIM - BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS - RUSSELL'S PYRAMIDOLOGY

At Last Good News for Jehovah's Witnesses!!

Get the latest information on the subjects that
you have been asking about the most.



08707 415 738

Updated Weekly – National call rates apply.



Or visit us on the Internet at

<http://www.firstandlast.org.uk>

Email: ministry@firstandlast.org.uk

BULGARIA - 1975 - JOHANNES GREBER - 1914 GENERATION

The Bride of Brooklyn



In this issue of Concern we would like to share with you a poem by reader Richard Cotton. If you have written a poem and would like us to print it then please send it to us at the address on page 7.

Holy and pure by her Lord redeemed the Bride of Brooklyn stood,
Waiting the call to the wedding feast prepared 'fore the throne of God.
Happy and holy standing there the Bridegroom's voice to hear,
Longing the day and staying true as her Lord grew ever near.

Sweet and glad was the song of the Bride, gentle and full of love,
Calling her fellow members home prepared to serve above.
Sweet and full of joy she sang of the age that was to be,
Loving the Gospel light to hold, that sets men truly free.

Yet deep in her yearning sowed the seeds that drew her love away,
Longing the call of the Bridegroom's voice, she dared to set the day.
And so it was that time came on and her Lord did not appear,
and the Bride of Brooklyn waited on hoping he might be near.

Waited and hoped but with a heart no longer full of joy,
lost was the pure chaste love that first her message did employ.
Slowly the grace was killed by law, from freedom in Christ came she
into the gloom of Horeb's mount with law not liberty.

Then heavy the burdens she did place on all who came her way,
And Brooklyn's Bride sang a harlot's song and left the narrow way.
Riches and power was now her need no longer the Bridegroom's voice.
Enslaving the minds of foolish men no caused her to rejoice.

Breaking the golden cord of grace she sought with blood stained hand
Iron links with Mosaic law and she built on sinking sand.
Ever anon the harlot's song would change as years flew by,
and the Gospel song was seldom heard but rather the future's cry.

For the curse of the Law is a fearful thing that no man can withstand
for the Law condemns and the Law destroys and the Law makes barren the land.
Yet her Lord had come to remove the chain that bound all men to sin.
Breaking the iron links that bind, bringing new life within.

Sweet indeed was the harlot's song that echoed from where she lay.
Singing of truth and life and light drawing so many away.
Binding them fast to Sinai's rock with iron links of law,
driving away the gentle dove that she had held before.
Once as a Bride she only knew one outpoured blood to see,
Washed she had been of all her sin, kneeling at

Calvary's tree.
Now with the blinding wrath of Law she laid a heavy hand.
and Molech's alters raised again throughout her dismal land.

For the Law of God is a fearful thing, before it who can stand
Law condemns and the Law destroys and the Law makes ruined the land.
Then will you live by Grace or Law, for the Grace will set you free.
"By Law, by Law" is the harlot's song and your submission to me.

Blood she demanded and blood she took, piling her altars high,
Claiming the lives of children, sweet that in her path did lie.
Tearing the wife from husband's hand mother from child she drew.
In the name of God in her Lord's sweet name, many a life she slew.

For the Law of God is a fearful thing, before it who can stand.
For the Law condemns and the Law demands and the Law will ravish the land.
So will you live by Grace or Law? With burden or Liberty?
"By Law, by Law" is the harlot's song, as you give your sons to me.

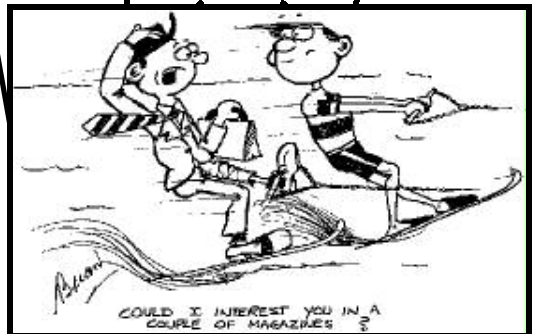
Come to the wards where the infant lies, weakened and sick and frail.
Ask not for tenderness from her, for she offers a fist of mail.
Swiftly her servants do her will bearing a message of dread,
holding the iron links of law bound to each hospital bed.

For the Whore of Brooklyn calls her brood to follow and understand,
That she is Babel, the Gate of God and she must rule the land.
Woe to the man who brings a doubt who dares her rule to try.
Woe to the woman, whose babe needs blood, soon your child will die.

Families, husbands, daughters, wives, sons and many more
sunders she far in the name of God, ripped by her curse of the law.
Yes in the bible we find her place, open for all to see
but not the church of the Son of Man...only the Pharisee.

For curse of the Law is the proof of the Law for those who understand,
If you live by the Law you will die by the Law, for you stand on sinking sand.
If you live in grace, then you know the place where came your liberty,
For Jesus bore the curse of the law to set his people free.

Kingdom Kapers



Send your Jokes to:

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

TO THE EDITOR:

GREETINGS in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour whom we seek to serve!

I am writing to say thank you for publishing my personal testimony in issue 26 of Concern.

I sincerely hope that through the printing of my testimony people may see the hurt, pain and confusion, caused by involvement in the Occult or Cults, is very real and dangerous indeed.

I also hope that it made people think again, before making the same mistakes that I have made. Here is a prayer that I wrote a number of years ago for victims of cults.

A PRAYER FOR CULT VICTIMS

Father in Heaven, we ask you to grant peace and wisdom to those who are involved in religious cults, and the occult,

We ask you to purify them and turn their hearts to you. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

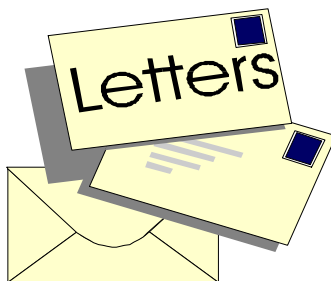
May the Lord continue to bless the work of your very worthy ministry.

**Warmest Christian Wishes,
Rev. Simon Woodvine,
Blackpool.**



send your letters to:

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



TO THE EDITOR:

I HAVE just been given a copy of Concern and have found it very encouraging.

I am an ex-JW now saved by the Grace of God and would like to reach out to others still in the cult.

Could you please put me on your mailing list?

**Your sister in Christ,
Kathleen Heyes,
Wigan.**



TO THE EDITOR:

THANK you for sending Concern. I am still interested in all your work.

On a recent visit by a JW (I thought they had stopped coming!) I asked her if she had come to tell me about Jesus.

She looked absolutely stunned, as if I had asked her about someone completely alien to her.

I did my best to tell her the gospel. I always felt inadequate but I'm sure God uses my poor efforts.

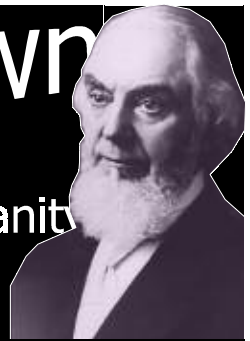
**Yours sincerely,
M. Harrop,
Cambridge.**

Millennial Dawn

A Counterfeit of Christianity

PART EIGHT

**BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM G. MOOREHEAD, D. D.,
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY, XENIA, OHIO.**



Charles Taze Russell

FIRST published in 1886, *Millennial Dawn*, was the earliest work of Jehovah's Witness founder Charles Taze Russell.

Much of the book's content is an embarrassment to present day Witnesses, and contains many unscriptural notions and false prophecies.

In 1911, just three years from Armageddon, Professor William G. Moorehead gave his opinion on the book.

Now, in the coming issues of Concern, you can read just what the professor had to say regarding Mr. Russell's writings.

10. *The other relates to the destiny of the wicked.* On scarcely any other point does Mr. Russell so constantly and persistently dwell as on the doctrine of future and eternal punishment. He denies without qualification that the wicked, the lost, suffer in another life. As usual with him the teaching of the bible on this terrible theme he either evades or gives it a typical interpretation. The grotesque subject of one of his most popular lectures, a lecture he has delivered throughout our country, in Canada, and also in England, and published in a vast number of papers and periodicals, is "To Hell and Back Again." Crowds have listened with no lit-

tle satisfaction to his assertions that there is no hell, no eternal punishment and no hopelessness after death. He holds that in the resurrection which is to include both the righteous and the wicked, the gospel of salvation shall be preached to all who did not receive it, though having heard, while in this life, and to those who never had the opportunity while in the earthly life to hear and believe. For one hundred years the preaching to these classes shall continue and the great mass of them will believe and enter into eternal life. Those who persistently refuses the offer of salvation and reject the Lord's mercy will be annihilated; an act of divine power will blot them out of existence forever. It needs but a remark or two in order to convince any honest and right minded person that such teaching is not only unscriptural, but the very opposite. Our Lord Himself, Jesus Christ the Son of God, revealed more of the eternal punishment of the lost than any other witness of God in the Bible. In twelve texts of the New Testament He speaks of the place where the wicked are confined as Gehenna, and in each save one the words of most sol-

emn warning as to the eternal consequences of sin fell from His own lips. He describes it as the place where their worm never dies and where the fire is never quenched. He teaches that the punishment of the lost is of the same duration as the life of the saved – eternal. (Matt. 25:46) In the Revelation it is called the lake of fire and the second

“He denies without qualification that the wicked, the lost, suffer in another life.”

death. There are the terms that are used to depict the eternal state of the wicked. The second death is not annihilation. We read in Revelation 19:20; 20:10 that after a thousand years in the lake of fire the Beast and the False Prophet are still there undestroyed.

It is a forbidding theme, appalling to the natural heart, but nevertheless one clearly taught in the Scriptures that the rejecters of Jesus Christ the haters of God, will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

SUMMARY OF THE FALSE DOCTRINES OF MILLENNIAL DAWN

1. Christ before His advent was not Divine.
2. When He was in the world He was still not Divine.
3. His atonement was exclusively human, a mere man's.

4. Since His resurrection He is Divine only, no longer human at all.

5. His body was not raised from the dead.

6 His Second Advent took place in 1874.

7. The saints were raised up in 1878.

8. Both Christ and the saints are now on earth and have been for thirty-seven and thirty-three years respectively.

9. The professing Christian Church was rejected of God in 1878.

10. The final consummation and end will take place in 1914.

11. Silence as to the person and work of the Holy spirit..

12. The destiny of the wicked. Such is the Millennial Dawn of C. T. Russell, a mixture of Unitarianism, Universalism, Second Probation, and Restorationism, and the Swedenborgian method of exegesis. Let the reader remember that imposition is not exposition, nor is eisegesis exegesis. Mr Russell constantly employs both; he imposes on Scripture his own views and reads into it that which never entered the mind of the inspired writer.

May God in His infinite mercy preserve His people from being deceived and betrayed by this counterfeit of Christianity.



**THE
END**

**Next Issue:
The
Rutherford
Racket.**

The testimony of Faith Robinson. - Part two.

Raised a third generation Jehovah's Witness, Faith Robinson always felt unwanted during her childhood. Sexually abused and raped in her early teens, Faith was called before a JW disciplinary hearing when they discovered she was pregnant with her boyfriend's child. They gave her a choice - life or death.

I CHOSE life in the Society. I studied with my step-grandmother, it was basically just to fill the requirements to get baptised, but I rediscovered my long buried love for God, I found that I wanted to obey him, and I thought that it would be by becoming a baptised Jehovah's Witness.

There had been an announcement made at the Kingdom Hall.

Anyone who wanted to put their name forward for baptism at the local area convention in Dudley had to do so by a certain meeting. It was a spur of the moment thing. I decided to put my name forward, I hadn't told anyone, not even my mom, but my step-grandmother rang in the morning and told me that she was stopping my study and that I wasn't "doing enough" - whatever that meant. She said that I shouldn't bother putting

my name forward for baptism, because she would make sure they wouldn't let me. And with that she put the phone down.

I was gob-smacked. I had no idea what to do, so I did nothing. Over the next few weeks I attended meetings, but people who I thought were my friends stopped speaking to me, to this day I have no idea why. The Witnesses had a teaching, I cannot recall ever seeing it in print but it was certainly preached, that there were people who, no matter how sincere they are, no matter how much they want to obey God, that Jehovah God does not want them, and He prevents them from getting on in the organisation.



Faith Robinson

I thought I was one of those people. I was back to the beginning, feeling totally worthless, feeling as though there was no use living.

For two years I struggled on, during that time I met my husband and my life did change for the better, but there was something missing. God was missing. I was heading quickly into depression and a nervous break-

down and it was at one of those lowest times that I stood in my lounge sobbing my heart out, crying: "Jehovah, help me, I can't cope anymore!"

I had to get out of the house, so I went to my aunt Barbara's. I went to cheer myself up and instead ended up crying, and she made me a cup of tea and told me that she loved me and that Jesus loved me. I know it may sound clichèd but at that moment I knew it was true.

She offered to take me to church – she had been a Christian for some years, and I said yes.

I did not know what to expect at church. As a Witness I was led to believe that Satan was in control of the Church, and Christians were either deluded and deceived or downright demonised. But then, I knew as soon as I walked in that I was where Jehovah wanted me to be. Everyone was friendly and made me feel welcome, even though they knew I was a Witness.

The service was strange, but I enjoyed it, and the preacher spoke from the Bible.

After the service the Pastor's wife sat down with me and explained salvation. Primarily what she said was what I already believed, that Jesus was my Saviour, that his death and resurrection were the price for my sin, and through his sacrifice I

could be forgiven. But the scriptures were applied in a different way to the way Witnesses believe. I realised that all the promises in the New testament, being chosen by God, being adopted as His son, being spirit filled, being part of the Bride of Christ,, as a Witness that was only ever for the Remnant – A small group of people who are said to fulfil Revelation 7:1-8, the Great Crowd, who make up the majority of the Witnesses would never have those privileges, in fact much of the New Testament promises do not apply to them. But the Bible said it was for me, all those things, simply by believing that Jesus is my Saviour and Lord!

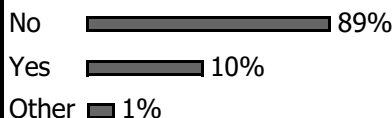
Next Issue: ...forgiveness.



You Decide.....

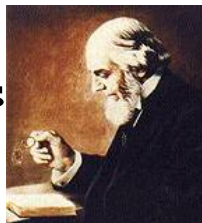
Should the Watch Tower Society be able to close down web sites belonging to its members?

When asked for their opinion, visitors to the First & Last Ministries web site voted as follows:



Charles T. Russell's Mysterious World

by Les Kerr



I COULDN'T help but smile at the picture on page four of the May 8th 1999 issue of Awake!.

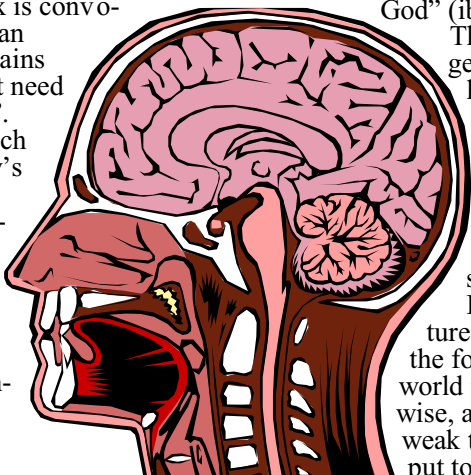
It was a superb illustration of the human brain, showing some of its components.

It highlighted where they are variously situated, and drew attention to the fact that because the brain's cerebral cortex is convoluted rather than smooth it explains "why we don't need a bigger head".

Had the Watch Tower Society's founder, "the wise and faithful servant" been around, it is likely he would have added his own insightful comments about this extraordinary organ.

Watchtower readers are indebted to Charles Russell for revealing to them that it is not so much the size of the brain but rather its shape that is of crucial importance.

Russell taught that if we have a correctly shaped brain we will be drawn to God. (Watchtower 15th March 1913, page 84).



Yes it is brain power (as well as its shape) that makes all the difference whether or not a man becomes a Christian.

Mr. Russell explains: "Those who thus find the way to God have something for which to be thankful in the possession of the quality of mind which led them to appreciate

God" (ibid).

This is the kind of dangerous nonsense that Jehovah's Witnesses need to have drawn to their attention. For virtually all the major Watch Tower doctrines they must accept come from the same source.

How different is scripture: "... God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things

which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence." (1 Cor. 1:27-29) See also 2 Cor. 2:14-16.



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