

Concern

No. 11

Autumn 1994

Topics and News from First & Last Ministries

TALKIN' 'BOUT THEIR GENERATION



HOW LONG TO GO?

ARMAGEDDON is just around the corner according to the latest edition of **Awake** magazine.

In an attempt to justify its teaching, that the Lord Jesus will return to rule the Earth before the 1914 generation passes away, the November 8 edition of the **Awake** magazine includes an article entitled "The Real Significance of 1914".

In the article readers are told that it is now 80 years since 1914 and "...indicates that we can soon expect the deliverance that God's Kingdom will bring."

To further support their claim, that 1914 is a significant year in history, **Awake** writers make mention that the December 1879 edition of the **Watchtower** (then known as **Zion's Watch Tower** and **Herald** of

by Paul Bacon

Christ's Presence) gave Bible evidence proving that 1914 would be a special year.

But while we accept that the 1879 article does say 1914 would be a special year, most of today's **Jehovah's Witnesses** will be unaware it was because the **Watch Tower Society** then believed that **Armageddon** would occur in 1914.

As further support the article then goes on to state that other Bible students have predicted that 1914 would be a special year.

Among the "students" listed is **Nelson H. Barbour**, who was in fact a **Second Adventist** and friend of

Watchtower founder **Charles Taze Russell**.

Mr **Barbour** was also a firm believer that 1914 would see the battle of **Armageddon**.

Also according to the **Watch Tower Society** there was still over 61 million people living of the generation born in 1914 or prior to it.

If the current **JW** prophecy is fulfilled like all its others, this could turn out to be the longest lasting generation in the history of mankind!

LATE NEWS

THE November 1
Watchtower has
announced the
Society's Governing
Body has a new
member.

Mr **Gerrit Lisch**
joined its other 11
members on July 1.

WELCOME

Dear Reader,

BEGINNING with the next issue of **CONCERN**, we are giving readers an opportunity to send in questions they may have regarding the work we are involved in.

It may be a question regarding the history of the Watchtower Society, or something which is theological in nature. But whatever it is, we want to know what's on **YOUR** mind.

Maybe you will ask the very question on an issue or topic that someone else was wondering about.

We won't make the bold claim that we know all the answers; we strongly suspect there are not a few **CONCERN** readers who could teach us a thing or two!

But whatever our level of awareness in the subject of apologetics, we believe we can all help and edify one another.

If we can all be made a little bit wiser and more appreciative of one another it will be worth it.

Send your questions to our Associate Address listed on page three.

**Lee Kerr & Bill Bacon,
First & Last Ministries.**

"When wisdom enters your heart,
And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,
Discretion will preserve you;
Understanding will keep you.

Prov. 2:10,11

FIRST & LAST OF MINISTRIES **READERS' NEEDS**

NOEL and Kathleen Wombwell have a large selection of books and tapes from the U.S.A. concerning the **JWs** and others.

Many of these books can be extremely difficult to obtain in your local Christian bookshop.

If you would like to know what **Noel** has to offer, then a full list can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to **Noel Wombwell, 8 Harding Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 3BN.**

CONCERN reader **Trevor Barker** has recently set up a printing business.

If any reader would like to find out more details then they can contact him by calling 0909 773564 or writing to **AB Image Setters, Unit 1, 101 South Terrace, Wales Bar, Sheffield S31 8QL.**

CHRISTIAN RUBBER STAMPS Any Bible Text (Authorised Version Only)

For details write to
**John Orritt
3 Bosworth Drive
Eastwood
Notts NG16 3RF**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR
READERS**

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

MANY thanks for the latest issue of CONCERN. Please find enclosed my slip to ensure further copies.

Have you ever considered the idea of something of a regional half-day seminar for those on your address list in the north?

It may be valuable to share ideas and receive some input from people seeking to win JWs for the Saviour.

It's just a thought which may or may not have some mileage.

Yours in His service,
Adrian Underwood,
Preston, Lancs.

TO THE EDITOR

THANKS for the recent literature, I especially enjoyed the testimonies which were excellent.

Hope you all will be encouraged at the responses you receive.

With a widespread decline in spiritual and moral excellence, may the Lord provoke us to ask upon Him for revival.

The Christian cannot remain indifferent, you will agree.

Love in Him,
Eric & Betty Sleightholm,
Walthamstow, London.

TO THE EDITOR

THANK you for your letter. It is always a pleasure to hear from you.

I enjoy each issue of CONCERN so keep them coming!

I would be happy to relate my testimony in CONCERN. Please let me know how you'd like me to go about it and I'd be happy to oblige.

I trust all is well with you, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

With much love in Christ,
Jeanette Fyfe,
Dingwall, Ross-Shire.

* IF anyone, like Jeanette, would like to see their testimony included in a future issue of CONCERN then please see page five for more details.

Articles can be any length and be printed over a number of issues.

FIRST & LAST
CARE MINISTRIES

WHICH ADDRESS DO I USE?

Readers' letters, articles intended for publication and magazine slips: send to our

ASSOCIATE ADDRESS



248 Chester Road
Loughton, Essex
IG10 2LR

All other correspondence to our

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS



6 Chertsey Mount
Carlisle
CA1 2PH

THE TESTIMONY OF MALCOLM TURNER

PART ONE

ALTHOUGH never one of Jehovah's Witnesses Malcolm Turner served as a Mormon for two years of his life.

Now he thanks God, that by His grace, he was brought out of the darkness into the light to help free those trapped in the cults.

In the next two issues of **CONCERN** Malcolm shares his testimony with us.

I became a Mormon in 1984 after a very traumatic event in my life.

I was living in Peterlee in County Durham, but was thrown out of my accommodation with no money, no food and absolutely nowhere to go.

I decided to go to London where I was born, back to my Mum's house.

DESPERATE

As I had no money it meant that I had to hitch-hike home.

It was dusk when I reached the motorway, being mid-January it was very cold and windy. In addition to this it began to rain and so it was not long before I was drenched.

I tried desperately to get a lift but no one would stop. I tried to shelter from the rain and I was very tired by this time.

I was suddenly gripped with fear that I could die from hypothermia.

My army training and common sense told me that if I rest I may fall asleep and not survive so I pushed on.

But I was getting desperate and

Highway to HEAVEN

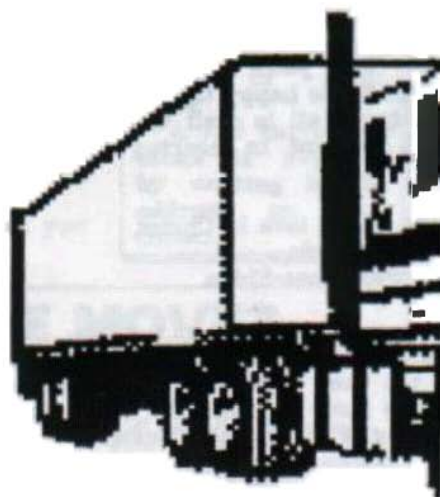
even panicky.

I looked up to heaven and may for the first time in my life I said my first prayer "Oh God, please help me (A strange thing for an atheist say).

No sooner had I prayed this prayer then a lorry came thundering down the street and came to a halt.

I ran with relief towards it blessing from God.

"Up you come," said the driver.



I got in beside him. "Where are you going son?" the driver asked me.

"East London," I replied.

"Why that's exactly where I am heading".

What confirmed that God had indeed answered my prayer was when the lorry driver said that he wouldn't normally stop for hitch-hikers but I seemed okay.

He explained that the last time he picked up a hitch-hiker he was robbed.

Eventually I reached home safely, tired but grateful.

Now at this time I realised that I needed religion but which one?

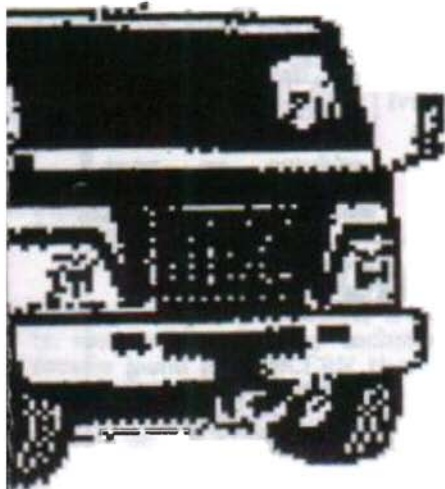
I pushed the thought out of my mind until one day two, very smartly dressed and clean young men knocked on my door.

They told me that they were ambassadors for God so I invited them in.

They spoke to me at length about God's plan of salvation and gave me a book of Mormon and told me to pray to see if it was true, which I did.

After another five lessons I was attending their church regularly.

Highway to Heaven continues in the next issue of CONCERN.



Could You Write For

Concern

DO you feel you could write an article for a future issue of CONCERN?

We are currently seeking articles on various Watchtower subjects and also ideas on how to reach out to those caught up in the JW web.

Perhaps you run a particular ministry and have hints and advice for others who could possibly start a similar outreach service in their area.

Or maybe you could share your testimony of God's wonderful saving grace with our readers.

If so we would like to hear from you.

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

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

Any article should be written or typed out and be double spaced between lines.

We can also accept ASCII type files on disk, if they are IBM compatible, (please also include a print out if possible).

If you would like to submit an article please phone or write to the address on page three, just in case somebody else is preparing a similar article.

Bookshelf



MORE readers have responded to our call for Watchtower books over the last few months.

We now have a large number of books which are available to our readers on a first come, first serve basis.

For details of the titles available from First & Last Ministries see the last issue of CONCERN or call us on 081-508 4202.

Meanwhile reader Colin Cunningham, of Nuneaton, has sent in the following list of books which he says he will pass on to anyone who contacts him on 0203 341243, after 6pm.

The Truth Shall Make You Free
Let God Be True (1946 edition)
The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life
Is The Bible Really The Word Of God?
Did Man Get Here By Creation or
Evolution?
Listening To The Great Teacher
My Book Of Bible Stories
You Can Live Forever In Paradise On
Earth (four copies)
The Bible.....God's Word Or Man's?
Let Your Kingdom Come
New World Translation (green cover)

If you require a book that is listed or if you have any Watch Tower books, pamphlets or other items of interest then please let us know.

Either phone us on our London number or send a list to our associate address on page three.

If you are ordering a book all we ask is that you pay the postage costs.

CONCERN reader Vincent McCann has written offering to photocopy pages from his large collection of Watchtower literature.

Vincent's list includes Watchtower books which can prove difficult to obtain.

They include Let God Be True (1946), The Harp of God (1928), Creation (1927) and Riches (1936).

Also included on his list is a selection of Mormon books including Doctrine and Covenants and The Pearl Of Great Price.

A full list of the books is available by writing to the address on page three.

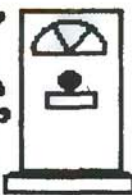
ARE YOU ON THE MOVE?

Then make sure you let us know your new address if you don't want to miss any future issues of CONCERN.

Send your new details to our associate address on page three.



'ON THE DOORS'



HAVE you ever tried the following approach in reaching out to the JW who comes to your door?

Take his NWT from him, and read to him 1 John 5:1, then verses 9-13.

Points that can be stressed are the following-

1) Verse one teaches that the new birth is not limited to 144,000.

2) Verse 10 teaches individual, not organisational responsibility. (The NWT reads "in his OWN case" and "the PERSON.")

3) Verse 12 gives the gospel in a nutshell. If time permits this can be linked with John 1:12,13 and what it means to RECEIVE or HAVE Jesus.

4) Verse 13 gives an assurance that we can KNOW we have eternal life (JWs think this is an arrogant claim, we can show it is Biblical.)

5) Verse 13 also shows our salvation is linked with putting faith in the name of the SON. This is the name of JESUS.

After quietly reading these texts from the JW's own Bible, it may be best to close it, hand it back and make a comment like this-

"I do not need to know your answers to these points, I would ask you to go home and read and think about these for yourself."

"I do not agree with your work, but I will be praying for you as a person."

by Tom and Ella McCrea,
Northern Ireland.

MINISTRY REPORT

Debbie Noy of Reachout Trust - Suffolk speaks about the area's telephone ministry.

I THOUGHT your readers may be interested and encouraged to hear about the telephone ministry we began in our area (Reachout Trust - Suffolk).

We began advertising solely via the postcard ministry started up by Vic and Joan Horrex (see last issue of CONCERN for details).

We have recently also begun advertising in the personal columns of the local papers which go to every home in Ipswich and the surrounding areas.

This has resulted in studies being stopped and people saved.

The caller listens to a two minute message, which is changed each week, on various subjects exposing the Watch Tower and giving biblical quotes.

Many listen to the messages, and literature is sent out. Video and audio tapes can also be lent and a visit arranged, if requested.

It has been encouraging to hear from Christians who have then supported the work by prayer, or become more actively involved with our group.

We would greatly value your prayers.

DESERVING UNDESERVED KINDNESS?

THE Jehovah's Witness Bible renders the Greek word **KHARIS** as undeserved kindness 119 times in the Greek scriptures instead of the more common term grace as used in other Bibles.

Also in the Watchtower Society's encyclopedia *Insight On The Scriptures*, vol 2 p.155. It states:

"But for sinners condemned to death (and we are all born as such) to be released from that condemnation and to be declared righteous this is indeed kindness that is totally undeserved."

Now all this sounds fairly good and we can agree that all humans are totally undeserving of God's favour. In fact the only thing sinful humans deserve is God's wrath.

But anyone who regularly reads the Watchtower magazine will often come across an expression that totally contradicts the Watchtower Society's comments above.

The Watchtower magazine of September 15 1994 states on page 13 paragraph 15:

"Worldwide reports indicate that there are yet some deserving ones in our territories." and again on page 18, par. 11 it says: *"To search out deserving ones we need to persevere and view matters positively."*

The question is who are the deserving ones?

As ex-governing body member Ray Franz points out in the video

By
Philip Mawson

Witnesses of Jehovah: *"It is amazing that they (JWs) can teach two opposite things simultaneously."*

Professor William Hendriksen in his outstanding book *The Bible on the Hereafter* states on page 106: *"Man lost in Adam, and is adding to his sin every day, Has no inherent right either to salvation or to hearing the way of salvation."*

The bottom line is that Jehovah's Witnesses have a contradictory view of undeserved kindness and a false view of that more precious term God's grace.

So please Christians, when the JWs show up on your doorstep, let God's gospel of pure grace by Jesus Christ be our theme.

Watchtower
Watch

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