

# Concern

Issue 34

Autumn 2000

Topics and News from First & Last Ministries

## DOUBLE FAULT



WAVING  
THE  
FLAG:  
Venus  
Williams  
ignores  
Society  
rules.

**Tennis hero falls foul of Witness rules.**

**TENNIS ace and Jehovah's Witness Venus Williams has caused controversy among fellow Witnesses by breaking two of the Society's cardinal rules, at the SAME time, live on TV.**

The 20-year-old American had just received her Olympic medal, after winning the ladies singles championships.

But then she horrified thousands of fellow Jehovah's Witnesses around the world by standing proudly on the winners rostrum to SING the American national anthem and WAVE the American flag to her adoring fans.

Within the hour hundreds of JW's were discussing Ms Williams's actions on the internet, questioning whether or not she really is a JW.

But the facts are clear, she is a JW.

When asked about her faith in an interview, Ms Williams admitted to a reporter: "We believe in good association, association with fellow Witnesses, not

becoming too involved with people that don't have the same beliefs and same values that we do.

"We go to meetings three times a week. They encourage us. You learn there, you learn more, just continue learning until you get a better understanding of things. I guess you are aware that we do house-to-house witnessing. I can't do that at all because I'm on the road. Getting more popular, I don't know if I can go house-to-house. I'm thinking about that."

# Comment

*G*

Isn't it amazing how Jehovah's Witnesses, or those professing to be, can suddenly forget to follow the Watch Tower Society's rules when it is convenient for them.

Venus Williams, may be one of the world's greatest female tennis players. She may be loved and adored by tennis fans, but she has certainly won no friends at the Watch Tower Society.

For after just clinching the ladies singles championships in the Sydney Olympics, young Venus goes and commits the two most heinous crimes a faithful Jehovah's Witness could ever commit.

Waving flags and standing proud to the national anthem is no way to act if you aim to continue in Jehovah's organisation.

Just what she was thinking of I don't know. But what I do know is that the Watch Tower Society will no doubt turn a blind eye to the matter as it thinks about all the money it may not get if Ms Williams decides that she wants to leave the organisation.



It was great to see so many people at this year's Witnesses now for Jesus convention in October.

Even better was meeting those who have left the organisation just days before. We pray that the Lord Jesus will bless those folk as they continue to trust in Him rather than a twisted organisation

A big thank-you must go to Pete Stanton and everyone who gave their time in organising this event.



In closing, with Christmas just around the corner, we, at First & Last Ministries, would like to wish all our readers and supporters peace and best wishes.

**Paul Bacon**  
Editor.



Presents



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## TO THE EDITOR:

THANK YOU for again sending me a copy of Concern. I am writing to you though because I myself have a concern.

I have become increasingly distraught by the way Concern pokes fun, and takes cheap shots at JW's. For example in the Summer 2000 issue which I have just received, I found the Witness news article to be nothing more than digging at the JW's for the sake of it. Are you suggesting that the son killed someone because his parents are JW's? If you are not suggesting that, then the story is of little relevance to your ministry among the JW's. If the boy's parents had been Baptists or Anglicans, does that mean that there is something wrong with those groups?

I'm also saddened by the Kingdom Kapers section. Most JW's are lost souls, who have fallen into a trap set for them - should we then have a good laugh at their expense? Don't misunderstand me, I am every bit as keen to see the JW's come to Jesus as you are, but ridicule will not bring them to him, love will. Don't lose sight of the original purposes you had when starting First & Last Ministries, and help those JW's to break free!

**Yours In Christ  
Tony Brown**

◆ In answer to your point on the news stories, Tony, we are aware that people with parents of any faith can kill people. What comes across to me in these tragic stories is that families of Jehovah's Witnesses are capable of terrible things just as much as anyone else. I am sure you have noticed, while reading any Jehovah's Witness literature, that the WTS seems to think that it's members and family are somehow never involved in such problems.

Also, could this action, carried out by this man, be caused by his involvement with the Witnesses?

I have heard of many such tragedies where shunning by JW parents or by the child not accepting the parents JW teaching has caused a tragedy. The most recent one being the death of JW Hank Marvin's son in a YMCA hostel in north London.

As to the Kingdom Kapers, I understand that we should not make fun of people for the sake of it, but these jokes actually came from a Jehovah's Witness web site. So I thought if they don't mind poking fun at themselves then why can't we?

Please be assured Tony that our heartfelt desire is to lead Jehovah's Witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and to inform those not in the movement of the dangers posed by this cult.

**EDITOR**

*What do you think? Should we have a jokes section in Concern?*

*Write to the address on the back page and let us know.*



## TO THE EDITOR:

JUST visited your site and was truly blessed by what I read. It so wonderful to know that there are true believers out there who really do have a heart for those who are lost in the Watchtower Society. I studied with them for five years before accepting Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. We have many of them in our city and unfortunately there is no where for them to turn in our city because many people just shun them. We at our ministry are dedicated to reaching them as well as others that are involved with cults and occult, as well as any false religion. We are a new ministry, but our hearts are there for these poor lost souls. Our city has no place where these people can turn to, and God has put it in our hearts to help them. Five of us originally had been with them before becoming Christians. May the Lord bless you as you help these lovely people. God bless your ministry.

**In our Blessed Lords Service,  
Laurie E.  
Via Email.**

# GOD IS THE BEST FRIEND YOU COULD EVER HAVE



by  
Philip Mawson

AT the current District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses, two publications were released. The first, a 416 page book forming volume one on Isaiah's prophecy and, the second, a 32 page brochure entitled "You Can Be God's Friend"

Page four of the new brochure in typical Watchtower fashion makes a theologically absurd statement about Jehovah God.

**"Friendship with God is not a friendship between equals, He is far older and wiser and is more powerful than we are."**

To speak of an earthly human in this way is OK, because people generally get wiser with age. But to speak of God who is eternal and outside of time in this way is complete theological nonsense (if not blasphemy).

But it is not new for the Watch Tower Society to make silly statements like this. We may well recall that their book "Prince of Peace" on page 169 calls Jehovah "our heavenly Grandfather"

Their New World Translation Bible at Isaiah 14:24 says that God figures things out.

Surely what greater examples can we cite to show how mere men have created God in their own image.



As you draw close to God, you will draw close to friends of God. They will become your friends too. In fact, they will be like brothers and sisters to you. They will be happy to teach you about God and will help you and encourage you.

**We are not equal to God.** As you seek God's friendship, you must understand an important fact. Friendship with God is not a friendship between equals. He is far older and wiser and is more powerful than we are. He is our rightful Ruler. So if we want to be his friend, we must listen to him and do what he tells us to do. This will always work for our good. —Isaiah 48:18.

You Can Be God's Friend p.4.

# Kingdom Kapers



Send your Jokes to:

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

# FROM DECEPTION TO JESUS - THE REAL TRUTH

The testimony of Janet Hayes - Part Two

IT was around the time I was studying that two evangelists (man and wife) came to my door with the true gospel, but I was so taken in by the Watchtower version that the truth didn't penetrate at all. They really tried hard to win me to the Lord, calling many times, bringing people with them so they could share their testimonies with me, and even taking me to their house at the other side of town. We eventually agreed to differ.

Since I've been saved I've been able to get in touch with them and, of course, they were delighted. Fifteen years had elapsed from our first meeting until I became a Christian.

During my studies with Jean and Brian (the Jehovah's Witness couple) things were a little tense at home as John, my husband, had absolutely no interest in spiritual things whatsoever. Also our first

baby arrived in 1974, the same year that I was baptised, and I found it very hard to settle down and enjoy being a mother for the first time as I was so anxious to get back to meetings and out on the service as I believed the end of the

system was so close (the Society had led us to believe that Armageddon could happen in 1975)

I remember in those early days thinking there were so many rules. I was very concerned about chicken

and whether it was bled properly and there was much talk about blood products being put in sausages and ice cream. None of my family were interested at all in what I was telling them and it really hurt them when I wouldn't buy Christmas and birthday presents. They took it personally – that I was in some way rejecting them. I tried to



get around the problem by buying gifts at other times but it just wasn't the same. My father was the most opposed and really hated me being a Jehovah's Witness. (He died just over two years before I left which saddens me a great deal).

Three years later (1977) my second child was born and by this time things had settled down a bit at home. However, once the children started nursery the ban on Christmas and birthdays became a problem. There was always something cropping up – for instance, a child would bring cake to school and if it was birthday cake my child couldn't have any. If it was "something else" cake, i.e. "holiday cake" (or just cake for cake's sake), it would be OK but not if it was "birthday cake". I used to feel really silly making an issue over such things with the teachers, and yet at the time it seemed so important to obey all these petty little rules, but I was very unhappy that my children were singled out in this way for no good reason other than what one called a cake.

I came to absolutely dread the run up to Christmas and used to heave a big sigh of relief in January, only to be faced shortly afterwards, of course, with Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Easter – all occasions which the Jehovah's Witnesses had to avoid.

Christians do realise the pagan influence in these so called Christian holidays but accept that it really is up to the individual Christian as to whether or not or how they celebrate these occasions. To have a Christmas tree or not or to buy a chocolate egg or not is a matter of individual conscience, not something to make a big issue about (Colossians 2v 16-23) (Romans 14v 10-12).

As time went on, however, John and the family got used to me being a Witness and when we moved congregations in 1981 we met a lot of new friends and John even started attending Sunday meetings. He still was not particularly interested but used to come to please me. Life had settled down by this time into a steady pattern and apart from the children being singled out at school (which I never got used to) I was quite happy.

## next issue....





# THE RUTHERFORD RACKET



By Charles P. Windle  
Editor Truth and Light

**RELIGIOUS** liberty is a cardinal doctrine based upon the fundamental principle of equal rights.

Your right to worship God in accordance with the dictates of conscience rests upon the same principle that guarantees a similar right to citizens of other faiths.

If any group of our citizens can be penalised, or their civil rights abridged, on account of their faith, then the rights of all the rest of us would no longer rest upon the solid rock of principle but upon the fickle and shifting sands of popular prejudice and passion.

Religious bigotry, like a dragon of old, is the evil genius of the human race. It stands in the pathway of human progress, preventing that unity and understanding so essential to the peace and happiness of a community or a nation.

Bigotry is the greatest menace of Religious Liberty.

This article was written to counteract a veritable Niagara of false and vicious propaganda against the Christian religion – designed to undermine and destroy Christian faith and to foment prejudice.

The author is a non-Catholic who loves the Truth and hates Falsehood – resolved to do his part in making religious freedom a living and indestructible force in the nation. This places him in opposition to every movement calculated to arouse bigotry.

## A FALSE PROPHET

Like his predecessor Pastor Russell, Rutherford claims that his prophecies are inspired by God, but events prove that his claim to be a prophet is not any stronger than his claim to be a Judge.

In 1923 Rutherford prophesied that the world would come to an end in 1925. He made a mistake in being too specific, but was equal to the occasion when his prophecy misfired. The Lord, he explained, extended a special period of grace to permit the remnant of the faithful to be gathered.

Another prophecy went wrong in 1930 and left Rutherford awaiting visitors who did not show up on schedule. Here is a press dispatch about the affair which was published in the Cleveland Plain Dealer for March 24, 1930:  
*"A \$75,000 Spanish mansion commanding a superb view and lying almost within a stone's throw of the ruins of California's first mission awaits the coming of King David, slayer of Goliath. Judge Rutherford, owner of the mansion in San Diego and President of the International Bible Student's Association and Watch Tower bible and Tract Society, admitted today that he was not quite sure when King David would appear, but added that everything is ready for him when he does. Judge Rutherford has deeded the property to King David, preferably, but he included any of the Kings and Prophets mentioned in the eleventh chapter*



of Hebrews as alternatives. David, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, Joseph and Samuel are the biblical characters who will find a great welcome at the hands of Judge Rutherford and his associates if they ever become residents of Southern California.

*"I purposely landscaped the place with palms and olive trees so King David and these princes of the universe will feel at home when they come to offer man the chance to become perfect," said the Judge"*

That was a great idea. The "Judge" builds a mansion for King David. It will be a pleasant place for the "Judge" to live while he awaits the arrival of the guest, or should I say, owner? Nothing daunted by the failure of prophecies of specific date, Rutherford continues to pile up prophecies of dire and early happenings which keep his followers, and sales force, keyed up to the proper pitch.

And this is the same gentleman who has the unadulterated nerve and brass-cheeked gall to write: *"The forgoing evidence proves conclusively that religion is a racket and that those who practice it for gain are racketeers. (Enemies – page 190)* At the bottom of page 192 of the same volume Rutherford attacks Christians in general as racketeers and specifies "priests, politicians and other racketeers and prognosticators of what shall come to pass."

If being a prognosticator is a sin, then the "Judge" is the most offending man alive, as he manufactures prophecies on a wholesale scale.

## Next Issue:

**The  
Rutherford  
Organisation**

## JW SEX OFFENDER ESCAPES JAIL

THOMAS Maxwell, a Jehovah's Witness for more than 30 years, was sentenced to three years probation and 240 hours community service for sex offences against a 12-year-old.

But the sheriff's decision not to jail the 60-year-old paedophile has provoked a public outcry on the island of Harris where Maxwell is now living.

His victim, now 17, broke down in loud sobs as the sentence was read out. She shouted "animal" as Maxwell was led quickly from the dock.

As he left the building, members of the Alloa congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses shouted "pervert".

Robert Millan, a church elder, said Maxwell would be summoned before the church's judicial committee and could be dismissed from the movement.

The girl's father said: "This man betrayed our trust and ruined our family life.

### ANNOUNCEMENT



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126 Oaks Lane, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham,  
South Yorkshire S61 3NE.

# Convention Report 2000

THIS YEAR'S Witnesses now for Jesus Convention proved that brave souls are still willing to leave the Watch Tower Society when they discover the REAL truth in Jesus Christ.

Attending the October convention, which this year was held in Cefn Lea Park, Wales, was author Duane Magnani.



**DUANE MAGNANI**

Mr Magnani, author of the Watch Tower Files and other respected books on Jehovah's Witnesses spoke about Child Custody battles and the lengths the WTS will go to to win a case.

Then Duane Magnani spoke on *"To abstain or not to abstain? Do Jehovah's Witnesses take blood?"*. He showed a short video from US TV which made some of the audience break

down in tears. It showed two Jehovah's Witnesses in an Accident & Emergency room after a serious road traffic accident. Both later died after refusing transfusions.

Daryl Ferguson gave us his reasons for disassociating himself only ONE day earlier. Daryl's departure from the Society revolved around the question, "Did Jerusalem fall in 607 BCE as the Watchtower Society says or in 587 BCE as almost every respected historian says?" The importance of this question is essential to reaching the Watchtower's key date of the Lord Jesus' invisible return in 1914. Daryl researched, found the answers and made his decision to leave the Witness religion.

Other speakers, during the weekend, included Rud Pursson, from Sweden, who spoke on *"The Passover and the Memorial – when?"* using Scripture to show that the Watch Tower's insistence of Nisan 14 as the date of the Lord's supper is erroneous.

The testimony of Ann Hilsdon was but one example of many abuses faced by females in the Watchtower Society.

Jim Penton spoke next, on his own experiences in leaving the Watchtower and *"The impact of disfellowshipping"*. Then we heard the testimony of broadcaster Larry Grant.



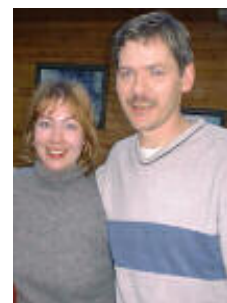
**RAY BANKS**



**RUD PURSSON**



**DUANE MAGNINI  
&  
EDDIE COONEY**



**PETE & MELINDA  
STANTON**



# WORLD NEWS

## Blood machine donated to hospital.

JEHOVAH'S Witnesses living in the Scottish county of Fife have donated a blood salvage machine, which recycles a patient's own blood, to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

The machine costing £15,000 was bought by nine congregations in Central Scotland.

The machine is the second donated by Jehovah's Witnesses in Scotland. Another was given to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.

## Fight to stop \$50 million tax bill fails.

JEHOVAH'S Witnesses in France have lost their battle to get out of paying \$50 million in back taxes.

The first civil room of the County Court of Nanterre confirmed, in July, that the payment of back taxes of 300 million francs must be paid by the Watch Tower Society.

## 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](mailto:ministry@firstandlast.org.uk)

The French tax authorities ruled the Witnesses ineligible for a church exemption and gave the group a whopping 60% tax rate.

This amounted to \$25 million, which was doubled by penalties and interest.

## Baby Battles for Life As Parents Reject Blood Transfusion.

A six-month-old baby was battling for her life at the Lusaka University Teaching Hospital (UTH) after her parents who belong to the Jehovah's Witnesses sect rejected a blood transfusion to save her life on religious grounds.

The baby's parents, Mr. and Mrs Cleophas Mulumba who travelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo for the operation in the country have refused to have the blood transfusion carried out.

They said that they had deep-rooted belief in Christianity which was explicit about the handling of blood.

According to the state-run 'Times of Zambia' newspaper, Beatrice Kashimba, who underwent surgery in October for a condition called Biliary Atresia lost vital pints of blood and body fluids after the operation when she developed diarrhoea and vomiting.

UTH medical personnel said the condition of Beatrice, who was looking pale and weak, was grave and unless a blood transfusion was carried out, her chances of survival were very slim.

UTH public relations officer, Pauline Mbangweta, expressed the hope that the parents would soon realise the gravity of the condition of the child and allow the transfusion to be administered.

# The Last Days in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century? Part 2



**T**hroughout its history the Watch Tower Society has pointed to the calamities, horrors and disasters in the world, and preached that this signified an imminent end to the world.

Convinced that the time of the end, has always been upon us, the Jehovah's Witness have until more recently been falsely prophesying and setting dates for the end of the world.

But a loyal Watch Tower student living at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century would have just as much to get excited about.

As he witnessed and experienced the events of this century, and looked for the "signs" of Jesus' coming. What would he find?

In this series of articles we will see just some of the horrors of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## 2. Pestilence

The Black Death (probably bubonic and pneumonic plague) killed at least 75 000 000 people in Eurasia alone from 1347 to 1351. This is the worst pestilence ever in sheer numbers, but neither its mortality nor its global nature was unique. Around 1/3rd of Europe's population perished; that is 25 000 000 people. In 1400, the population in England was perhaps half of what it had been 100 years earlier. In recorded his-

tory, the Black Death stands as a unique watershed, cutting off all continuity and paving the way for a whole new division of power and a changed order of things. Along with the famines that ravished the world in this century came countless other outbreaks of pestilence and disease. Dysentery and anthrax, and many other diseases, caused untold suffering. Also, leprosy reached its highest scope in Europe ever in this century.

### Earthquakes

Contemporary chronicles of the 14<sup>th</sup> century reports a large number of highly destructive earthquakes. Accompanied by the other calamities in this time – wars, famine, pestilence – these were highly devastating.

A horrible Earthquake in 1348 for which no reliable fatality estimates exists, devastated greater parts of Europe. In Hungary, 36 towns or castles were destroyed, and some people even believe that the Black Death that followed were caused by all the corpses lying around after this disaster.

Likewise, in 1356 the Swiss city Basel was totally demolished by an earthquake. In China, the period from 1337 to 1345 were marked by a large number of destructive earthquakes.

Milne's catalogue of historical earthquakes lists 143 destructive earthquakes for the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Considering the errant recording, it's safe to say that this is a very low figure.

Next Issue: Crime



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