



# Concern

Issue 30

Autumn 1999

Topics and News from First & Last Ministries

## KICKED OUT OF THE KINGDOM



**A JEHOVAH'S Witness Elder who dared to question the Watch Tower Society over its policy on blood transfusions has been disfellowshipped.**

Ray Hemming was an Elder and member of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Telford, for 19 years.

While looking up information on the internet, concerning the 1914 Generation doctrine, he came to the web site 'New Light on Blood'.

"I was stunned!", said Mr Hemming.

"This web site had people who are Elders and Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) members, still operating within the Organisation. How can this be I thought?"

The enormous amount of information presented to him included experiences of those affected by this policy, the history of the Watchtower's shifting position with regard to medical issues and scientific information.

"It caused me to overturn 'strongly entrenched things' (2 Corinthians 10:4)."

Mr Hemming presented some of this information, in the form of a letter to an Elder who's relative was a HLC member. He then sent out letters to brothers who were appointed men in the congregation, inviting their comments, none responded.

"These brothers, who were once close to my family and I, proceeded to report me. I soon got a visit from the Elders.

"It became apparent that the control mechanisms that operate in this Organisation strangled open comment, all were fearful of speaking, even in private to me," he continued.

"Soon a judicial committee was set up, the charge? Apostasy! I agreed to attend the meeting in the hope of making them think about this doctrine differently, and perhaps strike a cord in their hearts. I never expected them to agree with me on the subject, it would have put them in the same position as myself. I had four meetings. At the end of the final meeting, they informed me that I was disfellowshipped. This was no surprise to me. I then appealed to their humanity,

"Do you believe that this is Jehovah's justice and you have acted with the love of Christ?"

"I said this because these brothers knew the work I had done in this congregation and the sincerity in which I applied myself.

"The presiding overseer said coldly, that I would "die at Armageddon", if I continued as I was. I left with a "goodbye".

Mr Hemming said; "The irony of all this is the Watchtower could change its position regarding blood, as it has done in the past and these same brothers would then have to argue in favour of the new policy.

"The truth then is not the issue in these cases or loyalty to Christ or ones own conscience, but loyalty to Organisational directives."

You can email Mr Hemming at [ray@hemmo81.freemove.co.uk](mailto:ray@hemmo81.freemove.co.uk)

# Welcome

Dear Reader,  
IN this issue of Concern we have a mixture of stories highlighting many facets of life in the Watch Tower Society.

Our main story tells of Ray Hemming, a JW Elder, and how the society will stop at nothing to silence members who question its counsel.

If you are a Jehovah's Witness and ever have difficulties in life, then don't expect any help from one Circuit Overseer called Carlo. If this man is being truly led by God then I'd hate to see a man who isn't. Read about Carlo on page four.

If you attended the Ex-Jehovah's Witness convention, held recently in Pelsall, West Midlands, you would have been moved by some of the moving and powerful testimonies that the Lord is releasing from the society.

One such testimony is repeated for those who were unable to attend.

Finally, we end with mysterious faces found in Watchtower publications. If you're new to this strange Watch Tower "art" then we reproduce below



a sample from the book "Revelation It's Grand Climax at Hand", page 159. Here you can see an eye hidden in the picture of this hand. Just when you thought that the Watch Tower Society had stopped all this

they start all over again.

May the Lord God bless you all.

**Paul Bacon,**  
Editor.

## 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)

# NEWS

## Atlanta Killer linked with Jehovah's Witnesses.

MASS murderer, Mark Barton, who shot and killed 10 people in Atlanta, USA was known to have associated with Jehovah's Witnesses.

In his suicide note, written in August, Barton denied that he had killed his first wife and her mother. He went on to say, "I have come to hate this life in **this system of things.**"

Searching for help, Barton went to the Jehovah's Witnesses for instruction. His wife had left him over money, he told his minister, but he couldn't stop gambling on stocks.

Whether Mark Barton was a baptised member of the Jehovah's Witnesses or a disfellowshipped member has not yet been determined.

## Watch Tower in middle of sex abuse claims.

**A MAN is suing the Jehovah's Witnesses because he was allegedly sexually abused by a church member in Augusta and the denomination did nothing to protect him.**

Bryan Rees, 23, seeks unspecified damages for abuse that Rees says he endured between 1989 and 1992.

Rees claims that leaders in the Augusta church he attended as a teen-ager knew that Larry Baker had molested a child in the past but did not warn church members or expel Baker.

Besides Baker, the lawsuit names one of the denomination's legal corporations, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York Inc., along with Alan Ayers, Rees' stepfather, and Patrick LaBreck and Robert Wells, who were leaders in his congregation.

## TO THE EDITOR:

I FOUND your website and wanted to respond to you. I am actively witnessing to a Jehovah's Witness - a prominent member of the Witness community here and across the southern section of three states! God would have a powerful witness if she comes to know Jesus as Jehovah.

I am in search of any tool I can use to sway her. Please send whatever material you can. Specifically, I am looking for detailed information about the NWT, the background of its translators, especially Johannes Greber, the acknowledged spiritist that helped with the translation.

Thanks for your ministry and help to these deceived people.

Sincerely,  
Alan D. Resnicke  
Via Email.



## TO THE EDITOR:

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

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

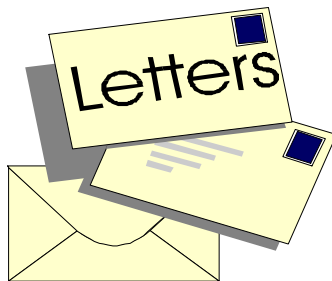
She looked absolutely stunned, as if I had asked her about someone completely alien to her.

I did my best to tell her the Gospel. I always feel inadequate, but I'm sure God uses my poor efforts.

God Bless,  
M. Harrop,  
Meldreth, Cambridge.

### Send your letters to:

248 Chester Road  
Loughton, Essex IG10 2LR.



## TO THE EDITOR:

HI! YOUR web site is very helpful.

I've been witnessing to JWs. I think they are the hardest to witness to, because they think they have the only truth. Even when you show them the truth in the WORD they want to try and dispute it by saying that is not what it means. But this has served to make me a stronger believer than ever.

It is strange though that I have my Bible, and that is all I need, but they bring me a blizzard of their printings.

I show them scripture and they hit me with another ream of paper.

I am just planting the seed and pray that the Father waters it.  
Thank you for your web site.

Your Brother in CHRIST.  
Vic Davis  
Via Email.



## TO THE EDITOR:

BEING a Witness I found the comments on your web site interesting.

But, respectfully, I found your evidence against the teachings shallow.

Your web page has been skilfully put together and I imagine it took a great deal of time to create, nevertheless a great deal of your evidence has been selected from the 'early' days of the religion and not present day teachings.

Paul Jakubovic,  
Leeds.

# Ask Carlo,



The Circuit Overseer with a true heart of stone.

In this issue of Concern we begin, what we can only describe as the most disgusting series of articles we have ever printed. The following letter is from a **real** Internet site put together by a **real** Jehovah's Witness Circuit Overseer.

In it, Carlo, plays the role of agony uncle to a number of Jehovah's Witnesses, who have been desperate enough to write to him. Read on to discover his brand of on-line shepherding.

Dear CO:

My 20 year old daughter was recently disfellowshipped for fornication (she got pregnant and isn't married). My husband and I have completely cut her off, thrown her out of the house, refused to help with any financial or emotional support, and won't speak to her, just as the elders have counselled. When the baby is born, we want to be able to see it and of course, bring it into The Truth. However, our daughter is very angry and is totally unrepentant, and has even been exhibiting some apostate attitudes.

She just can't see how much she is hurting you.

My question is would it be considered "theocratic warfare" to get custody of the baby once it is born? She obviously will be an unfit mother, condemning her own baby to death by turning her back on Jehovah's organisation. I am hesitant to ask our own congregation elders about this matter because since my daughter's disfellowshipping it seems that many in the congregation have been keeping their distance from my husband and myself. I am hoping that if we can get the baby into the truth we will be back in the good graces of the congregation once again.

*Signed, Sister Godmother*

**Dear Sister,**

*As your elders have so wisely counselled you, you should continue to shun your daughter. This is the most loving thing you can do for her in this situation. The Watchtower warns us that parents can have only limited contact with disfellowshipped adult children for "family emergencies or urgent family business" and to visit grandchildren. Now, it is up to your own conscience as to what you personally consider to be family business.*

*I know of one elder who considered summer vacations family business and invited all three of his disfellowshipped children and their families to spend two weeks in a rented cabin on the lake. However, he did follow the guidelines of "not eating with such a person", therefore he ate his meals in a separate room. Considering that you want to show your congregation that you are spiritually strong, I would advise you to follow the guidelines from the faithful and discreet slave to the letter, avoiding all contact whatsoever.*

***There is no reason you ever have to see this baby at all.***

*I know many parents who have disfellowshipped children and these children have gone on to have families and the faithful parents have never even seen these grandchildren. What strong examples of trusting in Jehovah and his appointed organisation we can see before us!*

*If you want to get back in the good graces of your congregation, you must show how spiritually strong you are. **Have you considered pioneering?** Now that your daughter is out of the house, you and your husband should have more time for service. Perhaps you could both pioneer. This would truly make Jehovah happy.*

**Signed, Carlo.**

*More from Carlo, in the next issue.*

# Jehovah's Witnesses

In Russia

## Russia Church: Probe Missionaries

THE Russian Orthodox Church asked prosecutors in Russia's Far East, July, to investigate the methods used by three religious groups to recruit converts.

The church accused the Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-day Adventists and a splinter group of Hare Krishna, based in the Far Eastern region of Primorye, of recruiting potential converts illegally.

The groups are "aggressive churches that harvest souls in the region by using deception and totalitarian methods," the Orthodox Church said in a statement.

The church did not say what laws the groups had allegedly violated, but it was apparently trying to prosecute them under a controversial religion law passed in 1997. Under it, Russian courts may ban religious groups found guilty of inciting hatred or intolerant behaviour.

The law also recognises Russian Orthodox Christianity as the na-

tion's leading faith and requires that most other religions pass a series of qualifying tests to operate in Russia.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are already on trial in Moscow, where prosecutors say they have broken the law. Russian Pentecostals and Baptists have also been threatened under the law.

The Orthodox Church said the Jehovah's Witnesses in the Far East had broken Russian law by going door to door, approaching people on public transportation and compiling lists of all residents in neighbourhoods where the group is active.

The Jehovah's Witness branch in Vladivostok, Primorye's capital, denied any wrongdoing.

"Let them investigate. We want to be known about, but we want people to know the truth," said Vyacheslav Yudin, the branch leader.

## Still no news on proposed doorstep ban.

Latest

NO DECISION has yet been made over whether or not Jehovah's Witnesses should be banned from carrying out door-to-door work in Russia.

The proposal was put forward by Russia's Expert Council of the Ministry of Justice after it decided to re-register the Watch Tower Society as a Religion in May.

Meanwhile experts involved in the case to ban Jehovah's Witnesses in Moscow are still examining the doctrine of the movement before coming to a decision.

The JW's had appealed against the delay in the case.



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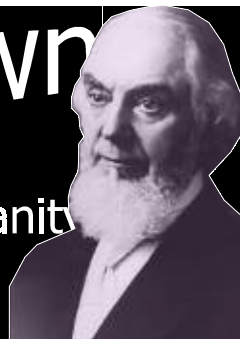
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# Millennial Dawn

## A Counterfeit of Christianity

### PART SEVEN

**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.

Although much of the book's content is an embarrassment to present day Witnesses, it still contained 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.

Two other errors of this vicious system can be no more than mentioned, not expanded, by reason of the limits to which this paper must needs be confined.

One of these, the ninth error, essential and fundamental in Christianity, is the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. There is a strange and ominous silence regarding this most important subject, very apparent in the writings of Mr. Russell. A careful reading of these volumes comprising more than a thousand pages has discovered but one solitary reference to the Spirit; it is a casual mention of the Spirit in connection with the Day of

Pentecost. The statement is simply made as a historical fact, or rather as an event which marks a stage in the development of the Christian Church. Not one word of teaching has the writer found in *Millennial Dawn* as to the distinct personality of the Spirit, or as to His supreme agency in the salvation of sinners. To Him is ascribed in the Bible the regeneration, sanctification and spiritual growth of the believer. How vast the place that is assigned to Him in Scripture, in Creation, in the training of Israel for their mission, in the inspiration of the Old Testament prophets and psalmists, in the enduement of Christ Himself for His work of redemption, in the planting and training of the Christian Church, in the gifts bestowed on the apostles and prophets, in the guidance of the Church by its chosen teachers, and in the inspired writers of the New Testament, all attentive readers of Scripture know.

Shortly before His crucifixion the Lord Jesus left with His disciples this majestic promise: "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter . . . Even the Spirit of truth." "Another Comforter," that



[illegible]

even as Jesus was. Here, therefore, the inference is quite plain, namely, that Mr. Russell admits a plurality of gods.

## More of Russell's errors revealed in the next issue of Concern



## Concern 7



# Blood Update

More true-life stories from around the world.

## Keeping the faith: Bloodless surgery.

Part Two

**STACEY** Singletary has a massive brain tumour. Being a Jehovah's Witness meant that her only choice of dealing with it was through an innovative approach called "bloodless surgery." Would they be able to get the tumour out? Read

After ups and downs her blood count was still dangerously low — and time was running short. Would she make it to surgery? And if she did, would she make it through?

"Even if she is dying — and without a blood transfusion, she will die — we will not transfuse her," her neurosurgeon Dr. Abe Steinberger says. "That's why this is such a dangerous operation."

Stacey's blood count had dropped again. It was now well below a level considered "compatible with life." It was just above three.

Somehow Stacey's body adapted. She was hanging on. But it was not certain how low she could go and still survive.

Stacey was still too weak to walk on her own, or to join her parents at a congregation near the hospital to pray that her blood count would continue to rise.

It did, from 5.7 to 5.9. And then 6.3 — nearly twice the blood count she had the day she was wheeled into her doctor's office.

"They're saying this is wonderful, this is good but we're going for as high as we can get," her sister Cassandra says.

### TIME FOR SURGERY

But the family's optimism faded fast because Stacey's blood count didn't go any higher after that reassuring rise. In fact, it dropped. The doctors had no choice. Even though Stacey's blood count was still less than half what it should be, it was now, or maybe never. It was time for surgery.

Steinberger checked to make sure Stacey hadn't changed her mind.

"We've explained to you the risks,"



### RESOLUTE: No blood for Stacey.

he says, "and we just need you to sign it where it says signature of the patient."

But she was steadfast: no transfusions, no matter what. There was no turning back now.

Inside the operating room, doctors used a combination of technologies to recirculate any blood Stacey lost.

Her blood loss was minimal so far, but the surgery turned out to be more complex than Stacey's medical team had anticipated. Nurse Ozawa tried to reassure Stacey's parents.

Enough of the tumour was out for a hospital lab to call in a report.

"It's a benign tumour!" Steinberger says. "And if this is a benign tumour and you can take it all out, you can cure her."

Finally, some good news for Stacey's anxious family. But was Stacey out of the woods?

"Well I feel terrific considering how I've been feeling over the past couple of years. I mean it seems like I'm back to normal now."

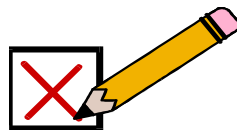
Stacey's life still revolves to a great extent around being one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

But like most teenagers, she's also striking out on her own, enjoying the independence she'd lost while sick, especially cruising around in the post-operation present from her parents — her first car.

She's able to return to school at Louisiana State University, to put her life back together.



# Polls Apart



Jehovah's Witnesses left divided over question of voting.

Jehovah's Witnesses around the world are at odds with each other over whether or not they are allowed to vote.

The confusion has been caused by a "Questions from Readers" article in the 1st November 1999 issue of the Watchtower magazine.

The "reader", (more than likely a Watchtower writer) simply asks "How do Jehovah's Witnesses view voting?"

Up until now Jehovah's Witnesses have been ordered not to vote in political elections in order to maintain the organisation's stance of political neutrality.

Indeed the Watchtower magazine of 15th November 1977 on page 686 says

*"The Witnesses are neutral as to warfare and strife between the nations, as well as being clean from all political involvement, **not even voting**, because they fulfil Jesus' description of them as being 'no part of the world.'*" (John 17:14)"

But, in the answer given by the Watchtower magazine, it seems that another change in doctrine may be being passed down by the "heavenly mother".

For on page 28 of the magazine we read:

As to whether they will personally vote for someone running in an election, each one of Jehovah's Witnesses makes a decision based on his Bible-trained conscience and an understanding of his responsibility to God and to the State.

And just to make it clearer, on page 29 we read;

If someone decides to go to the polling booth, that is his decision. What he does in the polling booth is between him and his creator

Of course, the Watch Tower Society's suggestion that Jehovah's Witnesses use their "Bible-trained conscience" is just like telling them to follow the Watch Tower line and not vote in political elections, but there may be another reason why the society is loosening its iron-like grip.

Recently, efforts by the society to gain acceptance and legal recognition in a number of European countries (i.e. Bulgaria) have come up against some opposition after the government insisted that for a religion to be recognised by the state, they must allow their people to vote.

While some are touting this as a change of policy, it may simply be words to placate the governments, just like the "change" in the blood doctrine in Bulgaria.

While the context of the whole discussion makes it clear that voting in politics is plainly **WRONG** for the Jehovah's Witness, it seems, in certain situations, they will be allowed to compromise their faith and act out the process for the sake of the government.

Likely, this "tolerance" will only apply in such countries.

Time will tell.

For the moment though, thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses are left uncertain as to whether the rule applies to them or not.

On a number of Internet discussion boards Jehovah's Witnesses are beginning to argue over whether or not members will be disfellowshipped for voting.

Once again, in an effort to clarify things, the Watch Tower Society has created even more of a mess.

Is this really a sign that God is leading them? We will leave the Bible to answer for us;  
"For God is not the author of **confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." 1 Corinthians 14:33

# my story

The testimony of Faith Robinson.

I WAS born and raised as a third generation Jehovah's Witness. My grand-father became a Witness when my mother was five years old, my grandmother soon followed, though she was never as strongly committed, she did believe in it.

When my mother was sixteen she met my father, by seventeen she was pregnant and they got married. My father was not a Witness when they met but he soon began to study and eventually was baptised.

My childhood was not very happy. I had always felt that I was unwanted. I had always known I was conceived outside of wedlock, even though my parents married, I always felt I should never have existed.

The one saving grace was that I felt loved by God.

One of my first memories was of sitting listening to stories about the Paradise earth, and about Jesus. I can remember the set of Watchtower articles that later became the book "Listening to the Great Teacher". I had always dreamed about having a pet tiger in the paradise earth.

School was a difficult time. Not only was I painfully shy, but I was also different because I could not take part in many school activities, from the daily assembly to holidays like Easter and Christmas, because the Witnesses believe that these events are Pagan and therefore not part of "true worship". On one hand

I knew, or thought I knew that I was being obedient to Jehovah, and I wanted that more than anything; but part of me ached to be able to join in with my peers, to be normal.

As a child I was encouraged, as were all children, to go on the door-to-door work during



Faith Robinson

the school holidays. I thoroughly enjoyed it, I felt as though I was doing what Jehovah wanted me to do. I even remember holding book studies with some of my friends. I would have been eight or nine at the time, and I really enjoyed telling them about Jehovah. I was never happier.

When I was eight my father died, he had a severe asthma attack and he died before the ambulance arrived. Five years later my grandma died from cancer. They were the two people I was closest to in the whole world and they were gone.

I never blamed Jehovah God

for their deaths. I knew that the Bible teaches that illness and death are the result of sin and it couldn't be helped. But the Witnesses believe that the dead are only asleep, and that after Armageddon they would be resurrected with perfect human bodies and I knew that though I missed them both desperately, I would see them again.

My first real crisis of faith came about a year after my grandmother died. Over about a year and a half I was sexually abused and raped by a relative. The first time it happened I was terrified, there was nothing that I could do to stop him. I could not reason with him, he would not listen. I could not get away from him because he had locked me in the house with him; I was too afraid to physically resist too much because he had threatened to hurt me and I knew without a doubt that he would do as he said. There was only one thing I knew I could do. I prayed. I believed without any doubt, that God loved me and He knew how desperately I needed help....and he did nothing.

It was then that I realised that there must have been something so worthless and dirty about me, that I must be so evil, that even God didn't care about me.

I should never have been born and I had no worth to anyone, except to be used.

For four years I did not attend the meetings on a regular basis. I did not knock on doors, I did not talk to anyone about Jehovah. It isn't that I doubted that He existed, or that I didn't want to worship him. The Witnesses put it down to teenage rebelliousness but in truth I did not

think God wanted me there, fouling up His meetings with my filthy presence. I felt very guilty not attending the meetings.

In 1982, when I was seventeen, I met a boy who I trusted. I thought I was "in love" he said that he loved me, and I was so in need of someone to love me that I believed him. But, he lied and left me when I was eight months pregnant. When the Elder found I was pregnant I was summoned to a disciplinary hearing, even though I was not baptised and not even attending meetings.

Three men questioned me about my relationship with my boyfriend and then they said I had a choice. I could either cut myself off from the Witnesses completely and condemn myself and my unborn child to eternal death at Armageddon, or buckle down and become a baptised member. The choice was life or death.

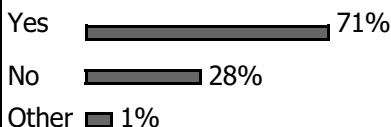
## Next Issue:



### YOU DECIDE.....

The Watch Tower Society should be forced into paying the French government \$50 million in back taxes, according to visitors to the First & Last Ministries web site.

When asked for their opinion, visitors to the site voted as follows;



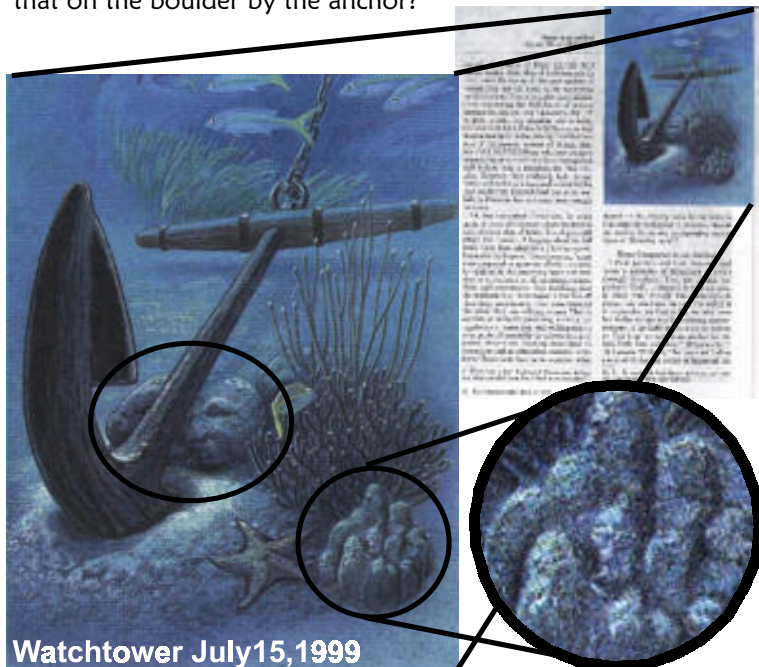
# NEW SPECIES

**Mysterious  
images  
make a  
comeback in  
Watch**

**ARTISTS at the Watch Tower Society's printing department have, in the past, been accused to hiding strange faces and other "occult" like imagery in the drawings they create for the pages of the Watchtower and Awake! magazines.**

Now it seems that they are up to their old tricks again if the Watchtower magazine of July 15th, 1999 is anything to go by.

For on page 18, as part of an article entitled; "Anchored by Hope, Impelled by Love" there is a picture of an anchor at the bottom of the sea. What pray tell is that on the boulder by the anchor?



**Watchtower July 15, 1999**

Is that a eye, mouth and chin on that boulder? And if you look very carefully at the coral in the bottom left corner, is that a face on the end of each column? What is the Watch Tower Society up to?

Maybe it is all a coincidence, or maybe there is something more sinister behind their drawings. You decide.



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