# concern

Summer 1998

Watch Tower Society in confusion over blood ban.

partially lifted its ban on blood

In what can only be described as a case of double standards, the society now has two versions of its erroneous blood doctrine in force.

The altustion has developed after the society signed a legally binding document.

in the European Court of Human Rights in March.

There it agreed that Jehoveh's Witnesser, in Bulgaria, could ignore its 37 year-old prohibition on blood and will in future be allowed to receive blood without fear of being distellowshiped. Beamwhite reliew Witnesses, throughout the rest of the world, will still face being shumed. The pour case came after the bourt case came after the busies.

European country regarded the oult as a "threat to public health" and banned it from holding meetings (see last issue of Concern)

But now, even though the society has agreed to the lifting of the blood ban in Bulgaria, the society has no intention of telling Jehovah's Witnessas in other countries, of the change, Continued on page 4.

## Welcome

Dear Reader.

THE past three months has seen some of the most frenetic activity in the Watch Tower

Society for many years.

With the news that Bulgarian Jehovah's Witnesses will now get a free choice over whether or not to accept blood transfusions, the society's team of public relations gurus have sprung into action in order to quickly make sure that the official WT line is toed.

Once more we have come to see that what the society agrees to in the courts is just brushed aside and forgotten a few days later.

We are sure that this story has a long way to run, so watch this space for more

developments.

Inside this issue of Concern you should find the first of our

"Outreach Help-files"

pullout This section designed to help you find the correct person to contact should you need help in your witnessing activities. If it helps you then please be sure to let us know. If there is anyone vou feel we have left out then there is a form on the back of the help-file that you photo copy and send us.

As you may have noticed from our front page, we have had a few changes in our

design and layout of Concern.

We have also increased the number of news stories we cover from all around the world.

We hope that you like the changes and that you will

continue supporting us.

In closing, we would like to thank those of you who have contributed to the pages of Concern this month. Les Kerr & Bill Bacon, First & Last Ministries.



#### Friends in London

EX-Jehovah's Witness elder and founder of US based ministry Comments from the Friends will be speaking in London during July

David Reed will give four addresses at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London on 7-9 July For more details call 0171-735 7076

#### **Ex-JW Convention**

FOLLOWING on from last years successful event, two new dates have been announced for the Witnesses Now for Jesus convention

To register your place and to get more details about the convention, which is being held on September 26-27, 1998, ring 01922 442084

#### 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.



http: //www.homeusers.prestel.co.uk/firstandlast/ email: ministry@firstandlast.prestel.co.uk/

#### TO THE EDITOR

AS a street evangelist. carrying a ten-foot cross attract the attention of the readers Jehovah's Witnesses

When anv outreach JWs work is being done it can cause quite a stir in the God Bless you.. centre. when the JWs are cleaning St. Austell, Cornwall. windows

The stir is quiet now, as you can't beat being able to back up what you're saying in black and white. from the Bible

The Aware! info tracts have subdued the JWs in our area's of evangelism and has made a pathway for me to spread the good news without too much harassment from the JWs. apart from maybe the odd

glare

Because o f the opposition I have received from these people I have always tried to remember the scriptures which will best test their belief 1 Cor 11 26 - How do JWs explain the Lord's supper. for if we look at this scripture it tells them to "until celebrate it comes" - NIV or "until he arrives" - NWT So why are they celebrating it if Via e-mail. they say he has arrived?

Hebrews 8 11 - points out that each and every one of us has a personal relationship with God, not personal relationship bible with a aid (Reasoning Through the

Scriptures)

The teachings of anyone who claims to be the way to God through a prophet is false, it is within us all to have a direct relationship with God, through Christ

"The Law of any kind prophet was John" - Luke 16 16

I hope these scriptures around with me, I tend to are interesting to your and helps communicate with the lost

especially Christopher Benney

#### TO THE EDITOR

HOW can I get tracts

My nephew is marrying the Watchtower Society a Jehovah's Witness who is about to would like help obtaining information that reach out to her at this me critical time

I don't feel he has any her family? business marrying because she is not believer, but nevertheless, it is happening and so now I can only pray and try to my family on three occasions become equipped

Please, what help can you offer in the form of literature and how can I

obtain it? Thanks for your help and for your ministry

Margeret Rembold

#### **SEND YOUR LETTERS**

First & Last Ministries 248 Chester Road. Loughton. Essex 1910 21R

> E-mail at concern a firstandlast. prestel.co.uk



#### TO THE EDITOR

I AM a former JW with family members who still are active in

I would be interested in b e whatever help is available to "disfellowshipped" and I reach out to my family who, as in you know, will not receive any communication from me

They will not even listen to will help us as a family to anyone they know was sent by

> Do you have or know of any outreach that can help my

> My husband and I left JWs in 1981 when we accepted Christ as our personal saviour

Since then. I have only seen the deaths of my sister, my father (who was not a JW), and my mother

Although I was "allowed" to attend the memorial services for my family members, for the most part, they would not speak to me other than to say hello It is very difficult to tell my two children about their family -who I remember as being very loving, when they do not see this love being demonstrated

I have requested a copy of your newsletter, but whatever other information you have to offer would be greatly appreciated

Sincerely, Lori Jones Via e-mail.



### Lies, lies!

"... with regard to its stance on blood transfusions ... members should have free choice in the matter for themselves and their children, without any control or sanction on the part of the association."

#### European Court of Human Rights, Application No. 28626/95

WITH these few words the society has seemingly agreed to end one of the most dangerous religious doctrines ever devised by man

But while every Jehovah's Witness should be rejoicing that they no longer face the prospect of deciding whether their loved ones should live, or face an early death, reality is somewhat

different

For these words, agreed with the European Court of Human Rights, only apply to 2,000 Jehovah's Witnesses living in Bulgaria For the other 5 million or so JWs throughout the world, accepting a blood transfusion, to save their life, will still result in them falling under the following

"the receiver of a blood transfusion must be cut off from God's people by excommunication or disfellowshiping..." Watchtower 15th Jan 1961

So now, not only does the Watch Tower Society have a two-tier salvation system (i.e. 144,000 and the great crowd) it also has two versions of its blood doctrine in force at the same time

For an organisation that prides itself on world unity, it's going a funny way

about showing it.

Once again the real truth is that the society has conveniently agreed to this statement with the European court, but really has no intention of keeping it

While Bulgarians may have been

given a free choice as to whether or not they should take a blood transfusion, you can bet that many will still refuse out of fear of being viewed as second class members

Just to prove our point, In a statement made on April 27, 1998, regarding this issue, the society said

Bulgaria has agreed to grant the Christian Association of Jehovah's Witnesses recognition as a religion. Bulgaria also agreed to create without delay a bill that will allow alternative civilian service for those whose conscience will not allow them to engage in military service. The agreement also includes an acknowledgement that each individual has the freedom to choose the type of medical treatment he receives. With the amicable settlement, the Witnesses agreed to withdraw their complaint against Bulgaria. (Italics ours) Jehovah's Witnesses are pleased that, through open communication, an amicable settlement was made between the Christian Association of Jehovah's Witnesses and the Government of Bulgaria. The terms of the agreement do not reflect a change in the doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses, Rather, the agreement reflects an increased understanding of the concerns and actions of both parties.

So, as can be seen from the above statement, the society does not consider the agreement with Bulgaria, as a change in its doctrine. It will continue to disfellowship its members



#### Prince in Darkness?

FANS of pop singer Prince have been wondering has been talking about ever since he started lecturing them \_\_\_ about "the cross" during his performances.

> "Maybe somebody lied about the way somebody died. Prince would say, and then, "Stauros! Look it up!"

Prince, we understand, was introduced to the that Jesus did not die on a theory cross by Larry Graham, a former singer and now JW Elder.

Prince, who will be 40-years-old later this year, claims not to be a member of this religion (or any other), but seems to be only a student of their beliefs

France Bethel **Branch Closes** 

February 10th, 1998 BECAUSE the government of France views Jehovah's Witnesses as a sect it has imposed a 60% TAX on all literature "bought" in the country.

Unconfirmed sources say the Society has opted to move all French facilities to England and close all printing operations in France.

They say the scheme is to print literature in London and ship it to French congregations as a gift,

sidestepping the 60% TAX.

This move will take place over the next few months. French Bethelites will be reassigned to England.

The entire distribution of French literature into France will now be

handled from England.

#### Black man becomes first Governing Body "Helper".

FORMER black Circuit Overseer, Samuel Heard. appointed to serve on Watchtower's new "helpers of the Governing Body" as part of a new arrangement to replace leadership of the Watchtower's Governing Body, most of whom are too old to run an organisation of over 5 million members.

Watchers of the Watchtower organisation will note that for years the Governing Body has endured criticism that they have no minority representation on their governing

board

Rather than choose from among many "anointed" black men who have served faithfully for years in the organisation to replace ailing members or accompany them, Mr. Heard is designated as a "helper." More news will be forthcoming soon..

#### ARE YOU MOVING?

Make sure you send your new address to us as soon as possible if you don't want to miss future issues of Concern.





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 Concorn, you can read just what the professor had to say regarding Mr. Russell's writings.

#### IS JESUS A CREATURE?

 Jesus, in His pre-human existence, was a spiritual being, higher than the angels, but a creature. (Vol. 1, pp. 177,

178, 179, 188.)

The book expressly teaches that our Lord, prior to His incarnation and during His earthly life, was only a creature, higher in the scale of being than other creatures, but not God. "We are told that our Lord, before He left His glory to become a man, was "in a form of God-a spiritual form, a spirit being; but since to be a ransom for mankind He had to be a man, of the same nature as the sinner whose substitute in death He was to become.

it was necessary that His nature be changed. And Paul tells us that He took not the nature of angels, one step lower down than His own, but that He came down two steps and took the nature of man - He became a man; He was made flesh! (Heb. 2:16; Phil. 2:7, 8; John 1:14.)"

"Notice that this teaches not only that angelic nature is not the only order of spirit being, but that it is a lower nature than that of our Lord before He became a man, and He was not then so high as He now is, for 'God hath highly exalted Him', because of His obedience in becoming man's willing ransom.

(Phil. 2:8, 9.)

He is now of the highest order of spirit being, a partaker of the Divine (Jehovah's) nature". The book further asserts: "If this principle be a correct one, it would show that God had no right to create Jesus higher than the angels, and then further to exalt Him to the Divine nature, unless He intended to do the same for all angels and for all men" (p. 188).

There is no mistaking the significance of this teaching. Jesus Christ was originally a created being, but as a reward of His obedience unto death He

is now exalted to be God!

This is worse than the doctrine of Arius the Libyan which the Council of Nicea so solemnly condemned, of modern Unitarians which all evangelical Christians repudiate.

Over against this fundamental error, one that does the Lord Jesus infinite dishonour and robs us of an Almighty Saviour, we place the, inspired Word of Scripture, John 1 1'

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God" By the Word of course is meant the Son of God, Jesus Christ Three majestic truths are here set forth. (1) The Word's eternity - "In the beginning" - the noun is without the article, it is an unmarked, uncounted duration that is meant "Was", not came into existence, He was already in existence before the creation of the universe, therefore prior to all beginning, in a timeless age which transcends time, in eternity, Christ was

Millennial Dawn says there was a time when Christ was not, the Apostle John affirms there never was a, time when He was not (2) His eternal



existence is "The maintained Word was with God" His with equality John God. for to goes on Him ascribe to creation (3) His Deity And the Word was God" Most emphatic is the order of the

personal

words in the original "And God was the Word" Jesus Christ was no subordinate or created being "Who subsisting in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant" (Phil 2 6-ll R V)

It is here taught that Christ existed in the form of God "The form of a thing is the mode in which it reveals itself, and that is determined by its nature" John Chrysostom long ago said "It is not possible to be of one essence and to have the form of another" Christ existed in the form of God because He Himself is God Hence the Apostle asserts that He was God's equal, but in His self-abasement He did not hold fast to this equality but emptied Himself of it, and instead took the lowly form of a bond-servant

His humiliation presupposes His former dignity and glory Had He not been infinitely more than a created being, it would have been no renunciation to become a servant, that He already was, according to the blasphemous teaching of Dawnism Out of such a condition He could never have risen

The highest angel in heaven, far from having to stoop in order to become a servant, is but a servant and can never

be aught else

But the very fact that He did humble Himself, even unto the death of the cross, is positive proof that He was no created being, no mere man, but God over all and blessed forever (Rom 9 5)

But even in His amazing selfabasement He did not renounce His glorious attributes as a Divine Person He veiled them beneath His lowly human garb, save when occasion demanded their display Both Omnipotence and Omniscience belonged to Him while on earth, and He often exhibited both in the sight of men The proof of this is abundant and conclusive

#### Next issue; The Incarnation of Christ the Lord.



# A Christian Response to the Watchtower Article "What Do the Scriptures Say About the Divinity of Christ?" Part 4- by Tom and Ella McCrea

The Watchtower magazine of January 15, 1992 printed a four page article aimed solely at stripping Jesus of

His divinity.

In the last issue of Concern Tom and Ella McCrea continued their examination of this article and asked what Scriptural proof, if any, the Watch Tower Society, presented to its readers to back up its claims.

We print the third part of

their findings below.

ON page 22 of the Watchtower it goes on to describe 'Jesus' true position and although scriptures are quoted on Christ being subject to His Father, the Watchtower says Jesus is 'inferior' to the Father!

The word 'inferior' occurs 3 times in the New Testament and never in connection with Jesus' relationship with

the Father

#### **MISUNDERSTOOD**

Remember Jesus is the Mediator between God and man, he, as it were, has to represent both sides In that sense, he is subject to the Father but not inferior A wife is not inferior to her husband Both share the same nature

The scripture at I Corinthians 15 24,28 is next discussed This scripture is greatly misunderstood by JWs. They believe Christ plus 144,000 of their anointed will form a heavenly government They will rule over the people on earth, after Armageddon, for a literal 1,000 years Their rule will

gradually lift the sin of those on earth until at the end of the 1,000 years, all will stand perfect However, at this point Christ will hand over the earthly subjects and the Father will rule directly over

mankind Satan will be loosed to test mankind and will be eventually destroyed along with many who follow him

#### CONTRADICTS

But this is not what the Bible is saying 1 Corinthians 15 24 - 27 says Christ rules until he puts all enemies under his feet To say he hands over before Satan and death are dealt with, contradicts the Bible Also, we must remember that Christ's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom Daniel 7 14, Luke 1 33, 2 Peter 1 1 1. 1 Corinthians 15 is dealing with the resurrection and Christ's work as mediator. We know that Christ's death was to 'abolish death' (2 Timothy 1, 10), but the complete fulfilment of that will be realised with the resurrection of the body This takes place when Christ returns - I Corinthians 15 51 - 54, 1 Thess 4 15 -18. The mediator will then lay down his office, at the feet of the Father

"To say he (Christ) hands over before Satan and death are dealt with contradicts the Bible"

The truth is that although Christ lays down his office, he is pictured after that as sharing the Father's throne Revelation 2 1 22,23, Revelation 22. 3 - 5 Compare this with Isaiah 60. 19,20 1 Corinthians 8. 6 is quoted JWs say this

proves only the Father is God If this is so then only the Son is Lord Why then does the Watchtower Organisation say that the true Lord of Malachi 31 is Jehovah? Why do they translate 'kyrios' - 'Lord' in their New Testament over 200 times as 'Jehovah'? Clear scriptures like Matthew 1 Hebrews 1 6 and John 20 28 are contradicted

#### THE FACTS

Regarding the use of the word 'worship' in the New Testament, here are the facts

- The word 'worship' plus the noun formed by it occurs 61 times Of these 22 instances are clearly divine worship, five more of worship used idol worship, 15 cases refer to worship of Jesus and only 2 refer to salutation to men These are Matthew 18 26 and Revelation 3
- The former scripture depicts the king as a type or picture of God (verse 29 uses a different word when used between fellow servants 'besought' 'entreat' NWT) Revelation 3 9 refers to the enemies of the church being forced to acknowledge Jesus' love for the church Compare this with Isaiah 60 14,15

Sadly, the Watchtower Society cannot make up its mind whether or not Jesus should be worshipped For example, the Watchtower March 1880 page 83 says -

"to worship Christ in any form cannot be wrong."

Even as late as the Watchtower 15 October 1945, page 313, Jehovah's Witnesses were told you must worship and bow down to Jehovah's chief one, namely Jesus Christ

However, by 1964 this was the instruction .

"...it is unscriptural worshipers of the living and true God to render worship to the Son of God, Jesus Christ." Watchtower 1/1 V64 page 671

The idea that men only did obeisance to Jesus as to a human being, does not explain why we are to bow the knee before one we cannot literally see before us It does not explain why Jesus is worshipped by every creature Revelation 5 13, instead of being with them as a worshipper

Jehovah's Witnesses are forbidden to worship Jesus and to pray to him They will say they pray through Jesus But please consider, what does that mean? Do we believe Jesus can hear these prayers and intercede for us? Hebrews 7 25

Why do JWs believe it is wrong to pray through Mary or the saints?

If all the saints in every place call upon the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 1 2), how, if he is not God, can he hear us?

Clearly then the scriptures do teach the intransitively A further 17 condemn Divinity, yes, the Deity of the Lord Jesus

#### More in next Issue

#### ANNOUNCEMENT



IF you've ever stood on your doorstep and found yourself wanting to close the door on a visiting Jehovah's Witness then this challenging booklet is for you.

Containing 16 pages of helpful advice on witnessing to the Witness, Will You Share Jesus? is written by Bill Browning la JW himself for 23 years) of New Malden, in Surrey.

Bill is also the co-author of Awakel to the Watchtower, which is published by

Reachout Trust.

For prices and orders contact -Tom & Ella McCrea 35 Church Crescent, Newtownabbey, C Antrim N Ireland, BT36 6ES.



#### Reprieve offered to Jehovah's Witness

A Melbourne man who defied his wife's and his church's beliefs to save her life would only be taken back by the Jehovah's Witnesses if he recanted his decision, a church minister said today.

The man won the right for doctors to give his desperately ill wife a blood transfusion on Tuesday, despite her walked up, poured gasoline over signing a legally binding consent form that said she was not to receive any blood products.

bleeding profusely when she developed fire hose, between the two brothers complications after giving birth to her and their mother who had turned first child on Friday.

Jehovah's Witness minister, Mr Peter Linke, said the man would be spoken to and welcomed back into the faith only if he agreed to abide by the group's religious beliefs.

Members of the group who transgress its codes of behaviour are expelled, or "disfellowshipped", and all other members of the congregation who wish to remain in good standing with the church are urged to totally reject that person to the extent of regarding them as dead. This includes close family members.

Jehovah's Witnesses view blood as sacred and, based on a text in The Bible, believe God has forbidden humans from ingesting it in any form.

Article taken from - Australian Associated Press February 26th 1998

#### Mom torches kids Girl dies; woman, son critical

MOTHER doused her children and herself with gasoline and set herself on fire.

The woman's daughter burned to death in a tool shed. as fourteen-year-old

her Ma John Kelly Blake

brother Fausto was

feverishly dousing the flames on his younger brother and screaming for his little sister to get out of a burning shed

Then, without a word their mother herself and set herself ablaze

The first fire fighter on the scene at the home in Pheonix Arizona, had The woman, 20, was in a coma after to divide his attention, and his only herself into a human torch

But, by the time they got to little Venessa Blake inside the tool shed. she had burned to death

The mother, Kelly Blake, was in critical condition at Maricopa Medical Centre

Ramon Fausto, 12, was listed in critical condition and his brother, John, was in good condition at the same hospital

Jose Rojas, 13, who lives across the street from the house said he'd occasionally ride bicycles with John and Ramon but only saw them around their house.

"Never at school," he said. "Their mom wouldn't let them

Jose said their mother forbade school for religious reasons. He said he also had talked to John about why the family couldn't dress up for Halloween. He said the family were Jehovah's Witnesses.



## GFR AT YOUR DU

OUR ongoing campaign, to put a stop to the work of visiting Jehovah's Witnesses, has received a further boost in the last three months with orders for stickers totalling more than 1,000.

Buan Meikle, who lives in Arbroath, Scotland ordered 1000 stickers and is

He told Concern that he is reporting a mixed reaction. He said, "Some have taken the stickers, while others have not For those who have taken a sticker one or two laughed, thinking it was a

"Others jumped for joy (well almost)

at the idea of such a thing

As for those who refused the offer of a sticker. Brian said that some people thought it was rude to have a sticker on the door, or they preferred to tell the JWs face to face that they were not interested

the Autumn 1997 issue of Concern, the Rev. Richard Birch of Wiltshire gave his reasons why he thought the stickers many be Willeding counter-productive.

Here is what he had to say to our comments

distributing them in his area

Dear Friends.

Thank you for printing my three reasons against the stickers 'No Visits by JWs Please" Thank you too for the comments by Bibb Bacon. As to the first commant, I didn't readige the

stickers were not for Christians.

To the second command I still think it will strengthen the JWs faith, because this opposition makes him bedieve that he must have the 'truth'.

But it's the third commant which I think you have misread me. Let me explain: for many years I have been involved in door-to-door vigitation with the London Bity Mission, as well as each church J've been involved in, including the fellowship I am

Now if we went out visiting and found "stickers" on doors saying 'No Visits by Grangelicals Pleage' then our whole vigitation would be hampered. Surely the Setter way in all this is to get Churches modified and out on the doors with the true Gospel of Christ.

Having said add this. I appreciate your Goncarn for JUs as mine is, (especially as my brother has been one for 30 years now).

Keep up the good word.

Rev. Richard Birth,

Have you found the stickers effective? Write to us and let us know.

#### KINGDOM CAPERS

#### Freddie





AFTER many years of witnessing to the Jehovah's Witnesses, here is a useful piece of information which aims to cut through all the ice and really gets to the heart of the matter and confronts them with "who Jesus really is".

You can use this either at the start when you first meet them or after you have been on the Watchtower theological

roundabout

The Witnesses want to do two things:

I. Help you,

2. Answer your questions.

So then, here goes - "RINGER, RINGER"

After preliminary introductions (C=Christian, J=Jehovah's Witness)

C. Can you help me? (This is the key to the JW computer answering system) I have an important question I would like you to answer. (Now you have their full attention.)

C. Is Jehovah the only true God?

J. Yes he is.
C. (This is the important question) is Jesus a true God or a false God. (Get them to answer only true or false, you do not want any

other answer).
They will try to give you some other answers. Here are some of them.

J. He is a mighty God but not almighty God

J. He is a divine person
J. He has divine qualities

J. He is known as Michael the archangel

J. There are gods many and lords many

Whatever the answer they try to give, other than true or false, do not accept

Insist they answer Here is why.

If they answer true then they have and believe in TWO TRUE GODS If they answer false then they have a FALSE GOD who was created and is seated at the right hand of Jehovah in Heaven

Either Jesus is a true God or he is not

You cannot have it both ways

In doing this you are not getting bogged down in the twisting of scripture as they do. You do not have to defend the trinity doctrine You do not have to argue with them. Most importantly you are confronting them with who they really believe Jesus is.

You will have put the spanner in the Watch Tower computer programmed answering system They will not have been able to help you or answer your question.

As they try to skirt around the subject by attacking the trinity doctrine, agree to discuss it with them starting with Jehovah is God. Then deal with Jesus Is he a true God or not? You will not get past this point to even discuss the Holy Spirit.

But all the time you can be praying that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes. As they go away frustrated, pray that this will play on their minds until they come to the true knowledge of Jesus and that he will

become their personal saviour.



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