# TAX BLOW FOR WATCH TOWS

Jehovah's Witnesses take to the streets in protest over "Unfair" tax.

THOUSANDS of Jehovah's Witnesses from around the world have marched through the streets of Paris in protest, after the society was hit by a \$50 million tax bill.

The government of France has ruled that the Jehovah's Witnesses faith is not a religion and now says it owes \$50 million (300 million francs) in back taxes.

And, in May this year, the French Tax Authority ruled the Witnesses ineligible for a church exemption and gave the group a whopping 60% tax rate, which amounts to \$25 million, which was doubled by penalties and interest.

In a full page advert in the New York Times, the society has written to France's president, Jacques Chirac, asking him to reverse the tax authority's decision.

#### **Special Report**

Describing the bill as "discriminatory and unjust" the governing body says it will appeal to the European Court in an effort to get the decision reversed.

In the letter to Mr Chirac the governing body says:

"We believe the entire assessment arises from an erroneous application of the law governing the exercise of religion, and it could affect donations to any religion, charity or not-for-profit organisation the tax administration chooses to target in the same manner.

"Jehovah's Witnesses in

France will challenge this gross act of religious discrimination.

"They will do this not only to avoid an unjust and oppressive tax but also to help assure that all French people enjoy freedom of religion."

The society says it has been criticised in recent years by anti-sect organisations. It has 220,000 members in France and has done mission work since 1900.

"Their intent seems to be to break us financially and stop our work in France," said Judah Schroeder of the Watch Tower Society.

More details and NY Times advert on page 9



Dear Reader,

JUST when the Watch Tower Society thought it had duped Bulgaria over its blood transfusion stance, along came the French tax officials to spoil the party.

Nineteen ninety-eight, must surely rate as one of the society's most miserable years. Dare we say a "annus horribilus".

With a \$50 million tax bill hanging over its head, the Governing Body has been hit where it most hurts - its wallet.

Of course there is no doubt that the society will fight tooth and nail to get the tax bill removed, but if anyone can fight dirtier than the Watch Tower then it must be the tax man!

Now, we have just heard that Russia has fired its own salvo across the Watch

Tower's bow.

News has reached us that it plans to try and ban the Society from evangelising in Moscow.

We will keep you updated with the story as soon as we get more news on it.

Back in Britain we have just seen the recent visit of David Reed. Mr Reed, who is editor of Comments From The Friends. a US quarterly journal exposing Watch Tower Society lies, spoke for two days at London's Metropolitan Tabernacle in July. And, in September the second Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses Convention was held in Pelsall, West Midlands. A report can be found on the back page.

Les Kerr & Bill Bacon, First & Last Ministries.

#### Visit us on the Internet.

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

Website - http://welcome.to/firstandlast email: ministry@firstandlast.prestel.co.uk



#### Russia gets tough with Witnesses

MOSCOW prosecutors Tuesday, September 29th 1998 launched a court case to ban the Jehovah's Witnesses in Russian capital under controversial new law that aims to curb the activity of "nontraditional" religious groups.

More news in the next issue.

#### **Important** Announcement

IF any of our readers have sent in orders for back issues and have not as yet received them, would they please let us know.

apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.



#### INTERNET WEB PAGE DESIGN FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Get your ministry advertised to millions with the minimum of fuss.

- Five web pages designed and set up on the World-wide Web for £25.
- 1 F-mail address.
- Your web-site maintained for £2 per month.

For more details phone Paul on 0181-444 4600

#### TO THE EDITOR:

PLEASE find cheaue enclosed towards our

subscription.

The new format for Concern is better. I would suggest tho' that you avoid shading behind your text. from experience with our mission magazine, I found it wasn't helpful in black and white lavouts.

We're really encouraged when we see the increase in those the Lord is raising up to defend the Gospel

of our Saviour.

I'm reading D'Aubigne's "History o f the Reformation", at the moment, and it has impressed on me the fact that Satan's tactics remain unchanged in subverting the truth, and opposing the gospel.

from retired our ministry last October, but it looks like the Lord has plenty for us to do, because we've become known (or notorious) we get enquiries from all sorts of people, like the different kinds of ground into which the seed falls we see the truth of Jesus' words.

We trust this finds you and yours in good health, and the Lord's work prospering in your hands.

Tom & Ella McCrea, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I AM writing to say how much I enjoyed visiting your Internet web site. I found it to be organised and attractive.

My personal situation is that after waiting 42 years

to look, I found my birth mom in less than two hours on the Internet.

It was very exciting until I discovered she was Jehovah's Witness. Actually it's still exciting why else would God inspire me to try and find her, grant quick success to that search and provide many resources to aid in my witnessing to her?

It seems clear that He has given me a position in her life where she would hear the true Gospel and give her the opportunity to accept His Truth before she dies (she has an unusual form of cancer. which eats away at her bones).

My wife and I plan to visit the UK next year, perhaps we'll be able to look you up. In the meantime, you are in our prayers and we would appreciate your prayers as

Peace and joy, John Bjorkman, Arizona, USA.

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for your last of copy Concern received this week.

Our prayers are always with you, and

#### SEND YOUR LETTERS TN:

First & Last Ministries 248 Chester Road Loughton, Essex IG10 2LR or E-mail at



when the chance comes and somebody asks for info we always, by God's grace, to do what we can.

Mv son-in-law, who is a minister at Stoke-on-Trent has JWs into his Rectory when the chance comes. He talks them with our daughter and offers them drinks etc.

Our daughter, who is wife, recently worked at a coffee shop Newcasle-Under-Lyme, two days a week. To of the girls she worked with were JWs. One really was an ex-JW with a non-JW boyfriend and being disowned by her family.

The other girl left. but our daughter built up a good relationship with her. Melanie (ou daughter) has now left the job but is still in contact with the ex-JW girl.

In His grace and love, Roy & Judi Allen, Werrington, Peterborough.



# The New World Diary of The New Cratz Theo Cratz Aged 324

Jehovah's Witnesses love to dream about what life will be like in their "New Order." Here is an alternate scenario, presented by a former JW (Chuck Doherty) who is very familiar with the day-to-day peculiarities of life in the already existing new world society.

#### Day 1

Once we figured out that we were alive and that everyone else was dead, we danced and celebrated for a while, but the Elders soon put a stop to that. They explained that this behaviour was inappropriate, and one even suggested that it might stumble someone, until it was pointed out that there was no one left alive to stumble. Still, we wanted to do what the Elders said, so that we were in full obedience to the new system. We knew that all of eternity lay before us, and that it this Earth was ours at last.

#### Day 2

We noticed that a few people from the congregation did not show up as expected, so we assume that they were secret sinners, and got killed as they should have. One brother did show up the second day because he spent the first day checking on his family, and I felt kind of funny about speculating about why he got killed when it turned out he didn't after all.

The Elders from the congregation have been in big meeting all day, and said they would let us know what was going on when they were finished. We kept busy looking around through the rich people's houses up on Oak Hill, and driving around in their expensive cars. I found the house of a rich person who must have been about my size, so I took some of his clothes to wear until we could get down to the mall and do some serious 'shopping' This guy had a big swing set in his back yard, and the house was full of toys, so I guess he had a bunch of kids. If he really loved his kids, he would have taken them to the Kingdom Hall, and they would be alive now, instead of dead like they deserved.

After their meeting, the elders announced that we should begin immediately to

#### 4 Concern

purge what remained of the old world and its influences, and told us to organise a committee to go from building to building and destroy any bad influences, especially the music and books from the old system. There was so much to destroy that we though it best simply to burn all the libraries, shopping centres, and warehouses. I was assigned to the team that burned the City Centre Mall and the main branch of the library that night. It was fun at first, but it became work after a while, especially at the library where we had to pile up the books so they would all burn. We joined hands and sang Kingdom Songs around the book fires, giving thanks for what had been given to us.

#### More next issue.



More countries set to accept blood.

A SOFTENING of the Watch Tower Society's iron hard rule on not to accept blood transfusions threatens to split the organisation.

It is reported that the society is keeping recent changes, which allows Bulgarian Witnesses to accept blood without fear of disfellowshipping, away from its members in other countries, so to avoid upsetting them.

In Denmark, the Jehovah's Witnesses have worked hard for their right to refuse blood transfusions. It has become a uniting sign of their identity that is now under threat.

The Bulgarian fall has had ripple effects in Denmark, but the Witness leaders have until now kept inform ation about what has happened from the Danish members.

We have chosen to not inform the members, since this case does not add anything new, explains the Danish Witnesses' information secretary Michael Biörk.

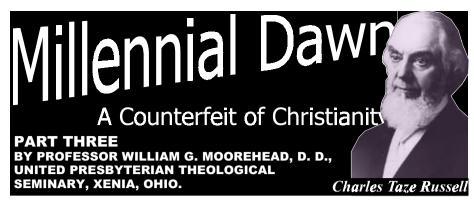
Björk says that the members who accept blood once are no longer automatically expelled: On the contrary they need spiritual guidance, says Björk.

Sören Bo Henriksen, leader of the support group for former Jehovah's Witnesses, on the other hand hopes this softening for the Bulgarian witnesses also will spread quickly to Denmark, that angry members force their leaders to abolish the transfusion ban. Lodberg also believes that the Bulgarian example will spread to Denmark.

The latest death in Denmark was a 24 year old woman at the hospital in Hvidovre, when she refused blood when giving birth in October 1996.

However, the prohibition has no doubt been most controversial when parents have tried to prevent their underage children from receiving blood transfusions. In Sweden, social authorities have intervened to make sure that children who need it receive blood.

Source – "The Associated Jehova h's Witnesses for Reform on Blood"



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.

2. In the incarnation our Lord had but one nature, not two natures, as Christians have always held. (Series I, pp. 179, 180, 184)

We quote: "Neither was Jesus a combination of the two natures, human and spiritual. The blending of two natures produces neither the one nor the other, but an imperfect, hybrid thing, which is obnoxious to the divine arrangement. When Jesus was in the flesh He was a perfect human being; previous to that He was perfect spiritual being; and since His resurrection He is a perfect spiritual being of the highest or Divine order.... Thus we see that in Jesus there was no mixture of natures, but

that twice He experienced a change of nature; first, from spiritual to human; afterward, from human to the highest order of spiritual nature, the Divine; and in each case the one was given up for the other." ... "We have no record of any being, either spiritual or human, ever having been changed from one nature to another, except the Son of God; and this was an exceptional case, for an exceptional purpose..... Thus we find that the Scriptures regard the spiritual and human natures as separate and distinct, and furnish no evidence that the one will evolve or develop into the other".... Here again there is no mistaking the teaching of Millennial Sawn. Before Christ appeared in human form among men He was a spirit being of a very high rank, but a creature. When He became a man His spirit nature was somehow dropped; it was not united with the human, it was not even merged into the human, it was "changed" into the purely and distinctively human nature, so that while on earth and during the whole period of His earthly life He was a man, only a man, perfect indeed, but a man with nothing superhuman or super natural in Him or about Him. The spirit being ceased to be.

The book asserts with a positiveness that error always assumes, that in Jesus Christ "there was no mixture of natures"

The vital doctrine of the incarnation of the son of God, the second person of the Trinity, is denied, and Christ is degraded to the level of Adam before his sin and fall.

In short, the book virtually affirms that

there was no incarnation whatever.

It appears needless to point out how completely and throughly the word of God contrdicts this false and degrading view of our lord's blessed Person. Let but a few texts be cited as evidence that Christ did actually assume our human nature, sinless of course, but true and genuine human nature.

John 1:14: "And the Word was made (became, R.V.) flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth". Mark the prominent features of this great Scripture:

A) The Word, Christ, became flesh; He did not cease to be the Word in doing so; His incarnation was neither self-extinction, nor was He changed into a

ON PLANT

mere man. B) He still remained the Word after He had assumed the human nature, for we are assured that "He dwelt among us", obviously the Word dwelt among us, for the pronoun He has the Word

for its antecedent.

C) The term "dwelt" literally is "tabernacled", an allusion to the tabernacle of the wilderness. God said, "And let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them". And He symbolically did dwell in the Most holy Place where the Shechinah appeared. So John affirms, "We beheld His glory", as at the Transfiguration. What was anciently seen in the tabernacle was witnessed in a far more vivid way on the Mount when Moses with Elijah appeared in glory and talked with the incarnate son of God. Compare with this the further revelation of the same Apostle, 1 John 1:1-3, where three of the most trustworthy of our senses, hearing, sight, touch, are summoned to bear witness to the reality of the presence and glory of the Word of Life as He sojourned among men.

D) "Only begotten" - Unigenitus. As used in Scripture this term always desi gnates a single person in the household. As applied to Christ it occurs only in Johns' writings; here. 1:18; 3:16, 18; 1 Jn. 4:9. It marks off is Sonship as unique, unshared by any others, even from those who are called the sons of God.

John 16:28: "I came forth from the F ather, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father". From god, into the world, from the world back to God. Eternal Sonship with the Father (Greek, came out from); incarn ation; exaltation; oneness with the Father; redemption completed. He is the Godman uniting two natures in one, distinct yet mysteriously constituting but one personality.

1 Tim. 3:16: "God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the sprit, seen of a ngels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in to glory. "Even if we substitute the revised reading of this great rhythmical verse it still testifies to the anthropic person of our Lord: "He who was manifested in the flesh", etc. The plain and emphatic teac hing is, that Christ, the Son of God, was manifested, i.e., the invisible eternal Son who dwelt in the bosom of the Father, has been made visible and is brought nigh to us in that He has taken into union with Himself human flesh. He was just ified in the Spirit i.e., He was proved to be what He claimed to be, the son of God: He was seen and served by angels: was preached unto the Gentiles as a D ivine Saviour, and believed on as such; and finally was received up into glory. There we have the inspired history of the incarnation, the earthly life and ministry, and the exaltation of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God.

One other scripture must give its sol emn warning against any and all who deny that Jesus Christ assumed our nature and was incarnated in human flesh: "Every spirit that confesseth the Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; and every spirit the confesseth not Jesus is not of God; and this is that spirit of the ant i-christ, whereof ye have heard that it cometh, and now it is in the world". (1 John 4:2,3).

#### Next Issue: The atonement of Jesus Christ.

## A Christian Response to the Watchtower Article "What Do the Scriptures Say About the Divinity of Christ?"

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 final part of their findings below.

ONE last point from the Watchtower 15/1/92 page 23 must be considered. It is the verse JWs are very fond of quoting, John 20:31. Do they really believe this verse?

#### Do they believe Jesus is the Christ?

If they do they will be claiming the new birth 1 John 5:1. They will be openly acknowledging the Son and in so doing have the Father also 1 John 2:23.

But you will find the ordinary JW is always proclaiming Jehovah (the Father) and does not claim to be born of God.

#### Do they believe Jesus is the Son of God?

If they do, they will be testifying and confessing this. Acts 1:8 They will also be indwelt by the Holy

Part 5 - by Tom and Ella McCrea

Spirit, 1 John 4:13-15.
They will also be overcomers, born of God, who will be in the heavenly paradise of God. 1 John 5:4, 5. Revelation 2:7. The ordinary JW will claim none of these things.

Do they believe they have life by means of Jesus' name? The NWT reads in 1 John 5:9-13 as follows:-

"If we receive the witness men give, the witness God gives is greater, because this is the witness concerning his Son. [person] not having faith in God ĥas made him a liar because he has not put his faith in the witness given which God as witness has given concerning his Son. And this is the witness given that God gave us everlasting life and this life is in his Son. He that has the Son has this life. He that does not have the Son of God does not have this life. I write you these things that you may know you have life everlasting. You who put your faith in the name of the Son of god." We must ask every Jehovah's Witness where he or she personally

ness where he or she personally stands on these important issues.

For further help please contact:

Tom & Ella McCrea 35 Church Crescent, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT36 6ES

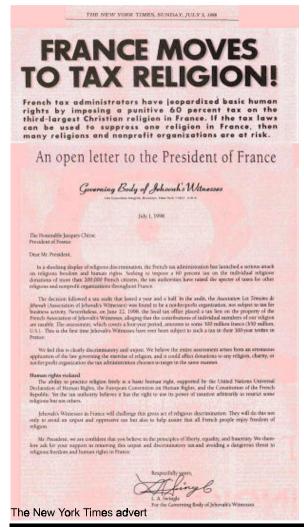
## ing time for Watch Tow

AS the Watch Tower Society begins another long, drawn out, battle against the French tax authorities, we must ask ourselves why the society is, once again, not following the Bible.

Did not our Lord Jesus Christ instruct those people, who were instructed to pay taxes, to "pay back therefore, Caesar's things to Cae-

sar." Matt 22:21 NWT.

On page 1070 of the Watch Tower book "Insight on the Scriptures"



under the heading of taxes, the society has this to say: "However. both Jesus Christ and the apostle Paul showed that it was proper to pay taxes to "Caesar," or "the superior authorities."

On page 1045 of the same book, under the "superior heading authorities" it describes them as: "...an expression at Romans 13:1 designating human governmental authorities."

The same section continues: "Since the governmental authorities render valuable services to ensure the safety, security, welfare of their subjects, they are entitled to taxes and tribute in compensation for their services."

Once more the Watch Tower Society proves that it doesn't follow the same rules that it preaches.



### Former church elder convicted of lewdness with minor.

A former Jehovah's Witnesses church elder was convicted of lewdness with a minor for a 1992 incident with an 8-year-old girl at his home.

A Lyon District Court jury returned the verdict in March against Daniel Steven Fitzwater, who faces up to 20

years in prison.

During the trial, Chief Deputy District Attorney John Schlegelmilch said Fitzwater used his position as a church elder to gain the trust of the victim's

family before the incident.

The girl, now 13, was left in the care of Fitzwater's wife when her parents went on a deer hunting trip, and the sexual molestation occurred when Mrs. Fitzwater made a trip to town, the prosecutor said.

"He was supposed to be looking over the flock," but he committed a "crime against nature and Jehovah,"

Schlegelmilch said.

The girl went on to develop behavioral problems, experience nightmares and attempt suicide at the age of 10, he added.

But court-appointed defense attorney Jeffrey Morrison questioned the girl's credibility, saying she has accused others of the same crime.

"It will be your task to determine what is fact and what is fantasy in the mind of a troubled young girl," he told

jurors.

Fitzwater took the stand during the trial to deny the charges, but two women supported the prosecution's case by testifying he inappropriately touched them when they were young.

One was his stepdaughter.

Fitzwater lived in Weed Heights, a small community near Yerington, when the crime occurred. He has since moved out of Lyon County.

Yerington is 80 miles southwest of

Reno.

#### Jehovah's Witness gets 15 years for fatal stabbing.

A JEHOVAH'S Witness who stabbed another motorist to death in what at first appeared to be a case of road rage was sentenced to 15 years yesterday in Montgomery County Circuit Court for killing one of his wife's lovers.

A jury convicted Alexander Smith Asomani of second-degree murder on May 22, and Judge Michael D. Mason sentenced him to 15 years in prison for the Oct. 27 stabbing death of Oral Duncan

Taylor in Nevada, USA.

Asomani testified at trial that Taylor, 31, had called him vulgar names, made obscene gestures and followed in his car on several occasions, including the day of the confrontation in the parking lot of Resurrection Lutheran Church on University Boulevard.

Taylor suffered 11 stab wounds and eight cuts and "any of three stab wounds were potentially fatal," associate pathologist Dr. Daniel Brown of the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Baltimore testi-

fied at trial.

Deputy State's Attorney John J. McCarthy told the jury of seven women and five men Asomani chased Taylor into the church's fenced-in parking lot and executed him.

McDaniel said at sentencing yesterday that Asomani wants to kill himself, but his religious beliefs prohibit him from acting

on his desire.

#### Family mourns death of JW son

A fourteen year-old boy was dragged under a bus and killed in July as he carried out door-to-door work.

With a Bible in his hand and determination in his heart, 14-year-old Alfonso Carrillo would walk the streets of his west Denver neighborhood, trying to help other youngsters steer clear of trouble.

At school, the boy was a model student, one who excelled in computers and played the clarinet in the school band. When he wasn't studying or preaching the gospel, Carrillo played soccer and basketball at the neighborhood park.

"He believed firmly that he could help other people by teaching them Bible principles," said the boy's father, Alfonso Carrillo Sr., choking back tears. "He helped a lot of young people.

"We are in disbelief right now."

## Testimony. Healing Love

The testimony of Rev. Simon Woodvine

I WAS brought up in a very confused home. However it was also a very loving home.

My step-father was an extremely staunch Irish Catholic, and my mother was and still is one of the countries leading clairvoyants/mediums.

When I was ten years of age, I became more and more fascinated in my mother's line of work, and so I gave up being an alter boy to read Tarot cards, crystal balls and palms, It was like a big adventure to me being able to read people's fortunes.

At the age of sixteen my parents moved to a lovely little village called Sabden at the foot of Pendle Hill which is renowned for its history of the Pendle Witches. Shortly following our move my mother featured in many magazines, newspapers and books, and her reputation had grown significantly

She was known as the white witch of Pendle. I myself opened a bookshop and psychic centre. I then went on to study parapsychology at diploma level, I travelled throughout Britain giving lectures on various occult practices.

My involvement within the occult has caused me a great deal of personal heartache in my life, from depression and broken relationships, to even a suicide attempt. However in 1990 I was shown the healing love that Jesus Christ offers. He came into my life at a very difficult period, and he has guided me ever since.

I was ordained two years ago as a non-denominational minister, and since then our lord has taken me on to serve him in many various ways. In February 1997 I established the Blackpool healing mission which is an ecumenical ministry offering Christian healing and advice to people in need of spiritual comfort.

My mission was conceived through prayer which continues to be the foundation of the work. Through my involvement in the occult and my diligent research of

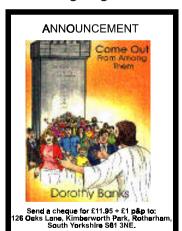


EX-JEHOVAH'S Witnesses and concerned Christians gathered in Pelsall last month for the second Witnesses Now For Jesus Convention.

Two days of lively discussion, talks and testimony were heard on Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th of September, in the West Midland town.

Among those people addressing the two day convention were Earl Bramigan, who gave his testimony and also looked at the current goings on in the society. Ray and





Dorothy Banks looked at the claims of the society concerning the millennial reign of Christ, while Helen Descombes looked at how Jehovah's Wtnesses view Evangelical Christians.

Also giving their testimonies were Susan Thorne, an ex-Witness and guest speakers Tom & Ela McCrea from Northern Ireland.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR....

A Jehovah's Witness of 60 years standing who attended the Pelsall meeting and took literature.



PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: First & Last Ministries 6 Chertsey Mount, Carlisle, CA1 2PH ENGLAND.

ASSOCIATE ADDRESS: First & Last Ministries 248 Chester Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2LR ENGLAND. PHONE:

London - 0181 508 4202 Carlisle - 01228 545323

**INTERNET:** 

Email. Ministry@firstandlast.prestel.co.uk Web. http://welcome.to/firstandlast

PLEASE NOTE:

While all the material contained in this publication is protected by copyright it may be freely used for personal evangelism.