



# Concern

Issue 32

Spring 2000

Topics and News from First & Last Ministries

## WITNESSES MAY SUE AFTER SON GETS BLOOD

**AN Irish health authority may be sued after it decided to give a blood transfusion to a Jehovah's Witness child against its parents wishes.**

Their 22-month-old child was hurt in the chest and legs by falling rubble when a car crashed through the garden wall, last month, as he played at his home in Tipperary, which is in the Republic of Ireland.

When his parents refused surgeons permission to transfuse blood during the surgery, the Gardai (Irish Police) enforced Section 12 of the Childcare Act and the blood was given at Waterford Regional Hospital.

National co-ordinator for the Witnesses, Arthur Matthews, said they were disturbed at the decision to put the boy in temporary State custody so surgeons could operate on his injuries.

Mr Matthews said the constitutional rights of the parents as legal guardians were ignored during the incident and the matter was now with the group's lawyers.

"We are taking advice from our solicitors and are considering legal action

against the agencies who brought this about.

"These parents were not given the opportunity to discuss alternatives to blood transfusion with doctors and this swept away their constitutional rights as the child's legal guardians," he said.

The Jehovah's Witnesses' lawyers will be instructed to find out the extent of the threat to the child's life and the amount of blood transfused.

"We also understand that the amount of blood transfused was quite small which would indicate that a synthetic product could have been used in its place," said Mr Matthews.

He is now with his family after being transferred to Cork University Hospital.

A spokeswoman for the South Eastern Health Board said it did not comment on individual cases but confirmed that the boy was "making a good recovery".

### YEAR 2000 EX-WITNESS CONVENTION UPDATE.

THIS year's ex-Jehovah's Witness convention will be held in the beautiful valleys of Wales.

The three-day get-together will be held on October 6th to 8th 2000 at Cefnlea Park, Dolfor, Newtown, Powys.

This year's guest speaker will be Duane Magnani who was a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses for 18 years and is the author of many books including 'From Kingdom Hall To Kingdom Come', 'Who Really Is The Faithful & Wise Servant?' and the award winning 'The Watchtower Files'.

Registration forms or further details are available by calling: 01922 491971 or 01922 441552 alternatively write to: The Kingdom Publishers Journal P O Box 708, WILLENHALL, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV12 5GH. ENGLAND

## MAN LOSES SEX APPEAL

**A MAN** who says he was sexually molested by a fellow Jehovah's Witness member in Augusta, Maine, has failed in his Supreme Court attempt to hold the church responsible.

The court, without comment, let stand rulings that dismissed The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, and two of its officials as defendants in Bryan Rees' lawsuit when it met in February.

Rees' lawsuit alleged he was molested by an adult member of the Jehovah's Witnesses congregation in Augusta from 1989 through 1992. The lawsuit said church officials knew that the member had previously had molested another minor but allowed him "to resume activities as an ordinary member of the church."

The church should have expelled or publicly rebuked the member so other members would have been on notice about his conduct, the lawsuit said.

Rees now lives in Portland and works as a security officer.

Other defendants were dropped from the lawsuit, a decision the Maine Supreme Judicial Court unanimously upheld last October.

"The complaint does not allege that the church affirmatively placed the member in a position of control and supervision of children, such as a Sunday school teacher or youth co-ordinator, or that the church knowingly placed him in a position where he could sexually abuse children within a church setting," the state court said.

In seeking help from the nation's highest court, Rees' lawyer, Michael Waxman of Portland, used strong words.

"In the context of a religious organisation, or any other group, that allows these predators additional opportunities to prey, to destroy the fragile bodies and minds of children, there is only one way to force a change - make them pay for it."

## THREE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES BATTLE THROUGH BLOODLESS OPERATIONS...

**A Jehovah's Witness couple forbidden by their religion to receive blood**

**transfusions were recovering in hospital after undergoing "bloodless" kidney transplant procedures**



**Alf and Marie Hoyle in March.**

Marie Hoyle, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, donated a kidney to her husband, Alf, 51, after he had waited nine years for a donor organ. The operation was the first of its kind in Britain to involve Jehovah's Witnesses.

The procedures, performed at St James's hospital, which is in Leeds, were said to be a success, with both patients expected to leave hospital within a week.

The "bloodless" technique relies on a salt solution which increases blood volume during surgery to allow for small losses. Precision instruments are used to lessen the chance of severed arteries, and any blood spilled is cleaned and recycled. Bloodless surgery is a recognised alternative for Jehovah's Witnesses, who cite at least 400 biblical references prohibiting them from receiving blood.

The couple, who have been married for 30 years and have two children, decided to undergo the surgery after Mr Hoyle had been on dialysis three times a week for nine years. He said: "I can't express what a loving thing, what a tremendous thing my wife has done in giving me a kidney."



# BUT. . .



**ANOTHER JEHOVAH'S Witness** who refused a blood transfusion has been given a "bloodless" liver transplant.

Ewan Opperman, 19, a computer science student, flew from South Africa for the treatment at St James's hospital in Leeds after surgeons in Cape Town refused to carry out a similar operation. Mr Opperman was operated on without any back up blood and within four weeks was well enough to fly home.

Surgeons believe that bloodless surgery will have profound implications for everyone. It is potentially safer, cheaper and could eventually replace the need for transfusions. About five per cent of surgery is now carried out without extra blood, although it is unusual for there to be no blood at all in theatre as backup.

Stephen Pollard, the consultant who carried out the transplant, has refined the technique which lessens the need for blood, but admitted that having no blood available for transfusion did double the risk of Mr Opperman not surviving the operation. The chances of surviving a liver transplant is 94 per cent. Mr Opperman's risk was assessed at 12 per cent. But he said that for patients who would prefer not to have a transfusion, but who would accept it in an absolute emergency, there was no increased risk.

Mr Opperman said that he never had a doubt about refusing blood. "I always knew in my heart that someone could do the operation without blood."

Mr Opperman was 16 when he first became ill and short of breath. His family asked surgeons in Cape Town to do a bloodless transplant but they refused.

"Now Ewan is brilliant. You would never imagine that in such a short space of time he could be so well. It's as if the transplant never happened."

A Jehovah's Witness died after she refused to have a blood transfusion which would have saved her life.

Beverley Matthews, 33, of Stockport, Greater Manchester, was suffering from toxic shock syndrome when she was taken to Stepping Hill hospital with chronic sickness and diarrhoea last November.

She failed to respond to antibiotics and her condition deteriorated rapidly.

Hospital consultants told her that she would have a 30% chance of survival if she had a blood transfusion, but she and her family refused. Mrs Matthews died several hours later.

At the inquest, held in March, the coroner, John Pollard, recorded an open verdict. He said it was not clear whether the illness had been caused by a natural localised infection or by tampon use.

He said the consultant had been blunt enough to say death was inevitable, but Mrs Matthews and her family had refused treatment. He added that her condition was so serious that a transfusion may not have saved her.

Mrs Matthews was the mother of a four-year-old son, Jake, and lived with her husband, Ian, in Bredbury, Stockport. Her family had been Jehovah's Witnesses for 25 years, although her husband is not thought to share her beliefs.

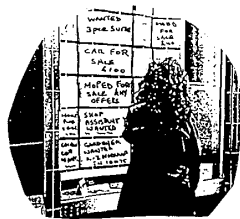
Mrs Matthews' mother, Marie Vernon, said yesterday: "I was looking for the truth and this religion gave me that. She made the right decision - she had to stick to her beliefs. Beverley was a lovely girl."

Derek Casey, a spokesman for the Jehovah's Witnesses, said: "We deeply sympathise with Beverley Matthews's family as they come to terms with their sudden and tragic loss."

*If you have a JW related news story then send it to us at the address on page 7.*

# Adopt a Newsagent Scheme

C P M F



A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

**AT the beginning of this year First & Last Ministries was pleased to announce the launch of its 24-hour Jehovah's Witness help-line.**

Since then, word of this exciting new ministry has spread, and already we have had a number of people calling the phone line and listening to the five recorded messages available to them.

Furthermore, a number of you have asked how you can get involved in advertising the help-line.

Now, in association with the Christian Postcard Ministry Fellowship, you should have found a postcard included with this issue of Concern.

It is our hope that you will prayerfully use this postcard by adopting a local newsagent and placing the card in its window.

Details of those people responding to the postcard in your area could be passed on to you if a follow up call is requested.

Or alternatively we will organise for another person in their local area to assist the caller.

For those people interested in this ministry this article will give a few guidelines to make the ministry run as smoothly as possible.

## **Aims:**

To reach those studying with Jehovah's Witnesses, Watch Tower members with doubts but no one to talk to. Relatives and friends of those in the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the cards will also serve as a warning for the general public to be on their guard the next time the Witnesses call.

## **Cost:**

Costs can be shared with a group of Christians or taken on as part of the local church outreach.

## **Follow-up:**

If you have the resources you can use a local contact address and follow-up replies locally. If you are unable to do this, First & Last Ministries will be pleased to assist you.

## **Administration:**

Keep a note of the newsagents you have postcards in, and the expiry date. Try and check from time to time that the card is still in the window.

Response to the message often increases when it is displayed over a longer period of time.

## Messages:

The Christian Postcard Ministry Fellowship have a wide range of messages that target Jehovah's Witnesses and other groups. Please write to them at the address printed below, for details and samples.



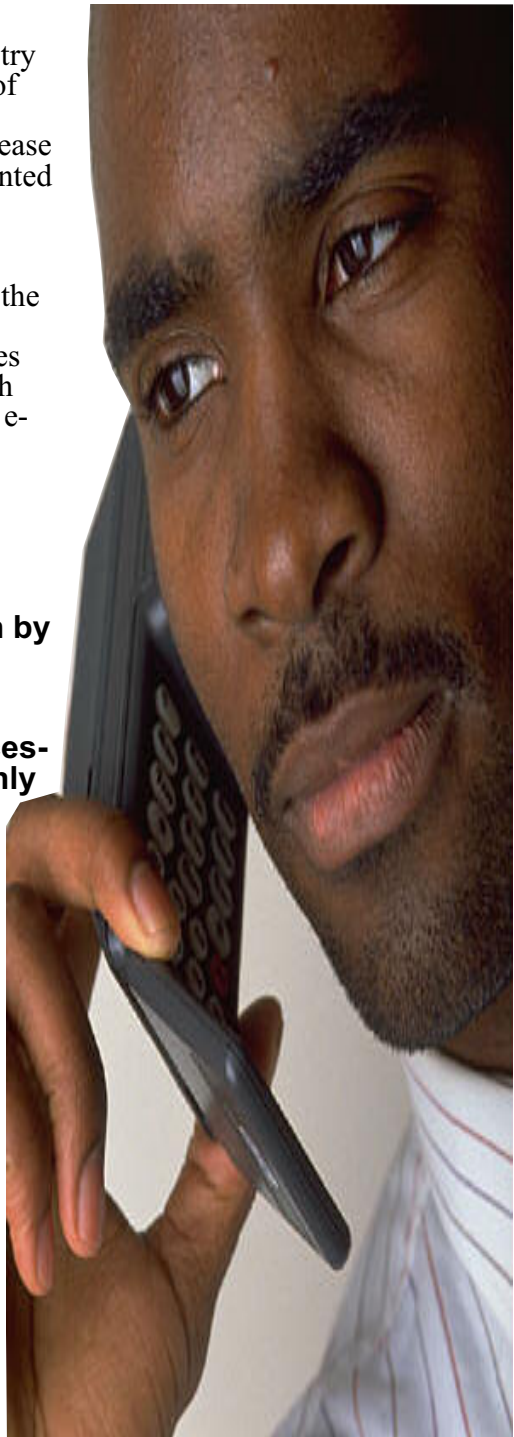
PLEASE continue to pray that the Lord will use this help-line to bring many Jehovah's Witnesses out of the bondage of the Watch Tower and into the glorious freedom that only Jesus Christ can give.

## REMEMBER

- ◆ **YOU can be part of a nation-wide outreach by placing postcards in shop windows.**
- ◆ **No experience is necessary but it will certainly be an experience.**
- ◆ **Win many more cult members for Christ.**
- ◆ **Reach 100s of people for a few pence a week.**

For more details and additional postcards contact CPMF at:

**C.P.M.F.  
"Grey Gables"  
Great Wenham  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO7 6PS**



# Kingdom Kapers



Send your Jokes to:

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



## TO THE EDITOR:

I AM truly thankful for the information that I was able to receive from your site.

I am thousands of miles away from you which is a testament of the power of your site.

I found out this evening that my brother whom I had witnessed to has been studying with the JW's and he has also decided not to be with the family because of Christmas.

He has recently become isolated from the rest of the family through his recent marriage to a JW.

He wanted so much to be married that he is giving in at every possible point.

I am going to send him this information so that he will be able to make an informed decision about joining the JW's.

Thank you again.

**A.Guillen  
Long Beach  
USA**



## TO THE EDITOR:

GLAD you're in the Ministry expo s-ing JW's.

I wish to say that you will create more new tracts to use in spreading and alerting our neighbourhoods.

I believe in tracts and I pray that the Holy Spirit is using us in every way to help get the Word out in the Market streets.

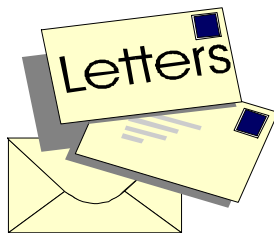
Again, keep up the good work there.

Stay strong and continue to look to JESUS the author and finisher of our faith. God bless everyone in the ministry.

**Winston C. Romero,  
Velajo  
USA**

send your letters to:

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



## TO THE EDITOR:

I AM a bible college student and found your web page of the greatest help. It was well constructed.. biblically based, and very accessible and useful.

I especially found the bits about doctrinal differences really useful as well as the practical information offered.

You also gave me a passion and heart for JW's that I haven't had before.

I will remember you guys in my prayers.

Cheers and keep up the good work.

**Claire Evans  
Northwood.**



## TO THE EDITOR:

OUR neighbours are JW's who no longer go to Kingdom Hall (the wife has increasingly worsening dementia) and have very little contact with the Witnesses.

Because of the wife's dementia it has been the husband we have had most contact with, and he has shown little interest in talking about anything Watchtower related.

They haven't read the NWT for quite some time. The wife would like to have study with me but her mind has gone too far to be able to explain much.

Our problem is that while we have gradually trying to build trust so that we can talk to them we have now run out of time! They are moving probably as early as next week. We thought we had another month before they moved.

Can you recommend any literature we could give them or even suggest some way we can still be of benefit to these people (who have become very dear friends and do not in the least act like JW's) in less than a week.

Thank you for any possible assistance you can give.

**Murray & Margaret McAlpine  
South Grafton  
Australia.**

# 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.

## THE AGE OF CONFUSION

It has been said, not without reason, that we live in an Age of Confusion. Since that tragic day in August, 1914, when Mars unleashed the Red and ravenous Dogs of War upon a peaceful world and the thunder of earthquake guns threatened destruction to modern civilisation, the foundation of things appears to be slipping. The post-war dislocations and the severity of the depression left people dazed and uncertain. Vast changes in their lives came almost over night. Millions of people lost faith in the deathless and God-given principles that alone can bring peace, happiness and security to mankind.

With the Nations of the World tossing overboard time-tested and fundamental principles – leaving great Ships of State, deep-freighted with the lives and destinies of millions of people, drifting on storm-tossed, rock-infested seas without chart or compass other than new and untried instruments of moral, social, economic and political navigation – it is inevitable that great numbers of people should find themselves in a state of mental and moral confusion. In this condition they fall easy prey to fantastic schemes to bring about an earthly Utopia and to radical religious movements that normally attract only the lunatic fringe on the edge of society.

We see these manifestations of confused thinking in the temporary



triumph of communism and Dictatorship in some countries, and in the development of such fanatical religious movements as the craze under “Father” Divine that hit the Negroes of Harlem.

However, the most confusing thing I have run across is the philosophy of Joseph F. Rutherford, self-styled Judge and leader of that strange band of pathological purveyors of prejudice and patent prophecies know as the witnesses of Jehovah.

With more patience than I thought I possessed I wandered painfully through the endless repetitions, wild accusations and rambling prophecies contained in “Judge” Rutherford’s books, pamphlets and magazines. I must confess that I feel as though I had gone through a mental threshing machine. As a contribution to the Age of Confusion, the “Judge’s” writings and lectures stand in a class by themselves. They form a veritable labyrinth of noxious nonsense that has neither definite beginning nor logical end.

In my journalistic career I have crossed swords with many a bigot – ranging from the gone and unlamented A.P. Apes of my youth, through the misnamed Guardians of Liberty and the various Cyclops Dragons and Hobgoblins of the Ku Klux Klan – but this is the first time that I have ever attempted to cross swords with a mental flea who jumps from insane prophecies to misapplied and wrongly interpreted biblical passages and back again with all the agility of a frog in a lily pond. That this is a rather mixed metaphor I am well aware, but those of my readers who have read Rutherford to any extent will understand that only a mixed metaphor would be appropriate.

It is difficult to understand exactly what Rutherford means at any given time, and I have a deep, dark suspicion that more often than not he is just as perplexed about it all as his readers must be.

He mixes unwarranted assumptions, brazen falsehoods, agonising prophecies, misapplied biblical quotations and weird interpretations of the Scriptures into an intellectual dish that must give many a Witness of Jehovah a bellyache in the place where his brains ought to be.

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**“This is the first time that I have ever attempted to cross swords with a mental flea.”**

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It is to be hoped that my readers will not misunderstand the title of this pamphlet or my reason for choosing it. I would have called it “The Rutherford Religion,” but the “Judge” insists that his work is not religious – religion being his pet and permanent peeve – and I did not want to offend him and his Witnesses. I do not know what else to call his particular brand of work, and “The Rutherford Racket” appears the proper appellation in more ways than one. The word “racket” is defined in the dictionary as “a clattering, or confused noise,” and that definition fits perfectly. In addition, the word means a scheme to make money through deception or force without delivering an equivalent in value; and if selling Rutherford nonsense for coin of the realm isn’t a racket, then there is no such animal.

**Next Issue:**

**Meet  
the  
Judge.**

The testimony of Faith Robinson. - Part three.

Raised a third generation Jehovah's Witness, Faith Robinson always felt unwanted during her childhood. Rejected by her Jehovah's Witness congregation, Faith was led to the Lord by her aunt. She soon learned that Jesus loved her and that she was part of the Bride of Christ.

Her story continues...

I spent many months not knowing whether or not there was a Trinity, or whether or not I was going to heaven or staying on earth. I did not know if there is eternal punishment or soul-sleep, I did not even know that the Holy Spirit was a person. All I knew was that Jesus had died for me, that God had chosen me from before creation and He did love me, I was His child and He had never left me, He had never forsaken me, even when I thought He had.

God has taught me the things that I needed to know in time, about what the Bible teaches, what I should believe as a Christian and how I should live. He also taught me that He loves me and that has been one of the hardest things to accept. He showed me that I was a wanted child, that I was conceived in the love my parents had for one another. He has helped me come to terms with things that have happened in my life, things that I was not responsible for and had no control over. Revelations 7:14 says that we are washed clean in the blood of the Lamb and God revealed to me that it is not only our own sins we have washed away but also the

effects of other's sins upon us.

I have forgiven the man who raped me, what he did he did because of sin, we all do things that hurt and affect others, some things are more serious than others, but in some respects it is just a matter of degree. My attacker is now a Christian, I have forgiven him and God has forgiven him, and I thank God for that.

I would like to tell you that you do not have to be rapist, murderer or liar to be a sinner. Adam was created innocent and he sinned by disobeying God, Because of that, all of his children were born imperfect, flawed, because of the flaw of sin all of die. (Romans 3:23). Jesus came down from heaven to show how we should live, and then died, His death was a sacrifice as He hung there He not only took away Adam's sin, He took away every person's sin, yours and mine, "He gave Himself as a Ransom for MANY" (Mark

10:45).

The forgiveness of your sins is yours, if you want it.

Not only does God forgive us but He give



Faith Robinson

us a new life, He has a plan for you, He wants you to grow into the likeness of Jesus. All this is possible if you believe.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that whoever Believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)



# Blood Update

More true-life stories from around the world.

## DOCTORS IN STAND-OFF WITH PARENTS OF GIRL WHO NEEDS BLOOD.

**A Nicaraguan schoolgirl, could soon die because her Jehovah's Witness parents are refusing to allow doctors to give her a blood transfusion.**

The Hazel Borge, who is 10-years-old was in a car accident on January 10 in which both her legs were fractured and she lost a lot of blood.

In spite of the parents' wish not to give the child a blood transfusion, doctors at the hospital went ahead with the procedure to save the girl's life after she went into shock.

Now doctors at the Velez Hospital in Managua hospital have warned that unless further surgery is performed on the girl, to amputate one of her legs, she could once again go into shock and could possibly die.

"The committee in charge of evaluating special cases held an urgent meeting at the hospital to evaluate this special case," said Ramiro Lopez, a director of the hospital. "The committee decided that a blood transfusion is necessary, because otherwise the girl will die.

"We told this to the girl's parents, and they came here with legal representation from the Jehovah's Witness Organization. They signed a document in which the parents are absolutely opposed to the blood transfusion," said Lopez.

"Doctors have spoken with us, and ... the blood is not going to repair my girl's leg. The blood is not the solution. The solution is to repair her leg," said Maria Felix Bermudes, the girl's mother.

Children's court Judge Venicia Venegas said: "The state must protect children and teen-agers who are in risky situations. In this situation, it is obvious that the girl is in danger due to the parents' decision."

## WITNESSES ADVISED TO TAKE BLOOD AND TO KEEP QUIET.

**Jehovah's Witnesses who want a blood transfusion should go ahead with the operation but not tell other members of their community, a doctor has suggested.**

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy has been put forward as a way that Jehovah's Witnesses can receive blood, which is against the religious group's doctrine.

If doctors and patients agree to go ahead with a transfusion without telling anyone, life-saving treatment



can be received without the person giving up his or her religion, suggests Dr Osamu Muramoto, a regional ethics council member in Portland, USA.

But the British branch of the Jehovah's Witness organisation the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society said by doing so members would be signalling they no longer believed in the group's teachings.

Deciding to take a blood transfusion usually leads to "disfellowshipping" of the member unless he or she publicly repents.

"If they decide to take a blood transfusion they have decided they don't want to be a Jehovah's Witness any more," said Watchtower press officer Paul Gillies.

Dr Michael Wilks, the British Medical Association's ethics committee chairman, said, referring to Dr Muramoto's proposal: "I don't see where that gets us. It is ethically a bit messy."

# HOW TO...

## REMOVE YOUR HOME FROM THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES CALL LIST.



# Forever!!

1. Answer the door naked and carrying weaponry. (Immediate results.)



2 Pretend to be the slowest talking person in the world and see how long their spirit of Christian charity lasts.

3. Answer every one of their questions with "What do you mean by that?"

This might take a while, but you and your loved ones can have fun guessing how long it takes for them to get flustered and leave.



4. Ask them to explain the story of Elisha and the Forty two children. You may have to resort to another method to actually get rid of them, but this will definitely make them sweat. (2 Kings, chapter 2, umm... somewhere near the end.)



5. Excuse yourself from your sitting room (or wherever) and DO NOT come back.

6. Pick an off-repeated word in their lexicon (God, Jesus, heaven, it, the



etc.) and giggle whenever they utter it. If they ask you what's going on, say "nothing, why?" in very even tones,

and giggle again.

7. Same as #6, except say "beep" instead of giggling.

8. Look smug and tell them that your God can beat up their God.



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