

# Concern

TOPICS AND NEWS FROM FIRST & LAST MINISTRIES

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CHRIST JESUS SAVES WATCHTOWER SLAVES

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## EX-WITNESSES GATHER AT RIVERSIDE

EX-JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, ex-Mormons and concerned christians gathered at the Dagenham Community Church, Charlotte Road, Dagenham on Friday May 1 and Saturday May 2 for this year's Riverside Conference.

Testimony and helpful advice was heard from those who had escaped the clutches of the Watchtower Society and Mormonism to receive Christ as their saviour.

Among the ex-witnesses present were Ray Descombes and his family, Eddie Cooney, Bill Browning, and Liam Hyland from Dublin who told of how after a life of drinking and violence he joined the Witnesses and almost suffered a nervous breakdown four-and-a-half years later. Finally he told of how he accepted Jesus as his Lord and saviour.

by Paul Bacon

Christians working to bring Witnesses out of the Watchtower reported on how the Lord had blessed their work and gave encouragement to others active in 'witnessing to the witnesses'.

When telling members in any counterfeit religion of their need for the saviour, we can sometimes be discouraged by what may seem to be a lack of progress. The message received from the Riverside Conference was that God is working amongst His people to lead those trapped in the cults to a personal relationship with Himself.

And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

## BLOOD BROTHER

GOD'S wonderful sense of humour was shown when Dorothy Banks from Rutherford received a phone call from a young man whom the Lord brought out of the Watchtower Society a couple of years ago.

Both he and his wife are now serving the Lord and he now works for the

BLOOD  
TRANSFUSION  
SERVICE!

# WELCOME

Dear Reader,

The Watchtower Society has to keep control on its members. Witnesses are repeatedly told that there is no possibility of knowing God apart from "the organization"

(See Watchtower, Oct 1, 1967, page 587; Nov 15, 1981, page 21; Feb 15, 1983, page 12; Yearbook 1983, page 21).

## THE PRACTICAL TEST

Interestingly, our Lord said the first thing which gives the false prophet away is not his heretical teachings (the doctrinal test) they will surface later. It is the practical test (what he does and does not do) which reveals whether his life is governed by the Word of God.

In the words of Jesus: "You will know them by their FRUITS" (Matt. 7:15,16). This is easily demonstrated by asking any non-christian why he is not a Witness. With the rare exception the answer will be, "because of the restrictions placed upon your life-style".

Witnesses are urged NOT to marry, NOT to have children, NOT to pursue a career, due to the close proximity of "Armageddon". Until recently, vaccinations and organ transplants were rejected by the Society. Blood transfusions are still forbidden.

First & Last Ministries exists to tell Jehovah's Witnesses about the real Jesus. Do we love the Witnesses enough to want to evangelise them? If you have a burden to reach a JW, we want to hear from you.

Jehovah's Witnesses ARE being converted. The vast majority of christians have had no connections with a cult. Those who have, seem especially thankful to God for their salvation. (Luke 7:40-43).

Les Kerr,  
First & Last Ministries

# LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

MY father-in-law was not a practising JW, but he believed their doctrine and was visited frequently by them. When meetings were held at Earls Court with Billy Graham, my brother-in-law took him along. When the call came at the end he went forward, he did not receive much counselling and came home exactly as he left. He still did not believe in the truth and he was not born again. This was when I first contacted you.

Nothing changed in his life, he often used to argue with us when we tried to tell him of how only Jesus was the way to God and other subjects like the Trinity etc. We still continued to pray for him and show him God's love and the word of God but he nearly always ended up getting angry.

On March 9 last year he sadly died. We hoped he had accepted Jesus as his saviour, but we had no peace. Later that day my brother-in-law who lived at home with him told us that about an hour or so before he died (he had a heart attack, so we weren't aware that he was dying) he went to see if he was awake and had heard him confessing his need of God and asking for God's mercy and forgiveness in his life. When he told us this we felt an inner peace for him, he was alone when he died yet God in his wonder allowed one son to hear him make his peace with God. How wonderful God is!

I just want to thank God that we have been able to contact you and praise God for the booklets you sent us which have helped so much.

Yours in Christ,  
Ann & Michael Wilson  
Leatherhead.

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been in correspondence with Les Kerr for some time, I was saved out of the Anti-trinitarian - Jesus Only or Oneness movement in 1989.

I have recently obtained a four tape debate between the Leader of the cult, and Dr. Walter Martin (recorded in 1985) on the subject of the Trinity. I am offering to copy it should anyone send me four C90 cassettes and four second class stamps.

With thanks,  
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# **Inspector Berean & The Case of the Murdered Archangel**



INSPECTOR Berean strolled from the Victoria and Albert Museum into Exhibition Road, northwards in the direction of Hyde Park. His ears detected the distinctive sound of a London cab. Quickly turning, he was fortunate to observe the cab was for hire, raising his hand the driver quickly pulled up and the Inspector boarded.

"Good day sir," said the driver, "Where would you like?"

"Thank you cabbie, would you take me to 144,000 Russell Square."

Within seconds Inspector Berean was moving swiftly to his destination. The Inspector had an important appointment to keep and had arranged to meet his two visitors at his office. Twenty minutes later the Inspector was passing the British Museum as the cabbie made his final approach to Russell Square.

Inspector Berean had been a Christian for many years and had acquired a tremendous knowledge of the Watchtower Society. Today he was to meet his dear brother in Christ, Tom and a young woman named Sue. His guests soon arrived. Entering the study, the Inspector warmly shook the hand of his old friend and was introduced to Sue. For a number of weeks Sue had been studying the with Jehovah's Witnesses and had met Tom who suggested that before making a commitment to the Organisation, she should meet with Berean.

The conversation was soon under way, with the Inspector explaining to Sue how the

Watchtower had made many false prophecies in its history. Sue was taken aback at this claim.

"What right have you to condemn the society like that?", she retorted.

Berean's reply was not one she expected. He told her that he actually had permission from the Society. Explaining to her, he said, "In the Watchtower of 15 November 1963, page 688, the Society says that to expose publicly a certain religion as being false, is a public service instead of a religious persecution. So therefore looking into these matters, I must conclude that the teachings of the Society are not in harmony with the Bible."

"Let me give you some examples of my investigations. If I were to take the Watchtower's teachings as being truth, I would have to come to the conclusion that God is a murderer!", Berean went on, "The Watchtower Society has said many times, that the Lord Jesus is in fact an angel called Michael. In their book "Aid to Bible Understanding" 1971, page 920, we are told that Jehovah God transferred the life force of His first-born son from the spirit realm, to earth. We are told in the Watchtower of 15 January 1913, page 23 that a human being has a body and a life force. The union of these makes the soul. We are also told in the Watchtower of April 1881 that angels are composed of a spiritual body and a life force.

They describe death as the dissolution or separation of the things which combine, constitute being, namely life and body. So very simply they are saying, take away the life force from the body and you have death."

"We are further told in "Aid to Bible Understanding", 1971, page 1061, that all things having life, either spiritual or fleshly, have an organism or body. Life itself is impersonal, incorporeal, being merely the life principle."

Berean went on to explain to Sue, "Further to this, in the book "Is This Life All There Is" 1974, page 51 it says the spirit is much like electricity which activates many things, but does not take on their qualities. They further explain that this life force, this spirit, like electricity has no conscience existence apart from the body. In the Awake of 8 August 1972, page 27, it states that on leaving mans body at death, the spirit does not retain any of the characteristics of the cells. For example, in the case of brain cells, the spirit does not retain the information stored there and continue thought processes"

"A very important discovery is made concerning this impersonal life force in the Awake of 8 July 1949. We are told that this life force when separated from its body had no thought, no feeling, no intelligent existence, it cannot die.

We must now remember, Jehovah God transferred the life force of Michael to Mary on the earth. Since Michael's life force was separated from his spirit body, this surely must leave us with a dead angel in heaven. We must also remember that this life force is impersonal, with no thought, no feeling and no intelligent existence. This seems to be a very strange teaching. We are told that Jesus was just a man, it is difficult to see how we can connect the two, one is an angel and the other is just a man.

It would appear that the Lord Jesus Christ, suffered and died, went out of existence and now we have an angel called Michael in heaven who is Lord of lords and King of kings.

In this amazing story that the Watchtower has spun over the years, exclusively for their deceived people, they have forgotten one thing. Michael the Archangel would need to be omnipresent, a thing that angels are not."

"Explain yourself Inspector," Sue said.

"We read in the book of Daniel, that an angel was delayed in coming to Daniel's help, thereby proving that angels are not omnipresent", the Inspector went on, "We are told in the scriptures that a Christian has Christ in him, although the Watchtower deliberately alter these verses and use the term "in Union", the Greek says "In you". We are told by the Watchtower Society that only the 144,000 are born again, and have Christ in them i.e. Michael. We are told Michael is an Archangel, we know angels are not omnipresent, so therefore we would need 144,000 Archangel Michaels for him to be in the Watchtower's annointed group."

"So Sue, was the Archangel Michael murdered?

The answer to that question is no. He was, is and always will be an angel, and Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."



## SOME REFERENCES WORTH HAVING

A look at the 1984 reference Bible of the Jehovah's Witnesses New World Translation.

The Watchtower Society often encourages its members to examine various beliefs. Many times we are told the tri-unity of God is unbiblical, but what does their own bible say? A look at the book of Isaiah and their own references will give us the answer.

### Who is the Light?

In 1 John 5, John confirms that God is light and that there is no darkness in Him. In Isaiah 9:2 we read, "The people that were walking in the darkness have seen a great light. As for those dwelling in the land of deep shadow, light itself has shone upon them." The references given lead us to Matthew 4:16 which states, "the people sitting in darkness saw a great light, and as for those sitting in a region of deathly shadow, light rose upon them." This verse and the preceding ones identify the Lord Jesus as the light of the world.

A second reference takes us to Luke 1:79, "to give light to those sitting in darkness and death's shadow, to direct our feet prosperously in the way of peace.", the context of this verse confirms that Jesus is indeed the light of the world.

Jesus is the light, God is the light, there is only one light.

### Who is Coming?

Isaiah 35:4 says, "Say to those who are anxious at heart: 'Be strong do not be afraid. Look! YOUR own God will come with vengeance itself, God even with a repayment. He Himself will come and save YOU people.'" We learn from this verse that God Himself is coming. We are not told that a small god is coming for God Almighty, but God Himself is coming.

The reference given takes us to Matthew 1:21, "She will give birth to a son, and you must call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

It is clear from these verses and references given in the NWT, God is coming Himself, to save His people and this God is Jehovah Jesus and is in perfect harmony with John 1:1, "The Word was God".



## Who is the Redeemer?

Isaiah 35:10 says, "And the very ones redeemed by Jehovah will return and certainly come to Zion with a joyful cry; and rejoicing to time indefinite will be upon their head. To exultation and rejoicing they will attain, and grief and sighing must flee away."

We take special interest in the reference to "redeemed by Jehovah". This reference takes us to Matthew 20:28 which says, "Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many."

We can see from this verse, the Son of man, the Lord Jesus is redeeming His people, the ones spoken of by Isaiah, when he said, "The very ones redeemed by Jehovah".

Another reference given takes us to 1 Timothy 2:6. Speaking of Jesus it says, "Who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all - (this is) what is to be witnessed to at its own particular times."

The New World Translation has a mass of references confirming Jesus is the Lord of Glory, God manifest in the flesh. In perfect harmony with John 1:1, "The Word was God".

We urge all Jehovah's Witnesses to examine Watchtower teachings in the light of scripture.

William Bacon

# We Want to Hear From You.

If you are a Christian reaching out to Jehovah's Witnesses, we would like to hear how the Lord is using you. Maybe there are witnesses we could be praying for, or maybe you need advice on dealing with a specific subject.

We would be pleased to help you.

Write to:

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

# EX-JW HELPS JW TO FIND CHRIST

By Dorothy Banks

I was at a very low ebb in my life when two Jehovah's Witnesses came to my door in 1968. Although I was happily married with three children, there was an emptiness in my life. I had great difficulty in mixing and communicating with people. These two JW's so impressed me that I soon found myself having a 'Bible' study with them.

I stayed with the Jehovah's Witnesses for nearly three years, mostly believing I had joined God's people. But God was a far away God and my prayers never seemed to get answered. I tried my best to be a good JW, going round the doors and attending meetings quite often. In the end I knew I was not a 100% JW. I could never bring myself to get baptised and so become a proper member of the Watchtower Society.

I left in the summer of 1971, praying to Jehovah to help me to find the real truth. About two months later, through circumstances I am sure were brought about by God, my husband Ray and I met some born again Christians. They witnessed to us of Jesus and invited us to go to their church, which was Pentecostal.

At first I refused but after further discussions I decided to go. It was there that I realised that God was calling me to Himself. Jehovah God had answered my prayer to show me the real truth. Ray and I surrendered our lives to Jesus in November 1971. Two weeks later, while praying in my own home, I had a wonderful experience which assured me that God had come to dwell with me and that now I belonged to Him.

The burden of my heart was for Jehovah's Witnesses. I knew they were wrong but could not prove it, so I began to study the Watchtower Society. I read book after book which told their history and of their many failed prophecies. I also obtained different versions of the Bible and compared them with my JW Bible. The more I studied the more I saw that God had brought me out of a false religion. After five years of study and playing a part in helping a few people to break free from their JW studies, in 1976 I was asked to join a special kind of ministry called "Help Jesus to Help Jehovah's Witnesses Find Christ".

Next Issue: Part Two - Called into God's service.

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