

# Concern

TOPICS AND NEWS FROM FIRST & LAST MINISTRIES

No 6 Published quarterly CHRIST JESUS SAVES WATCHTOWER SLAVES Summer 1993

## BURIAL SITE OF DISCIPLE DISCOVERED

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES and other cults who deny the deity of Christ may have to think again following the discovery of a burial site, believed to be the last resting place of one of Jesus' twelve disciples.

The discovery, made last winter, by Israeli archeologist Professor Elezer Sukenik included the remains of an ancient burial cave dating to the early part of the first century. It included several stone ossuaries (small coffins) marked with the sign of the Cross and with numerous inscriptions which included a dedication to Jesus.


A coin minted by King Agrippa 1 in the

year 42 A.D. was discovered along with pottery, but nothing from a later date, and all evidence seems to indicate that the tomb, was permanently sealed not later than the year 43 A.D., about ten years after the crucifixion of Jesus.

After describing the experience of being the first persons in almost 2,000 years to enter the tomb, Sukenik focused upon one surprising



dedication: "Besides (one of) the cross (marks) I noticed the inscription on one of the ossuaries in which the name 'Jesus' was clearly discernible, followed here not by the usual (second) name, but by a description or an exclamation," the archaeologist reported.

Continued on  
Page 2 

# WELCOME

Dear Reader,

QUITE a few readers have expressed their appreciation for Phillip Mawson's article on dealing with Watch Tower teaching on a pet subject of the 144,000.

Phillip has had first-hand experience in the way Jehovah's Witnesses approach Scripture (he was a JW for a number of years before becoming a christian).

When a christian is encountered by a Witness, in routine door-to-door work, the Witness (often rightly) thinks that the only subject he can engage the christian in is the trinity, and will try to angle the conversation around to "old chestnuts", such as what the New World Translation has to say at John 1:1.

Familiarising ourselves with how a JW has to fall in with Watch Tower teaching will go a long way in our being able to show the deceived Witness what the Bible has to say on many important doctrines.

Thus a surprise approach can have a very beneficial effect. The main thing is are we talking to JWs; who else is going to point them to the real Jesus?

Remember, even if you are "a brand new christian", YOU KNOW ENOUGH TO SAY ENOUGH.

Les Kerr,  
First & Last Ministries.

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Following the name of Jesus, the exclamation read "YHO", which scholars believe to be part of the tetramation meaning "Jehovah" or "the Lord". The inscription is thus transliterated, "Jesus the Lord."

As yet unreported, however, are the discoveries of three additional ossuaries in the same burial cave, and the writings which were engraved on their sides. These inscriptions have led scholars to speculate that this catacomb may also have been the final resting place for two prominent disciples of Jesus who are mentioned in the New Testament - one of whom was a member of the council of twelve.

The first ossuary, found near the entrance, was marked with the symbol of the cross and a short inscription, "Mary the daughter of Simon." Not far away, her father's ossuary was also discovered.

It bore cross-marks and the inscription, "Simon Bar-Saba(s)."

"The name Bar-Sabas is a well known name recorded twice in the Book of Acts," says Jerusalem historian, Prof. Ory N Mazar.

"Joseph Barsabas, who was most likely Simon's brother, was nominated along with Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot on the council of twelve disciples.

"But one of the most interesting ossuary discovered in the catacomb was ossuary number ten, which was marked with a cross on its lid and bore one single name on its side, 'Matthias'."

Was this the same Matthias who was chosen to become a member of the council of the twelve?

"The answer to this question we may never know," says Prof Mazar, "however, we have good reason to believe that this is the very same Matthias."

REPORT by Jean Gilman from Jerusalem Christian Review. For a full copy of the report write to First & Last Ministries at the address opposite.

Our thanks to Philip Mawson for his help in this issue.

TO THE EDITOR

I'm sorry I haven't written for a while but I'm sure you will understand how busy this work can be!

We had an active JW come along to one of our meetings the other week, where we showed the video "Witnesses at your Door". He was quite impressed, but visibly uncomfortable. He now professes faith in Christ, but, as you know, that does not mean he fully understands the meaning of that. We keep praying for him.

We also had a man come to the Lord, and openly accept Jesus as his Lord, God and Saviour. Praise the Lord. He was studying with the JWs for about a year and has now given up his study. One more safe in the hands of the Lord.

We are getting better known among the local churches now and are gaining a lot more credibility. We have also been accepted as members of the Evangelical Alliance which gives us a lot more stability, and it is good to know that we have plenty of back-up as and when we need it.

God bless you as you seek to serve Him,  
Jeanette and Richard Fyfe  
(Charis),  
Dingwall.

# LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

I felt I must write to acknowledge my joyful receipt of the assorted titles of tracts you mailed to me. It was in a very good condition when it arrived and the tracts are very good in witnessing to the cults and teaching Christians more about JW errors, and how to witness to them. May our Almighty Father reward your kind gesture.

The materials are just a cup of salt to a sea. There are thousands to reach with them. I also need books that will help us know more of what they are teaching. God bless and reward you abundantly. Be praying for us as we shall be praying for you.

In His service,  
Pastor Mark N. Emehson,  
Nigeria.

## BACK ISSUES

Issues 1 to 5 of Concern are now available at 50p each. If you can use any, please contact/write to us indicating which edition you require and how many.

FIRST & LAST  
CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Send your letters to:  
First & Last Ministries, 248 Chester Road  
Loughton, Essex, IG10 2LR.

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The Testimony  
of  
Tom O'Donnell

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Part Three

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*Tom O'Donnell was raised a Roman Catholic. After spending time studying with the Jehovah's Witnesses, he had come to the conclusion that their teachings were wrong and accepted Jesus as his Savior. His story continues.*

#### **SHARING THE FAITH.**

All through my married life I had tried to get my wife to become a Roman Catholic, then a Jehovah's Witness and now a Baptist. She told me that she wanted nothing to do with me and all my religions. She was sick of it all and she didn't want me to mention religion again. So we came to an agreement that if I could go to church on Sunday morning and to the Prayer and Bible study on a Wednesday evening, she wouldn't question where I was going because she knew and I wouldn't mention religion. This is what happened, although Christians kept on asking about my wife, I would say, "*She's just not interested*". About three months later while I was lying in bed half asleep she suddenly said to me, "*Do you think this church is just for you to go to?*" You can

# From Judo To JESUS

imagine my ears pricking up and asking her to repeat it as I thought I hadn't heard correctly! After she repeated it my eyes were nearly popping out of my head. So I just said, "*No, why not?*". She replied, "*I would like to come on Sunday, would that be alright?*". She came and has been going ever since.

#### **CHRIST CHANGES LIVES**

What changed her mind about religion was the change in me. I was a very bad tempered and violent person. I hated the world and my employer I worked for treated me badly. As a young boy who went to a Catholic Boys School, 2,000 of us, there were always fights. I used to get beaten up nearly every day, so I decided to take up Ju-Jitsu, which is unarmed combat where nothing is barred.

I used to train 18 hours per week and did this self defence for over 10 years. I was a black belt and this took over my life. It taught me to retaliate and I lost what love I had for human beings. If they got in your way trample all over them.

Since becoming a Christian I could no longer condone the self defence art and gave it up. I stopped drinking as that had become a waste of good money. It could be put to better use. I stopped swearing, my language was literally cleaned up overnight. The only way I can explain this change is love came into my life, because I had accepted Jesus into my life. It was something I felt I had to do. I could no longer be a hypocrite as I had been as a Roman Catholic, last in church and first out. I could no longer go to the Roman Catholic Church because I knew that if I did I would be going back to a dead ritual type of worship. I felt they could not fill this spiritual thirst and hunger I had for the Word of God. I also felt I could no longer pray to Mary although I respect her as the blessed virgin, but to me neither Mary or any of the Saints are mediators. I had read in the Scriptures that Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between man and God. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life and no man can come to the Father except by Me."* Also in the Bible I had read that this is why the Scriptures had been written that we can know we have eternal life. This teaching I could not find in the Roman Catholic Church or the Jehovah's Witnesses. I had also read that Jesus was our high Priest and there was no need for any other, and

only He could forgive sins. I am grateful that now I know God and Jesus in a very real way, a personal way, which I never had before. I am now thankful that my name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

My wife was baptised three months after me. My marriage is a beautiful one, we have five children a daughter aged 18 and four sons aged 16, 12, 10 and eight.

## THROUGH THE LIPS OF A CHILD

About three years ago we had a priest come to my house. He was following up lapsed Catholics. When he came in my youngest started telling him about David and Goliath. The priest said he knew more about the Bible than many adults. This was just before Christmas time. Just after Christmas, this priest told the story of a family he went to visit, he said he thought he was going to see some lapsed Catholics. He said he did find lapsed Catholics, but not lapsed Christians. My children had shared with him all they knew about the Bible and Jesus. We also shared with him how Jesus had become very real to us.

What we recommend to anyone whos life needs putting right is that they get themselves right with Jesus. He can change you and put a new meaning to life. One that will be eternal and not just a stop gap, as so many things are in this life. Give your life to Jesus - you will never regret it. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."*



# Watchtower



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ALL Jehovah's Witnesses should be disfellowshipped. Why? Because the Watch Tower Society's own rules say so.

That is the only conclusion possible if the Society's rules, contained in it's Articles of Incorporation, are to be followed correctly.

In the Articles, (as amended on 27 February 1945) in particular Article seven, which describes the purpose of the Society (page 172) it reads: "and for the public Christian worship of Almighty God and Christ Jesus".

Any current Jehovah's Witness will dismiss this statement as heresy saying that Jesus must not be worshipped at any cost. But, the fact still remains that the Society's very own rules say it must be done. Failure to comply the Society's rules are spelt out very plainly in article nine (page 173) where we read: "A member may be suspended for a period or expelled for cause upon wilfully violating any of the by-laws, reasonable rules, or ordinances of the Society, or upon becoming out of harmony with any of the Society's purposes."

So desperate is the Society to hide this embarrassing fact, they have even resorted to misquoting themselves as a quick look at the Jehovah's Witnesses year book of 1969, page 50, shows us.

The words that follow, "and Christ Jesus", are conveniently omitted for the quote text.

ers: to furnish gratuitously to such students, lecturers, teachers, educators and ministers suitable meals and lodging and to prepare, support, maintain and send out to various parts of the world Christian missionaries, teachers and instructors in the Bible and Bible literature, and for public Christian worship of Almighty God and Christ Jesus; to arrange for and hold local and world-wide assemblies for such worship; to use or operate radio broadcasting

Original statement found in Articles of Incorporation.

ings for gratuitous housing of such students, lecturers, teachers, educators and ministers; to furnish gratuitously to such students, lecturers, teachers, educators and ministers suitable meals and lodging and to prepare, support, maintain and send out to various parts of the world Christian missionaries, teachers and instructors in the Bible and Bible literature, and for public Christian worship of Almighty God . . . f to arrange for and hold local and world-wide assemblies

Same statement in Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses 1969.

Information from MacGregor Ministries. Photo-copies of any of the document mentioned in this article are available on request.

# JW's GET WINGS CLIPPED OVER BLOOD ISSUE

A COUNCIL'S decision to give a blood transfusion to the child of a Jehovah's Witness family has been upheld in court.

The incident involving a young leukaemia victim, occurred in 1990 when Camden council in north London were granted a specific issue order under section eight of the Children Act 1989. This ruling, which must come as a blow to Watch Tower leaders, enabled the doctors to proceed with a blood transfusion.

Following our article in the last issue of CONCERN, regarding the Watch Tower's doctrine on transfusions, newspaper reports have highlighted more tragic cases of WT members choosing to die rather than break the Organisation's ruling of accepting a blood transfusion.

The latest incident, involving a 42-year old mother of four who died while giving birth, occurred just as this issue was going to press and made front page news on several of the national newspapers.

We pray that until the Watch Tower Society changes this un-biblical doctrine the decision of these judges will be reflected in any other cases involving the children of JW parents.



## WATCH TOWER EXTENSION GETS PERMISSION.

PLANS by the Watch Tower Society to build an extension to its headquarters has been given the go-ahead following a Department of the Environment inquiry in November last year.

The plans to build accommodation, for 100 of its workers, at the rear of its existing premises, in Mill Hill London, was originally refused planning permission by Barnet council after it was condemned by local residents and politicians who felt it was out of character with the area.

In his final conclusion the inspector conducting the inquiry said: "While the proposals would represent a substantial increase to an already large building on a prominent site within the Green Belt and Area of Special Character, neither the openness of the site nor the impact of the building would materially change."

## LOCALS DEFEATED

# Riverside '93 Conference

TWO days of teaching, testimony and good fellowship came to Dagenham in May at this year's Riverside Conference held at the Dagenham Community Church on Friday & Saturday, May 21 & 22

During the two days Christians learnt more about how they can be effective in reaching-out to those trapped inside the Watch Tower.

On Saturday Tadeusz Polgenek, from Poland, told how at the age of 23 he became a Jehovah's Witness and for 16 years took the Watch Tower gospel from home to home. Sixteen years later he left the Society when he could no longer accept that the Lord Jesus would return invisibly.

Tadeusz left the Watch Tower with 30 other Witnesses. Together they studied the Bible alone and within a very short time were convinced that Jesus was God. Just as Tadeusz was leaving the Society his wife, who had rejected the Society for over 10 years, joined the Jehovah's Witnesses. So he had to convince her it was wrong. After two hours of discussion she was convinced and left.

Doug Harris of Reachout Trust urged Christians, involved in witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses, to take advantage of the public's interest in the cults following the recent tragic events in Waco, Texas and told of Reachout's work during that time.



## CAN YOU HELP?

Dear Friends,  
This quarter's newsletter is slightly late. This is because our printer decided to breakdown half-way through production, meaning we had to purchase a new one in order to complete this edition. We would therefore appreciate any gifts towards this item in helping us with the cost of such an expensive item. Should you be able to help then please send your gifts to the address on page three.

Our Tracts, of course, still remain free of charge upon request.

We thank you in advance,  
Les Kerr & Bill Bacon  
First & Last Ministries.

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Published by  
**FIRST & LAST MINISTRIES**  
6 Chertsey Mount  
Carlisle CA1 2PH  
England

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