

# Concern

No. 12  
Winter 1995

Topics and News from First & Last Ministries

Why was Brother Rutherford busy in the kitchen? Find out on page 4.

## PROPHET OF GOD OR DEAD LOSS?

**WHEN** challenged about their prophetic failures JW's often resort to the standard excuse that they are not inspired prophets but true prophets nonetheless.

What are we to make of this contradictory reasoning?

The Watchtower magazine of September 15, 1994 contains some bold statements that need to be used in silencing the JW excuse that they are just not claiming to be inspired prophets.

Firstly, on page 10 it defines a true prophet by saying: "The Hebrew term for prophet.... in the Bible indicates that true prophets were spokesmen for Jehovah, men of God with inspired messages.... A prophet

by  
Phillip Mawson

is one who proclaims messages attributed to a divine source."

Continuing on page 11 they state: "Like Amos Jehovah's modern day servants feel compelled to declare God's words publicly"

Finally on pages 18-19 they point to Joel's prophecy at Joel 2:28-29 as having fulfillment "from Pentecost 33CE onward" and then declare: "And what a grand fulfillment of this prophecy we see in this 20th Century!



Today we have millions who "prophesy", or proclaim Jehovah's message."

To say all this and then turn around and say "we don't claim to be inspired" is to speak with a forked tongue.

The point is this if Jehovah's Witnesses were inspired by God their prophecies would never have failed.

Since they have all failed they are false prophets.

The Watch Tower of September 15, 1994 says: "True prophets are inspired"

Thus uninspired prophets are false. It's as plain as that.

# WELCOME

Dear Reader,

WE are greatly encouraged that our tracts are being put to use in reaching Jehovah's Witnesses with the gospel of grace.

Each tract has an initial first print of 1000 copies and is reprinted as required.

Readers may be interested to know that up to the present time (as we enter our eighth year) the number of tracts printed total 22,000.

They are as follows:  
 There is a Way That Seems Right..... - 3000  
 The Watch Tower Society's Grave Dilemma - 3000  
 The Manufactured god of the New World Translation - 2000  
 Is Time Running Out For The Watch Tower? - 2000  
 Aware! (No.1) - 2000  
 Aware! (No.2) - 2000  
 Aware! (No.3) - 2000  
 Aware! (No.4) - 1000  
 Aware! (No.5) - 1000

Also our warning leaflet, Beware of False Prophets, which is suitable for door-to-door work and general distribution has amounted to 4000 copies.

Lee Kerr & Bill Bacon,  
 First & Last Ministries.

## FIRST & LAST OF MINISTRIES READERS' NEEDS

### New Tracts

CONCERN readers Colin Cunningham and Martin Barrow have produced a number of new tracts aimed at getting the Jehovah's Witnesses to examine the Watch Tower Society.

Subjects covered are the Society's teaching on the 144,000, Christmas and the Theocratic War Strategy (lying to non-JWs).

If you would like to order some or find out more details then call them on 01782 208284 or 01203 341243.

### Books Wanted

THE Jehovah's Witness 1994 Year Book is one of the books wanted by Mike Ashworth, who comes from Lancashire.

Mike, who is researching JW doctrine, has a list of books he requires and is willing to make a donation for any books sent to him.

For a full list of books you can contact Mike on 0706 224870.

IF you need help searching for a JW book, or can offer a service to our readers, then write to CONCERN at the address on the back page.



# Cult Fiction



## The Wacky World Of The Watchtower

**ASK any Jehovah's Witness where the dwelling place of God is and, you will almost certainly be told He resides in the heavenly realm, but He is not omnipresent.**

**But has this always been the teaching of the Watch Tower Society?**

Unsurprisingly the answer is no. In fact the Watch Tower Society's first, and second, presidents could be a lot more precise about God's location than present day leaders.

According to Messrs Russell and Rutherford Jehovah could be found on one of the seven stars forming the Pleiades constellation!

**Alcyone to be more precise.**

Yes according to Rutherford's book, *Reconciliation*, printed in 1928 witnesses were told, on page 14, that: "... one of the stars of that group is the dwelling place of Jehovah... because the Pleiades is the place of the eternal throne of God."

Rutherford got his theory from Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures*, vol 3, on page 327, where it said: "Alcyone, the central one of the renowned Pleiadic stars... from which the Almighty governs his universe."

But this teaching was dropped later on by the society when, in the Watchtower of November 15, 1953, on page 703, readers were told: "...It would be unwise for us to try to fix God's throne as being at a particular spot in the universe."

But even since then the society has hinted that Jehovah does have one place where he lives when it said in the Watchtower magazine of February 15, 1981 on page 6: "God being an individual, a Person with a

by  
Paul Bacon

spirit body, has a place where he resides, and so he could not be at any other place at the same time."

The Watch Tower Society made another space-age blunder, under its third president Nathan H. Knorr, when it boldly predicted that man would never be able to travel into space.

In the book *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, printed in 1943 it says on page 285: "Man on earth can no more get rid of these demonic "heavens" than man can by airplane or rockets or other means get up above the air envelope which is about our earthly globe and in which man breathes."

The Watchtower's assumption was proved false as early as 1957, when the Soviet Union put its Sputnik satellite into orbit, and in the years since then when men themselves have ridden rockets above the atmosphere, even all the way to the moon and back.

The WTS  
say this  
should  
never  
have  
happened



# Christmas in the

## The facts Watch Tower leaders

**IN its usual fashion the Watchtower magazine of 15 December 1994 puts forward its reasons why Christmas should not be celebrated.**

It seems each and every year, as regular as clockwork, Watchtower writers pump out their same tired old "arguments" telling us how Christmas is a pagan custom, Christ wasn't born on December 25 and how commercialised the whole thing has become.

While we would agree on all these points, for the Christian Christmas is much more than overindulging in Christmas frolics.

The truth is, regardless of the actual date of the historic event, the birth of the Saviour is worthy of celebration and remembrance.

But it seems that even the JW view on Christmas hasn't always been the same.

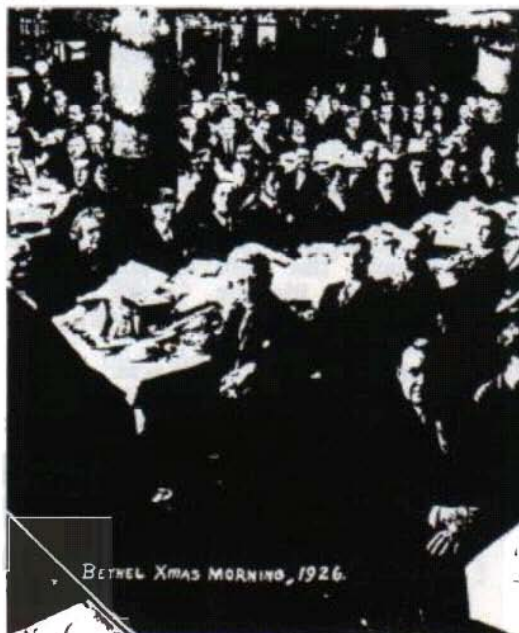
Yes, according to Witnesses, God has changed his mind once again.

It is a fact that early Watch Tower Society leaders joined in the festive season and were quite proud to admit to it.

The Watchtower magazine of 1 December, 1904, stated: "Even though Christmas Day is not the real anniversary of our Lord's birth...it is not necessary for us to quibble particularly about the date. We may as well join with the civilised world in celebrating the grand event on the day which the majority celebrate - "Christmas Day"."

Watch Tower books were also suggested, in one edition, as possible Christmas presents with orders being made several months in advance, obviously to avoid the expected yuletide rush for books nearer Christmas.

In another instance second president J.F. Rutherford even printed a letter thanking JW members for sending him



Watch Tower headquarters staff celebrating Christmas in Brooklyn



# e Watchtower

s don't want you to know.



numerous Christmas presents in the Watchtower of 15 January, 1919.

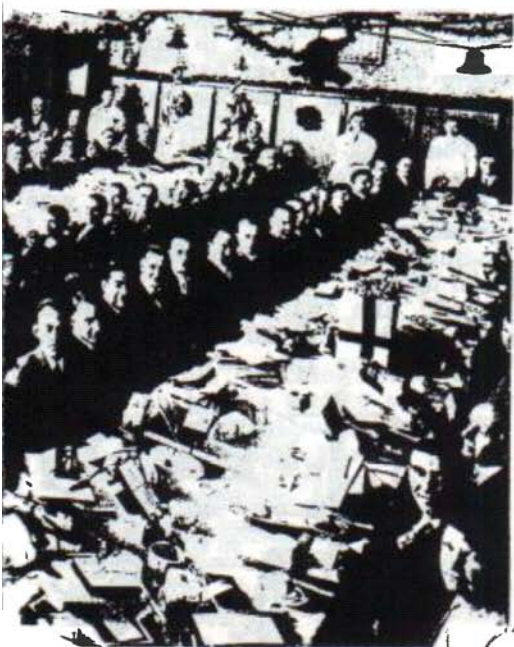
And if there's any doubt about it we even print here a picture of Mr Rutherford and friends (they're the ones hiding amongst the Christmas decorations and piles of presents) tucking into a nice Christmas dinner at the society's Bethel headquarters in 1926.

Even today don't be fooled into thinking all JW's sit around the house during the Christmas holidays eating nothing but bread and cheese.

We know of plenty of present day witnesses and elders who save their Christmas Turkey and Christmas pudding to Boxing Day just so they can't be accused of joining in with the "pagans" on Christmas Day.

Yes, the truth about Christmas is enough to make present day witnesses choke on their mince pies.

We will leave them with a surprisingly refreshing message from the Watchtower magazine of 15 December, 1926, which says: "The event is so important that it is always appropriate to call it to the minds of the people, regardless of the date."



Bethel dining room, 1926 J. F. Rutherford at head of center table.

## ARE YOU ON THE MOVE?

Then make sure you let us know your new address if you don't want to miss any future issues of **CONCERN**

Send your new details to our associate address on page three or call us on 0181-508 4202.



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## THE TESTIMONY OF MALCOLM TURNER

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### PART TWO

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**AFTER** being thrown out of his home in Peterlee, County Durham, Malcolm Turner packed his bags and headed for London.

Shortly afterwards two Mormon missionaries knocked on his door and he thought his search for the true religion had ended. His story continues...

WITHIN eight weeks of these two Mormon missionaries calling at my home I had been baptised and had received the Aaronic Priesthood.

I was determined that I was going to be a good Mormon and serve God the best way I could.

As I progressed in the Mormon way of life it dawned on me that if what the Mormons taught was true then why didn't the Bible back up these teachings?

Also if I had lived previously with the heavenly Father, why couldn't I remember it?

I questioned many of the teachings and left the church soon after, despondent and sick of life.

I was determined that Mormonism was wrong but what could I do now, all the other churches were of the Devil, so I was taught.

In 1987 I went to see an Anglican minister about having my son christened, but I was told that he would not do it unless I attended the church (the one thing I didn't want to do).

# Highway to HEAVEN

However I decided I would go to the church until the baby was christened and I kept on going, even though I felt that something was missing (the Saviour), but I didn't know what. This went on for about a year.

On the corner of the street where I lived there was a little red bricked church but I always walked past it.

One evening I went in and got the biggest surprise I ever had.

The minister was wearing brown cords and an open necked shirt and everyone was clapping and having fun (not what I was used to).

At the end of the meeting I was approached by the Deacon and I remember him asking me how I would get to heaven.

I told him that I went to church every Sunday and did my best in life.

He told me that my best wasn't





good enough. He said I could do all that and still go to hell.

I left that meeting feeling hurt and upset. I wasn't going back to that church again to be insulted, never!

Two weeks later I went back knowing in my heart that what I had been told was true. I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and was baptised.

Today my only purpose in life is to live only for Jesus Christ and see many people become Christians.

I joined Reachout Trust with the realisation that Jesus loves those enslaved by cults and is willing that none should perish but all to come to repentance.

I often hear Christians quote 2 John 7:11 and say that we should have nothing to do with cult members.

These people that John mentioned knew the truth and they deliberately went out to distort the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many people caught in cults are sincere and are not intentionally going out to deceive others. It is just that they have been deceived themselves, and how can they be rescued if Christians will not stand up for Christ and point them towards Calvary?

My prayer is that Christians will be given a burden for those in the cults and not shrink back from proclaiming the Gospel. (Romans 1:16)

## COUNTER-ACT

IS there a Christian bookshop in your area willing to place **CONCERN** on its counter?

Several have already done so, with good effect.

If you think that you can help, ask for extra copies next time you write to us.



## Could You Write For

### *Concern*

**DO** you feel you could write an article for a future issue of **CONCERN**?

We are currently seeking articles on various Watchtower subjects, including news on the local congregations in your area.

Perhaps you run a particular ministry and have hints and advice for others who could possibly start a similar outreach service in their area.

Or maybe you could share your testimony of God's wonderful saving grace with our readers.

If so we would like to hear from you.

No writing experience is necessary as we can advise and help you put an article together.

There is no limit to the length of article, but longer ones may have to be used in two or more editions.

Any article should be written or typed out and be double spaced between lines.

We can also accept ASCII type files on computer disk, if they are IBM compatible, (please also include a print out if possible).

If you would like to submit an article please phone or write to the address on page three, just in case somebody else is preparing a similar article.

**The 1914 Generation**

# Going Going

..... **Still going**

AS mentioned in the cover article of the last issue of **CONCERN** the Watch Tower Society in its November 8 issue of **Awake** magazine reinforces its commitment to the 1914 generation that will not pass away before armageddon breaks forth on the world scene.

On pages 28 and 29 of the same magazine it is stated that "In 1992 there were still 61,486,000 persons living of the generation born in 1914, or prior to it."

Now this may sound a lot but consider - in this figure the Watch Tower Society is including new born babies, whereas in the past infants were not included in the society's 'This Generation' doctrine.

But let's be generous and let the society have these 61 million plus persons for their generation of 1914 and ask what does it amount to?

Sixty-one million people is a lot but in relation to the entire population of planet Earth (i.e. 5.6 Billion) it is less than one per cent.

So with less than one per cent of the Watch Tower Society's 1914 generation still alive (babies included) we may well ask at what point does

By  
**Phillip Mawson**

credability run out?

In a way the society's **Awake** article will make it all the more harder for it to abandon this already redundant doctrine and hopefully many JWs will see that the society is flogging a dead horse and will begin questioning the organisation that has misled them.

  
**Watchtower  
Watch**

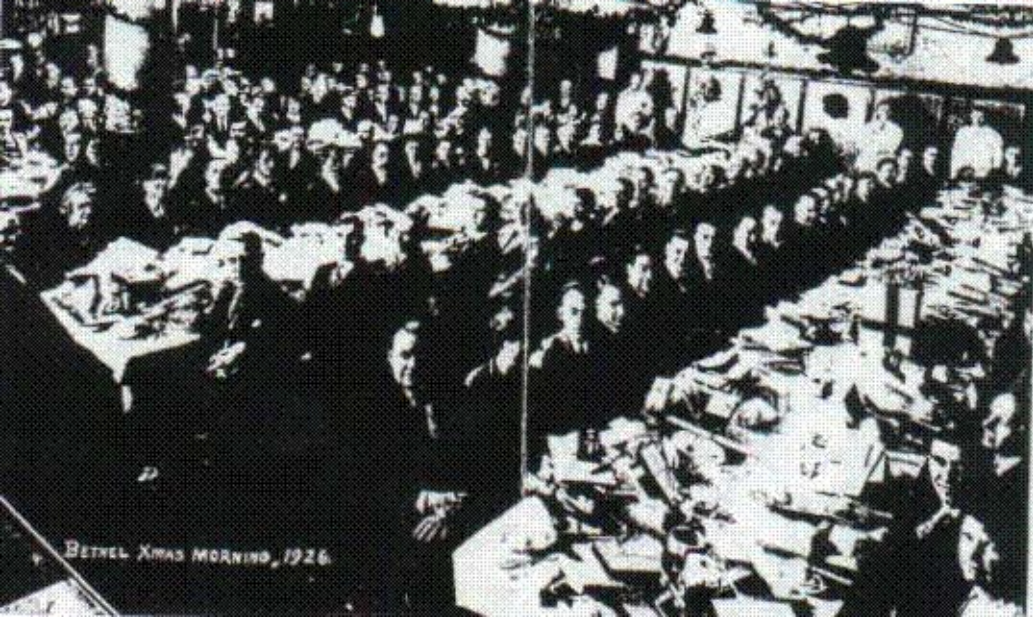
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BETHEL XMAS MORNING, 1926