

Concern

No. 19
Winter 1996

Topics and News from First & Last Ministries

WATCH TOWER IN THE DOCK

TV documentary highlights the hidden dangers of the Watch Tower Society.

THE Watch Tower Society has been accused of shielding child sex abusers from the police in a controversial television documentary shown on BBC television in November.

For the first time in British television history, ex-Jehovah's Witnesses were given the chance to speak out against a cult, they say has controlled their lives.

The programme, which was called Close-Up, was shown on November 28th, last year, by BBC south-west.

Issues raised by the documentary included the Society's pressure on members to refuse blood transfusions, cases of how the Society destroyed families and even more worrying was the lengths the Society went to to shield known child sex abusers from the police.

Philip Mawson, who was just one of the ex-JWs to take part in the programme, said the

by
Paul Bacon

documentary had made quite an impact on the local area.

And, he hoped it had highlighted the social and psychological dangers of a cult many people believe is harmless.

"It has generated quite a lot of talk among the JWs themselves," he said.

"And even members of the public are confronting witnesses with what they saw in the programme.

"Many people are genuinely shocked and angry over the way the Society operates."

Despite several attempts, the Watch Tower Society refused to take part in the programme, saying that it felt no need to defend its policies.



Philip Mawson: "People are talking about the Society."

Hear what was said.

IF you would like to hear what was said in the television documentary then please send a C-60 audio tape to the address on the back page.



**More details from
documentary on
Pages 8 & 9**



Dear Reader,

WE have now reached our tenth birthday

We intend, by God's grace, to keep on with the task to which we are involved, namely to bring the Gospel of Christ to those who have been deceived by the Watch Tower Society

Occasionally news does reach us that someone is benefitting from our literature, and this encourages us like nothing else can

But supposing we didn't hear from anyone. Supposing no report reached us as to what impact we are making. What then?

It's interesting that the apostle Paul exhorts Timothy to "be ready in season and out of season" (II Tim 4:2)

And there is another side to this. Don't we believe that God is sovereign? Don't we believe that He has chosen His elect? Don't we believe that among those whom He has purposed to save turn out so often to be the most unlikely persons who believe on the Lord?

So, don't we dare to believe that God may be pleased to yet save some who, at this moment, are futilely serving a phoney, synthetic religion that is keeping them so busy they hardly have time to stop and think?

But is anything too hard for the Lord? That which Scripture calls steadfastness we identify as **stickability**, the resolve to stand our ground when things are tough, and to keep on going when nothing seems to be happening

Keep praying for those for whom the Lord has given you a burden, and leave things in his caring hands

**Les Kerr & Bill Bacon,
First & Last Ministries.**



Derek Jones of Stamford Hill
has his say

AS you read this issue of *Concern* new members join the JW's thinking they have at last entered into God's true church

At the same time, however, many people are leaving and are maybe looking for a new church

The question is how can we do more to help these people and, how can we help prevent people from joining the cults in the first place?

We can also ask what is the great attraction in these cults?

These questions have many answers, but the biggest problem is the apathy that we find in the Christian church today

Are we surprised when we hear of the many pews that are empty in the Church of England?

When you consider its so-called Bishops who deny the virgin birth, the resurrection and the whole message of the early church, it's no surprise the country is experiencing a spiritual famine

If the church does not believe the message that it preaches, then how can it expect the people to? So, instead, into the cults they go

In striking contrast even the average Jehovah's Witness is highly trained. He is always out and about and he is determined to get as many people as he can into an already overcrowded Kingdom Hall. The message he has may be false, but at least he has a message

So, how do we snatch these people from the grasp of the cults?

Does your church have an answerphone? Do you advertise your ministry in the local shop windows? If you do then stand by to be busy

Backed up by prayer these ideas are a proven recipe to fill up those empty pews

TO THE EDITOR

GREETINGS in the name of Jesus.

At the present time we are seeing an ever increasing display of cards in shop windows advertising dubious new age, alternative medicines and cults.

These groups all recognize the effectiveness of shop advertising in our society.

We pray that more Christians will also become aware of this opportunity offered and make use of it in reaching out to both the spiritual and physical needs of others.

**Yours in the Lord's service,
Vic and Joan Horrex.
CPMF, Colchester.**

*Thanks for your comments. You might be interested in reading the article opposite.

TO THE EDITOR

THANKYOU so much for continuing to send your encouraging magazine *Concern*.

I look forward very much indeed to receiving further copies as the Holy Spirit moves you to continue to produce them.

I enclose a donation for stamps and photocopying costs etc.

**With every blessing in the Lord,
Elis Pehkonen,
Theberton,
Suffolk.**

TO THE EDITOR

I WOULD like you to continue sending me *Concern*.

I am pleased that this newsletter is now in demand. May we ever see more Christians challenged to be a real "Jehovah's Witness" to the many JW's they meet.

**Yours in Christ,
Richard Birch,
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire.**

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

PLEASE note that I have moved from St. Helens on Merseyside, where I was a vicar, to become chaplain at the Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover. This is a new and challenging post which I am enjoying.

My mother died in Liverpool a few weeks ago and it was the first time in over eight years that I was able to see my brother's family (all JW's), the door having previously been slammed shut once I was ordained in the Anglican church.

I am hoping to see them again over half-term.

In the meantime I would be grateful if you would continue sending me your excellent literature.

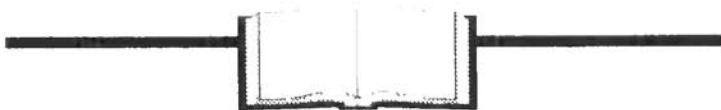
**Yours in Christ,
Roger Broughton,
Dover,
Kent.**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SEND YOUR LETTERS & THOUGHTS!**

TO:

*First & Last Ministries
248 Chester Road, Loughton,
Essex IG10 2LR
or phone
0181-508 4202*

DOES THE WATCHTOWER BOOK KNOWLEDGE ~~THAT~~ LEAD\$ TO EVERLASTING LIFE?



A SERIES OF ARTICLES
BY
PASTOR GARY HALL

RELEASED by the Watch Tower Society the "Knowledge" book contains a number of new teachings among its usual contents of old chestnuts.

Pastor Gary Hall, of Liverpool, this month concludes a series of articles in which he shares his thoughts on this latest publication which claims to contain the Knowledge that leads to everlasting life.

The Knowledge book speaks about the 144,000, Christmas, birthdays, soul sleep as well as the family.

There are many good books available that will correct these false doctrines.

Erroneous

The only point I'd like to address here is in response to the amazing and erroneous words found on page 68 regarding the death and resurrection of Jesus.

On this subject they say, "*He slept in death for parts of three days.*"

Since I've never heard anyone say that Jesus was dead for parts of three days, I have to ask, "which parts?"

If he was alive at certain times then does this not nullify the idea of soul-sleep?

Off course

Once again the book is way off course, since the Bible teaches that Jesus was active during the time His body lay in the tomb (see 1 Peter 3:19 & Eph. 4:8-10)

The Knowledge that leads to Everlasting Life book is a sloppy attempt to undermine Bible doctrine and promote life-destroying teachings.

Only those who have shut their eyes and closed their brains would accept this as coming from God

As with other books this goes out of its way to promote a Jesus

Gullible

Some gullible Christians may think that all the references to Jesus as God's only begotten Son means that the Jehovah's Witnesses are getting closer to the truth.

All those caught up in the web of deceit spun by the Watch Tower must answer a serious question for themselves.

Jesus once asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29.)

Peter could have replied something like, "I say you are a prophet, or maybe Michael the archangel."

But no, Peter's reply was "You are the Christ".

Notice that Jesus was transfigured. What was he transfigured into?

A prophet? That wouldn't have made Him any different from Elijah and Moses.

An angel? No, because "to which of the angels did He say at anytime, You are My Son, this day I have begotten You"? (Hebrews 1:5).

When God the Father spoke in Mark 9:7 he was not referring to a mere man or any angel when He said, "This is My beloved Son, hear Him."

Jesus was seen by the disciples as the second, but not inferior, member of the Godhead in all His Heavenly glory.

Question

"Only people who have shut their eyes and closed their brains would accept this as coming from God."

The disciples recognised Jesus as the Messiah. They knew that the Messiah had to be different from prophets or angels.

In Mark 9:1-7 they had an experience that they would never forget.

Elijah and Moses met with Jesus after he was transfigured.

Each Jehovah's Witness, and for that matter, every person on earth must answer the question, "Who do you say Christ is?"

If you listen to your organisation you may get the wrong answer.

ObeY God's command to us all....

"This is My beloved Son, hear Him."

That is the only way to have the Knowledge that leads to Everlasting Life.

ARE YOU MOVING?

Make sure you send your new address to us as soon as possible if you don't want to miss future issues of Concern.



Witnesses PROS

ON November 26th, 1986 British television history was made when, for the first time, former Jehovah's Witnesses, were allowed to speak of their experiences inside the Watch Tower Society.

In this, the first of two articles, *Concern* reveals just what they said.

BEFORE her parents left the Jehovah's Witnesses, Holly Birt had never celebrated her birthday.

Now, at the age of 13, an excited Holly is having her first birthday party.

Holly's mother, Linda Birt, spoke of the effect the Watch Tower Society's policy of banning celebrations had on her and her family.

She said, "The Society says that things associated with birthdays, ie blowing the candles out on the cake, are founded in pagan times, so demonic

"Also putting your child on a pedestal is not right and I never agreed with that because we all put our children on pedestal. So now that I can, and don't have to feel guilty about it, is lovely. And she's so excited that it reduces me almost to tears when I think that I've denied my children all their birthday's, all their Christmases, all the harvest celebrations at school, Easter, for no real reason."

IN the interview Linda Birt also told reporters how the Watch Tower Society's policy of separation from the world affected her son, David.

"Before David went to school he never had a friend," she said.

"When he did go to school, David found it difficult relating to the other children

"He used to walk around the playground on his own, so I went to what I would call a more mature sister and explained my fears that he didn't have any friends.

"She said, when her children were small, they didn't. And she would rather them walk around the playground with nobody than play with the worldly children."



Revealed: Watch Tower Cover-up of Child Abuse

THE Society will happily seize upon stories of priests who molest children as evidence of corruption in the established church.

Yet there is evidence that Jehovah's Witnesses have, themselves, committed such acts and dealt with the matter within the congregation rather than tell the police.

Former JW elder Roger Birt said that only last year he was asked by colleagues to keep the whereabouts of an alleged child sex abuser a secret from the police.

The man, a fellow JW, duped Roger into helping him find somewhere to live, claiming that he had family problems at home and needed to get away.

He said "It came out that he had been sexually abusing his 11-year-old step-daughter.

"It had come to the notice of

as for the EXECUTION

ch Tower in Child Sex Abuse

his ex-wife when the girl tried to commit suicide twice in a short period of time.

"The social services interviewed her and the police were called in after it was discovered he had been sexually abusing her

"Being the only person who knew where he was, I confronted him with this and he admitted that this was the case

"I contacted the society and gave them the details and they told me not to go to the police because they felt it would not go to court

"This sent alarm bells ringing so I contacted the man's ex-wife and told her that the police should ring me if they wanted to know where he was

"They rang me, he was arrested, taken to court and found guilty of child sex abuse"

SHUNNED OVER VOLUNTARY WORK

SEVENTY-FIVE year-old Jean Cleave left the Society after being criticised by elders for doing a few hours voluntary work for Oxfam.

They told her that community projects only prolonged a system already condemned by God and that her time would be better spent on the doorstep

After 32 years in the Witnesses Jean visited a Pentecostal church instead

"The elders said that I had committed adultery against Jehovah and fornication with Satan," she said

Jean did eventually leave the Watch Tower Society, but as a consequence is shunned by everyone she holds dear

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE PROGRAMME IN YOUR AREA?

FOR the first time on British television this programme has revealed the real 'truth' behind the Watch Tower Society.

But only a small part of the population was able to watch it.

The BBC may choose to give the programme national coverage if enough people write in and ask.

If you can send a letter or, better still, organise a petition in your local church then send it to:

BBC
Mr Jeff Wilkinson
Broadcasting House
Seymour Road
Mannamend
Plymouth PL3 5DB

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

PRINTED below are two excerpts taken from the same Watch Tower book, but printed at different times.

1. All we want you to do is to find the difference between the two and then work out why the change was made.

Then, send your answers to The Watch Tower, The Ridgeway Mill Hill, London NW7 1RN.

But don't expect any thanks or prizes from them.

Thy Kingdom
Come
Pre 1914

That the deliverance of the saints must take place some time before 1914 is manifest, since the deliverance of fleshly Israel, as we shall see, is appointed to take place at that time, and the angry nations will then be authoritatively commanded to be still, and will be made to recognize the power of Jehovah's Anointed. Just how long before 1914 the last living members of the body of Christ will be glorified, we are not directly informed; but it certainly will not be until their work in the flesh is done; nor can we reason

That the deliverance of the saints will take place some time after 1914 is manifest, since the deliverance of fleshly Israel, as we shall see, is appointed to take place thereafter, and the angry nations will then be authoritatively commanded to be still, and will be made to recognize the power of Jehovah's Anointed. Just how long after 1914 the last living members of the body of Christ will be glorified, we are not directly informed; but it certainly will not be until their work in the flesh is done; nor can we

Thy Kingdom
Come
Post 1914

KINGDOM CAPERS



"Now Miss Peacock today we're going to learn how to perform a U-Turn. You'll find this manoeuvre will come in very useful as a member of the Society."

NEWS

ROCK STAR JOINS WITNESSES



THE man behind Britain's favourite festive pop song has banned Christmas since he became a Jehovah's Witness.

Dave Hill (pictured above), was guitarist with glam-rock group Slade, and is regularly heard around the country at Christmas playing on the 1973 hit Merry Christmas Everybody.

But now, 23-years on, Dave won't even be putting a tree up now that he has joined the Watch Tower Society.

Speaking about his beliefs in a newspaper article in December, Dave, 46, said: "At home we don't have party hats on and we don't have a Christmas tree.

"If my daughter wants to celebrate she'll have to go round to her boyfriend's house."

Turkey

But Dave, whose wife Janice is also a Witness, said that he will be sitting down to turkey on Christmas day.

He said: "To us it's just a nice holiday."

And he also admitted to still singing the Christmas hit at concerts with his new group Slade II.

Dave explained. "We finish the show with the song, but it doesn't mean it's me celebrating Christmas.

"People don't realise that Jesus wasn't born on December 25. It's a pagan festival."

Come on Dave, sing another tune

Shadows' Hank mourns death of son.

THE estranged son of Shadows' guitarist Hank Marvin was found dead in a north London YMCA hostel in January.

Dean Marvin, who was 34, was one of four children Hank had with his first wife

He had lived at the hostel for the homeless for five years after falling out with his father, a Jehovah's Witness, because he refused to conform to his strict religious beliefs

At the time of going to press the cause of his death was unknown

Hank Marvin, who lives in Western Australia was said to be mourning Dean's death.

COULD YOU WRITE FOR *Concern?*

COULD you write an article for a future issue of *Concern*?

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

It doesn't matter how small or insignificant you think the news is, we would like to hear about it.

If you would like to submit anything for publication, then please phone or write to the address on the back page, just in case somebody else is preparing a similar article

First & Last Ministries.

THE TRUE JESUS

The testimony of Pauline Causton - Part One

ALL my life, it seemed I had searched for God. It wasn't until after the death of my beloved parents that I came to know God in our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was a very long search. As a child I went to church and I seemed to learn nothing there so I left the church spiritually starving.

As the years went by in my search for God I got involved with various religious cults, including the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. The latter for 15 long years along with my friend Susan.

I never got baptised as a Jehovah's Witness, however, I did believe (wrongly) in most of their doctrines. One of them being that Jesus was not God, but Jehovah's first created angel.

I thank God through His Holy Spirit that I was never baptised.

It was at this time that my parents were dying of Cancer in a Roman Catholic hospice.

At the same time I began to have

serious doubts about Jehovah's Witness doctrines.

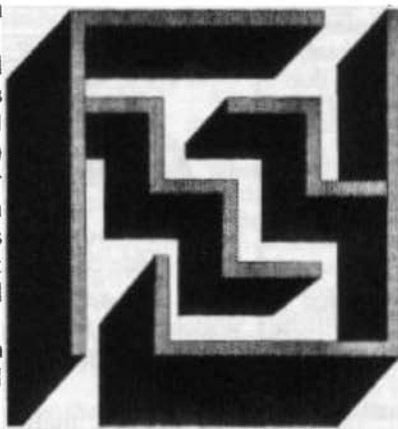
I don't know why, but I just felt very uneasy that they might be wrong.

There was a prayer room at the hospice and my daughter and I prayed in that room to make sense of what was happening to my parents and to give me strength to carry on.

After my parents died Susan came to visit me. I hadn't seen her for quite a while, and our lives had taken different directions.

But, unknown to me, she had got friendly with a Christian friend at work called Paul.

He sent me Christian literature and a nice letter.



**Next issue
Set Free**

We would like to point out that First & Last Ministries holds the copyright on all material appearing in *Concern* and that it may not be reproduced in any form without written permission.

Published by
FIRST & LAST MINISTRIES
248 Chester Road
Loughton, Essex
IG10 2LR England

Telephones
Carlisle - 01228 45323
London - 0181 508 4202

**FIRST & LAST
MINISTRIES**