

"... Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"

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The Worst Element Within Cultism

Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

Six years ago a nationwide survey was made of cult members, that is, former members, by Flo Conway and Jim Siegelman. It was the first of its kind with regard to the experiences of 400 former cult members representing 48 different groups. This was a completely objective study by these two research specialists. The study included the major cults and some of the minor ones too. The response was wide enough to draw some significant conclusions from the information which was provided. The presentation appeared in the January issue of *Science Digest* of this year. The article carried the title "*Information Disease*" with the subtitle "How Cults Infect Young Minds." The findings reported by these specialists are frightening as to the damage and ruin of thousands of young minds through these mental crippling tactics. The authors point out how the information is being abused, and that the methods used are extremely deceptive. The objective of the cultic leaders is total mind control over those who enter these various cultic systems.

The achievement of these unscrupulous leaders through this new technique is altogether different from that which has been generally designated as brainwashing. The latter was carried on during the Korean War in Chinese and North Korean prisons. Brainwashing is a technique of physical coercion and mental control through torture and by "reeducation" camps. In contrast, the current method of mind control usually begins with a voluntary participation by unsuspecting and naive people. Once these people are ensnared, an intense and skillful manipulation of "information" is carried on until those who are involved are conditioned for the next step, which is the indoctrination process. This leads to the surrender of the minds of those coming under the satanic manipulations of the cultic leaders. The research specialists (referred to in the article) found that these modern techniques brought on a large number of mental, emotional, and serious physical problems among those being dominated. It often led to feelings of fear, guilt, hostility and depression. This also caused violent

outbursts and self-destructive and suicidal tendencies. Former cult members, rescued through deprogramming, tell what the mind control did to them. It brought on disorientation and of "floating" in and out of altered states; as well as recurrent nightmares, hallucinations and delusions. Actually these techniques have brought on a new kind of illness causing disturbance to tens of thousands of young people in America.

Let me quote a short paragraph from the article to which reference is made to mind control: "Research in neurophysiology has established that, from birth, information processing pathways in the brain are shaped and maintained by the steady flow of information throughout the nervous system. Our findings go even further and suggest that, at any age, these same pathways may be altered or impaired by a sudden bombardment of new information or experience." In their long research the authors found that these new techniques of mind control have a lasting impact on the people subjected to such pressure tactics. Former cult members (later set free) tell that this type of mind control made them unable to think constructively, and one of the former cultists stated that her mind had stopped functioning altogether.

Those who are brought within such a system of control usually are fully occupied in performing duties and responsibilities to the extent that they become literally exhausted physically. The fund-raising drives and other prescribed activities are so taxing to the strength of the participants that they also have suffered real health problems. The re-

searchers have pointed out that this has been particularly true among the *Moonies* and the members of *The Way*. The grueling schedule for the victims of mind control often requires over 40 up to 70 hours weekly in these strenuous activities.

The respondents to the questionnaires (by former cultists) said that without exception, the most compelling acts of mind control were the intense daily rituals or therapeutic practices required of every group. In addition, up to 20 to 30 hours a week were spent at lectures, seminars, workshops, or required private studies of cult doctrines. Nearly all of the 400 respondents reported experiencing some lasting health problem, and two-thirds experienced long-term emotional difficulties. "When I left the cult," said one former member, "I felt broken, shattered, and terrified of everyone and everything, mainly myself." And, an ex-moonie raged: "I'm really mad!" Another ex-member wrote, "The overall impact of these experiences were devastating."

What Remedy Is Available?

No doubt deprogramming has been very successful in bringing back to reality many of these unfortunate people who have come under the domination of the satanic leaders of the cults. Deprogramming, has, however, become a sensitive civil liberties issue. Cultic spokesmen have condemned it as a violation of individual rights and constitutional guarantees of religious freedom. But, most of the respondents to the questionnaires praised deprogramming as a life-saving intervention that helped them to regain their freedom of

thought. It might also be pointed out that deprogramming is a vital first step on the road back from cultic mind control methods used on those who have been victimized. It will take time, however, for the weakened individual to rebuild his thinking and decision-making capabilities. This might be considered as analogous to the effort made in strengthening an injured muscle. One former Krishna disciple said, "Deprogramming was a godsend." Another individual declared philosophically, "Being deprogrammed forced me to accept responsibility of my actions and control over my own life." Most of the respondents to the questionnaires referred favorably to the method of deprogramming being used. In fact, for many ensnared people deprogramming appears to be the only remedy available for the victims of mind control.

Mistaken Methods Used

For a long time Christian organizations and writers have devoted most of their time and effort to pointing out the specific areas where the cultic groups have deviated from the Scriptures. This is, of course, a commendable procedure to follow. Indeed, doctrinal deviation is a very serious matter. It separates the cults from the Bible-believing groups. But in a larger context, it is clearly evident that not nearly as much attention is given to the devastation caused by the mind control techniques used by the cultists. Somehow, most people have no real awareness of the systematized techniques used by the cultists in gaining full mind control over their followers. It should also be stated that it is more difficult to gain

the release of those subjected to mind control, than to restore such people to sound Biblical doctrine. There should be at least a balanced effort in seeking to help the ensnared people of today.

It is nothing less than startling to read the warnings presented by the researchers after their six-year study and survey of the activity of cultic groups. Listen to their solemn statements: "Daily we receive new evidence that cults in America are wreaking havoc on the minds and lives of millions. Yet each day it becomes clearer to us that support for official action from those in positions of responsibility is virtually non-existent." This is a clarion call, it seems, for a renewed effort in seeking to help these people who are subjected to the mind control activities of the cultists. Let us never hide behind the shopworn excuse that we are forbidden by the Constitution to inquire into the practice and operations of the cults. While the courts have ruled repeatedly in favor of religious freedom, they have not given unlimited freedom to practice belief in ways that may violate existing laws or pose a threat to the health and safety of individuals or society.

An Informed Christian Public Is Needed

In a day of great complexity of religious activity, it is imperative that Christian organizations and publishers keep abreast of the major developments in our country with regard to the cultic situation. The mind control method has emerged as a dominant technique among many of the major cults. This present-day development demands a wide understanding of the techniques be-

ing used by cultists. Our office has served as an agency of enlightenment for more than thirty-five years in keeping our constituents informed regarding the work of the cultists. We have collected a big selection of literature which covers the present cults. Sometimes prodding people in securing literature and information in these matters may become necessary. There is no substitute for being knowledgeable in the activities of the cults. All around us lives are being ruined, some permanently, by the satanic agents of delusions. Full mind control appears to be the leading method by the adversary during the latter days. The apostle

Paul refers to the vast field of operation by the satanic forces: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). The cultic leaders engaged in the mind control tactics are simply instruments of satan in leading people astray and away from God's truth. We need an extraordinary awareness of the delusions of the latter days. The lasting remedy is the gospel of Christ. In fact, it is the best antidote to break the power of satan over misguided human beings.

Creation VS Evolution

*By Dave Breese, president,
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The discussion is on once again, in a big way!

It is the discussion that amounts to "Evolution vs. Creation," and it has moved into the public press and into the area of legal contention, an Arkansas courtroom. Not since the Scopes trial has the subject been in the public mind in such a large way. Be very sure that the decision in the court in Arkansas which was adverse to the creationists point of view will not end the discussion. There are simply too many people, many of them sophisticated scientists, who do not believe that the life of man is in biological succession to that of the beasts of the field. The decision of the court therefore will not serve to depreciate the creationists point of view so much as it will further erode the reputation for fairness of the United States judicial system.

One happy result of this controversy however is that the discussion of the matter between creation and evolution has once again been put on the table. In a way greater than has been the case in many years, the question is being pressed upon thoughtful people, "Is evolution true?" "Is there a God who created man in His own image, and nature on a lesser level?" "Is there a hierarchy of value and intelligence in nature?" "How old is man, the world, the universe?" The Christian has a special interest in these questions because they touch not only science but philosophy, logic, religion and theology. Indeed, it is a devious mind which can convincingly separate "science" from faith.

In considering the truth of these things, let us think for a moment about the evolutionary point of view.

It would be well to consider this notion in the light of the known facts of science. Among them are the following:

1. *There is no evidence that man has been in the world more than 10,000 years.* The earth shows abundant evidence of human habitation back to approximately 4,000 BC. In an unbroken trail of data going back to that date, there are remains of cities, walls, foundations, potsherds, weapons, millstones, bones and skulls aplenty. Before that time, there is simply nothing, nothing!

It is true that some have picked up a fragment of bone or another piece of something and said, "This is 200 million years old." Why do they say this? How do they know? There is simply no method whatsoever by which such things can be dated. In addition, one instance of anything is statistically meaningless. Forgetting this and led by desire rather than data, the scientists accepted Piltdown man, and Heidelberg man, which remains turned out to be simply hoaxes.

2. *There is no verifiable method of establishing the age of anything at whose creation we were not present or which was not accounted by reliable witnesses.*

A superficial examination of the geological world leads one to assume from appearances certain notions such as the idea of great age. "It took millions of years for the rock to be formed, the mountains, etc." says the geologist. In so speaking, he is stating not a fact of science but an attitude of faith. The article of faith in which he is evidencing his belief is called "the uniformity of nature."

This article of faith presumes that, "Processes observed and measured in our verifiable time are the same in all time." But alas, this faith is false, and every scientist knows that it is false.

Science itself knows that all processes are variable, relative, influenced by the presence of moisture, pressure, light, radioactivity, cataclysm and a thousand known and unknown variables. Age, in a geological sense, therefore cannot be measured; it can only be assumed. Assumptions about the distant past, being *a-posteriori* reasoning, are not even subject to a "law of probability." They are made "in mid-air," based on data unproved because it must forever remain unproveable.

3. *There is no evidence of permanent mutations in nature.* Genetic changes have been noted within a given animal, plant or other biological entity. These however have *all* proved themselves aberrant and are always unreproduced in subsequent generations. *Species do not change.* Every biological strain has reproduced *without exception after its kind.* Always this is the case.

There is therefore no "tree of life," an original trunk from which all species came. There are only *trees* of life. To insist on a genetic linkage between them is not science at all, it is rather a notion for which there is no evidence. It is in fact "faith" (read "presumption").

4. *Evolution gives no explanation of the moral nature of man.* If evolution is true, it is impossible to argue that anything is "right" or "wrong." Nevertheless we "know" that one biological entity killing another in the animal kingdom is simply "a law of

nature" and has no moral significance. When we are speaking of man, however, we assume the presence of moral values, and therefore when one man kills another it is called "murder." Rational men, however, degenerate they have become, simply do not admit that "the law of the jungle" has a valid application to human beings. However depraved a man may get, there is a light within his soul that knows, unless he has a graduate degree in insanity, that the words right and wrong have meaning; they are built into the fiber of our being.

If the evolutionist would face it, he must admit that, if his ideas were true, the difference between all entities in the universe are only accidental, chemical, and life cannot be built on any moral base whatsoever. It cannot be otherwise. The presence of moral values is an idea without foundation unless behind the creation is a holy and authoritative being who has ordained moral law by which beings who know they are moral beings are supposed to operate. If we do not admit the existence of moral law, on what basis do we condemn the Nazis, the Communists, the Mau Mau who, apart from moral law, are simply doing what comes naturally.

In addition to this, time would fail to ask the evolutionist to explain nuances of personality, the human soul, the existence of such things as love, compassion, purpose, patience or self-sacrifice in the world. To explain these on the basis of accidental chemistry is an insult to human intelligence. In its simplest form, if evolution is true then man is an animal. If man is an animal then

Shakespeare never lived, and the question, "To be or not to be" is not a question at all. Falsity leads to absurdity and absurdity to death.

We should not be surprised at this descent into absurdity on the part of modern man, however sophisticated. The wisdom of the wise is foolishness to God, and He will simply bring it to nothing. The laboratories of the scientists and the think-tanks of the philosophers are a huge joke compared to the wisdom of the eternal God. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh," the Bible says, "and the Lord shall have them in derision." As a man who is blind may deny the existence of the sun, so the man of this world is blind, not merely to spiritual truth but to obvious facts. "As the watch demands a watch-maker, so the world demands a world-maker" is an assertion which will be denied only by the mind which has taken leave of its senses. Make no mistake about it, a strange insanity has settled upon the otherwise thoughtful people of our generation, whereby men deny their own nature and insist on the madness that life has no reason or purpose. The Christian, of course, refuses to join in such suicidal attitudes and recognizes truth when he sees it. He knows that propositions such as the following are simply irrefutable:

1. *Only creation explains the existence of matter.* Evolution, after all is said, gives us no suggestion whatsoever as to how something was brought into being out of nothing. The evolutionist must inevitably believe in the eternity of matter both past and future. This, despite all his denials, is a huge step of faith for

which he has no scientific basis whatsoever. How beautiful by contrast is the statement of Scripture that God created the heavens and the earth and He did so *ex-nihilo*, "out of nothing." The person who professes to know facts of antiquity which are more than that or different from that simply cannot make this profession from knowledge or science. He simply must insist that all of this happened by accident, thereby forgetting that even accidents have causes.

2. *Only creation explains order in the universe.* By observing the facts of our world we see that the sun shines, the grass grows, the rain falls and nourishes the world. Food is produced, and animals and people live. Apart from this order, this beautiful arrangement, we would all die or, more correctly, we would never have lived. To explain this, the scientist gives us a meaningless expression like "Elan Vital" or "Life Force" or "Natural Selection" or something. By so doing he is explaining nothing but merely giving an arbitrary name to a process within nature which, when we think of it, must come from outside of nature. This because the second law of thermodynamics insists that all nature processes are running down and cannot be sustained from within themselves.

3. *Only creation explains the difference between man and animals.* One of the most obvious, apparent, undeniable facts of our existence is the chasm between the animal world and the world of man, which is simply unbridgeable. We conduct our lives on the most apparent of all facts, that man is "something special." He has God-consciousness, self-consciousness, discrimination between

"is" and "ought" and many other qualities unknown to the animal world. Say what we will, animals are not like this. Nevertheless we have in our time the attempt on the part of some to insist on the democratic relationship between man and animals—a form of miscegenation which is beneath comment and contempt. Still the Muppet Show of modern science continues, on which Joan Baez sings with a gathering of animals, "Will the circle be unbroken?" A ghastly business indeed.

4. *Only creation explains man's moral nature.* One of the most hopeful, reassuring truths ever made in the history of the world is the announcement in the Word of God that He created man in His own image. Therefore the life of man is not in succession to the beasts of the field but rather his heart beats in consonance with the loving heart of the eternal God. Every person who has not dropped into reprobation knows this, despite the efforts of the B. F. Skinners of this world to tell us otherwise. Because man has a moral nature he is conscious of such things as good and evil and he, unless his heart has become darkened, is conscious of his obligation to do good and eschew evil. A person who is not conscious of this is named in the Bible as a "natural brute beast, made to be taken and destroyed" (II Peter 2:12). Man's consciousness of his moral nature is the basis of all law, all sanity, all purpose and all reason in life. It is true that some human beasts are attempting to destroy this nature. In their foolishness they forget that if they succeed, like a cancer which is destroyed when it kills the body on which it feeds, they themselves will die.

Within the moral universe in which we live, the existence of sin and death is only explained by creation. If one believes in evolution he hardly can also hold that Adam was a real individual. In this, he contradicts the Scripture which says, "By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin" (Rom. 5:12). The existence of sin and death is not a "normal function of life." It is rather an aberrant phenomenon. An invasion of good by evil. The problems of humanity are explained by the evolutionists as "insufficient development" which will be corrected by future progress. The Christian pursues no such delusion, knowing that man's problems are a result of sin which is only corrected by redemption through the blood of Christ. Christian truth and evolutionary ideas are therefore mutually exclusive. No consistent evolutionists can affirm the moral nature of man, without which all else is instantly absurd.

5. *Only creation offers a valid human destiny.* If man is merely the result of an impersonal evolutionary process, he cannot hope, cannot aspire, cannot anticipate with any certainty that his personal life will be a continuing thing. He cannot affirm that there is any ultimate judge in history and must deny that there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. He can therefore only build his life on Ingersoll's hopeless foundation of "unyielding despair." He was born without reason and will die without hope. With evolution, life itself is therefore without eternal meaning, an accident of a purposeless history. I admire the courageous inconsistency of the atheist-evolutionist who still loves his wife, cares for his children and sacrifices for others.

Even the Apostle Paul considers this inconsistent when he said, "If the dead rise not, let us eat and drink: for tomorrow we die" (I Cor. 15:32).

The Christian, however, believes no such point of view. The same God who gave him a valid witness as to the nature of his beginning—created in the image of God—also tells him he is a creature of eternal destiny. By faith in Jesus Christ he has "The hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2). The Christian therefore lives in the optimistic confidence that this life is a prelude to a better one to come. His existence in this world, ordained by God is but the first phase of a life that will go on forever in the glory of heaven.

The marvelous Christian doctrines therefore of creation, the fall of man, redemption in Christ, personal salvation and eternal hope—these are not preposterous propositions that were invented by irresponsible and demented minds. These are articles of faith which we believe because of Divine revelation and they have become the anchor of our hope. We believe in the existence of a God who loves us and who does and will preside above our eternal destiny.

The evolutionist denies all of these things. Even as he does, however, he looks about him at a world which, contrary to his notions of progress, is turning more chaotic and dangerous with every day that passes. He sees his society filled with murder, alcoholism, crime, drug addiction and a thousand other evidences of human hopelessness. The Christian will therefore pray that the evolutionists and the atheists of our world will deviate into sense. They will pray

that, during that brief deviation, they will believe the Gospel and receive also the hope of eternal life. The world is not evolving, it is degenerating. It will never produce its implied promise of an evolutionary Utopia. Rather, it will bring to pass by its preposterous science and lack of moral conviction an awful hour called "The Great Tribulation." In the dark hours to come, mankind

will despair even of life as it sees where the false faith in Darwinian fictions has brought him. The myth of natural selection will bring the world to the brink of its own destruction, which destruction will only be prevented by the intervention of Jesus Christ, who created the universe in the first place. To believe in that Creator now is to see Him as a friend in that great day.

A Fresh Look At The Jehovah's Witnesses

By Rev. Ewald Eisele

Very few of the rank-and-file members of the so-called Jehovah's Witnesses know anything about the history of their organization. Very few, probably, would even recognize the names of their "founding fathers." This is very likely a planned strategy of each successive president because each one seems to ignore the former presidents, and even some of the lesser leaders so that they themselves might have the entire limelight.

The religious system which today is known as The Jehovah's Witnesses, and run by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, was born in 1884 when Charles Taze Russell organized the Zion's Watchtower and Tract Society. Pastor Russell, as he wanted to be called—even though he never pastored a church—was a typical skeptic until he was 18 years old. It was then that he came under the influence of "Millerites," the forerunners of the present day Seventh Day Adventists. Later on he also came under the influence of the Christadelphians. Though Russell "borrowed" many of the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses from these two sources, present day Witnesses

deny the connection, and often deny that Russell was THE founder of their movement. In his lifetime Russell was a prolific writer, publishing the Millennial Dawn series of books that sold over ten million copies.

When Russell died, in 1916, J.F. Rutherford assumed the leadership of the organization, known since 1896 as The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Shortly after his assuming leadership there was one of several instances of dissension within the hierarchy. The result was hierarchy. The result of this one was that some of the deposed board members formed new organizations, such as, Dawn Bible Students Association and The Layman's Home Missionary Movement. Rutherford, too, was a writer. It is claimed that from 1921 until his death in 1942, 337 million copies of the books and pamphlets that he authored were sold or freely distributed, world wide in eighty languages.

In 1942 N.H. Knorr was elected as Rutherford's successor. It seems that just as Rutherford ignored Russell, so Knorr ignored Rutherford. The strange thing about all of this is that

though Russell is ignored, his theology is still in force with but few modifications. When Knorr died in 1977, F.W. Franz assumed the leadership.

There are three functioning corporations that hold the property and publish the literature of the organization: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, International Bible Students Association, incorporated in England, and Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Brooklyn, NY.

The name, "Jehovah's Witnesses," was officially adopted at the 1931 international convention in Columbus, Ohio, though Rutherford claimed that, "Jehovah's Witnesses have been on earth AS AN ORGANIZATION for more than 5000 years." The Witnesses are organized in the U.S. in six major regions. Each region has 154 zones with innumerable companies, each controlled by a representative appointed by the Society. The rules and regulations are formulated by the very select group of 18 leaders in the Governing Body in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Speaking of rules, it would be easier to try to keep the laws, ordinances and even the traditions of the elders of Israel in the Old Testament than to try to keep up with the rules and changes and doctrines of the Watchtower. The governing document is called "Branch Organization Procedure" and has 28 subjects into which are divided 1177 "Policies and Regulations." This is an organization that governs with fear as their most potent weapon. Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses have testified that though

they *hated* going from door to door, for instance, they continued on because they were told that if they wanted salvation they had to do it. Early in their indoctrination Jehovah's Witnesses are told that *whatever* comes from the Watchtower Society is not to be questioned because the Society is God's channel for all Bible understanding and daily conduct.

On the surface the organization seems to be getting bigger and stronger all of the time. But under the surface all is not well with this false religion which claims to be the only true religion in the world. While there has been growth—4% in 1981 worldwide—one out of EVERY two who are baptized eventually drop out. Between 1969 and 1979 church records show that one million members "disappeared." Some of these quit the "Kingdom" while others were "disfellowshipped and shunned" and eventually "expelled." Every year the Watchtower Society formally expels 1% of its members. That this is a tool to instill fear in the rank and file is evident from their teaching that anyone expelled will not rise on the Judgment Day but upon death pass out of existence forever. They teach that this is also the case of one dying while being punished with disfellowshipping.

The main reason why there is such an exodus from the organization is easy to discover because many of the ones who have left are becoming very able spokesmen for the cause of Ex-JWs. For one thing many of the "Witnesses" become disenchanting because "prophecies" made by the 18 member governing body, or the President himself, fail to materialize.

The first failure came in 1914 when the end of the world was to come. When the end didn't come they changed their teaching and claimed that Christ had come secretly. They re-set the date for "the end" to 1915, later "discovering" that it should have been 1918, and still later announcing that it was 1925. Then in the magazine of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, *Awake*, in the October 8, 1963 issue on page 23, the "prophets" made this statement: "True, there have been those in times past who predicted an 'end of the world,' even announcing a *specific date*. Some have gathered groups of people with them and fled to the hills or withdrawn into their homes waiting for the end. Yet, nothing happened. The 'end' did not come. *They were guilty of false prophesying.*"

On the basis of that, it is evident the Watchtower Society is a false agency for it has done the same thing that was condemned in the *Awake* article. They claim to have received their "revelations" from Jehovah, but never in all of God's history of man's dealings with Him has He had to change the message that a TRUE prophet has delivered. Yet the Society had to make literally hundreds of changes in their predictions and doctrines since the beginning of their religious system. It is evident that the "spirit" that has led them was NOT God's Holy Spirit but a spirit sent from the arch deceiver, Satan, and through this spirit and their own deception they have led millions of souls into hell.

But seemingly the "prophets" never learn—or refuse to learn—because they made the same

prediction regarding "the end" in 1975. Now the very fact that there were so many failures should be sufficient evidence to turn any clear-thinking person away from following on with such foolishness. And turn some away, it did. When 1975 came and went with no catastrophe, many were disillusioned and left the organization.

Christians who have an opportunity to witness to the "Witnesses" should use this to show that the Watchtower Society cannot be trusted either to prophesy or interpret Scripture, or to be a responsible or trustworthy leader. Surely a person must be extremely naive or thoroughly brainwashed to continue to place his soul's eternal welfare into the hands of such an organization.

Another reason why some have defected is because a substantial number have studied the Bible instead of the Watchtower literature, and have found that many of the doctrines and practices of the organization were not Scriptural.

For instance, the Watchtower Society teaches that only the 144,000 "faithful" will be "born again" and go to heaven. The "other sheep" who are loyal to the Watchtower Society are promised an earthly paradise. *Time* magazine for February 22, 1982, carried a story of two of the top leaders in the Watchtower Society who were "disfellowshipped" because they insisted on "Scripture alone" rather than the official interpretation of the Word. *Newsweek*, for July 20, 1981, in an article entitled "Are They False Witnesses?," mentioned that in 1979 at the 1800 member vast religious commune, which is the National

Headquarters of the Society, "at least a dozen Witnesses, including a seminary head and a member of the Governing Board, were dismissed for challenging the sect's belief that there is room in heaven for only 144,000 'anointed ones.' "

Some have found the Watchtower's insistence on the "one God, one Person" doctrine to be Scripturally untrue. The Watchtower Society, because they want to deny the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, say that "the Son is a god, but that Jesus was *not* God the Son." They claim to have only one God while Christians have three—Father, Son and The Holy Spirit. They seek to back up this claim with a mistranslation of John 1:1 which was influenced by a translation made by a German who was a former Roman Catholic priest but who turned to Bible translating claiming that "spirits" told him what was the right translation. This man, Johannes Greber, so influenced the Translation Committee of The New World Translation, that they incorporated many of his translations into theirs. The "one God" claim is disannulled by the very verse with which they tampered. In their "translation" John 1:1 reads, "Originally the Word (that is Jesus) was, and the Word was with God (that is Jehovah), and the Word was a *god* (and that is their god number two!)." This is a good point to bring up when there is opportunity to discuss this part of their New Testament.

There are other doctrines and practices that cause dissensions in the ranks of the Witnesses. Because space is limited, a listing of what the Watchtower Society denies and teaches is in order.

THESE THEY DENY: The Trinity—The Omnipresence of God—the Deity of Jesus Christ—The Dual Nature of Jesus Christ—The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ—The Visible Return of Jesus Christ—The Personality of God the Holy Spirit—The Promise of Heaven for All Believers—The Lord's Supper as an Ordinance for All Believers—The Eternal Security of The Believer—and The Conscious Eternal Punishment of the Lost.

THEY TEACH: That Jesus Christ is a Creature—That Jesus Christ is Michael the Archangel—That Jesus Christ was Resurrected a Spirit—That Jesus Christ Returned Invisibly in 1914—That Jesus Christ was only a man while on earth; not The God/Man—That Hell is simply the Grave—That only 144,000 need to be Born Again—That only 144,000 enter the Kingdom of Heaven—That a Majority of "Believers" will remain on earth—That when a person dies, he goes out of existence—That Salvation is attained by energetic works—That Salvation is not instantaneous—That The Holy Spirit is only an Active Force and not a Person—That Collectively Jehovah's Witnesses are a Prophet of God. (This listing is taken from the book, "We Left The Watchtower For Jehovah." Mention of this book is made in the Books in Stock listing in this Discerner.)

They have other peculiar beliefs and practices not common to other cults. They reject human governments, declaring that, "The world is the Devil's organization. It is composed of the commercial, political and religious elements." (CREATION, pg. 232, 1927). "Governments are

part of Satan's organization." (LIGHT, Vol. I, pg. 321, 1930): But they want the *benefits* of government: fire, police, army and navy protection. They don't find it hard to take that the government postal service delivers their pernicious mail. And they are very happy to receive that green money that the government has printed.

Along this same line they relegate to idolatry the saluting of the flag and refuse to do so. But they bask in the freedom won when thousands of men were willing to die for that flag, not worshipping it but honoring all that is stood for.

Hundreds of witnesses have died because the ruling of the cult is that no member is allowed to have a blood transfusion. The transfusion of any amount of blood is viewed as eating blood and to do it one forfeits his chance for eternal life. (BLOOD, MEDICINE AND THE LAW OF GOD, 1961)

The Lord's Supper is celebrated annually, but it is only for the "church." In this case "church" means only the 144,000. Of course some of them have died and so only a remnant can observe it now. The only fly in the ointment is that Russell said that all members of the "church" were glorified before 1914 (Millennial Dawn, Vol. III, pg. 228). Now if he was *really* a prophet of God no one on earth could partake of the supper. However they changed the rules and doctrine and said that now the "church" is composed of all those who are redeemed so all the redeemed can and should partake.

Their "Bible" is the *New World Translation of The Christian Scriptures*, translated and published in

1950. Competent, born again, conservative Christian scholars have examined it thoroughly and rejected it as an unreliable work. Dr. J.R. Mantey calls it, "A shocking mistranslation." "Obsolete and incorrect." Dr. J. Johnson of California State University in Long Beach says, "I am neither a Christian nor a trinitarian." He gives his opinion based on competent Greek scholarship regarding John 1:1, "There is no justification whatsoever for translating 'THEOS EN TO LOGOS' as 'The Word was a god.' "

How should Christians react to Witnesses at the door? The same way the Christian is to react to any other lost sinner. After all, they want to convert you to another gospel, which as Paul said "is not another but there be some that trouble you (JWs), and pervert the Gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:7). They are the ones in need of salvation and when they come knocking at your door they are *your* mission field.

Do not argue. Do not try to force *your* interpretation of Scripture on them. They have been brainwashed or indoctrinated into believing that only the Watchtower Society can interpret Scripture correctly. Let them know *what* you believe and *in whom* you are trusting. Try to get them to study the Gospel of John *without* any of the Watchtower "helps." Offer to study it *with* them. Remind them that their own "Judge" Rutherford said, "If you find that doctrines, when measured by the Word of God, are contrary to the Word of God, then it is certain that such teachings are lies and that a doctrine is a lie, you should quickly forsake it, regardless of who teaches it or how

long you have believed that teaching to be true. Your own welfare and your duty to God demand that you abandon lies, no matter who teaches them" (from RICHES, pg. 178, 1936). Half the battle is won if you can get them to see that the real authority is THE WORD, not what

the Watchtower Society says *about* the Word. Then as kindly as possible remind them of the failures of the Watchtower Society to predict *even one* event correctly. Remind them that they are following a false prophet and lovingly introduce them to yours—the Lord Jesus Christ.

Books in Stock

JEHOVAH OF THE WATCHTOWER, Walter Martin, \$4.95.

After being out of print for some time this valuable work is again available.

WE LEFT THE WATCHTOWER FOR JEHOVAH, Bonnie Gaskill and Toni Jean Alquist Meneses.

A series of letters the authors wrote to the congregation of the Kingdom Hall to which they belonged and to others regarding their being set free from the errors of the Watchtower Society. Loaded with good documentation from the Watchtower's own publications. Very useable.

HOW TO ANSWER A JEHOVAH'S WITNESS, Robert A. Morey, \$3.50.

Besides dealing with answers Mr. Morey has a good bibliography and many photo-copies of Watchtower materials. Closing chapter contains a sample workbook "designed to enable any serious student of the Bible to investigate what the Bible teaches on the subject of the deity or godhood of Jesus Christ."

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, Anthony A. Hoekema, \$2.95.

Really a "best-buy" item. Contains a brief history of the movement, the question of the final source of authority and the doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses. An appendix examines their teaching on the Person of Christ.

Present Need of Religion Analysis Service

Due to excessive postal rates and a big increase in printing costs, we are in a tight financial situation. This is generally true with most publications. One Christian paper with a circulation of 300,000 is mailing the issue every other week instead of weekly (with the same amount of material, however) in order to save money on postage. Ours is a quarterly publication and it must be printed at regular intervals. In order for us to meet our obligations we will appreciate your help now. Thanks.

John E. Dahlin, President

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Pertinent Questions and Answers

John E. Dahlin, Editor

QUESTION . . . Is there a clear distinction between the terms brainwashing and mind control?

ANSWER . . . Frequently people use these two expressions interchangeably, but there is a proper distinction between them. Brainwashing refers to a method of coercion, torture and extreme cruelty. In other words, it represents a ruthless technique to break people physically and mentally with a complete reeducation of those involved. Mind control, on the other hand, is more voluntary, especially in the early stages. Later a more thorough program is introduced with the purpose of achieving the total surrender of the minds of those being misled. This constitutes mind control. It may appear less ruthless than brainwashing, but it is even more crippling and destructive to the human mind.

QUESTION . . . When did the cults begin their organized activities in the United States?

ANSWER . . . The first recognized cult to appear was the Mormon group which was launched by Joseph Smith in 1830. There were a few earlier propagandists of error, but they were not organized. In the 19th century there were only five identifiable cults in our country. Today the number which has deviated from historical Christianity has reached at least 1500.