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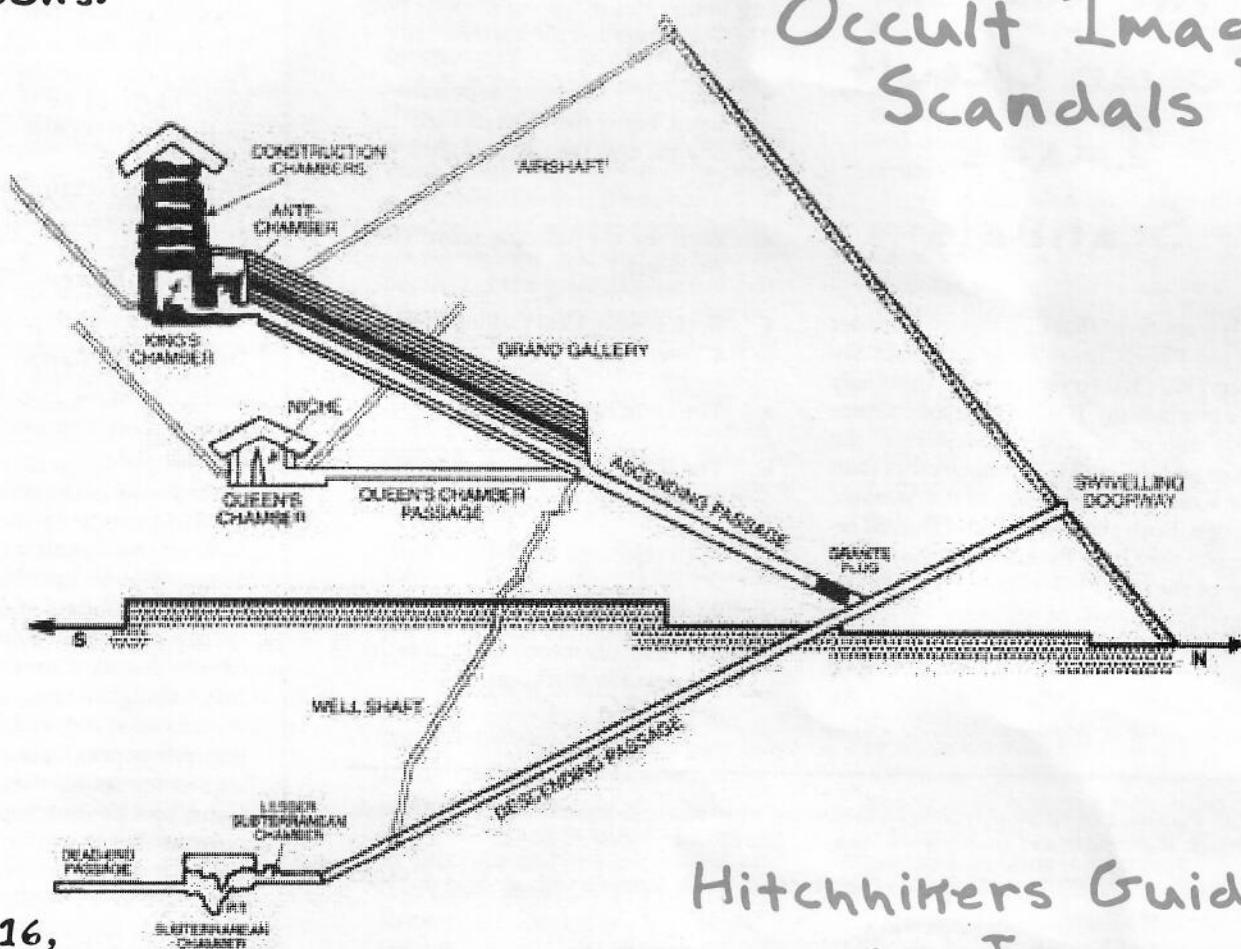
Free Minds Journal

promoting awareness of the Watchtower and other
authoritarian religions

in this issue:

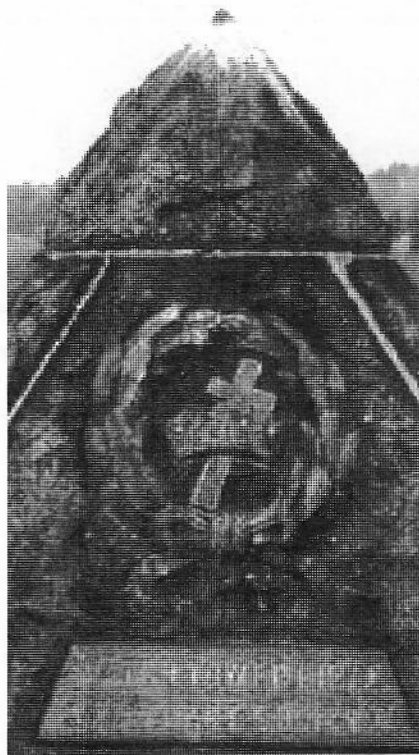
ancient pyramids,
prophetic passages
and the rage in cult
cartoons!

the
Watch Tower
Occult Image
Scandals



vol. 16,
no. 4
Jul/Aug
1997

Hitchhikers Guide
to Jehovahs
Witness Types



the Watch Tower Occult Image Scandals

It is apparent that C.T. Russell (founder of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society) admired secret societies, especially the Freemasons. It is hardly a coincidence that one of his favorite emblems, the cross and the crown, was none other than the Knights Templar logo of the Masonic Lodge. Both the Masons and Russell relied on the Great Pyramid for truth. The use of the name JEHOVAH "is, of all the significant words of Masonry, by far the most important. Reghellini very properly calls it 'the basis of our dogma and of our mysteries.'" (Mackey, Albert G., *An Encyclopedia of Masonry*, Vol. 1, 1871,

Chicago: The Masonic History Co., p. 363 ff) Though other churches of Russell's day used the name *Jehovah*, it became almost a password in Russell's day and did in Rutherford's time (as well as now). Use of the name even overshadowed the words "Jesus Christ," a pattern not found in the New Testament.

There are other interesting parallels between Masonry and The Watch Tower. Russell was fond of using the "winged disk" of the sun god Ra, revealing his fascination with Egyptian religion and mysteries. He placed this emblem on the covers of his *Studies in the Scriptures*. According to *Practical Egyptian Magic* by Murry Hope (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1984, p. 107), the winged disk is "emblematic of the element of air, this consists of a circle or solar-type disk enclosed by a pair of wings. In ritual magic it is suspended over the altar in an easternly direction and used when invoking the protection and cooperation of the sylphs."

Much of Russell's thinking and imagery parallel Masonry and the occult. Fritz Springmeier mentions the following similarities in his out-of-print book, *The Watchtower and the Masons*:

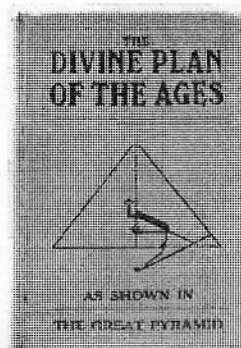
- Jehovah is the most important word, being the basis of their dogma, and the name of their God.
- Both use the Masonic term "Great Architect."
- Both believe God yielded power to a lesser god.
- The church is a pyramid.
- The Bible is written in code, is a hidden book.
- Both reject the doctrine of hell.
- Both believe a lie is not a lie when one deceives someone not worthy to know the truth.

(continued on page 8)

TOP: Pyramid monument near Russell's tombstone, with cross-and-crown symbol and the words, "Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society" recessed into the stone below it.

TOP RIGHT INSET: Special Edition of Vol. 1: *Studies In The Scriptures* with pyramid embossed on the cover.

RIGHT: Winged sun god Ra symbol, found on much early Watch Tower material.



Free Minds Journal

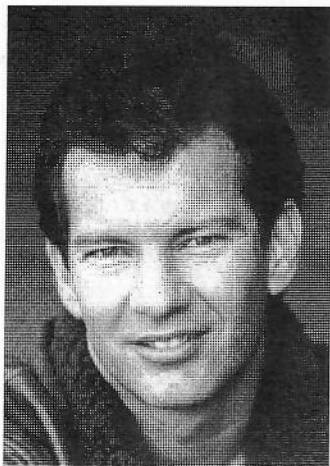
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Letters to the Editor

Watchtower Divides Family

Randy,

I had to write you and tell you how much I appreciate the information on the *Free Minds* Internet web site. I can't tell you how much it has meant to me since I came across it recently.

I am a former JW who began my association in 1986, was baptized in 1988, and left in late 1990. Despite my time spent in the grip of the Watchtower Society being relatively short, it has had (and continues to have) a profound impact on me and my family. I left, not because I had any disagreements or differences with the WTS, but because I simply could not keep up with the demands of the organization and the local congregation. Since then, I have had to live with the guilt and disappointment that I HAD found the truth, but I could not "cut it" — I could not measure up to what I had to be and what I had to do, so I was SURE that Jehovah hated me because I had rejected him. The information on your web site and related sites has done a GREAT DEAL to help me dispel this thinking.

It's like a huge weight has been lifted off of my shoulders. I can't tell you how good it feels to finally be getting free from these thoughts and feelings that I've been carrying with me for the past seven years.

I married my first wife in 1983

and came into contact with the JWs through an acquaintance of hers in 1986. Our marriage was troubled from the beginning, and I had felt spiritually unfulfilled. I was raised Catholic but it never really did anything for me. This seemed like a chance to help mend our marriage and provide the spiritual fulfillment that I was looking for. Not long before we began our Bible study with this JW sister, I had asked God (in despair) to help me get to know Him and serve Him better. I thought that it was HE who sent us this JW sister in response, so was sure that what we were learning was the truth. My wife eventually stopped studying, but I continued to progress (my study was now with one of the local elders). My wife began to oppose me, which only added to the problems we had. We had one young son and another on the way. Shortly after I was baptized, she left me with our two children. Of course I received the usual responses from the congregation, that "they would be my family."

Also during this time, both my and my wife's family were devastated by the fact that we were interested in becoming JWs. My wife's parents ended up canceling a large celebration they were planning for their 25th anniversary because we told them we would not attend. It was to be held in a Catholic church. We honestly wouldn't have minded going, but of course we were told that we shouldn't because of the great displeasure that Jehovah would have toward us if we went inside a church (even though it was for a non-religious event).

My wife and I made a brief attempt to reconcile. I moved to be with her and my sons, but it didn't last long. I could not take the pressures of a failing marriage, a busy job, and the local congregation's great pressure to stand up to my wife and family and ensure that I brought up my sons in the "discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah."

I ended up leaving my wife and filing for divorce. I felt I had to, otherwise I probably would have killed myself. Since I had taken action to leave my wife, I could no longer be a JW. I was going to very few meetings by this time and had just moved to a new congregation, so I don't even know if anyone realized that I just dropped out of sight. I have never formally disassociated myself.

For all I know I may have been disfellowshipped if they found out I

got divorced. But ever since then I have had to live with the remains of that whole experience. I had felt that God was very angry with me since I had failed him. I imagined him saying, "You asked me for help and I brought you the truth, and you rejected it." I have long been ashamed of this. More recently I had begun to think that maybe this WASN'T the truth. Could it be possible that I was misled? These thoughts would occasionally surface. Recently I obtained access to the Internet, so I decided to do some research. What I found has AMAZED me! On sites like yours, the Watchtower Observer, All Along the Watchtower, etc. I have come across a lot of information that I never had access to before. I wish I could have had this information when I first became interested in the JWs. I thought it was strange that they never said much about the history of the organization. Now I know why! I also found that there are a LOT of people out there who have left the WTS and are doing just fine. Also, being a logical person, I very much appreciate the information and evidence on doctrinal issues that is presented. It has helped me see that there IS a side to these issues OTHER than the one presented by the WTS - and usually it makes a LOT more sense!

This has been my biggest problem since leaving. If I could see enough information that this WASN'T the truth (or at least that it was very possible that it wasn't) then I could free myself from the bondage of fear and doom that I have been carrying. I could not understand why God, when I honestly desired to serve Him, would prove to be so HARD to serve. If only I could feel that maybe God DOESN'T hate me.

The information I found, primarily at the Free Minds web site, has allowed me to do this. I am also now having thoughts of trying to repair the damage done to my family. They were happy to know that I wasn't interested in being a JW anymore, but my relationship with them has never been the same. Now I am beginning to feel like I can go back and have some closure on this issue. I have been too ashamed to bring it up before.

What about my own spirituality? I feel like I have a ways to go yet before I can repair the damage done there. I know I don't really want to go back to the Catholic church, but I feel like I am not yet ready to do anything.

I know in time I will, though. This is the part that makes me realize the most how much damage can be done by the WTS, even in a short time.

Again, I wanted to say thank you for the help the information at the Free Minds web site has been to me. Keep up the outstanding work!

Sincerely,
Dave Ross
dross@vnet.ibm.com

Mom Commits Suicide

Dear Randy,

I recently read the site on the incidents of suicide among Jehovah's Witnesses and associates of Witnesses. I wanted to send a message letting you know just how touched I was. Moved to tears, in fact, about what I read. You see, I have my own story to tell which closely parallels those told on your page. I am 34 years old. My parents began studying with the JW's when I was 9. By the time I was 14 my family was actually destroyed. My parents suffered immensely from the strict, legalistic confines of this religion. By the time I was 16 my mother had been disfellowshipped. Ironically, however, the very thing that motivated my mother to join this church was the fact that she was a lonely housewife without any friends or interests. What killed her was the very thing that drew her to them in the first place. My mother, soon after her disfellowshipping, shot herself and died. I witnessed the entire scene. My mother had learned to build her entire world around the organization. Hence, when she was disfellowshipped, she lost everything. In her mind, she had no one and no hope.

Witnesses would run into my mother in shopping areas and completely and coldly look right through her as if she was a piece of glass. I saw this and felt so sorry for my mom. Not one single witness EVER sent condolences or attended her funeral. I write this letter on behalf of my mother who cannot speak from the grave. This is her voice. Please take heed.

P.S. My father remarried a JW and continues on in "the good news." I am

disfellowshipped and therefore shunned by my own father and brother.

Sheryl K. Martinelli
swtpkl@hotmail.com

Living A Nightmare

Dear Randy,

I am finally doing what I've wanted to for a long time – write to you. It's been just over two years since I walked out of the Kingdom Hall for good, and almost as long that I've subscribed to your wonderful newsletter, the *Free Minds Journal*. Since I've subscribed, I have also ordered dozens of superbly helpful books out of your catalogs. Without all this written information and support, I would have never made it to this point.

I have been through a mind-boggling almost 30 years of hell since my association with JW's. I grew up a Catholic, went to parochial schools, lived close by a monastery; and by the time I was 16, had experienced so much abuse, cruelty, and hypocrisy from the nuns, priests and monks that I left the Catholic church in great disillusion and pain. Enter JW's. They approached me at school, and they were so kind, so sympathetic, so comforting, plus the thought of living on a restored paradisaic earth sure appealed to me. I never looked forward to floating around in heaven with the angels; that seemed so boring, certainly not appealing enough to get me to care about my "after life." But this, oh yes, I could definitely warm up to this.

My mother and brother also got involved with JW's, and within six months the three of us were baptized. To this day, I do not remember the experience of driving down to Dodger Stadium from the San Francisco Bay area, staying in a motel, and from my mom's own words, "...pacing up and down the motel muttering, 'I don't think this is a good idea; I don't think I should go through with this; this is all a big mistake, etc. etc.,' all night long, like a crazy, demented lunatic." I don't remember standing in the blazing hot sun for hours with 1,000 other baptismal candidates. I don't remem-

ber anything about the whole week.

Soon after that, I began to dislike going to the Hall more and more. I heard things I hadn't seemed to hear before, so many things that didn't make sense, or were contradictory or bizarre, or just plain discriminatory against women. I came away from the meetings angry and feeling guilty because I couldn't seem to force my mind to have a meek, accepting attitude. I began to see the old familiar hypocrisy around me, and this was much worse and harder to accept and swallow than when I was a Catholic.

So I quit and moved away from that area. For a while I was relieved to be free of this new oppressive, bizarre, crazy-making burden, but eventually it started to get to me again. You know – the deteriorating world conditions, the seeming purposelessness of life, trouble, strife, unrest, violence, drugs, increasing callousness and immorality of the people all around me everywhere. Enter depression and an increasing feeling of hopelessness. Then, knock, knock – guess who? Jehovah's Witnesses. New ones! Maybe these will be better than the last bunch I left behind. So we studied and I liked it, for a while. Then the mental gymnastics began again. When it got too crazy, I quit again, and moved. And so it went for about 20 years. I moved about seven times, and started and stopped studying with JW's in each new location as many times. It was always the same thing – my increasing despair at the deteriorating world around me; and always when I was very low and depressed, knock, knock, who's there – guess who!!

Then, the last go-around I plunged in, studied and quit, but started it back up with the same sister a year later and stuck with it. There were so many things that stuck in my craw, but I figured I was guilty of independent thinking, not humble, so I needed to try harder. I got baptized (again, I guess, but I still can't remember the first time) and became a good, humble Witness sister. My husband of 12 years put me through the wringer, which made me all the more determined to persevere. This made me a righteous martyr, right? Then he completely changed his tactics, started studying and got baptized. All ends



Worst of all, this sister who had been like my “soul sister” for so long, turned on me, betrayed me, and abandoned me. We had become involved in some “worldly activities” which eventually bothered my conscience so much I confided in an elder friend. He took it upon himself to tell the overseer, who called an elders meeting, with the visiting circuit overseer present. The next thing I knew I was sitting before an inquisition. There were seven elders all facing me in a row. Just me. The grilling lasted over two hours. When they

asked me to step out for a moment so they could decide on my “disciplining measures,” I was distraught and ran into the women’s restroom and screamed so much they turned on the intercom and played Kingdom melodies loud enough to drown out my screaming and crying. I accepted my punishment, which was removal of all and any privileges of participation in anything, EXCEPT, YOU GUESSED IT – I still got to go out door-to-door! Wasn’t I lucky!

The best part was, when they asked my former friend about our transgressions, to corroborate my confession, she denied anything and everything I'd said and declared me a slanderous liar. They believed her enough to do nothing and she remained in good standing, while they believed me enough to punish and humiliate me. I tried to be humble and accept my discipline, but soon became sick with the flu and it turned into pneumonia.

So I missed a few meetings. But I just couldn't get better, even after the doctor put me on three different kinds of antibiotics. But the longer I stayed away from the Kingdom Hall, the calmer I started to feel. And eventually I did start to get physically better. It took about three months, and by that time I knew I would never set foot in a Kingdom Hall again. The phone calls dropped off and soon nobody "bothered" with me anymore. And I got better. I found a great therapist who helped me slowly put my shattered mind and emotions back together. I began to rebuild my life. I contacted an ex-JW support group, who put me in touch with your life-saving *Free Minds Journal*.

Last Sunday was Easter. My younger daughter has been begging me for months to take her to church where her little friend goes. I'd sworn I would never set foot in any religious establishment ever again as long as I lived, but I took both my girls to that church on Easter Sunday. As I was sitting there, a warm, peaceful light and wonderful feeling came over me. But then it was instantly replaced by the critical condemning JW tapes playing in my head. I had to fight hard to stop the tears. Even now, the harsh, punitive, severe patriarchal Jehovah of the Watchtower Society will

not let me be happy. I felt overwhelmed with guilt, knowing I was participating in "false religion, Satan's organization," and what's worse, thoroughly enjoying it.

So now I have a new dilemma.
Several, actually.

How can I ever believe and put my faith and trust in anything or any beliefs that JW's taught me were false and satanic; i.e., trinity, hellfire, heaven, accepting blood, to name just a few.

What saddens me most of all is that there isn't going to be eternal life for me in a beautiful paradise earth. I still, after all these years, have no desire to go to heaven and be a spirit and be with God, Jesus and the angels. I just want to stay on earth and get to see and do all the wonderful things this beautiful earth has to offer, which I sure won't get to do this side of Armageddon. But now there won't be the other side either because it seems that was all a big, beautiful fantasy. What's the point of it all?

So now what? I will go back to that nice church again, and take my daughters. They are looking forward to it and so am I. Just being there is a treat, if only my critical JW tapes wouldn't keep kicking in. Am I brainwashed or what!

Thank you so much for listening to me. Thank you for being there and doing what you do. You'll never know how much you've helped me struggle back from near insanity and a broken heart and spirit to a life which is now bearable. If only I could find an answer to my dilemmas, I would be even better. So far so good. Keep up the good work, Randy. Please find enclosed my subscription for another year.

Irma Koyama
(letters can be routed via Free Minds,
Inc.)

Editor:

Good news, Irma. Even after the JW's are long gone, Rev. 21:1-4 still promises that the bride of Christ comes down out of heaven after a time to share the earth as well! Yes, you can have your cake and eat it, too! Celebrate life! -- Randy





new book review...

Jehovah's Witnesses: Their Monuments to False Prophecy

by Edmund C. Gruss,
with Leonard Chretien

PREFACE from book:

Over the years, as a teacher in a Christian college, I have had a number of my articles and books on the cults and the occult published. Three of these books were on the *Jehovah's Witnesses: Apostles of Denial* (1970), *The Jehovah's Witnesses and Prophetic Speculation* (1972), and *We Left Jehovah's Witnesses—A Non-Prophet Organization* (1974). My interest in the Jehovah's Witnesses, concern for their salvation, and examination of their teachings and claims have been an important part of my life since 1950. Why? Let me explain.

I was raised as a Jehovah's Witness for ten years (1940-1950). I was convinced that it was "the truth"—it was

all I knew of religion. In the late spring of 1950, just before graduating from high school, I was challenged several times by some of my friends and their pastor to accept Christ's free offer of eternal life. My first response was to reject what they said, but later in the privacy of my own room, I responded to Christ's invitation (Matt. 11:28-30), and was "born again" (John 3:3, 5, 7, 14-16; 1 John 5:1-13). This decision brought salvation, peace, joy, and a desire and the strength to live the Christian life. The discarding of the many additional doctrinal errors I had believed as a Jehovah's Witness came later with the study of the Bible, the investigation of the history of the movement, and further education and research.

Although I had written material on Beth-Sarim, I had never visited Judge Rutherford's former residence in San Diego, California. This would change in the late summer of 1996, when I went on a short vacation trip to San Diego with my wife. We met with our friend Leonard Chretien and together toured the Beth-Sarim residence and grounds, and then visited what remained of the property known as Beth-Shan, about one-half mile away. The visit stimulated my curiosity in the subject, and I told Leonard that I was interested in doing further research on the properties, with the possible outcome being an article for publication. I asked for his assistance, and he agreed.

Leonard Chretien, and his wife Marjorie, were Jehovah's Witnesses for 22 years of their adult lives, before they left the organization. They explain the reasons behind their leaving in their August 24, 1982 letter of disassociation (see Appendix A), and more fully in their book, *Witnesses of Jehovah*. They also produced a film and video with the same title and they direct an outreach ministry: Good News Defenders, PO Box 8007, La Jolla, CA 92037.

In our research we found information, deeds, court documents, eyewitness accounts and pictures that had never been published before, which are included in this study. What started as an article grew into this book, which could have been expanded considerably with the total integration of all the sources reproduced herein.

Why is this study important? It presents an objective way of establishing that in the past the Watch Tower Society leaders, while claiming to represent God's "sole channel" of Biblical understanding, in reality, were "prophets" who published false prophecy. Their interpre-

tations of Scripture, their claims, and their public statements were discredited. In addition, more recent leadership has not been candid and has sometimes actually misled the average Jehovah's Witness and others, in the presentation of their own history. Examples are cited from *Jehovah Witnesses—Proclaimers of Godly Kingdom* and other Watch Tower publications.

What is included in this study is just a small part of the story of doctrinal changes and false prophecy which characterize this movement. It should be stated, that research on the Jehovah's Witnesses shows that what is "truth" today is often "error" tomorrow; and that new "truth" can also become "error"—sometimes by reverting back to the "error" that the "truth" replaced. That which is of "God" today can be of "Satan" tomorrow, and fulfillments expected "soon" or "very shortly" by the Witnesses have been safely projected for "after Armageddon."

Originally there were only two major chapters planned for this book: one on Beth-Sarim, and the other on Beth-Shan. But when the title—*The Jehovah Witnesses—Their Monuments to False Prophecy*—was selected, it was decided that it would be appropriate to add the chapter on the Great Pyramid, including the Bethel family plot pyramid and C.T. Russell's tombstone, as other "monuments" which are part of Watch Tower history.

--Ed Gruss



This book is now available from Free Minds, Inc. for \$10 plus shipping and applicable sales tax (Calif. only). It is a full 8.5X11 format, 306 pages with much photo-documentation including deeds, news items, etc. See order form.

Jehovahs Witnesses and the Hour of Darkness

by Darek Barefoot

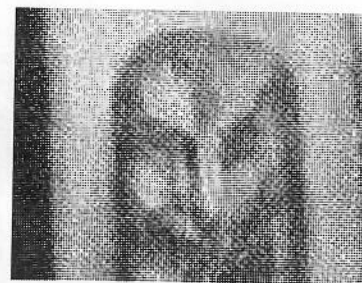
Jehovah's Witnesses can be disfellowshipped (excommunicated) for quite a number of reasons, including offenses such as smoking, gluttony and celebrating one's birthday or even holidays such as Christmas or Easter. Author Darek Barefoot was disfellowshipped in June of 1990 for an altogether new reason: He discovered what he considers to be satanic imagery in the pages of Watchtower books and magazines, which images have appeared from at least as far back as 1983 to the present. Barefoot, once an active third-generation Witness, began his investigation in 1987, while still a loyal Witness and a young family man with two children. The subsequent events that occurred in his life left him divorced, disfellowshipped and disillusioned with what he formerly believed to be God's one true organization.

Though his theory is somewhat tenuous, some of the evidence is quite shocking. Barefoot's personal story, at least, is one I read with great interest, having worked in the printery of the Watchtower myself for six years, from 1974 to 1980. Having spent three of those years as a floor overseer in the book printing department, I was already aware of the pranks of the Watchtower workers, such as making up cartoons with Watchtower illustrations and compiling them into books (I confess, I did it, too!). During the 1979-1980 disturbances among the writing staff there, it came to my attention that at least some doctrinal matters slipped by the scrutinizing eyes of the Governing Body members and was printed in their books and *The Watchtower* magazine before the heresies were discovered. So it is no mystery how certain images could be computer enhanced and changed by one or two persons in the art department, and not recognized as such until much later. While it may be difficult for a half-dozen or so proofreaders to catch subliminal messages, a 1997 readership of over 21 million almost guarantees that anything, real or imagined, will be discovered in the pages of *The Watchtower*. Some of the images Barefoot reproduces are obviously subliminal, though vehemently denied by *The Watchtower* magazine itself, revealing that Barefoot is not the only one who has noticed these images. Unofficial sources at the headquarters have said that one artist was caught putting his own secret trademark in his artwork in the shape of a turtle, but deny knowledge of other incidents.

Hour of Darkness contains several glossy plates revealing what Barefoot refers to as satanic symbols, such as demonic faces, skulls, skeletons, numerous occultic symbols and even the face of Zeus, all of it hidden in clothing, furniture and other benign artwork. While many of the images presented in the book may be unintentional by even the Watchtower's artists, others are disturbing enough to warrant attention.

Not so controversial is the treatment received by Barefoot for attempting to point these images out to the Governing Body. Still a Witness in good standing, Barefoot felt that the Watchtower had good intentions and would correct any such errors and find the culprit who introduced them into the artwork. Instead, most of the book tells the story of how the author was repeatedly rebuffed by elders and high-ranking officials, and finally disfellowshipped for continuing to talk about it. His personal story alone makes it good reading.

Hour of Darkness is available on the order form enclosed. (Illustrations continued on next page.)



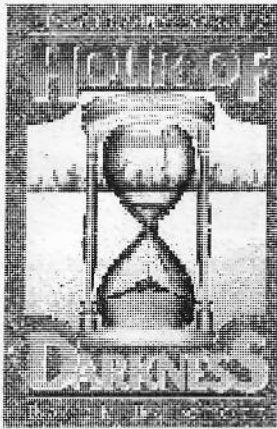
More obvious images

ABOVE:
Enlarged section of a strange detail
from the throne of Christ. *Watchtower*,
April 1, 1990 p. 8

MIDDLE:
An eerie face nestles in the palm of
Jesus as he reaches out his hand for
those to come to him. *Revelation - Its
Grand Climax At Hand!* p. 159

BELOW:
The crown on Jesus' head, enlarged to
see a man upright. *Revelation - Its Grand
Climax At Hand!* p. 180





RIGHT:
Illustration of man drinking
water from a bag in the
Watchtower of Feb. 15, 1990,
p. 25

BELOW:
Enlargement of the man's
clothes and a slight rotation
reveals the face of a monster
with mouth open and teeth
forming the word, "Jah" (a
word commonly used among
Witnesses as a shortened
form of JEHOVAH).



Randy Sez: On Self-Lobotomies

It really takes a new paradigm, a new way of framing life, to capture the HEART of the person, thus bypassing much critical thought process in trade for the experiential side of life, and the incredible singularity of purpose and direction unhindered by secondary considerations makes the switch a drug of very pleasurable and surreal proportions.



Occult Image... (cont. from p. 2)

- Both are fascinated with numbers, and special and cryptic meanings for numbers (numerology).
- God built the Great Pyramid, perhaps by means of Melchizedek.
- Both were very interested in Egyptology.
- Both use Masonic buzzwords and symbols.
- Both regard the Catholic church as "Babylon the Great."
- Both felt blacks were inferior to whites.
- Both met in Masonic halls.

A Word on Gnostic Concepts

"Gnostic" comes from the Greek, *gnosis*, meaning knowledge. It has traditionally been used to describe the belief that

knowledge is power, especially knowledge of the secrets of the universe. Gnostics believe that only a select few are entitled to this "secret knowledge," and they are the ones who are truly enlightened. The Freemasons (commonly called Masons) believe in different levels of knowledge, up to 33 levels or "degrees." Each step up the ladder reveals new secrets, giving the initiate a kind of power over others.

Gnosticism relies heavily on rationality in forming its belief structure, as does the Watchtower. Though from the time of their second president onward they began to discard occultic symbolism, and Rutherford (second Watchtower president) later reversed their position and said that the Great Pyramid was built by Satan, the gnostic influence (emphasis on correct knowledge, available only to the "true" believers) is still ever-present in their teachings.

Charles Taze Russell was heavily influenced by Gnostic thinking, causing him to deny eternal punishment due to its unreasonability, and the Trinity because it was illogical. Much emphasis was placed on the need to be educated in the

revealed secrets that just happened to be released as "new light" in the pages of *The Watch Tower* as well as his series of books entitled, *Studies in the Scriptures*, many of which had aforementioned emblem of the sun god Ra on their covers, a common occultic symbol. To give you an idea of the extent of Russell's emphasis on obtaining this knowledge, which (to him) was more valuable than reading the Bible, here is a quote from *The Watch Tower* of Sep. 15, 1910 (p. 298):

"Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the SCRIPTURE STUDIES aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years—if he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the SCRIPTURE

STUDIES with their references, and had not read a page of the Bible, as such, he would be in the light at the end of the two years, because he would have the light of the scriptures."

Throughout the history of the Watchtower up into modern times this same theme has been echoed over and over, telling Jehovah's Witnesses that they have obtained a special knowledge that cannot be obtained from just reading the Bible, and that it is vital to remain under the teachings of the Watchtower in order to retain these wonderful secrets. Two quotes from more recent sources will suffice:

"Consider, too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or active force... To it alone God's Sacred Word, the Bible, is not a sealed book... How very much true Christians appreciate associating with the only organization on earth that understands the 'deep things of God'!" (The Watchtower, July 1, 1973, p. 402)

"Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible. For this reason the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind." (The Watchtower, Oct. 1, 1967, p. 587)

The Watchtower even claims to preach a NEW gospel, not preached in centuries past, "of God's heavenly kingdom that was established by the enthronement of his Son Jesus Christ at the end of the Gentile Times in 1914." (The Watchtower, May 1, 1981, p. 17) It was "new light" from the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, giving them their message of the invisible return of Christ in 1914, instead of the historical gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (1 Cor. 1 5:3,4)

Apparently, one cannot gain the truths of God apart from the "secrets" of God's plan that have been revealed as "new light" by the Governing Body over the years. The Bible is simply not enough. Even their translation of John 17:3 as "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." Other Bibles more

accurately render the passage as "knowing God" as opposed to "taking in knowledge." It more properly has the meaning of gaining intimacy rather than learning facts. The pattern is laid out in Acts chapter two, where salvation came to thousands from hearing the word of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, and their subsequent repentance and conversion, passionately giving their lives to Christ. Nothing else was necessary for them to be called "saved." (Acts 2:41,47)

The teaching that Christ returned invisibly in 1914 is supposedly only discerned by those with true Wisdom, according to the Watchtower. Their explanation of Rev. 1:7 of the return of Christ ("Every eye will see him") is that only those who have true spiritual insight (meaning JW's) will discern his presence, while the rest of mankind is oblivious to it. A classic example of Gnosticism!

Other secrets kept by the Watchtower include: How one knows if he is of the special "anointed" class which will rule with Christ. This knowledge is consistently explained as a mystery to outsiders (which, in this case, not only includes non-Witnesses, but over 99% of the non-anointed Witnesses!).

A greater secret lies in the way God supposedly communicates with the president or members of the Governing Body. It is none of the rank-and-file Witnesses' business how it happens. Rutherford once wrote:

"These angels are invisible to human eyes and are there to carry out the orders of the Lord. No doubt they first hear the instruction which the Lord issues to his remnant and then these invisible messengers pass such instruction on to the remnant. The facts show that the angels of the Lord with him at his temple have been thus rendering service unto the remnant since 1919." *Vindication*, Rutherford, 1932, Vol. 3 p. 250.

"Certain duties and kingdom interests have been committed by the Lord to his angels, which include the transmission of information to God's anointed people on the earth for their aid and comfort. Even though we cannot understand how the angels transmit this information, we know that they do it; and the Scriptures and the facts show that it is done." *Preparation*, Rutherford, 1933, p. 36, 37

"The remnant do not hear audible sounds, because such is not necessary.

Jehovah has provided his own good way to convey thought to the minds of his anointed ones. To all on the outside of the organization of Jehovah his is a secret organization." *Preparation*, 1933, p. 64

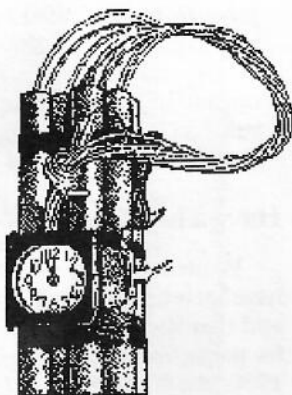
Have They Changed?

Witnesses today will argue that they have "new light" since the time of Russell, and that the Watchtower has discarded its pagan origins. Yet at least up until 1980, one of their Circuit Assembly Halls in Queens, N.Y. had the winged disk prominently displayed inside. They have supposedly (as of 1983) stopped quoting spiritists such as Johannes Greber (used to "validate" their rendering of John 1:1, "the Word was a god"), yet the 1987 Spanish version of *Aid To Bible Understanding* still references Greber!

The gnostic roots of the WT remain in the form of their doctrines. Not only do they still deny the deity of Christ, the Trinity and the existence of hell on the basis of reason, but also they still believe that no one can be saved unless they have learned the message of the WT, including the hidden return of Christ in 1914 and the special "anointed" class. One must believe that the Governing Body derives their ever-changing "new light" secretly from Jehovah. Furthermore, using the name Jehovah is mandatory for inclusion in the "new system." Practically speaking, things have not changed much since the days of Russell. It is expected that the Watchtower will continue to go to gnostic and occultic sources to validate their beliefs, since traditional historical sources demand a more orthodox approach to the Bible!

(For documentation of the above quotes, we suggest Watters' book, *Thus Saith The Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses*. Or, for more quotes like the one below, order *The Governing Body's Famous Sayings of the Eighties*.)

"To walk in divine light and not be misled by apostates, we need proper spiritual instruction. (Read 1 John 2:26-29.) Spirit-begotten ones have an 'anointing' by holy spirit, have come to know God and his Son, and 'do not need anyone [an apostate] to be teaching' them. By his anointing spirit, God 'is teaching' spiritual Israelites 'about all things' needed in order to worship him acceptably. (John 4:23,24; 6:45) We are delighted that as Jehovah's Witnesses we receive such spiritual instruction from God through 'the faithful and discreet slave.'" *Watchtower*, 7/15/86, p.14



THE BOMB (Walkaways & Castaways)

by Gary Busselman

When members of an exclusive, mind-controlling group are forced out of the group as believers, or walk away as believers, something happens to them that affects everyone around them. Since my own personal experience was with the group known as Jehovah's Witnesses, this will be my reference point for this article.

I have had the experience of noting that when some people are active Jehovah's Witnesses, they "hate" everybody and everything that is not Jehovah's Witnesses, just as they are told to do by the group leaders. (I have much evidence to support this statement.) Then something happens at the local Kingdom Hall and the person who hated everybody and everything that was not Jehovah's Witnesses, now is also angry with the Jehovah's Witnesses. They become more or less angry all the time. Any seeming normal behavior is forced, and the next explosion is uneasily waiting just below the surface, like a well-camouflaged land mine, waiting for someone to trip the trigger.

The most aggressive defenders of the Watchtower Society that I have ever met were the believing walkaways and the believing castaways. They are running on guilt, fear, and anger. They are like a loyal, well-trained, bloodthirsty, attack dog who has been getting all his needs met by one master since birth and then the master rejects him.

When this happens to a Jehovah's Witnesses, they have a deep, deep feeling of loneliness that reaches to the very depths of their being. They feel alone

and unwanted and since they are only trained to do one thing... hate... kill... with words, with looks, or with actions, they lash out at whoever tries to befriend them. Living becomes a survival issue and everyone is a player for the other team. Willpower is useless to them, and willpower is useless on them.

This stage may continue until death or until a crisis allows for their defenses to be lowered enough for the start of a complete mental change. The defending walkaway / castaway has a radical problem and it requires a radical solution. They are suffering from a condition that tells them that they failed, that they are at fault, and there are no friends out there to help.

The mental pain is so intense that many, if not most, resort to some drug or behavior to self-medicate. To be in the same room with this person is to risk a confrontation. There are a set of rules, like invisible lines, for existence in the same world as the walkaway / castaway and they do their best to keep these rules secret... until someone steps outside of the line.

Life with such a person is a trial. Husbands, wives, children, and others, trapped by circumstance, hopefully can survive with the knowledge of the situation until an opportunity for a change arises. Sometimes the change is a rather sudden "un-snapping," but more often it is a gradual thing, occurring over a period of time. Confrontations need to be avoided.

During the defending-believing stage, associates of the walkaways / castaways, need to be aware that they are set up as potential enablers of destructive behaviors. The participation as an enabler will only increase the length of time "the bomb" stage will last. ###



Gary Busselman

Witness Loses Personal Injury Lawsuit Over Failure to Take Blood

An article in the *New York Post*, Saturday, June 7, 1997 entitled, "Jehovah's Witness loses \$9.6M 'transfusion' case" tells an interesting story of how a JW woman, whose right hip and left knee were mangled in the 1991 car accident that killed her parents and paralyzed her nephew - didn't want to be operated on, because she would have needed a blood transfusion, which her religion prohibits.

"The doctors said, 'If we don't operate, you'll die,'" Robbins told *The Post*. "And I said, it's against my religion, so you'd better let me die."

Gwendolyn Robbins, a 58-year old Jehovah's Witness, remains a crippled survivor.

An appeals court overturned a \$9.6 million personal-injury award for her on grounds she should have had blood transfusions - even though it's against her religion.

The court voted to overturn the 1995 award, saying trial Judge Edward Greenfield improperly charged the jury with instructions to consider whether Robbins "acted reasonably as a Jehovah's Witness" when she rejected surgery.

Robbins was a passenger in a leased car that careened off an Upstate highway after her 70-year-old father, Jesse Reid, fell asleep at the wheel.

Robbins sued the car-leasing company, Meritor Capital Corp., and that company's insurance carrier. In the trial, Robbins' lawyer, Richard Frank, argued she couldn't use surgery to lessen her injuries because her religion bans it. But the appeals court said Robbins' religious faith didn't undermine her responsibility to try to seek as much medical help as possible before suing for damages.

The court acknowledged that no one can interfere with a person's religious beliefs, but wrote that "the question is whether the consequences of that belief must be fully paid for here on earth by someone other than the injured believer." But lawyer Herbert Rubin, who represented the defense during the trial's appeals phase, condoned the court's decision, saying the trial judge had "deviated from the standard instructions usually given to a jury."

Perhaps Mrs. Robbins should sue the Watchtower, the real source of her pain and misery! ###



Hitchhikers Guide to Jehovahs Witness Types

by Randy Watters

Within any authoritarian organization, one can find certain strongly typical personality patterns. Due to the rather simplistic (though powerful) nature of most control systems designed for the masses, the mechanisms are not too complex. Actually, anyone raised in a family with key authoritarian figures will readily understand it. Those within the Watchtower organization may find the following stereotypes in their home congregation. *Warning!* (It is somewhat campy.)

The Leader(s)

(This is the only one NOT likely to be found in the local congregation, at least not for long. This attitude is reserved for presidents only!) On a mission from God, this one has had the urge for leadership and control in his mind from an early age, but it took many years to figure out how to adopt the greater persona and ego necessary to accompany such drive. This superior ego *humbles* the old self, which can now be deprecated as the "old man" (without mussing the new ego). He has been humbled by God, and now very much desires the *greater persona and ego* that has been

shown to him. His major struggle now is to learn to step aside and let "God" (via the greater persona) speak through him; a struggle that will also take a toll on his followers, as they struggle to purge any vestiges of doubt and critical thinking that remains, so that they, too, can be part of this mission from God.

The Loyal Subject

These are driven by the desire for the approval of others, and in some cases they possess the joy of giving. They love receiving orders, and the carrying out of those orders is one of their greatest joys in life. They have no desire to make their own decisions, so they gladly accept the conscience of others in the organization in exchange for their approval.

The Lazy or Dimwitted Witness

Forgetful, untrustworthy and often clueless, this one serves a dual purpose in the congregation. First, they make all the rest look more evolved on the social scale, and can thus be abused without remorse. These ironically do the bulk of the work, in terms of quantity (hours) but not quality (*Duh! I placed two magazines!*)

The Young Whippersnapper

Whether they were groomed for power or snort it like drugs, some young men will always "reach out for the office of [the] overseer," and when they get to his door, will painstakingly emulate all his actions until the elder(s) get so sick of seeing this twisted mime of themselves that they appoint them to eldership.

Sister Special Pioneer

She possesses the dual advantage of not being taken too seriously by the congregation (because of being a woman) and therefore is not subject to close scrutiny, while intimidating others with her knowledge as well as her style of being rather "up-front" at times. Elders rarely mess with her.

Typical Elder

Elders are either power moguls or reluctant father-images. Either type rarely crosses over, as their roles are very distinct: One creates the messes and the other cleans up. Overworked, usually spends years trying to get there at the cost of his wife and children. Jim Beam may be his best friend in the end.

Old Timer

These never quite got scared enough from the start, so never fully marches to the whole program. They resemble Toto, who wants to see what's behind the curtain in the Wizard of Oz.. Often raised in the organization, these are usually very perceptive and wise. They know to keep mostly submerged in times of trouble, then miraculously become buoyant when politically advantageous. Like cats, they watch the show but are too smart to run it, preferring to mock it from afar. They are not afraid of Jehovah, the devil, or the Circuit Overseer, but can be controlled only through blackmail.

Trouble

Yes, it's their first, middle and last name. This type thrives well in a legalistic atmosphere due to getting constant attention and reinforcing the concept of what NOT to be. The only greater joy these types treasure is the opportunity to make one of the "self-righteous" ones in the congregation look bad. That way they get to feel self-righteous for a change themselves AND receive attention for the heresy hunt they started! This "drug" is only temporary and soon wears off, and they are paid even less attention afterwards, driving them to search for more victims.

Temporary Sojourner

A breath of fresh air coming in, at least until the JW's realize that they may not sell out everything to join. Ultimately branded as selfish and rebellious, not so much for style variation as for retaining common sense. They were never REALLY Witnesses.

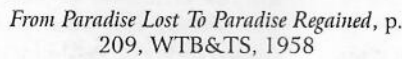
Apostate

Short-lived, quickly disposed of. Not much is known about this breed, except they are worms, leeches, spiritual fornicators, mentally diseased, insane, probably eat small children, etc.

WHAT Did They Say?

Watchtower, April 1, 1977 p. 4:

"Fundamentalist religions often try to force from the Bible what it simply does not contain - the very day and hour of this world's demise. (See Matthew 24:36.) The publishers of this journal prefer to let the Bible explain itself."



better known as:

by Gary Busselman

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PS: LeRoy has been given the privilege of being in charge of the sound equipment at the meetings and no one has fallen asleep since.