DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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CABEEN, TOM (1950-)
A JW raised in Arizona who became a Catholic. His parents joined JWs in 1954 and his father became a circuit overseer.

In 1968 Cabeen joined the Brooklyn headquarters staff and in 1977 was appointed Pressroom Overseer with supervision of a hundred men and 40 printing presses. In 1974 he married another worker named Gloria.

The publication of *Aid to Bible Understanding* (1971) initiated major organizational changes and Cabeen wondered: "If we have been wrong in our understanding of arrangements we formerly thought to be solidly based on Scripture, why couldn't we be wrong about doctrines, too?"

He began to read other Bible translations and became convinced some key JWs doctrines could not be reconciled with the Bible. In 1979 Governing Body member Raymond Franz showed him a letter from C.O. Jonsson, an elder in Sweden, proving that the pivotal dates 607 BCE and 1914 CE are wrong.

Tom and his wife left Bethel and in 1982 he was disfellowshipped after admitting he did not believe the WTS to be God's exclusive organization.

They joined an independent evangelical Baptist fellowship. Further study beginning in 1998 with the ten-volume *Ante-Nicene Fathers* led them to the Roman Catholic Church.

CAESAR'S LAW
A phrase which alludes to Jesus' command to: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21 KJV)

Caesar refers to the Roman Emperor and some modern Bible translations have Emperor instead of Caesar.

Jesus' command is usually understood to obligate Christians to cooperate with whatever government is in power. The Bible requires Christians to pay taxes, revenue, respect and honor to authorized authorities. (Romans 13)

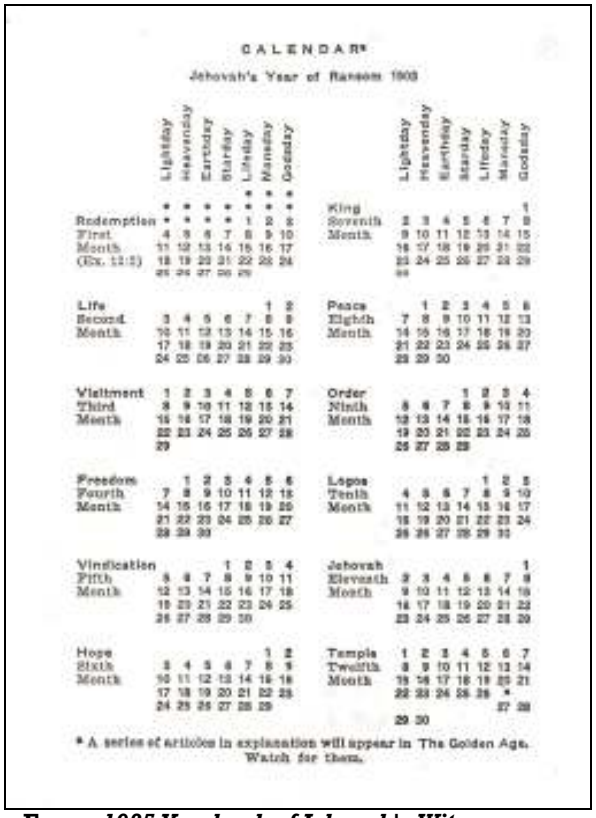
The JWs leaders stress that until Armageddon wipes out all opposition to God's rule, people have to live under the jurisdiction of civil governments. JWs are therefore enjoined to fulfil their civil duties and obey all laws that are not contrary to the Bible as interpreted by the Governing Body. (Acts 5:29)

Unfortunately, the Governing Body regarded the reporting of child abuse to the police as contrary to the Bible unless two observers saw the abuse and testified. In Australia the Royal Commission found 1800 cases of child abuse among JWs by 1000 abusers, none reported to the police.

(See: *CHILD ABUSE; ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE*)

CAFETERIA
Cafeterias, including efficient preparation of mid-day and evening meals, were a regular feature of JWs conventions until the 1990s. The first cafeteria was organized in 1925 at the Magdeburg Convention which Rutherford attended.

CALENDAR



CALENDAR*

Jehovah's Year of Ransom 1908

	Lightday	Heavenday	Earthday	Starday	Lifeday	Manday	Godday
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Redemption	*	*	*	*	1	2	3
First	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Month	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
(Ex. 12:2)	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29		
Life						1	2
Second	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Month	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Visitment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Third	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Month	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29						
Freedom		1	2	3	4	5	6
Fourth	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Month	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				
Vindication				1	2	3	4
Fifth	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Month	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30		
Hope						1	2
Sixth	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Month	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	

	Lightday	Heavenday	Earthday	Starday	Lifeday	Manday	Godday
King							1
Seventh	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Month	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						
Peace		1	2	3	4	5	6
Eighth	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Month	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				
Order					1	2	3
Ninth	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Month	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29		
Logos						1	2
Tenth	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Month	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Jehovah							1
Eleventh	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Month	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Temple	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Twelfth	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Month	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	*	
	29	30				27	28

* A series of articles in explanation will appear in The Golden Age. Watch for them.

From: ***1935 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses***

After Rutherford banned Christmas celebrations on grounds of their supposed pagan origins, Clayton J. Woodworth, editor of *The Golden Age*, extended the principle of rejecting paganism to the names of the months of the calendar and days of the week.

Woodworth's new calendar appeared in the *1935 Yearbook*. The days were named Lightday, Heavenday, Earthday, Starday, Lifeday, Mansday and Godsday. The months were named Redemption, Kufe, Visitment, Freedom, Vindication, Hope, King, Peace, Order, Logos, Jehovah, and Temple.

Although JWs rejected and still reject some popular customs and popular terminology because of supposed religious or pagan connotations and substitute their own customs and wording, Rutherford vetoed the new calendar.

The WTS published pictorial calendars in 1918 and 1919, and calendars with a year-text from 1920 to 1967, and calendars listing *Watchtower* reading assignments from 1968.

Calendars Produced in Brooklyn

1968	678,000
1969	839,000
1970	972,000

(Yearbook 1971, 68)

JWs don't use commercial calendars featuring religious or patriotic pictures in their homes.

CALLOWAY, CHERYL (c.1959-)
College lecturer in Wales, previously a JW, whose story appeared in multiple newspapers including the *Daily Mail* (October 14, 1999, pp 54-55) in Britain, and *The Advertiser* (October 23, 1999, pp 46-47) in Australia.

She describes a childhood of isolation, normal activities denied to her, lack of education and, after 1975, of doubts, heartache, betrayal and distress.

Her father, convinced Armageddon would come in 1975 sold the family home in 1974 and rented a smaller house so as to focus on going doorknocking.

She married but developed ever more questions without getting adequate answers, and felt "suffocatingly trapped", therefore "signed up for a Masters degree" in business studies.

Her husband had an affair with another JW woman whose own husband suffered from a heart condition and divorce followed. Calloway's second husband, a lapsed JW, committed suicide.

Her mother walked out on her father who lost his faith but still went door to door, no longer in support of JWs but to warn people about the sect, thereby "doing what he did before in reverse"!

CAMBODIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Cambodia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memo-rial	Ratio 1 to
1995	13	800,000	65	160,000
2000	70	167,000	327	36,000
2005	195	69,800	1,022	13,314
2010	420	34,500	1,902	7,621
2015	924	16,859	2,251	6,920
2018	1,156	14,053	3,023	5,374
	Ave.			
2019	1,162	14,188	3,033	5,436
2020	1,162	14,388	1,869	8,945
2021	1,128	15,023	2,740	6,185
2022	1,106	15,082	2,047	8,149
2023	1,102	15,295	2,545	6,623
2024	1,161	14,721	2,956	5,782
2025	1,267	13,874	2,660	6,608

The WTS used to base the ratio-to-population calculation on peak publishers but after 2018 on average publishers.

CAMERON, DON
A former JW elder; baptized in 1964; author of *Captives of a Concept* (2005) in which he describes how the theology and behavior of JWs is controlled by the leaders.

CAMEROON
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Cameroon and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	14,012	368		
1975	12,759	509		
1980	11,281	753	18,744	453
1995	24,242	557	76,800	176
2000	27,544	555	84,400	181
2005	30,400	560	90,200	188
2010	36,200	522	91,100	207
2015	41,400	547	97,400	232
2018	44,000	575	98,947	255
	Ave.			
2019	42,000	616	101,800	254
2020	41,900	637	84,320	316

2021	41,800	652	98,800	276
2022	42,300	660	89,200	313
2023	43,000	665	103,600	276
2024	44,144	648	109,100	262
2025	45,885	651	105,700	283

CAMPAIGN

Special door-to-door events planned for certain months and announced in the *Kingdom Ministry* may be referred to as a "campaign". It may be a campaign to offer a certain book or distribute certain pamphlets or to start Bible studies. Month-long campaigns to gain subscribers to the magazines were common in the 20th century.

CAMPBELL, NAOMI (1970-)

Supermodel born in London whose mother, Valerie Campbell, was a JW. In *Vogue* magazine (U.K.) she said, "I brought up Naomi as a Jehovah's Witness, but she must choose her faith for herself… I do give her literature on the subject though when she asks for it." (December 16, 2003)

CAMPBELL, T.

A former Canadian JW who in 1995 launched one of the first critical websites of the JWs sect and the electronic publication *Prophets in the Watchtower*.

CANADA

Publishers and the Memorial attendance in Canada and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	46,800	444		
1975	60,800	364		
1980	66,400	349	128,500	180
1985	84,200	300	157,200	161
1990	101,700	261	179,100	148
1995	113,000	260	190,700	154
2000	111,200	275	185,400	165
2005	109,600	293	181,800	177
2010	113,600	299	188,000	181
2015	115,200	314	187,300	193
2018	116,000	319	183,000	202
	Ave.			
2019	114,600	326	186,000	201
2020	114,600	329	167,300	226
2021	117,400	324	207,300	184
2022	118,000	325	188,700	203
2023	118,900	325	189,600	204
2024	122,300	335	196,600	209
2025	124,400	334	198,000	210

CANNIBALISM

A Governing Body argument against tissue transplants was that such transplants are comparable to cannibalism.

(See: *ORGAN TRANSPLANTS*)

CANON

The "Canon" refers to the documents that constitute the generally-accepted Scriptures of the Bible — 39 documents or books of the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) and 27 in the New Testament (Christian Scriptures).

Insight (1988) says:

> It is certain that at an early date Christians were gathering together the inspired Christian writings.
>
> We read that "near the close of the 1st cent., Clement bishop of Rome was acquainted with Paul's letter to the church at Corinth…" These were all early writers—Clement of Rome (30?-100? C.E.), Polycarp (69?-155? C.E.), and Ignatius of Antioch (late 1st and early 2nd centuries C.E.)—who wove in quotations and extracts from various books of the Christian Greek Scriptures…
>
> Justin Martyr (died c. 165 C.E.) in his Dialogue With Trypho, a Jew (XLIX), used the expression it is written when quoting from Matthew…
>
> Theophilus of Antioch (2nd century C.E.) declared: Concerning the righteousness which the law enjoined, confirmatory utterances are found both with the prophets and in the Gospels, because they all spoke inspired by one Spirit of God. (p.409)

Insight is correct in that Clement, Ignatius, etc, were prominent in establishing the authority of the documents that became the New Testament.

Insight, however, fails to mention, that those early Christians believed doctrines that JWs consider false such as the bodily resurrection of Christ, the soul, and eternal torment. Those early writers also wrote nothing about 1878, 1914, 1925, 1975, the generation of 1914, or hundreds of other JWs beliefs.

From the JWs view Clement, Ignatius, etc, were apostates, very evil apostates!

Insight says:

> Canonicity of a book therefore does not rest in whole or in part on whether some

council, committee, or community accepts or rejects it. The voice of such non inspired men is valuable only as witness to what God himself has already done through his accredited representatives… (p.407)

Acknowledging but by no means establishing the Bible canon that God's holy spirit had authorized were early councils… (p.408)

We have here no explanation of how to determine what writings "God's holy spirit had authorized". *Insight* distinguishes non-inspired from accredited representatives but does not explain how to determine who is non-inspired and who is accredited. Some of the Bible writers claimed to write under inspiration and JWs would therefore consider them accredited. But other people claim there was supernatural guidance for *The Koran*, *Book of Mormon* and other writings!

When Muslims declare that *The Koran* originated from God, JWs do not agree with them by stating, "The voice of such non inspired Muslims is valuable only as a witness to what God himself has already done…" Such reasoning assumes as true the very point that has to be proved but supplies no proof.

Numerous Jewish, Christian and Gnostic writings were circulated in the 2nd century. Therefore, an important question is, "What books legitimately belong in the Bible? What are the criteria for deciding?" *Insight* gives no insight on this, nor do other official writings of JWs, possibly a half-million pages without insight to a fundamental question!

CANVASSING CASE

A 1-kilogram case manufactured by the WTS in 1931 for publishers to carry books for door-to-door distribution. The case had space for 11 books.

CAPE VERDE REPUBLIC

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Cape Verde (a group of islands in the Atlantic off West Africa) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	8	27,250		
1975	36	8,333		
1980	113	2,655	429	699
1985	221	1,364	1,090	277
1990	410	843	2,285	151
1995	1,087	395	4,541	95
2000	1,483	281	5,256	79
2005	1,629	257	7,329	57
2010	1,938	224	8,437	51
2015	2,143	255	8,033	68
2017	2,239	251	7,374	76
2018	2,317	242	7,874	71
	Ave.			
2019	2,283	241	8,377	66
2020	2,226	250	5,419	105
2021	2,273	247	8,830	64
2022	2,265	251	7,336	77
2023	2,242	256	7,802	73
2024	2,239	270	7,595	80
2025	2,257	228	7,095	72

CAPITAL ORGANIZATION

A phrase in use in Rutherford's time, apparently referring to the supposed 1914 Kingdom in heaven, together with the JWs organization and people (i.e. JWs) on Earth subject to it. (World Recovery 1934, 47-63)

In the year 1914 … Christ Jesus received the authority of the kingdom and was sent forth by Jehovah to rule amidst his enemies. The year 1914, therefore, marks the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of glory. (pp 48-49)

It was in 1918 that the Lord began to build up Zion, which is his capital Organization. Necessarily those faithful men who had died in faith would be the first ones awakened out of death and gathered unto the Lord as members of his capital organization. Then followed the gathering of those who constitute the faithful and wise servant class, foreshadowed by Mordecai (Esther 2:5-7) and Naomi (Ruth 1:2-4), and thereafter the gathering of the other faithful ones pictured by Esther and Ruth. (p.49)

Jesus' receiving unto himself those who love his appearing, and the gathering of them to the temple, means the building up of Zion, Jehovah's capital organization. (p. 50)

Jesus is the Head of that capital organization and all members thereof must be joyfully obedience to him. To feed or teach his people the Lord has used the Watch Tower publications… (p.53)

The present duty of: the temple company is therefore plain and is, to wit, to make known the name and the kingdom of Jehovah. Why is this necessary? Because it is God's announced purpose to destroy the powers that now rule the world and to have his beloved Son rule in

> righteousness; and his commandment is that his witnesses must now bear this testimony to the rulers and to the people. (57-58)
>
> The capital organization of Jehovah is dear to his heart, and woe be unto anyone who does injury to it. Let all opposers remember that it is written: "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. (I Corinthians 3:17) Opposition to the organization means opposition to Jehovah. His organization is moving forward to victory and vindication. Everyone of the remnant now on earth must be a preacher of the truth, because such is the commission given to each one. To obey organization instructions is not discretionary, but entirely mandatory. (p.62)
>
> In the organization of Jehovah it matters not whether yon are a pioneer, auxiliary, company worker, printer, dishwasher, or the president of the Society; all are one, and all subject to the Head Christ Jesus. The Lord is no respecter of persons, but everyone is required to perform his assigned duty. Jehovah's capital organization is one grand machine, and every part thereof must synchronize and work harmoniously with every other part. (pp 62-63)

In short — the alleged subjection of the WTS to King Jesus is what justifies its giving orders to JWs and enforcing them. The goal is to keep preaching until God destroys the powers that now rule the world. i.e. until Armageddon. After that the capital organization will be capital of the world.

Question: What happens if the WTS's power and support expands until it can rule the world without a supernatural Armageddon occurring?

CAPTIVITY
See: *BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY*

CAR GROUP
JWs on field-service or doing return visits who share a car.

CARIS (Christian Apologetics: Research and Information Service)
A 1979 leaflet says:

> CARIS is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the Gospel to the lost, especially in religious cults. As part of our ministry, we have a network of lay workers who participate with us in evangelizing Jehovah's Witnesses. We provide them with tracts especially for Jehovah's Witnesses.

The leaflet lists addresses in Africa, Asia, North America, Asia, New Zealand and Australia and names Rhona Johnson, a former JW, as the Australian distributor for the "Help Us Jesus World Crusade to Help Jehovah's Witnesses Meet Christ".

CARIS was founded by Robert Passantino (1951-2003) an Italian-American author and journalist who wrote material on Christian apologetics, philosophy and the counter cult movement.

Passantino lived and worked in Costa Mesa, California and was a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. In 1974-1979 he and his wife Gretchen (1953-2014) collaborated in the counter-cult ministry of Baptist pastor Walter Martin targeting mainly JWs.

Martin had founded Christian Research Institute which he relocated from New Jersey to California in 1974.

Gretchen served as an editorial assistant for revised editions of Martin's books — *The Rise of the Cults*, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, and *The Maze of Mormonism*.

The Passantino couple spoke in evangelical churches about cults, apologetics, the existence of God, and the historicity of the Bible.

They then branched out and founded CARIS, later renamed "Answers In Action", and jointly authored their first book *Answers to the Cultist at Your Door*.

CARR, FIRPO W. (c.1950-)
Black American author, lecturer, and former radio show producer, residing in Los Angeles.

Carr became a JW in the 1970s, pioneered for 20 years, and was a friend of Michael Jackson and Governing Body member Samuel Herd. (Photos of Herd and Carr appear in w2001 1/15 24-25).

There were rumors of Carr leaving JWs but he gave online support to the WTS website when Russia seemed ready to ban it. (*Firpow Files Magazine*, January, 2014)

Carr's published books include:

- 2012 *Germany's Black Holocaust 1890-1945*
- 2012 *How To Keep Your Pants On and still feel good*
- 2011 *The Re-Assassination of Malcolm X*
- 2011 *The Divine Name Controversy*
- 1997 *Wicked Words: Poisoned Minds—Racism in the Dictionary*
- 1994 *Are Gays Really Gay?*
- 1993 *A History of Jehovah's Witnesses: From a Black American Perspective*

CASSETTE (AUDIO) TAPES
In 1978-1981 the WTS progressively issued recorded readings of their *New World Translation* New Testament on cassette-player tapes.

From 1981-1984 further audio tapes were produced — *Kingdom Melodies*; *My Book of Bible Stories*; the *New World Translation* Old Testament; and several convention dramas.

In 1987 *The Watchtower* became available on cassette tapes; in 1988 *Listening to the Great Teacher*; and in 1990 *Awake!*

In 1987 the WTS produced about 500,000 cassettes each month:

> These include recordings of Bible books, dramas with Bible themes, and songs… (g1987 11/8 17)

Many JWs also tape the convention speeches for private replay.

CASTRO, JOY
University professor of English and literature who authored *The Truth Book: Escaping a Childhood of Abuse Among Jehovah's Witnesses* (2006).

Castro was adopted at birth by a JWs couple. Her stepfather was excommunicated for smoking when she was seven and divorce followed.

When Castro was 12 her mother remarried. The new husband was an abusive and controlling elder who inflicted beatings, sexual abuse and starvation on Castro for two years until she ran away.

CATALOGUE (1937)
A 14-page booklet, published by the Australian Branch of the WTS, listing publications for sale.

CATHOLIC CHURCH COPIED/IMITATED
Observers have noticed resemblances between JWs and the Roman Catholic Church.

Both religions have a centralized church government from which official doctrine comes — the Catholic Church a Pope and Cardinals; JWs a Governing body. Authority is enforced at national and local levels through comparable hierarchies as follows:

Pope and College of Cardinals	Governing Body
Papal Curia	Governing Body's Committee Structure
The Vatican	WTS headquarters in New York State
Archbishops	Branch Office and District Overseers
Bishops	Circuit Overseers
Priests	Elders
Deacons	Ministerial Servants
Regular Orders	Pioneers; Bethel workers
Catholic Laity	JWs Community

Babylon's method

The WBTS book *The Finished Mystery* (1917) opposed centralized authority:

> Babylon's method is to take all power and authority out of the hands of the people of God and put it into the hands of one person or a clique of preachers or bishops or elders. (wr1916 11/1 5983)

Rutherford, the second president of the WBTS, instituted what he called Babylon's method. He took over power and authority among the Russellites progressively from 1917 to 1938 and ruled more dictatorially than any Pope. He ousted four directors of the WBTS in 1917, abolished the WBTS's editorial committee by 1931, ended the election of elders in 1932, and made himself the sole arbiter of what constitutes Bible truth and did exactly what he accused the Catholic Hierarchy of doing):

> The preachers strut about assuming great wisdom and warn the people to read nothing that is printed concerning the Bible unless it is endorsed by the clergy-men. (Judgment 1929, 18)

> …the Papal hierarchy is the most tremendous fraud that has ever been practiced upon the peoples of earth. Falsely and fraudulently it claims the sole right to interpret the Holy Scriptures, whereas Jehovah God and Christ Jesus

> are the only interpreters. (World Recovery 1934, 8)

The JWs Governing Body which was instituted in 1944 by the seven directors of the WTS consisted solely, until the 1970s, of the seven directors who gave themselves the title of Governing Body and the sole right to interpret the Holy Scriptures:

> The Vatican belittles Bible study by claiming it is the only organization authorized and qualified to interpret the Bible. (w1943 7/1 201)

> He [God] does not impart his holy spirit and an understanding and appreciation of his Word apart from his visible organization. (w1965 7/1 391)

Discourage Bible study

JWs accuse the Catholic Church of discouraging Bible study. However, JWs themselves don't study the Bible, instead study WTS publications and call this "Bible study".

The difference between book study and Bible study is seen when millions of JWs all believe the same errors and immediately switch to another belief (often another error) as soon as a new WTS book says something different. This happens although the Bible remains unchanged.

Most tremendous fraud

The JWs Governing Body commands JWs to not read anything from other religions or from "apostates" since only JWs literature has the "truth" and all others deceive. This claim of theirs ignores the thousands of revisions made to the doctrines and prophecies of the JWs.

JWs call the Catholic hierarchy, as quoted above, "the most tremendous fraud" because "it claims the sole right to interpret the Holy Scriptures" whereas "Jehovah God and Christ Jesus are the only interpreters." The JWs leaders, by implicating "Jehovah God and Christ Jesus" in their thousands of theological errors, revisions and false prediction look like an even more-tremendous "frauds" than the alleged "most tremendous fraud".

Excommunication

In 1947 the JWs leaders criticized excommunication:

> This is "canon law" which the Roman Catholic Hierarchy seeks to enforce as the pretext that it is God's law. The authority for excommunication, they claim, is based on the teachings of Christ and the apostles, as found in the following scriptures: Matthew 18:15-19; I Corinthians 5:3-5; 16:22; Galatians 1:8,9; I Timothy 1:20; Titus 3:10. But the Hierarchy's excommunication, as a punishment and "medicinal" remedy (*Catholic Encyclopedia*), finds no support in the scriptures. In fact, it is altogether foreign to Bible teachings—Hebrews 10:26-31. (g1947 1/8 27)

In 1952 the Governing Body introduced excommunication but called it "disfellowshpping".

JWs have excommunicated thousands over small disagreements whereas the Catholic Church tolerates considerable dissent.

The Watchtower says:

> If anyone dared to express his opinion contrary to the doctrines taught by the clergy of the Roman Catholic organization, that one was straightway charged with heresy. Early in the eleventh century many persons charged with heresy because they dared hold or express an opinion contrary to the Roman Catholic organization were executed by burning or strangling. (w1936 1/15 25)

The JWs leaders similarly "charge with heresy" and then inflict the maximum punishment and damage legally permitted on anyone who "dared to express his opinion" contrary to doctrines taught by their Organization. (See: *SHUNNING*)

World rule

JWs have accused the Catholic Church of scheming to rule the world. World rule, however, was Rutherford's agenda. He wrote:

> After the wise men have failed to convert the world, God purposes to do it by the simple and seemingly foolish method of preaching. It is comforting to know that the time has come, and the work of preaching has begun. (w1929 10/15 316)
>
> (See: *GOAL OF WOLRD DOMINATION*)

Some more similarities between JWs and the Roman Catholic Church are:

- Both have a permanent location for their world headquarters: the Church in Rome (Italy); JWs in New York State (USA).
- Each organization says its authority is not to be questioned.

- The Catholic Church is called the mother Church; JWs call their Organization "mother".
- Each claims that God is in charge and guides the hierarchy.
- The Pope claims infallibility in doctrine when he speaks "ex cathedra" ("from his chair") as supreme leader which he rarely does; the Governing Body claims infallibility under other words and phrases such as "Jehovah God and Jesus Christ are the only interpreters" and apply this in principle to <u>every</u> interpretation of theirs all the time.
- Each claims supremacy over the Bible — members are told they cannot understand the Bible without official help.
- Each has authoritative writings to which the Bible takes second place.
- Each claims there is no salvation in other religions — although the Catholic Church has modified this belief.
- Each claims to be the only true church and all others impersonators and invalid.
- Each claims that its size, expansion, and activities such as preaching, prove it the true faith.
- Each claims to trace its history back to Jesus.
- Each has a hierarchy with special privileges and rights that other members lack.
- Each has venues where the most dedicated people pledge to work for God without material rewards — the Church has monasteries, JWs Bethel homes.
- Each has added a great deal to the New Testament gospel and all additions must be accepted by faithful members so that all think alike:

  > The endeavor to compel all men to think alike on all subjects, culminated in the great apostasy and the development of the great Papal system; and thereby the gospel the one faith which Paul and the other apostles set forth, was lost—buried under the mass of uninspired decrees of popes and councils. The *union* of the early church, based upon the simple gospel and *bound only* by love, gave place to the bondage of the church of Rome—a slavery of God's children… (wr1893 9/1 1572)

- Each has opposed marriage. The Church disallows marriage for priests and nuns; the WTS discouraged <u>all</u> JWs from marrying in the 1930s and 1940s and Bethel members until the 1950s.
- Each uses scary doctrines to frighten people into compliance. The Catholic Church teaches eternal torment. JWs publications have descriptions of dying at Armageddon and constant reminders of it being "imminent", in "a few years"; "at the door", "at the brink", "impending", "rapidly approaching" and many similar expressions.
- Each has permitted high levels of child sexual abuse. Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that from 1950 to 2015 the Australian JWs headquarters received reports of 1006 child abusers of 1800 victims but did not report any to the police.

  JWs, however, differ to the Catholic Church in child-abuse policy as follows:

  1. JWs officially resist as far as possible, to an extraordinary extent, the payment of compensation to victims;
  2. JWs have their "two witnesses" rule by which child-abuse accusations by victims were dismissed, and victims discouraged from involving the police, unless supported by two observers to the abuse.

CATHOLIC HIERARCHY

Rutherford's chief target for criticism was the Roman Catholic Church.

From 1933 he sought to turn public opinion against Catholicism by publicizing the claim that the Vatican and the priesthood were in league with the Nazis and Fascists to enslave America and the world. (See: *FACE THE FACTS; NAZI FASCIST CATHOLIC COMBINE; MONSTROSITY*)

> It was in 1933 that the message of the Lord began to be directed specifically to the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, the chief religious organization on earth which rules other religious organizations. (w1940 10/1 293)

Rutherford claimed the "cowardly" Hierarchy had organized to systematically destroy JWs, but Manwaring (1962 p.176) found no evidence to support Rutherford's claim. Some Catholic writers criticized Rutherford's books, and sometimes Catholic mobs reacted violently to JWs radio and phonograph broadcasts, but there was no Catholic Hierarchy plot to destroy Rutherford's cult. JWs were vocal and provocative but numbered only about 50,000 in the 1930s — they were too few and insignificant for upper levels of Catholic leadership to waste time on.

Criticism

JWs leaders claim their criticism of Catholic church and hierarchy is truthful, fair and objective:

> The Catholic Church occupies a very

> significant position in the world and claims to be the way of salvation for hundreds of millions of people. Any organization that assumes that position should be willing to submit to scrutiny and criticism. All who criticize have the obligation to be truthful in presenting the facts and fair and objective in assessing such. In both respects we try to live up to that obligation. (g1984 8/22 28)

The real "truth" is that it's difficult to find any positive statements about Catholics (excluding those who join JWs) in the 150 years of biased, negative, bigoted and sometimes obscene generalities published by the WTS. Modern medical science originated over a period of five centuries in Christianity including significant work and discoveries by practicing Catholics. JWs benefit continually but have rarely if ever and perhaps never published a word of appreciation or thanks.

CAUSES OF DEATH (1932)
Booklet by Rutherford.

CAYMAN ISLANDS
Publishers and Memorial attendance on the Cayman Islands (in the Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	14	697		
1975	31	432		
1980	35	446	101	155
1985	62	271	140	120
1990	82	293	202	119
1995	102	313	315	101
2000	169	189	382	84
2005	188	227	487	88
2010	247	220	674	81
2015	223	269	651	92
2018	265	234	620	100
	Ave.			
2019	263	247	730	89
2020	274	241	620	106
2021	269	245	703	98
2022	267	251	638	105
2023	281	242	728	93
2024	294	293	757	114
2025	301	302	789	115

CD-ROM
See: *WATCHTOWER LIBRARY*

C.E.
The abbreviation for Common Era, which JWs use instead of A.D. (Anno Domini).

CELEBRATIONS
The WTS headquarters in Brooklyn dropped Christmas celebrations in 1926 and the sect as a whole in 1929. (Yearbook 1975, 147) Birthdays and Mother's Day were dropped next — Rutherford reasoned that these celebrations have Pagan origins and give undue prominence to individuals.

Russell and his cult, however, saw no significance in Pagans having had celebrations on the same calendar date — the reasons and motives that modern people have for celebrating is what counts and not what ancient Pagans believed.

The argument of undue prominence seems a rationalization since in every social activity some people are more prominent than others. A checkout girl, for example, is usually more prominent than people in the queue and a speaker at conventions more than any audience member.

Rutherford's real reasons for banning certain observances probably included:

1. To put his followers into conflict situations where they would have to explain themselves, thereby increasing their "witnessing" activity.
2. Distinctive dress and food helped preserve Jewish identity, similarly distinctive habits would help close the ranks of JWs.
3. Failed prophecies upset the illusion that only the WTS had the truth. Disputes with the public about celebrations such as Christmas would be a distraction from defending the false prophecies.
4. The more that people sacrifice for a cause in time, money and leisure (including birthdays and Christmas) the more tenaciously they will stick to the cause for which they sacrificed. People need meaning in their lives, but to leave their religion after much sacrifice implies one's past life was wasted and meaningless.
5. Different sorts of celebrations by JWs in different cultures could be divisive and hinder Rutherford's goal of world unity under the WTS.

CELEBRITIES
JWs and ex-JWs have become entertainers, sports stars, politicians and authors.

Prior to 1975 it was almost mandatory for converts who were celebrities to step down from their fame. To try to live both life-styles, as a JW **and** as a celebrity, was viewed as seeking "bad associations" and the "desire of

the flesh" and being "unevenly yoked to unbelievers". JWs viewed prominence as faith-threatening.

With the prophecy failures of the mid-1970s, JWs leaders loosened the requirements for "good standing". Celebrity status and college studies came under less criticism. Some JWs celebrities even became sources of pride — as proof that JWs are not all of low status but include people of accomplishment.

CELEBRITIES, LIST

Below is a list of people who achieved fame or prominence but had some JWs background such as childhood meeting attendance, JWs family members, disfellowshipped, or full involvement including baptism. Biographical information for most of them is on the Internet.

- Akulova, Varya (1992-) Ukrainian weight-lifter, the "strongest girl in the world"
- Alexander, Gregg (1970-) Lead singer and song writer for the "New Radicals"
- Allen, Thomas (1931-1988) Percussionist in the rock/jazz group "War"
- Anderson, Barbara (1940-) Member at Brooklyn JWs Headquarters who exposed the Organization's tolerance of pedophiles
- Andre, Peter (1973-) English-born singer and TV personality who became famous while living in Australia
- Bale, Christian (1974-) Actor who played Moses in *Exodus: Gods and Kings* (2014)
- Banda, Thandiwe (1966-) Former first lady of Zambia
- Benson, George – Singer, guitarist
- Bianci, Maurizio (1955-) Jazz guitarist
- Bone, Krayzie [Henderson, Anthony] (1973-) Member of the rap group "Thugs-n-Harmony"
- Brkic, Ivana (1986-) Croatian singer
- Campbell, Naomi (1970-) Supermodel
- Campbell, Valerie – Model and mother of Naomi Campbell
- Carr, Firpo (c.1950-) Radio show producer, author, lecturer
- Covington, Hayden C. (1911-1978) WBTS attorney
- Dedmon, Dewayne (1989-) Professional basketball Player
- Dever, Juliana (1980-) Hollywood actress
- Edur, Tom (1954-) Professional ice hockey player
- Eisenhower, Dwight D. (1890-1969) 34th US president
- Engleitner, Leopold (1907-2013) German concentration camp survivor
- Evans, Luke (1979-) Hollywood actor from Wales
- Flanagan, Vester Lee (1973-2015) Gunman who killed a reporter and cameraman on live TV
- Frances-White, Deborah (1978?-) Australian-born, British-based comedian
- Furuli, Rolf Johan (1942-) Author and former professor in Semitic languages in Norway who defends JWs chronology and the date 607 BCE
- Garrido, Nancy (1955-) Kidnapper sentenced to 36 years in prison
- Gavilan, Kid (1926-2003) Former World Welterweight Champion
- Glover, Donald (1983-) Sitcom actor and comedian
- Godenzi, Mina Hung (1965-) Miss Hongkong 1984 and an actress
- Graham, Larry (1946-) Bass guitarist with the band "Sly and the Family Stone"
- Granger, Danny (1983-) Professional basketball player
- Graves, Teresa (1948-2002) Actress
- Gygax, Gary (1938-2008) American game designer; co-creator of "Dungeons and Dragons"
- Halliwell, Geri (1972-) Singer with the Spice Girls
- Harper, Roy (1941-) English folk rock singer whose stepmother was a JW
- Haynes, Rick – Canadian bassist
- Hill, Dave (1946-) British musician; guitarist
- Holland, Kim – Dutch porn star, formerly a JW
- Houston, Marques B. (1981-) American singer, songwriter, actor
- How, W. Glen (1919-2008) Canadian lawyer
- Howard, Terrence – Actor
- Jackson, Janet (1966-) Singer
- Jackson, Katherine (1930-) Matriarch of "The Jacksons" musical group
- Jackson, La Toya (1957-) Singer
- Jackson, Michael (1958-2009) Singer, pop superstar
- Jackson, Rebbie (1950-) Singer
- Jamar, Lord [Dechalus, Lorenzo] (1968-) Actor, rapper, member of the band "Brand Nubian"
- Jaywon – Nigerian musician, singer
- Joiner, Alvin N. [XZibit] (1974-) American rapper, actor and TV host
- Jux, Egon (1927-2008) Architect of Hamburg's Köhlbrand Bridge over the River Elbe
- Keane, Margaret D.H. (1927-) Artist famous for paintings of women and children with big eyes
- Knowles, Peter (1946-) British 1960s soccer star
- K-os [Brereton, Kevin] (1972-) Canadian singer, rapper, songwriter
- Kudo, Tori (1958-) Founder of Japanese music group "Maher Shalal Hash Baz"

- Langbroek, Kate (1965-) Australian writer and television personality
- Lemon, Chet (1955-) Professional baseball player (Detroit Tigers)
- Locking, Brian (1938-) British guitarist in the rock band "The Shadows"
- Lönnig, Wolf Ekkehard (1943-) Scientist with the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Germany and militant creationist
- Lovegrove, Jennifer (1970?-) Canadian novelist & poet
- Lozz, Allisson (1992-) Mexican actress, model, singer
- McCumber, Mark – Professional golf player
- Mase, Evelyn Ntoko (1922-2004) – First wife of South African president Nelson Mandela
- McCumber, Mark – Professional golf player
- Martija, Rene Montes de Oca (1963-) Cuban human rights activist
- Marvin, Hank (1941-) British guitarist with The Shadows, living in Perth since 1986
- Merritt, Jerry Lee (1933-2001) American musician; Rockabily Hall of Fame member
- Metzger, Kurt (1977-) American comedian
- Meyers, Dave (1953-2015) Professional basketball player
- Moir, Mike (1946-) Photographer for *Surfer* magazine
- Monk, Thelonius (1917-1982) Jazz pianist and composer
- Moore, Angelo (1965-) Saxophonist and lead singer for the rock band "Fishbone"
- Morrison, Van (1945-) Irish singer
- Müller, Bohumil (1915-1987) Czech survivor of Mauthausen concentration camp, and dissenter during Communist rule
- Mustaine, Dave (1961-) Guitarist, singer
- Mwanawasa, Maureen – A baptized JW and wife of the president of Zambia
- Nakatani, Miki (1976-) Japanese actress and singer
- Naylor, Gloria (1950-2016) – Novelist; author of *The Women of Brewster Place* (1982)
- Newsome, Debbie (1962-) Hostess in the Australian 1980s TV dating show *Perfect Match*.
- Nicholson, Viv – London lottery winner in 1961 who later joined JWs; the musical *Spend, Spend, Spend* is based on her story.
- O'Meara, Mark (1957-) Professional golfer
- Oni, Toun (1938-2010) Nigerian actress
- Padilla, Rustom – Filipino movie star
- Palego, Angelo (1935-) Italian Expedition leader searching for Noah's Ark
- Pear, Dave (1953-) Professional football player
- Peoples, Shonte (1972-) American football player
- Penton, M.J. (1932-) Canadian history professor who led a splinter group in the 1980s.
- Piliso, Lieby (?-1997) Nelson Mandela's youngest sister
- Pizzanelli, Herman – Concert guitarist in Uruguay 1960s; convert to JWs
- Prince [Nelson, Prince Rogers] (1959-2016) Singer/song-writer famous for X-rated lyrics
- Quarry, Nathan Parker (1972-) Martial arts fighter who starred in *The Ultimate Fighter* in 2005 & 2007
- Quintanilla, Selena (1971-1995) Singer, actress
- Rance, Alex (1989-) Professional Australian footballer
- Roberts, Evelyn B (1909-1995) Poet
- Rocha, Coco (1988-) Canadian fashion supermodel
- Rodriguez, Michelle (1978-) American actress
- Romero, Sol (1984-) Singer and actress
- Rule, Ja [Atkins, Jeffrey] (1976-) – Singer, actor
- Sakamoto, Miu (1980-) Japanese singer
- Salley, John (1964-) Professional basketball player
- Scott, Jill (1972-) Singer and poet
- Scott, Travis (1979-) Professional football player for the "Rams"
- Shepherd, Sherri (1967–) American television presenter
- Smith, Patti (1946-) Punk rock star and songwriter whose mother was a JW
- Spillane, Mickey (1918-2006) Crime novelist; converted to JWs in 1952
- Sutcliffe, Peter (1945-) Yorkshire Ripper who murdered thirteen women; converted in prison
- Suzuki, Damo (1950-) Japanese musician living in Germany
- Swain, Carol M. (1954-) Political scientist and professor at Vanderbilt University who left JWs at age 20
- Takao, Shushila – New Zealand actress
- Tambling, Bobby (1941-) English professional footballer
- Terry, Phil (1943-) Member of the soul music group "The Intruders"
- Testolini, Manuela (1973-) Second wife of Prince 2001-2006
- The Notorious B.I.G. (1972-1997) Rapper, Composer, Singer
- Thomas, David (1953-) Songwriter & vocalist; sings "Jehovah's Kingdom come" for the album "New Picnic Time"
- Toriyama, Akira (1955-) Japanese game artist
- Usui, Yoshito (1958-2009) Japanese cartoonist/artist
- Valente, Bria (1977-) American singer & model; girlfriend of Prince

- Villarroel, Carmina (1975-) Philippines actress and former model
- Virk, Reena (1983-1997) Canadian murder victim
- Volpe, Leo J. (1916-2000) Draft resister during WWII who founded "Restored Israel of Yahweh" in 1973
- Voorhies, Lark (1974-)Black American television movie actress
- Voysey, Sheridan – Writer, speaker and broadcaster on faith and spirituality who left JWs during his teens
- Wayans Brothers – The main actors in the sitcom *The Wayans Bros* which aired 1995-1999
- Whitaker, Lou – Professional baseball player (Detroit Tigers)
- Williams, Venus (1980-) & Serena (1981-) Tennis champions; Olympic gold medal winners
- Willson, Dan [Withered Hand] (1974-) Scottish rock musician
- Winfield, Chuck (1943-) Former trumpeter for the jazz-rock music group "Blood, Sweat and Tears"
- Wise, Willie – professional basketball player in Seattle
- Worilds, J. (1988-) Professional football player
- Yano, Akiko (1955-) Japanese pop and jazz musician and singer
- Yoshikawa, Hinano (1979-) Japanese fashion model and actress

Some of the above are discussed in entries under their names. (See: *ANDERSON*; *CAMPBELL; JACKSON; LANGBROEK; PRINCE*; etc.)

CELEBRITIES RANKS

www.ranker.com has ranked famous JWs from the most famous downwards. In 2017 the top fifteen were:

1st Prince [Prince Rogers Nelson (1959-2016)
Singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist.

2nd Michael Jackson (1958-2009)
The Jackson family matriarch, Katherine, is a JW and raised all her children accordingly but most are no longer practicing.

3rd Serena Williams (1981-)
Winner of four Olympic gold medals in tennis; raised by a JW mother; and "often thanks Jehovah after winning matches." (Wikipedia)

4th Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)
Military leader and U.S. president; Eisenhower was raised in the "Russellism" cult (which became JWs in 1931) but left as an adult.

5th Geri Halliwell (1972-)
English singer, model, and former "Spice Girl". Halliwell's mother became a JW in the 1970s and took her to meetings and door-to-door, but later "abandoned the faith in disillusionment." Halliwell became an agnostic but eventually "converted to Christianity." (Wikipedia)

6th Terrence Howard (c. 1970-)
American actor, singer and film-producer whose wife is raising their children in the JWs religion; Howard reportedly wants to be a JW but cannot qualify.

7th Michelle Rodriguez (1978-)
Screenwriter and actress born in Texas; raised by a JW mother and grandmother but has abandoned the faith.

8th The Notorious B.I.G. (1972-1997)
Song-writer and singer born in New York City and raised as a JW.

9th Naomi Campbell (1970-)
Fashion designer, supermodel and former Miss Universe born in London and raised as a JW but no longer practicing.

10th Janet Jackson (1966-)
Singer, record producer, songwriter, sister of Michael Jackson, raised in the JWs sect but no longer practicing.

11th Damon Wayans (1960-)
Damon Wayans is a television director, comedian, actor, film producer and screenwriter. He and his brother, Keenen, were raised in New York by JWs parents.

12th Patti Smith (1946-)
Song-writer, musician and poet raised as a JW in Chicago but left the sect.

13th Venus Williams (1980-)
Tennis player and entrepreneur born in California; "one of the all-time greats of women's tennis"; the Williams sisters were Women's doubles champions in the 2012 London Olympics.

14th Dave Mustaine (1961-)
Record producer, guitarist and songwriter born in California; raised as a JW but became a born-again Christian in 2002.

15th Sherri Shepherd (1967-)
Comedian and television personality born in Chicago and raised as a JW; but no longer involved.

CENSORSHIP
Since the content of JWs publications and radio programs is allegedly chosen and edited by Jehovah, the JWs leaders do not submit to censorship as that would insult God:

> In January, 1933, the Radio Commission of Canada, at the instance of a company of Anglican clergymen, issued an order that Jehovah's witnesses should first submit to the Radio Commission to be censored the message which they are telling at the command of Jehovah, before broadcasting it to the people. To comply with such demand and place before these self-appointed censors the message of Jehovah's kingdom and let them determine whether or not the same should be broadcast to the people would be, in the language of Jesus, to 'give that which is holy into the hands of the dogs, and to cast pearls before the swine'. (Preparation 1933, 146)

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Central African Republic and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,234	1,827		
1975	1,286	1,337		
1980	1,087	2,116	4,880	471
1985	1,320	2,013	7,271	365
1990	1,327	2,185	5,969	486
1995	1,924	1,809	11,361	306
2000	2,398	1,460	13,501	259
2005	2,646	1,474	13,807	282
2010	2,609	1,748	17,504	261
2015	2,613	1,875	16,350	300
2018	2,889	1,731	17,622	284
	Ave.			
2019	2,747	1,727	18,890	251
2020	2,723	1,774	11,920	405
2021	2,349	2,095	13,586	362
2022	2,444	2,053	16,500	304
2023	2,858	1,791	20,176	254
2024	3,169	1,867	26,006	227
2025	3,527	1,563	25,256	218

Central African Republic was poor but stable for many years until Seleka Muslim rebels ousted the (Christian) President in a coup in March 2013. The Christian majority began to arm itself. African Union forces from Chad intervened and French forces arrived in December. By this time 1/6 of the population of 4.5 million had fled their homes. (*The Weekend Australian*, December 28-29, 2013, p.8)

The JWs slowdown in growth for 20 years after 2000 CE may in part be due to the political strife but also due to the realization that "this generation" of 1914 and the "twentieth century" as dates for Armageddon were wrong.

CETNAR, WILLIAM I. (1929-1991) and JOAN
Bill Cetnar worked at the New York Bethel in 1950-1958 mainly in the Service Department, and Joan in 1954-1958. They married in 1958.

Bill was disfellowshipped in 1962 for opposing the ban on blood transfusions and Joan in 1964 for attending a public address Bill gave about JWs. In 1983 they authored the 84-page book *Questions for Jehovah's Witnesses*.

CHAD
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Chad and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1975	127	30,472		
1980	123	32,520	552	7,246
1985	137	29,197	923	4,334
1990	278	19,525	1,645	3,300
1995	439	14,324	2,367	2,657
2000	583	12,007	3,515	1,991
2005	635	12,992	4,696	1,757
2010	652	16,258	4,922	2,154
2015	710	19,770	4,582	3,063
2018	847	17,710	4,558	3,291
	Ave.			
2019	857	18,608	4,765	3,347
2020	815	20,155	3,240	5,070
2021	775	21,826	3,684	4,592
2022	766	22,734	3,501	4,974
2023	839	21,360	4,045	4,430
2024	928	20,309	4,647	4,056
2025	1,034	18,705	4,229	4,573

CHAIN (Revelation 20:1)
The chain held by the angel represented the truth of the seven volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures*. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 299)

CHAIRMAN
From 1972 onwards the Governing Body took it in turns to be chairman for a year, selected alphabetically.

From 1972-1983 elders in congregations also had a chairman, rotated annually in alphabetical order. In 1983 the rotation system

ceased and chairmanship became fixed in one elder.

The chairman rotation system in congregations was a safeguard against individual elders gaining enough influence to get whole congregations to defect. Defection by congregations is more likely at times of prophecy failure. Prophecy failure could be expected in 1975-1976 and rotation in the power structure was probably a Governing Body initiative to control and limit the fallout.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE
A committee of Governing Body members composed of the chairman from the previous year, current year and following year.

CHAMPIONS OF FREEDOM
A description of JWs and their leaders:

> Jehovah's fighting witnesses emerged as unquestioned champions of freedom. (w1955 6/15 366)

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose (1959) has a chapter titled "Champions of Freedom of Speech and of Worship".

The phrase "true freedom" occurs 116 times on the *Watchtower Library* (1950-2007) CD mainly regarding the freedom JWs have or will have in the new world.

When the JWs Organization itself is criticised, these "champions of freedom of speech" stop free speech by excommunication and even by recourse to law courts. For example, when Joseph Reed of Canada used a bullhorn (a speech amplifier) to address some JWs they took him to court:

> In a 2-1 decision, the court said Joseph Reed was wrongly convicted of causing a disturbance in or near a public place by shouting insults outside a convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.
> The word 'shouting' in its ordinary sense involves a loud vehement human voice without the aid of an amplified device, Justice Henry Hutcheon said.
> The evidence in this case does not suggest that Reed was speaking into the bullhorn in other than his normal speaking voice.
> The judge also relied on a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision in which Justice Beverley McLachlin said there must be an externally manifested interference with public premises to prove a charge of disturbance.
> McLachlin said the fact that words used by an accused disturber of the peace may have caused mere emotional upset to other persons is not sufficient to prove the charge. (The Vancouver Sun, 1992, October 1)

Another example of JWs gagging free speech:

> PALM SPRINGS—A local man was exercising his Constitutional right of free speech when he had leaflets placed on cars near the Jehovah's Witnesses hall here last March, a local judge has ruled.
> Municipal Judge Norris Goodwin ordered a church elder who objected to the leaflets to pay Gary D. McCready, 39, damages of $553 and court costs after McCready filed a suit in small claims court…
>
> McCready and his nephew, Mark T. Pyle, who was putting the leaflets on the cars, claimed in the suit that several men, led by Moore [the JW elder], stormed out of the church, grabbed the pair and kept them from driving away. McCready's camera was damaged and a window was broken in McCready's camper, according to the judgment.
>
> The judge said, The literature appears non-violent and in some ways grudgingly approved of Jehovah's Witnesses and its tenets. (The Desert Sun 1985, September 24, 1985 — California, Palm Springs)

The JWs leaders want free speech for themselves but oppose it for everyone who disagrees with them on any point. This is not what most people mean by "freedom" and "free speech".

CHAMPIONS OF TRUTH
The Watchtower and *Awake!* magazines are champions of truth. (w1987 3/1 14)

CHANNEL (of God's truth)
Until 2012 JWs believed that Jehovah's visible channel which alone dispenses genuine spiritual truth is the "remnant of the 144,000" also called the "faithful and discreet slave class":

> From the prophetic shadows to the actual realities we observe that this God-provided channel for Christians is the collective congregation of anointed ones who serve as a prophet-like organization under the leadership of its communicating head, Christ Jesus. (w1955 5/15 308)

> Evidences are now conclusive that Jesus Christ was enthroned in heaven in 1914 C.E. and that he accompanied Jehovah to his temple in 1918 C.E., when judgment began with the house of God. (1 Pet. 4:17) After cleansing those belonging to this house who were alive on earth, Jehovah poured out his spirit upon them and assigned them the responsibility of serving as his sole visible channel, through whom alone spiritual instruction was to come. Those who recognize Jehovah's visible theocratic organization, therefore, must recognize and accept this appointment of the faithful and discreet slave and be submissive to it. (w1967 10/1 590)

Until 1916 God's channel for conveying truth to humans was interpreted as C.T. Russell; in 1917 it was the WBTS:

> THE WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY is still the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as His channel through which to make known the Glad Tidings. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 144)

Faithful and Discreet Slave Class

For about 70 years from the 1940s onward the remnant of the 144,000 were called the "faithful and discreet slave class" and collectively viewed as God's channel and God's prophet — the sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth. (w1960 7/15 439)

> How is this divine will to be made known and brought to the attention of the worthy multitudes of men of good will toward Jehovah? ... The facts show that during this time and up to the present hour the slave class has served as God's sole collective channel of communication for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth...
>
> Thus organizationally the discreet slave class since 1919 has been channeling an ever-increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the waters of life featuring Jehovah's will as emanating from God's throne in heaven. (w1960 7/15 439)
>
> Logically the visible part of Jehovah's organization is built around those remaining of the spirit-begotten disciples who will, in time, be in heaven with Christ Jesus as part of the heavenly government… The sheeplike ones are glad that Jehovah has left a remnant of these brothers on the earth to take the lead in worship and to serve as a channel… (w1967 9/15 560)
>
> For example, to be pleasing to Jehovah one has to recognize the earthly channel that God is using to dispense accurate knowledge to people of all the world. (w1968 5/15 303)

In practice the entire "remnant" was never consulted when new books, doctrines, prophecies and policies were decided. Russell and Rutherford made decisions by themselves. From 1945 onwards Knorr and Franz were the decision-makers. From the 1970s the Governing Body made decisions by voting without consulting the remnant numbering then about 9,000.

Slave class — Sole Channel, 1900 Years Old

JW leaders claimed that the channel or slave began with the apostles and continually replaced itself and by 1919 had a "rich heritage of Christian loyalty" and consisted of "true Christians … through whom alone spiritual instruction was to come":

> Evidences are now conclusive that Jesus Christ was enthroned in heaven in 1914 C.E. and that he accompanied Jehovah to his temple in 1918 C.E., when judgment began with the house of God. (1 Pet. 4:17) After cleansing those belonging to this house who were alive on earth, Jehovah poured out his spirit upon them and assigned them the responsibility of serving as <u>his sole visible channel, through whom alone spiritual instruction was to come</u>. Those who recognize Jehovah's visible theocratic organization, therefore, must recognize and accept this appointment of the faithful and discreet slave and be submissive to it.
>
> [20] Today those thus charged with this grand privilege and responsibility are called Jehovah's witnesses, and have been since 1931. As a group they have been separated more and more from the sectarianism of Christendom from the 1870's onward. Since 1879 the *Watch Tower* magazine has been used by this collective group to dispense spiritual food regularly to those of this little flock of true Christians. (Luke 12:32) In 1884 they formed a legal servant, a corporation, called Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society, now known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of

> Pennsylvania. By 1919, having survived the fiery trials of World War I, this faithful and discreet slave class was no novice organization. True, the apostles were no longer in its midst, but they had left behind written instructions as part of Jehovah's great Record Book. Additionally, the modern-day members of this 1900-year-old Christian congregation had received from the days of the apostles onward a rich heritage of Christian loyalty and integrity, long and patient suffering of persecution, abiding faith in Jehovah's precious promises, confidence in the leadership of its invisible Lord and King, Jesus Christ, and obedience to its centuries-old commission to be witnesses in all the earth. (w1967 10/1 590-591)

Self-glorifying mythology of this sort ignored that:

- Russell and his friends broke away from the Advent Christian Church;
- Russellites knew nothing about any 1900-year-old slave; and
- Hundreds of truths and prophecies by Russell and subsequent WTS leaders turned out false and were revised, with the revisions in turn often proving false also.

2012 Governing Body — The Sole Channel

In 2012 at the 128th annual meeting of the WBTS in New Jersey on October 6th the identity of the "channel" and "slave" changed again.

The report on the meeting said that the faithful and discreet slave was appointed over Jesus' domestics in 1919, after Christ's presence began in 1914, and refers to "the anointed brothers at the world headquarters preparing spiritual food."

This implied that the Governing Body is now the "faithful and discreet slave" and not the entire "remnant" of the 144,000. This doctrinal change confirms what critics have long charged — that the "remnant" was never consulted and only a few men decide on doctrine and policy. A central "Bible truth" that had stood for about 80 years and resulted in the expulsion of everyone who disagreed with it was in effect erroneous and unbiblical.

The revision may be a reaction to the increase since 2006 in "memorial partakers" i.e. in the so-called "faithful and discreet slave". The increase could threaten Governing Body supremacy if the doctrine that all of them together constitute "God's channel" stayed in place. Solution: Remove "God's channel" aka "God's prophet"! The JWs leaders have always been ruthless, merciless and expert at preserving and increasing their power and authority.

(See also: *REMNANT*; *MEMORIAL PARTAKERS*)

CHANNELLING

A term that refers to the dead transmitting information to the living through a person known as the channel, channeler or medium.

Some observers regard the JWs leaders as channelers since they claimed to get information from those of the 144,000 who have died and gone to heaven:

> This verse shows, that though Pastor Russell has passed beyond the veil, he is still managing every feature of the harvest work… We hold that he supervises, by the Lord's arrangement the work yet to be done. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 144)

> Pastor Russell passed forever out of reach of the antitypical Pharoah, Satan, in the fall of 1916. But in steadfast belief that his works do follow him, we hold that he supervises, by the Lord's arrangement, the work yet to be done. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 256)

> Hence our dear Pastor, now in glory, is without doubt manifesting a keen interest in the harvest work, and is permitted by the Lord to exercise some strong influence thereupon. (wr1917 11/1 6161)

> Charles Russell ... is the servant of the church so constituted by the Lord… Therefore we should expect the Lord to teach us through him. (wr1918 2/15 6212).

C.T. Russell accepted from George Storrs the belief that Christians sleep in death until their resurrection. Russell taught that the resurrection of deceased saints i.e. the 144,000 is non-physical or spiritual and occurred in 1878 in heaven. The saints who die after 1878 go to heaven immediately:

> Furthermore, the **Scriptures show** that those who died since 1878 have been changed instantly, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and have entered into their eternal reward. (wr1917 11/1 6161; Studies VI 1904, 663)

Russell being a saint allegedly went to heaven immediately after he died and was there in 1916 and guided the preaching from heaven.

However, in 1927 Rutherford changed the resurrection of the sleeping saints from 1878 to 1918. (From Paradise Lost To Paradise Regained 1958, 192) They still numbered 144,000 of whom a remnant (all of them followers of Rutherford) would go to heaven instantly at death. (See: *REMNANT*)

With the date of the saints' resurrection altered to 1918 the doctrine of Russell supervising from Heaven in 1916 was rendered silly and thereafter suppressed.

Heavenly channelling is back

In 1988 heavenly channelling returned:

> This suggests that resurrected ones of the 24-elder group [those of the 144,000 in heaven] may be involved in the communicating of divine truths today. (Revelation Its Grand Climax At Hand! 1988, 125)

> God's visible organization today also received theocratic guidance and direction. At the headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses in Brooklyn, New York, there is a governing body of older Christian men from various parts of the earth who give needed oversight to the worldwide activities of God's people. This governing body is made up of members of the faithful slave. It serves as a spokesman for that faithful slave. (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth 1989, 195)

> [Since most of the 144,000 who comprised the slave are dead, and few living members are consulted, being a **spokesman** for the slave implied that the Governing Body is in contact with the dead. The "truth" changed again in 2012 when the Governing Body removed the "faithful slave" from that position and left only themselves as the "faithful slave". Whether the "slave class" who are no longer the slave class can still "communicate divine truths" after they die is unclear.]

> Thus, Ezekiel well pictures the anointed remnant of Jehovah's Witnesses since 1919. God's heavenly organization got in touch with the anointed remnant in that year. (w1991 3/15 11)

Thousands of JWs teachings, interpretations and prophecies have changed and yet all of it supposedly came from Heaven, sometimes supposedly channelled by spirits of the dead!

The Old Testament condemned consulting the dead and the New Testament says:

> However, the inspired utterance says definitely that in later periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons, by the hypocrisy of men who speak lies… (I Timothy 4:1)

CHAPMAN, PERCY

Canadian branch overseer from 1936 to 1959 sent by Rutherford from the London office to replace Walter Salter who defected.

Chapman was considered a mesmerizing public speaker. Internet sources claim he was a homosexual and therefore demoted from branch overseer to janitor by Knorr in 1959.

Chapman married soon afterwards despite having followed Rutherford in being anti-marriage and having discouraged Bethel boys from marrying. He was also a long-time room mate of future Governing Body member Leo Greenlees who was dismissed from the Governing Body in 1984 apparently for homosexuality.

CHARACTER

Russell emphasized holy living including being noble, honest, upright, kind, with "perfect love in our hearts" and never showing malice or hatred.

Some followers claimed they had not sinned for years but Russell discouraged such self-reverence. (Studies VI 1904, 90-91, 157-158, 373, 407-412) Character development was said to give liberty and freedom. (Studies VI 1904, 375-379)

Character development outlawed

Rutherford criticized character development as weak and weepy. (Life 1929, 253, 268-269) More important than good character, was to honor Jehovah by selling Rutherford's books. (w1926 5/1; w1932 11/1 349; w1933 5 /1 154-155; 9 /15 277, 281; w1936 12/15 374; w1938 7/1 202)

Why this change in policy? From 1918 to 1930 about 80% of the original Russellites deserted Rutherford's cult. A rival continuation of Russellism was led by P.S.L. Johnson who with Russell's approval had published a course on character development. Rutherford's anti-character policy was a means of undermining Johnson's influence. The gentler aspects of character were also inconsistent with

Rutherford's increasingly vicious denunciation of other religions.

With good character criticised, JWs standards declined. Drunkenness, brawling, immorality and visits to brothels became common.

In 1935 Rutherford began to swing the pendulum back:

> Looseness of morals is also quite noticeable. The thought has been prevalent amongst some that it is unnecessary for Jehovah's witnesses to go through the form of marriage prescribed by the state… It has likewise been noticed that some take part in the field service and perform other duties in the organization while under the influence of liquor. (w1935 3/1 76-77)
>
> Some have unwisely concluded that if they were engaged in the house-to-house witness work they could pursue with impunity any course that their appetites might call for. (ibid p.78)

Good character returns

The Knorr administration re-introduced good-character:

> Some have unwisely concluded that if they were engaged in the house-to-house witness work they could pursue with freedom from punishment any course their appetites might call for... When one is engaged in the Lord's service, strong drink in any form should be avoided. (w1942 7/1 206)

In the 1950s the WTS promoted morality with the slogan "God's clean organization" and sought to transform JWs into ministers of righteousness and introduced disfellowship-ping (i.e. excommunication) to enforce the new requirements. The new standards were meant to improve the public's perception of JWs by contrasting the alleged righteous JWs with "worldly" people and "immoral Christendom".

Improved conduct facilitated the idea that the modern world is like Sodom and Gomorrah but JWs are the equivalent of Lot who escaped from Sodom. (Genesis 18-19) JWs displayed outward decency in every way commanded by the WTS.

One defector wrote:

> We maintained our do-gooder passive mentality, behaving 'nice' in front of people we mistrusted, suppressing our genuine emotions, anger and hostility—even when appropriate… (Harrison 1978, 75)

JWs claim morals are maintained because Jehovah is guiding his loyal worshippers. (w1985 1/15 20) Moral living is offered as proof of true religion. It also allows a pose of innocence when governments treat JWs as dangerous to the state. (e.g. g1968 6/8 11)

The alleged superiority of JWs in morals and ethics is largely propaganda. The Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse in Australia found over 1000 child abusers among JWs and 1800 victims, none of whom had been reported to the police.

Indirect evidence suggests that looser standards in all areas of morals and ethics took hold among JWs when prophecies for 1975, the generation of 1914 and the twentieth century failed and the fear of retribution by God at Armageddon receded.

CHARACTER — MEDIA REPORTS

WTS publications present JWs as the world's best, most moral people:

> They are making better fathers, better mothers, better children, in fact, the best people in the world. (w1970 4/15 248)

However, numerous newspaper reports about JWs' crimes suggest the "best people" claim needs qualification:

- Dewitt man guilty of molesting boy (The Pantagraph (September 16, 1995)
- Another crooked lawyer—How church elder Shandro plundered his clients (Alberta Law Report 1985, September 23)
- The Jehovah's Witness Lie—Sex scandals, incest, bashings, persecution (The Sunday Tasmanian 1985, July 28)
- Skinhead pleads guilty to murder (The Telegraph, December 8, 1995)
- Suicide mystifies friends (The Arizona Republic (February 4, 1996)
- Gruesome Belgian sex case puts focus on child abuse (Chicago Tribune, September 3, 1996)
- Woman slain, member of her church jailed (Rocky Mountain News, February 15, 1997)

- Man, 45, who fled with teen surrenders in KC court (St. Joseph News-Press, December 11, 1997)

- Why I Killed My Family (The Sun-Herald, August 1, 1999)

- It's Hymn and Her and Her and Hymn Jehovah pair bust up two marriages (News of the World, August 9, 1998)

- Computer liaison, assault lead to jail term (Milwaukee Sentinel News, September 4, 1998)

- Biblical beating kills girl (Chicago Sun-Times, November 13, 2001)

- Jehovah's Witness tortured foster children (The Times 2007, March 21)

- I was forced to refuse blood (The Argus 2007, July 10)

- Jehovah's Witness sex offender spared jail (The Times 2007, August 24)

The "Gruesome Belgian sex case" was Marc Dutroux, who, the report says, purports to be a devout Jehovah's Witness. During 11 years Dutroux abducted 15 girls and several older women, raped all of them, sold several into sexual slavery, and let four girls, aged 8 to 12, starve to death in his cellar.

Statistics proving that JWs have worse crime rates than other religions, or proof that their doctrines, policies and Governing Body are to blame, are unavailable. But the evidence is sufficient to doubt the "best people" claim. The above list is only a small sample of what has gone on and got reported in the media.

(See also: *CHILD ABUSE; FAMILY MURDERS*)

CHARITABLE PLANNING to BENEFIT KINGDOM SERVICE WORLDWIDE (2000)
A 32-page brochure outlining different ways to give or leave money, real estate, personal property and other valuables to the WTS.

JWs believe, and it's another erroneous belief, that:

> From the time the Watchtower Society was formed in 1884 it has never solicited money. (w1960 5/1 265)

(See: *CONTRIBUTIONS*)

CHARITY
JWs believe:

> These corporations [the WBTS and related corporations] are charitable organizations... They put forth unselfish effort to aid others, without desire or hope of pecuniary profit.

The main charitable aid, however, is the production and distribution of WTS publications.

Active JWs loyal to the Organization may receive aid from the WTS if afflicted by natural disasters or war. A list of clothing and food donated to European JWs after World War II appeared in the *1949 Yearbook*. JWs also offer to teach reading and writing to illiterate prospective converts.

JWs virtually ignore the hungry, sick and impoverished except to offer the comfort that paradise is just ahead. They claim to bring valuable spiritual food in contrast to other religions who deceive. They also claim that when Christianity provides medicine, hospitals, and schooling, and fights famine, blindness, sickness and poverty it merely buys "rice Christians".

Russell, Rutherford and Franz

Russell praised the work of the Salvation Army but added that his own followers did better things — they preached his present truth:

> The Salvation Army…is indeed doing a great work in its special line. By self-sacrificing methods they are continually planning and laboring to lift up the fallen and the degraded, and encouraging and assisting them to lead a better life... But we bear in mind that the harvest of the age is come and that the harvest work of thrusting in the sickle of present truth and gathering the elect from the four winds (from every quarter of the field) … is the seasonable work of the truly enlightened now—the Lord's work and hence the work of his co-laborers. (wr1891 November, 1333)

Rutherford similarly argued:

> Our commission is to preach this gospel of the kingdom, and not to look after the physical wellbeing of others. (w1933 3/1 74)

Franz echoed these sentiments at the 1958:

> The Christian missionary's errand is not an economic aid program to various

> backward countries or handicapped lands. Ours is the more vital religious aid program. (Convention Report 1958, 21)

In contrast to the doctrine of JWs, Jesus did not turn a blind eye but felt pity when people hungered for three days. (Matthew 15:32) JWs leaders admit that: "Inhumanity can reveal itself by simply turning a blind eye." (w1984 3/1 4)

Secular charity not banned

JWs are permitted to work in charitable organizations except for organizations that are religious or associated with a religion. They may also act charitably on an individual basis even to non-JWs when need is seen. But donating to organized charities is discouraged because part of the money is used for costs.

However, superstar Michael Jackson, while still a JW, didn't comply:

> LOS ANGELES—*We Are The World*, an anthem sung by 45 American superstars, was released on radio and in record stores today, with an estimated $40 in proceeds targeted for the hungry in Africa and the US. The tune written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie and produced by Quincy Jones, is sung by stars including Lionel Richie, Michael Jackson… (The Advertiser 1985, March 9, p.5)

Charity to the remnant necessary

The Governing Body advocates generosity to Christ's brothers (w1984 11/15 15) — i.e. to the remnant of the 144,000 including the Governing Body! Until 1995 they argued for generosity to themselves by citing Matthew 25:34-46 where Jesus tells about "sheep" who get salvation because they showed kindness to Christ's brothers:

> Again in Los Angeles, in 1923, a convention was held and the Society's president talked on Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats. By Scripture he established the fact that <u>the symbolic sheep of this parable are those who now, during this time of the end, do good in various ways to Jesus' spiritual or born again brothers</u>. In reward for this such doers of good would be preserved through the coming battle of Armageddon, and the glorified Son of man, the heavenly King Jesus Christ, would usher them into the earthly realm of his kingdom of a thousand years. (Matt. 25:31-46) This brightened the earthly hopes for many sheeplike persons who did good to Christ's brothers as if they were doing it directly to him. (w1979 10/1 26)
>
> Jesus classed them as goats, not for what they were doing, but for what they were not doing; they were not showing positive action by doing good to Christ's brothers. (w1961 1/15 9)
>
> For doing good things to Christ's brothers, his anointed followers, they will be rewarded with everlasting life.—Matt. 25:34-40, 46. (w1969 5/1 272)

The good that JWs leaders expected from the sheep included submission, donations of money, preaching current WTS doctrines, selling WTS books, and building halls and printeries, and volunteering to staff them.

Until 1995 JWs applied Matthew 25:34-46 to the post World War I period — but in 1995 this interpretation was discarded. (See: *SHEEP AND GOATS*) The passage (Matthew 25) is now applied to the future. Considering that this involves the "reward" of "everlasting life" it was a monumental reinterpretation but very few JWs objected.

The support and generosity the JWs leaders received since WWI was based on false doctrine. Since they also threatened death at Armageddon to get that support their conduct is similar to extortion.

Articles about social problems

The WTS seemingly shows concern for poverty, famine and social conditions by publishing articles on these topics. The reasons, however, are not to encourage practical help. The reasons are:

1. To expose governments as failures compared to what the Kingdom will do after Armageddon, and
2. To suggest Armageddon is near, since famine is a sign of the end, and thereby stimulate extra door-to-door witnessing.

A report in *The Spectator* about the transfer of WTS funds from America to Britain where the Society is tax-exempt, said:

> The Witnesses perform no recognisable charitable work which benefits the public; members have been excommunicated for making contributions to the Red Cross. (James King, October 2000, p.32)

Change in teaching

Following a typhoon in the Philippines one JWs congregation helped other JWs and then donated excess food to the municipality. *The Watchtower* commented:

> How heartwarming it is to hear of genuine Christians who, in times of need, respond with not words and talk but with true love, which shows itself in action! (w1983 4/15 21)
>
> …undefiled religion prompts active, loving concern for the needy. (w1984 10 /1 14)

Having reneged on "true love in action" for a hundred years and criticised "apostate Christianity" for its love in action, such statements suggest another doctrinal u-turn is occurring!

CHARTER of INCORPORATION

Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society was incorporated under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania as a non-profit corporation under the date December 15, 1884. In 1896 the corporate name was changed to Watch Tower Bible And Tract Society.

The following Notice was published in the October 1884 issue of *Zion's Watch Tower*:

> LEGAL INCORPORATION
>
> ZION'S WATCH TOWER TRACT SOCIETY, though it has already done a great work, and in the hand of God has been a power in publishing the truth, the influence which is being felt already on both sides of the Atlantic, has never yet had legal incorporation. Nor was such incorporation considered necessary by its friends, it having already all the powers necessary for the present work and similar to that of nine-tenths of other small societies.
>
> But a new phase of the question has arisen. It seems tolerably certain that some of the saints will be in the flesh during a great part at least of the time of trouble, and if so, there will be need of printed matter, tracts, etc., as much then, perhaps, as now, and possibly will be more heeded, for when the judgments of the Lord are in the earth the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (Isa. 26:9.) Should those at present prominently identified with the work not be the last to be changed, some interruption of the work might result; but this may be obviated by having a legal standing, granted by a State Charter.
>
> Another matter also has been considered: Two or more who had already contributed to the funds of the society, suggested that as age was coming on and opportunities for earning a living decreasing they could not now give more largely without endangering penury and leaving themselves a burden on their friends, which they could not see to be the Lord's will; yet they are desirous that in some way they might be able to put the Lord's money (consecrated to Him) into His work. This naturally suggested the idea that there might be many others similarly situated and with similar ideas. Such moneys or other property donated by Will to the society it might be unable to receive or dispose of, unless it had a charter.
>
> From all these considerations it was deemed best to apply for a charter; and this has been done.

CHARTER of INCORPORATION ARTICLES

Here are the original Articles of Incorporation of the WBTS as published in *The Laodicean Messenger* 1923, 194-197:

> ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
>
> Be it known that the subscribers, having associated themselves together for the purpose of the dissemination of Bible Truths in various languages, and being desirous of becoming incorporated agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled 'An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Regulations of certain Corporations,' approved the twenty-ninth day of April, Anno Domini, One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-four, and its supplements, do hereby declare, set forth and certify that the following are the purposes, objects, articles and conditions of their said association for and upon which they desire to be incorporated:
>
> I. The name of the Corporation shall be ZION'S WATCH TOWER TRACT SOCIETY.
>
> II. The purpose for which the Corporation is formed is, the dissemination of Bible Truths in various languages by means of the publication of tracts, pamphlets, papers and other religious documents, and by the use of all other lawful means which its *Board of Directors*, duly

constituted, shall deem expedient for the furtherance of the purpose stated.

III. The place where the business of the said Corporation is to be transacted, is the City of Allegheny, in the County of Allegheny, and State of Pennsylvania.

IV. The Corporation is to exist perpetually.

V. The Corporation has no capital stock. Each donation of Ten Dollars to the funds of said Corporation shall entitle the contributor, *or his assigns*, to one non-forfeitable, non-assessable, and non-dividend-bearing share, and to one vote for every such share in said Corporation. Certificates of membership so acquired shall be issued by the Secretary, countersigned by the President, to the persons entitled thereto.

VI. The Corporation is to be *managed* by a BOARD OF DIRECTORS *consisting of seven members*, and the names of those already chosen Directors are as follows:
President, Charles T. Russell,
Vice-President, Wm. I. Mann,
Secy. and Treas., Maria F. Russell,
Wm. C. MacMillan,
Simon O. Blunden,
J. B. Adamson,
Joseph F. Smith.

VII. The said Corporation, by its DIRECTORS, *a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum* for the transaction of business, *shall have full power* and authority to make and enact by-laws, rules, and ordinances, which shall be deemed and taken to be the law of said Corporation, and do any and everything useful for the good government and support of the affairs of the said Corporation, provided that the said by-laws, rules, and ordinances, or any of them, *shall not be repugnant to this Charter*, to the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Constitution of the United States.

VIII. The said Corporation shall have as officers a President, who shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors; a Vice-President, who shall preside in the absence of the President; and a Secretary, who shall also be Treasurer; and these officers shall be chosen from among the members of the Board of Directors annually, on the first Saturday of each year by an election by ballot, to be held at the principal office of the Corporation in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania.

The members of the Board of Directors shall hold their respective offices for life, unless removed by a two-thirds vote of the Shareholders; and vacancies in the Board occasioned by death, resignation or removal, shall be filled by vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Board, who shall meet for the purpose within twenty days from the time when such vacancy or vacancies shall occur, and in the event of failure to fill such vacancy or vacancies in the manner aforesaid within thirty days from the time when such vacancy or vacancies shall occur, then the said vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the appointment of the President, and the person or persons so appointed shall hold his or their office or offices until the next annual election of officers of the Corporation, when such vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by election, in the same manner as the President, Vice-President and Secretary and Treasurer are elected. The persons entitled to vote at annual elections of the Corporation shall be those who hold certificates of membership acquired in the manner aforesaid.

IX. The said Corporation, under the name, style and title aforesaid, shall have full power and authority to make, have and use a common seal, with such device and inscription as they may deem proper, and the same to alter and renew at their pleasure; and by the name, style and title aforesaid, shall be able in law and equity to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any Court or Courts, before any judge or justice of the Peace, in all manner of suits and complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands whatsoever, and all and every matter or thing therein to do in as full and ample a manner, and as effectually, as any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, may or can do.

IX. The said Corporation, by the name, style and title aforesaid, shall have the right, power and authority to take, receive and hold in fee simple, or any less estate, all such message, lots, lands, buildings, tenements, rents, annuities, franchise and hereditaments as may be necessary and proper for its purpose; and to sell, lease, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of the same or any part thereof; and it shall have the same right, power and authority to take, receive and hold,

and to sell, lease or dispose of any and all kinds of personal property and money.

CHARTER OF INCORPORATION ARTICLES — AMENDMENTS

In 1944, under the third WBTS President, Nathan Knorr, articles 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 of the Articles of Incorporation of the WBTS were amended. (w1944 11/1 332-333; w1945 10/15 315)

The 1944 amendment to Article ii appears in the *1969 Yearbook* (p.49). It is longer than Russell's version and "purpose" therefore became "purposes". The amended article, with comment in brackets, is:

> The purposes of this Society are: To act as the servant of and the legal world-wide governing agency for that body of Christian persons known as Jehovah's Witnesses; to preach the gospel of God's kingdom under Christ Jesus unto all nations as a witness to the name, word and supremacy of Almighty God JEHOVAH;
>
> [Comment: This gives the Directors world-wide legal control over JWs including real-estate and the final say in all disagreements. In line with this full control, the Directors were elsewhere identified as a governing body.]
>
> to print and distribute Bibles and to disseminate Bible truths in various languages by means of making and publishing literature containing information and comment explaining Bible truths and prophecy concerning establishment of Jehovah's kingdom under Christ Jesus;
>
> [Since dissemination of Bible truths and comment thereon is via WBTS literature, anyone who gives different explanations opposes the charter. To "explain" does not obligate the WBTS to explain accurately!]
>
> to authorize and appoint agents, servants, employees, teachers, instructors, evangelists, missionaries and ministers to go forth to all the world publicly and from house to house to preach and teach Bible truths to persons willing to listen by leaving with such persons said literature and by conducting Bible studies thereon;
>
> [Comment: The WBTS Directors "authorize and appoint" — i.e. their decision is final. The purpose in appointing is to preach and teach "Bible truths", not just comment or interpretation but actual "truths". False prophecies and doctrinal flip-flops are contrary to the Charter.]
>
> to improve men, women and children mentally and morally by Christian missionary work and by charitable and benevolent instruction of the people on the Bible and incidental scientific, historical and literary subjects;
>
> [Comment: The purpose to improve has doubtful success as JWs have above average mental-illness rates plus significant child sexual abuse rates. At any one time an estimated 30% of former JWs are disfellowshipped. Charity is limited to "instruction … on the Bible" and often excludes practical help. Instruction on "scientific, historical and literary subjects" is often neither scientific nor historical — e.g. denial of the historical date (586 BCE) for Jerusalem's destruction, whitewashing of JWs history, opposition to vaccinations and tissue transplants, the days of creation being 7000 years long, etc.]
>
> to establish and maintain private Bible schools and classes for gratuitous instruction of men and women in the Bible, Bible literature and Bible history;
>
> [Comment: "Gratuitous" means free of charge but anyone who converts becomes an unpaid distributor of WBTS publications and in this way pays.]
>
> to teach, train, prepare and equip men and women as ministers, missionaries, evangelists, preachers, teachers and lecturers;
>
> to provide and maintain homes, places and buildings for gratuitous housing of such students, lecturers, teachers and ministers; to furnish gratuitously to such students, lecturers, teachers, educators and ministers suitable meals and lodging and to prepare, support, maintain and send out to various parts of the world Christian missionaries, teachers and instructors in the Bible and Bible literature, and for public Christian worship of Almighty God…
>
> [Comment: The three dots after God indicate the *Yearbook* has omitted something. Omitted are the words "and Christ Jesus."]

to arrange for and hold local and world-wide assemblies for such worship; to use or operate radio broadcasting stations for preaching this gospel of the kingdom; and to do any and all other lawful things that its Board of Directors shall deem expedient for the purposes stated.

Article vii was amended to read as follows:

The government of the corporation vest in its Board of Directors, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The directors shall have full power and authority to make, amend and repeal by-laws, rules, and ordinances, which shall be the law of the Society; to distribute funds; to sell, or delegate to its officers authority to sell, real estate and personal property owned by the Society; to borrow money for the Society; to hold meetings at such times and places as may be designated by the Board; to admit members and suspend or expel them; to elect officers and employ agents, all of which powers are in addition to and not in limitation of the powers usually exercised by the directors; and also to devise and carry into execution such other measures as they may deem proper and expedient to promote the objects of the Society and to protect the interests and welfare of its members and to do any and every useful thing for the good government and support of the affairs of the Society.

[Comment: The Directors, by this amendment, gave themselves broader financial powers and authority to admit or expel voting members. Since voting members annually elect the directors, the directors now controlled their own re-election.

This amendment also removed the obligation that new bylaws, rules and ordinances shall not be repugnant to the laws of Pennsylvania and the US Constitution. Rutherford, in the 1930s, defined JWs as a Theocracy — a nation ruled by God — and had implied that this Theocracy would rule the world. Such a goal was incompatible with loyalty to a particular nation on Earth. The goal of world theocracy also implies a unification of church and state, whereas the Constitution of the United States requires separation of church and state. Hence future ordinances of the WBTS might be "repugnant to the laws of Pennsylvania ".]

In 1944 the seven directors of the WBTS identified themselves as the Governing Body of JWs. In 1971 the Governing Body was increased to 11. In 2000, Governing Body members who were also Directors resigned from the latter position. This means that directors can no longer be Governing Body members and Governing Body members can no longer be directors.

Who, then, is now in charge of the WTS and responsible for fulfilling the purposes listed in the Charter? As far as the law is concerned the answer is the elected directors. The Governing Body is now (since 2000 CE) a separate group whose authority in the JWs Organization exceeds that of the directors but whose position is not protected by law.

CHARTER of the WBTS — THE 2300 DAYS

Amendments to the Charter of the WBTS in 1944 supposedly fulfilled Daniel's (8:13-14) prediction of 2300 days. *The Watchtower* in 1971 said:

So 2,300 days would amount to six lunar years, four lunar months and twenty days. That amount of time counted from Sivan 2 (June 1), 1938, would end on Tishri 21 (October 8), 1944, or, counted from Sivan 16 (June 15), 1938, it would end on Heshvan 5 (October 22), 1944…

On September 30 through October 2, 1944, a special Service and business Assembly was held at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., where the registered offices of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society are located. On the opening day the Society's president addressed the gathering of 5,000 on the subject The Theocratic Alignment Today. The following day the public address was on the subject One World, One Government. The Society's annual business meeting was postponed from this day to the next day, Monday, October 2. This business meeting, which began at 10 a.m. was noteworthy. How so?

After the Society's directors and its officers were elected by the shareholders there represented, consideration was directed to six amendments that were proposed for the Charter of the Society, which was a Pennsylvania corporation incorporated sixty years earlier, in the year 1884. These would amend Articles 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10. The first amendment resolution that was adopted proposed the enlarging of the purposes of the Society so as to assume properly the great worldwide work that lay ahead. Also, this

amendment put God's name, Jehovah, into the Charter. Amendment Three did away with the original charter's provision that fixed one's membership in the Society on the basis of one's money contributions to the Society; henceforth the membership was to be limited to not more than 500, all of whom were to be chosen on the basis of their active service to Jehovah. As the *Watchtower* issue of November 1, 1944, said in its report: This amendment will have the effect of bringing the charter as near to Theocratic arrangement as the law of the land permits. All six amendment resolutions were adopted. (w1971 12/1 725-727)

(See: *TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DAYS*)

CHESHIRE, SCOTT

New York author born into a JWs family, who left JWs in his early 20s and has written the novel *High As The Horses' Bridles* (2014).

The novel is about an Evangelical child evangelist who stuns an audience by predicting Armageddon. He gradually loses faith when his best friend disappears, his girlfriend drowns, Armageddon does not come, he gets divorced, and his business fails. After that he cares for his dying father who had nurtured his religion and is still a believer.

CHICAGO BIBLE STUDENTS

An active continuation of Russellism based in Chicago which sells:

- Reprints of most of Russell's books;
- *Reprints of the Original Watchtower* up to 1916;
- *Pastor Russell's Sermons;*
- *What Pastor Russell Said*;
- *What Pastor Russell Wrote* and;
- *Bible Students Manual*.

CHILD ABUSE

Useful information on protecting children from Child Molesting appeared in *Awake!* 1985 1/22. The article suggests that most molesters and sexual abusers of children are child minders, family friends and relatives.

WTS publications regularly mention criminal conduct among clergy including pedophilia:

> …news reports have time and again revealed many of the clergy in some lands to be pedophiles, immoral swindlers, and frauds. (w1994 8/15 11)

JWs publications lack similar statements about pedophiles, immoral swindlers, and frauds among JWs. But media reports and former JWs are more open. *Sex in the Sect* (1995), for example, is an autobiography by Vicki J. in Australia, who describes years of sexual molestation by her father, an overseer/elder.

JW child victims

Many former JWs have told of sexual abuse by JWs elders. The WTS imposed no censure on abusive elders because the Governing Body citing Deuteronomy 19:15 stipulated there must be either a confession from the perpetrator or two eyewitnesses.

Pedophiles, however, do not sexually molest children in front of witnesses; therefore victims and their families were required, under threat of disfellowshipping for slander, to stay quiet.

A TV report about one Heidi Meyer in April 2003 reported:

> Basically any way that he could put his hands on me, he did, she told CBS News Correspondent Jane Clayson. From the time she was 10, until she turned 13, Heidi, a Jehovah's Witness, says she was molested by a member of her congregation. Finally, she turned to the leaders of her faith… But the elders dismissed her plea for help and sent her away with a warning: You need to keep quiet about this… You don't want to drag the name of Jehovah's organization through the mud.

The New York Times reported the case of Candace Conti in California:

> In her lawsuit, Ms. Conti, 26, said that in 1995 and 1996, when she was 9 and 10 years old … she was repeatedly molested by a fellow congregant…
> Mrs. Conti also said in her lawsuit that the Christian denomination's national leaders formed a policy in 1989 to keep child sex abuse accusations secret… (June 17, 2012)

Another incident was reported in the *Tri-City Herald* (August 2001):

> RITZVILLE—Erica Rodriguez and her mother, Alejandra Garza, broke down and cried when the verdict came in. It took slightly less than four hours for a seven-man, five-woman Adams County Superior Court to declare Manuel Beliz, 48, of Othello guilty of two counts of first-

> degree child rape and two counts of first-degree child molestation…
> She said that even though her church disfellowshipped Beliz … church elders pressured her not to report him to the police…

Typical of how child abuse was handled is the following experience:

> I was thirteen in 1975…
> An elder talked my mother's husband into getting baptized. While the elders were trying to make him act more spiritual he was trying to molest me… Instead of calling the police or going to a therapist, Mom went to the elders about his behavior.
> A bunch of men who had no training in marriage problems or abuse issues … investigated things and decided it was Mom's fault that Lee was interested in her daughters. She was not a good enough wife. My mother believed them and did everything she could to keep him 'happy'. The elders also said it was my fault and my sister's, we wore our jeans too tight. Never did they blame Lee for having no self control or just being a pervert… They didn't want Mom to tell the police, that would make the witnesses look bad and that just couldn't happen. (*Outreach Tidbits* (2003 May/June)

In the *Illawarra Mercury* of NSW, Michelle Tydd reported:

> A Wollongong judge yesterday launched a scathing attack on the Jehovah's Witness congregation at Balgownie, accusing elders of failing to report child sex abuse…
>
> The attack came as he sentenced Robert Leslie Souter to five years' jail for sexual assaults on two teenage boys 20 years ago.
>
> Judge Goldring said congregation elders were told of the sexual assaults by Souter in 1990 and he was "disfellowshipped" or excommunicated five years later without any further action.
>
> "The moral punishment imposed by a church is not punishment demanded by law," Judge Goldring said…
> (August 5, 2000)

The *Sunderland Echo* of NE England reported:

> CHURCH officials hushed up a child sex scandal in their ranks and refused to co-operate with police.
>
> Jehovah Witness ministerial servant Gordon Leighton admitted sexually abusing a child when he was confronted by his church elders, a court heard.
>
> But during the official police investigation, the 53-year-old – who made headlines in the 1990s when wife Yvonne, 28, died after refusing a blood transfusion after childbirth on religious grounds – denied any illegal wrongdoing…
>
> For three years, the elders refused to co-operate with the criminal investigation...
>
> The court heard how at a special church meeting, Leighton admitted sexual abuse and made excuses for his behaviour. (July 16, 2013)

The Paducah Sun reported as follows:

> Bill Bowen, who resigned his leadership in the congregation in December 2000 to protest the church's policy on reporting accused paedophiles to secular authorities, is charged with causing divisions in the church…
>
> Barbara Anderson, a former researcher at the church's New York headquarters, and Carl and Barbara Pandelo, a New Jersey couple whose daughter was molested by Carl's father — have been disfellowshipped in the last two weeks for talking to the media. The Pandelos spoke to the Sun for a January 2001 article, and they, Andersen and Bowen cooperated with the TV magazine Dateline NBC… (2002 May 25, p.14A)

Anderson worked at the JWs Brooklyn headquarters as research assistant on the book *Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* (1993). She was disfellowshipped in 2002 for publicising Governing Body policy on child abuse and revealing that the WTS maintains a secret list of JWs accused of child molestation. The purpose for this list was to monitor suspected child molesters and prevent them from getting positions of leadership.

In 1992 the WBTS assigned Anderson to deal with letters complaining of abuse. She discovered that in its internal proceedings the Organization applied a two-witness rule whereby someone other than the victim has to testify to the molestation.

Two witnesses

The *Sunday Herald* of Scotland reported:

> The Jehovah's Witnesses Church in Scotland stands accused of sheltering child abusers and keeping secret files of known paedophiles within the organisation which it refuses to share with police…
>
> An investigation by the BBC's Panorama programme has discovered that the Watch Tower Society keeps a worldwide database of members accused of child abuse. The list, which is claimed to contain more than 20,000 names, is based on details held by each Jehovah's Witnesses congregation and many of the names on that list have never been reported to the police.
>
> Allegations of child abuse within the church first emerged in Scotland in the quiet seaside town of Stevenson in Ayrshire when 19-year-old Alison Cousins went to the police after being branded a liar by church elders to whom she had turned for help…
>
> 'They told me that one of the scriptures in the Bible was that you should never take your brother to court,' Cousins told Panorama…
>
> The church law which dictates that members must turn to elders rather than the police also demands that there must be two witnesses to a crime before taking any action…
>
> Cousins went to the police last year and as their investigation began, she made a shocking discovery. Church elders had known for three years that her father had been abusing her older sister, that he had confessed to the church but that no action had been taken.
>
> Her father, Ian Cousins, who has since been prosecuted and sentenced to five years in jail, had merely been reprimanded by the elders and sent home where his abuse simply shifted from one sister to the other…
>
> Steve Colley, an investigating officer with West Midlands police, was shocked by the determination of elders not to co-operate with his inquiries… 'They actually said to me unless I could provide two Jehovah's Witnesses who'd actually seen the offence, then as far as they were concerned the offence hadn't taken place.' (Torcuil Crichton, April 24, 2003)

Britain's *Daily Mail* in 2014 reported that elder Mark Sewell, 53, was jailed for 14 years for sexually abusing three girls from his congregation and raping one woman leaving her pregnant. The attacks spanned eight years from 1987 to 1995:

> But when the victims reported him to the church, a committee cleared him of all allegations — and shredded the evidence… His victims were banned from 'gossiping' about the attacks by other church elders. (Mia De Graaf, July, 3, 2014)

Without two witnesses to the abuse, Sewell simply branded each accuser a liar and was believed.

Report abuse only when required by law

JWs deny having a policy of silence. However, in 1997 their Office of Public Information published their policy which required elders to report allegations of child abuse to the police **where required by law to do so**.

Many states and countries do not have a specific law requiring that allegations be reported. If it is known for certain that an individual has sexually abused a child, JWs policy prohibits him from any leadership position and he is disfellowshipped if unrepentant.

Who is liable?

Usually neither the WTS nor individual congregations are held liable even though many JW child-molesters have been imprisoned. The *Star Tribune* reported:

> A Jehovah's Witnesses congregation in Annandale, Minn., isn't liable if one of its members sexually abused two child congregants more than a decade ago, a Minnesota Court of Appeals panel ruled Tuesday.
>
> Though congregation elders had received a prior complaint of abuse and didn't immediately report it to authorities, according to the ruling, the organization wasn't responsible for protecting two of its members who claim they were abused by the same person later.
>
> The two girls, now adults living in Twin Cities suburbs, sued in 2002. They claim they were abused in the late 1980s and

early 1990s and argue that they followed the organization's doctrine to report their concerns to elders—not law enforcement or anyone else. Elders at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses congregation told them to stay silent or risk losing membership, they claim.

The women say the organization's rules prevented them from protecting themselves and gave the organization a legal duty to protect them.

But in an opinion written by Judge Robert Schumacher and decided with judges Bruce Willis and Wilhelmina Wright, the court ruled that the organization didn't have control or custody of the girls when the alleged abuse happened. Incidents were alleged to have taken place on a snowmobile, in an automobile and at the alleged perpetrator's house, not at a Jehovah's Witnesses function or on the organization's property… (Pam Louwagi, March 10, 2004)

JWs pay without admitting wrongdoing

An NBC news report in 2007 dealt with Frederick McLean, a fugitive on America's most-wanted list, charged with abusing children for almost 10 years. McLean was a JW ministerial servant which had enabled him to gain his victims' trust:

Last year, some victims' families filed suit against the Jehovah's Witnesses, alleging that both McLean's local congregation and the church's national headquarters, the Watchtower Society, knew, or should have known, that Frederick McLean was a pedophile.

The Jehovah's Witnesses recently agreed to pay to settle that lawsuit and eight other similar cases, without admitting wrongdoing. The cases all involved men the church allegedly knew had sexually abused children. The settlements for those cases are confidential and filed under seal.

However, NBC News has obtained a copy of one of the settlements … the church agreed to pay $781,250…
(11/21/2007 L. Myers & R. Greenberg www.nbcnews.com/id/21917798)

Revision

In 2001-2003 television documentaries about child abuse among JWs, exposing the sect, went to air in dozens of countries including North America, England, Germany, Australia and Sweden.

In 2002 the Governing Body revised its policy. JWs child-molesters were prohibited from going door to door alone and JW victims could henceforth go to the police without elders hindering them.

But cases are still going to trial. Zalkin Law Firm in California specializes in sex abuse by religions and as of September 2013 handled 11 lawsuits against the WTS.

In 2014 Irwin Zalkin was the attorney for Jose Lopez regarding whom NBC reported:

A San Diego man who says he suffered very aggressive abuse as a child by his Bible study teacher was awarded a $13.5 million judgment Wednesday against the organization that oversees Jehovah's Witnesses churches.

Did the organization know?

Any organization including religions, schools and clubs can unknowingly have pedophiles as members or employees. Victims who sue the organization after a pedophile is convicted often fail in their lawsuit. A chance of success requires showing that the organization knew of the abuse and failed to notify the police or that legal requirements for the protection of children were not followed.

The *Daily Mail* (September 16, 2011) reported that endocrinologist Doctor George Reardon [not a JW] sexually abused thousands of children over a period of 30 years. He died in 1998 and eventually his victims began coming forward:

The lawsuits of the now-middle-aged victims argue that the institution where Reardon practised medicine for 30 years, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Centre, failed to protect them. The trial for the first of about 90 plaintiffs is expected to begin in April…

CHILD CUSTODY

I believe Jehovah's Witnesses are probably responsible for half of the contested custody cases that are in courts of review around the country. — Jeff Atkinson, former chairman ABA Custody Committee.

It is estimated that over 1,000 custody cases are fought by JWs in USA courts every year.

Great difficulties arise when one former spouse wants to bring up the children as JWs — which the Governing Body requires every

JW parent to do — and the other wants the children raised without JWs influence.

Courts weigh up the best interests of the children and this often requires testimony of the lifestyle of JWs.

In the USA Duane Magnani, the Director of Witness Inc. of Clayton, California, and author of 30 books on JWs, has been consulted in about 130 custody disputes, besides cases involving blood transfusion and insurance. He testifies on the practices and values of JWs and the emotional and physical impact on children.

Magnani's books include three about JWs children:

- *Cruel and Unusual Punishment* (1986);
- *Saleskids* (1986);
- *Refutation of Preparing for Child Custody Cases* (1988) [which responds to the WBTS manual *Preparing for Child Custody Cases* written by WBTS attorneys].

The WBTS does not usually lend its attorneys to JWs to fight custody cases but individual JWs can hire those attorneys. Usually direct WBTS involvement is limited to the following:

> A packet of legal materials is available when publishers are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation. The packet contains court decisions and other materials designed to assist an attorney who is representing a publisher whose parental fitness is being challenged because of his or her religious beliefs or practices. The Society's Legal Department should be contacted by the body of elders if
> (a) court papers or legal documents indicate that the publisher's religion is going to be attacked;
> (b) apostate literature, a religious expert, or a former Witness will be used to testify against the publisher;
> (c) a pretrial deposition of the publisher will be taken; or
> (d) a psychological examination or home study is scheduled.
> The packet offers no assistance in cases involving secular issues such as support and property. (Our Kingdom Ministry, August, 1992)

Critics allege that the WBTS booklet *Preparing for Child Custody Cases* advises JWs to give testimony they know to be misleading. The booklet tells its readers what answers to give to specific questions and advises the following:

> Be careful that they [the kids testifying] don't get the impression that they are in a demonstration at the circuit assembly, when they would show that the first things in life are service and going to the Kingdom Hall.
> (See also: *THEOCRATIC WAR STRATGY*)

CHILDREN

Russell wrote a short guide to child rearing in *Studies in the Scriptures*, Volume VI Chapter 13.

Rutherford apparently wanted his cult to be a childless religion as indicated by his attempts to ban sex, marriage and procreation among JWs:

> It would therefore appear that there is no reasonable or Scriptural injunction to bring children into the world immediately before Armageddon, where we now are. (Salvation 1939, 337)

This argument is silly in that from the lack of a Biblical injunction Rutherford derives a negative conclusion. Should people avoid light bulbs and tooth brushes because The Bible gives no command to use such items? JWs leaders employ this logical fallacy whenever it suits them. In the 1940s they argued against building halls and places of worship since the Bible makes no mention of Jesus building such things. In the 1970s they concluded from lack of Bible comment on whether Timothy was married that Timothy was unmarried. Similarly on Christmas: "If Jesus wanted his followers to celebrate his birthday why did he not instruct them?" (w1984 12/15 6)

In opposing marriage and procreation Rutherford relied on what he alleged were prophetic pictures. Noah, for example, had no children immediately before the Flood and his three sons waited until two years after the Flood: "There is a complete absence of anything in the record of any children being born to these three sons before the flood…" (Salvation 1939, 324-325)

In Rutherford's book *Children* (1941) two teenagers, John and Eunice aged 18 and 16, discuss Rutherford's doctrines. They conclude that the Divine mandate to marry and fill the earth applied after Armageddon. John and Eunice therefore forego marriage and procreation to spend more time going door-to-door. After all, it will be only a few years. (pp 328, 281) Those "few years" have become enough years to have had children, grand-children, great grand children, great-great

grand children, and great-great-great grandchildren!

Between 1950 and 1978 the Governing Body slowly eased their pressure against marriage and procreation but in 1974 still discouraged it:

> TODAY there is a great crowd of people who are confident that a destruction of even greater magnitude is now imminent. The evidence is that Jesus' prophecy will shortly have a major fulfilment, upon this entire system of things. This has been a major factor in influencing many couples to decide to remain childless at this time. They have chosen to remain childless so that they would be less encumbered to carry out the instructions of Jesus Christ to preach the good news of God's Kingdom earth-wide before the end of this system comes…
>
> The Bible says nothing to prohibit them from now enjoying this privilege and shouldering this responsibility. So it would be improper for anyone to criticize others for having children.
>
> On the other hand, there are many good reasons why couples now may decide not to have children. Even within Jesus' prophecy concerning the time of the end, sound reasons are found for remaining childless. It would, therefore, be entirely improper for anyone to criticize those who may decide that this is not the time to have children. (g1974 11/8 11)

The about-turn was completed in 1978 with the release of *Making Your Family Life Happy*. By interweaving Bible quotes with quotations from psychologists the book presents the Bible as a manual on marriage and child rearing. (See also: *MARRIAGE*)

Until the 1930s Rutherford ignored the question of whether children should attend meetings. In 1939 this changed:

> If children are born, then the parents should see to it that such children are properly instructed concerning the Lord and his kingdom until the child reaches the age when it must freely exercise intelligently its own will and bear its own responsibility. While it is not the obligation of the consecrated to seek out children not their own and to give them instruction, yet all children who accompany their parents or foster parents or those friendly to them and who desire to attend and do attend meetings with the grownups and there seek righteousness and meekness should be given aid and encouragement. (Salvation 1939, 337-338)

In 1941 Rutherford invited all JWs children to become publishers and go door to door.

Children of JWs are told to avoid unnecessary and non-compulsory school activities to minimize influence from bad associations. Education beyond the legal minimum is discouraged and parents are urged to point their kids to pioneering i.e. fulltime proselytising:

> If you are a young person, you also need to face the fact that you will never grow old in this present system of things. Why not? Because all the evidence in fulfillment of Bible prophecy indicates that this corrupt system is **due to end in a few years**. Of the generation that observed the beginning of the 'last days in 1914, Jesus foretold: This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur.—Matt. 24:34.
>
> Therefore, as a young person, **you will never fulfill any career that this system offers**. If you are in high school and thinking about a college education, it means at least four, perhaps six or eight more years to graduate into a specialized career. But where will this system of things be by that time? It will be well on the way toward its finish, if not actually gone! (g1969 5/22 15)

Those "few years" from 1969 are now many decades and the young people in high school who "will never fulfil any career" are retired.

CHILDREN — RECOVERY FROM SECTARIAN UPBRINGING

Children from dysfunctional homes may have low self-esteem, anxieties, and poor problem-solving skills. They seek acceptance, love, and solutions to their problems.

This makes them susceptible to religious organizations offering love, acceptance and answers in exchange for their allegiance.

Children in cults:

- Are told that God rewards and punishes according to whether they are good by the criteria of the cult;
- Are discouraged from looking outside the group even if they observe that what they learn is destructive or keeps changing;

- Are trapped into conformity by the cult's threat to withdraw love and by fear of punishment by God. JWs children, for example, learn that God will kill them at Armageddon if they defect — and Armageddon is always "very near".

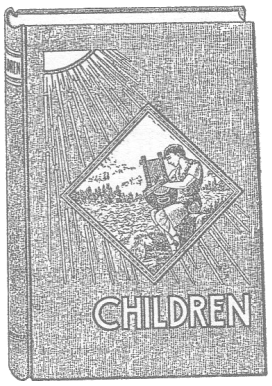
Adults who leave the destructive religion of their childhood may still judge themselves by its values and feel symptoms such as:

- Often depressed without knowing why;
- Closed-minded to ideas that conflict with the cult-ingrained notions of right and wrong;
- Judgmental of others who do things the cult forbids;
- Addictive, compulsive behavior such as over-work, over-eating and getting drunk;
- Dependent relationships — excessive need for the approval of others.

The situation, however, can be improved. Anyone who recognizes himself as spiritually abused can do the following:

- Look at the cult's books objectively — what claims in them are actually proved?
- Meet with people of similar background who now seek healthier beliefs;
- Contact mainline churches that arrange self-help groups or run websites;
- Accept that God — if God is still believed in — does not demand 100% perfection in theology or ethics.

CHILDREN (1941)



A book authored by Rutherford to discourage young people from getting married and instead enter the full time door to door activity.

The book was released at the 1941 Convention at St. Louis and was intended for distribution during the "remaining months before Armageddon".

> Cartons of *Children* that had been deposited in The Arena were now opened and Judge Rutherford instructed the children how to come and each get a copy… Receiving the gift, the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's provided instrument for most effective work **in the remaining months before Armageddon.** (w1941 9/15 28)

In *Children* JWs doctrines were explained more simply than in previous books and presented by means of dialogue between two teenagers, John aged 18, and Eunice aged 16, who were considering marriage.

John and Eunice conclude that the Divine mandate, which meant the command to Adam and Eve to multiply and fill the earth (Genesis 1:28), applies after Armageddon and the Scriptures do not support marriage before then. John and Eunice therefore decide to forego marriage and parenthood to preach Rutherford's truth until they can marry after Armageddon in "a few years". (pp 328, 281)

Much more than a "few years" have now passed. John and Eunice could by now have enjoyed marriage with children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

CHILDREN CONVENTION 1941

The final national convention that Rutherford presided over convened at St. Louis, Missouri, USA, August 6-10.



The peak attendance was 115,000. Baptisms numbered 3,903 of whom 1357 were children. On Saturday Rutherford spoke on "Comfort All

That Mourn" which was also published as a booklet.

The next day, "Children's Day", his topic was "Children of the King". 15,000 children got a free copy of his new book *Children*. This book teaches that marriage before Armageddon is contrary to the Scriptures and in the remaining "few years" young people should be out gathering more people into the JWs Organization.

CHILE

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Chile and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	7,422	1,347		
1975	15,847	647		
1980	15,831	701	50,500	220
1985	26,924	448	84,500	143
1990	37,800	349	109,600	120
1995	50,300	283	148,900	96
2000	62,200	245	155,000	98
2005	70,000	230	165,400	97
2010	72,900	234	178,800	95
2015	76,300	236	174,800	103
2018	80,451	231	177,400	105
	Ave.			
2019	80,475	236	184,600	103
2020	83,000	235	180,300	108
2021	86,300	228	268,100	73
2022	86,300	230	218,600	91
2023	85,900	232	192,700	104
2024	87,400	230	188,700	106
2025	88,200	229	185,600	109

CHILEMBWE, JOHN (c.1870-1915)

Leader and instigator of an uprising against White power in Nyasaland (Malawi) which took place January 23 to 4 February 1915.

Chilembwe had a European/Christian education in Scottish-directed Christian missions at Blantyre and Livingstonia.

He joined the staff of Joseph Booth — an independent missionary from Australia who went to Africa in 1892 to establish self-supporting mission stations — and was baptized in 1893.

Booth was critical of the Scottish Presbyterian missions and established the Zambesi Industrial Mission near Blantyre where he propagated the ideals of African equality and independence. Chilembwe studied at the Mission, became Booth's trusted servant, interpreter, and companion of Booth's two children.

Booth and Chilembwe formed two organizations that sought the unity of Nyasaland with equal rights (political, social and economic) for Africans and Europeans. They went to the USA in 1897 where Chilembwe studied at a Baptist seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia until 1900.

On returning to Nyasaland Booth continued as Chilembwe's mentor and established industrial missions in which Africans would be self-employed.

Chilembwe worked for the American National Baptist Convention, obtained land and founded Providential Industrial Mission where he established schools, built a brick church and planted crops of cotton, coffee and tea. The Mission was based on European/Christian values where people worked hard, avoided alcohol, and followed Baptist teachings. It was repeatedly praised by White authorities and contributed to the start of national awareness.

Meanwhile, from 1906 to 1910 Booth and another convert, Elliot Kamwana, studied Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures* and introduced Russellism into Africa. Some of this filtered through to Chilembwe.

At this time Chilembwe had many grievances:

- His mission was flooded with immigrants fleeing famine in Mozambique;
- White settlers seized the mission's most fertile land;
- A tax was imposed on African huts;
- A local plantation manager, William Jervis Livingstone, burned down Chilembwe's churches.

There was also a general unrest in Nyasaland based on low wages, White laws not being published in Native languages, petitions being ignored, and lack of employment. When World War I broke out Chilembwe objected to Africans being recruited.

Chilembwe's Mission disseminated orthodox Baptist views, but he also heard about Russell's prophecies of world destruction in 1915. World War I gave Russell's prophecies a seeming authenticity. Kamwana preached that the Europeans would leave Africa in April and the European nations would come to an end.

Chilembwe's rebellion became irreversible when the government censor prevented publication of his objection to African recruitment in the *Nyasaland Times*. He wrote:

> A number of our people have already shed their blood, while some are

> crippled for life… Police are marching on various villages persuading well built natives to join the war… Let the rich men, bankers, titled men, storekeepers, farmers and landlords go to war and get shot. Instead the poor Africans who have nothing to own in this present world, who in death, leave only a long line of widows and orphans in utter want and dire distress are invited to die for a cause which is not theirs… (Rotberg 1965)

Chilembwe negotiated with African chiefs to organize uprisings. He himself determined to strike a blow and die to induce European authorities to examine African grievances and make improvements. He compared himself to John Brown, the American abolitionist who tried to liberate the slaves and was executed.

On January 23 1915 Chilembwe with 200 natives killed three whites and several Africans, and looted an ammunition store. The other uprisings failed to materialize. Chilembwe fled toward Mozambique but British African troops caught up and shot him on February 3.

Chilembwe is remembered as a heroic protester against colonial rule and his image appears on Malawi banknotes of the1990s.

CHITTY, EWART C. (1898-1993?)
A Governing Body member from1976 to 1979.

Ewart Chitty's mother converted to Russellism in 1912. Ewart was at the time an office worker and began to attend meetings in 1914. He entered London Bethel, 1921; became secretary of the IBSA c.1930; spent time in prison as a conscientious objector; and was listed as ordained minister in the 1943 *Yearbook*.

Chitty's method to get correct views and make right decisions was by:

> … heeding the published word of Jehovah's organization, which directs one in harmony with the Scriptures. (w1963 2/15 118)

Nevertheless in 1979 the Governing Body asked Chitty to resign. Ex JWs claim it was due to homosexual tendencies and heavy drinking. They quote his biography:

> I have had the same friend and roommate for the past thirty years or more, Brother Edgar Clay, whose life story you may have already read; but now we share a lovely room, a most pleasant home with a fine view facing south, and an extra window looking out to rising fields and trees and the setting sun in all its glory. (w1963 2/15 120)

The Watchtower in 1986 admits:

> Shocking as it is, even some who have been prominent in Jehovah's organization have succumbed to immoral practices, including homosexuality, wife swapping, and child molesting. (w1986 1/1 13)

Chitty was apparently not disfellowshipped — he is quoted in *Awake!* (1981 5/8 6) stating that people since 1914 feel more insecure. He reportedly worked in Correspondence at headquarters for several years and then transferred to London.

CHOIR
JWs do not have choirs, viewing choirs in churches as another devilish arrangement. They do, however, have orchestras at their conventions but call it the Music Department.

CHOOSING RICHES OR RUIN (1936)
Booklet by Rutherford.

CHOOSING THE BEST WAY OF LIFE (1979)
An official WTS book about Christian morals written by Bethel member Reinhard Lengtat.

CHOSEN ONES GATHERED (Matthew 24:30-31)
JWs leaders interpret Matthew 24:30-31 as the gathering of the remnant into their Organization from 1919 to 1935. (w1984 9/15 14)

Until 1969 JWs believed that the great tribulation started in 1914, was interrupted in 1918, and would be resumed at Armageddon. The gathering from this viewpoint occurred immediately after the initial, 1914-1918, part of the tribulation.

Jesus placed the gathering of the elect or chosen ones at immediately after the tribulation when He comes on the clouds of heaven. (Matthew 24:29-31) JWs nowadays say that these are future events, contradicting that the gathering occurred 1919 to 1935.

Around 2005 the "chosen ones" were down to about 6000, but then stopped decreasing and began to increase.

CHRIST

The Greek equivalent to the Hebrew "messiah" referring to a man who is anointed — who has undergone an official ceremony installing him to a recognized position in the service of God.

"Christ" Jesus refers to Jesus after his baptism when he was anointed. But JWs also use the term Christ Jesus for his pre-existence in heaven before his birth as a baby.

JWs believe that Jesus in his pre-existence was God's first creation whom God then used to create everything else. They also regard Jesus as Michael the archangel.

In the New Testament the title "Christ" is reserved for Jesus but Russell in *The Divine Plan of the Ages* originally taught that Christians [i.e. the first-century Church and the Russellites) together with Jesus make up or constitute the Christ:

> Thus the saints of this Gospel age are an anointed company—anointed to be kings and priests unto God (2 Cor. 1:21; 1 Peter 2:9); and together with Jesus, their chief and Lord, they constitute Jehovah's Anointed—the Christ. (pp 81-82)

[See also: *JESUS; RETURN OF CHRIST;* TRINITY]

CHRISTENDOM — DENUNCIATION of

JWs view other religions that identify themselves as Christian as apostate organizations led by Satan. All of them considered together make up "Christendom".

JWs probably use the term Christendom more than anyone else — it is listed 11,500 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007).

In history books Christendom refers to the part of the world where Christianity was the dominant religion. The term is usually used of the period when religion dominated European public life perhaps up to the early 19th century.

To JWs Christendom is a pejorative reference to all other religions that claim to follow Christ. JWs associate everything bad with Christendom or with its clergy (another pejorative) including world conditions, crime, hypocrisy, Communism, pedophilia, etc:

> Without any double talk or hesitation we declare this root cause of all the crime, delinquency, hatred, strife, prejudice, communism and mad confusion to be wrong religion, false religion; behind which is man's unseen enemy, Satan the Devil. The men most responsible for the world condition are the religious instructors and leaders; and the most reprehensible of these are the religious clergy of Christendom. (w1958 11/1 647)

> Even according to the frank statements of a number of religious clergymen, godless communism was largely due to the religious hypocrisy of Christendom… (w1969 12/1 715)

> Surprisingly, the modern growth of atheism was fostered by the religions of Christendom! How so? Because of their corruption, these religious institutions provoked a great deal of disillusionment and protest. (w1994 12/1 3)

> This world, including Christendom, and God's kingdom are not friends. They cannot mix… Let us free our minds of the religious lies of Christendom's clergy… (w1958 10/15 637)

Such statements number hundreds and are part of the regular "spiritual food" of JWs since the 1920s.

The estrangement or gulf between the Christian denominations and JWs began in 1878 when Russell addressed a gathering of ministers and told them that Christ returned invisibly in 1874 and true Christians would ascend physically to heaven in 1878. The ministers refused to believe. Although 1878 was a false prediction Russell gained a following which initially came from the Advent Christian Church and other Adventist offshoots.

The Russell cult gradually acquired a separate and distinct identity from Advent Christians and Second Adventists besides disagreeing with mainline Christianity in ever more points. Russell projected the Christian rejection of him in 1878 back onto the ministers and claimed that in 1878 God rejected Christendom and established His Kingdom in heaven.

Russell's many weird doctrines such as the entry to heaven being closed to people converted after 1881, his followers alone being genuine Christians, and the time of the end lasting from 1799 to 1914, combined with soliciting for converts outside church doors, led to increasing dispute.

A climax came in 1917-1918 with the publication of *The Finished Mystery* (1917). The book calls Russellism "the truth" and mainstream Christian ministers "swine class" and D.Ds (for Dumb Dogs), and predicted

Christendom's destruction in 1918. The book has so much nonsense that JWs later rejected or altered about 1300 of its interpretations of Bible verses.

The Finished Mystery split Russellism into many splinter groups and got Rutherford and seven other leaders sentenced to prison under the Espionage Act. *The Finished Mystery* along with other inflammatory criticism in WTS tracts and in public addresses by WTS preachers, led to scores of Russellites suffering "persecution" when people they offended got angry.

With Rutherford's release from prison in 1919 the cult re-organized. Their rationalization for the continued existence of Christendom beyond 1918-1920 was:

a. A short residual harvest or "gleaning" work remained to be done to find and convert the remaining saints (or members of the 144,000) who had not yet joined the Russellites;
b. A denunciation work had to be done prior to Christendom's destruction.

Rutherford blamed his imprisonment on church ministers who allegedly conspired together to get true Christians imprisoned to suppress Bible truth. This was a conspiracy theory; the JWs story-line is:

> But in 1914 came World War I; and Christendom, the main participant in the war, used this as a means to bring the devoted Christian children of heavenly Zion into bondage, like that of the Israelites in ancient Babylon during Jerusalem's seventy-year desolation. (w1964 2/1 77)

Actually, not many people in Christendom knew about Rutherford's imprisonment or cared and no conspiracy by Christian denominations has been demonstrated.

For several years after his release, Rutherford's efforts went into re-organization, and criticism of the Churches was low-key. A theological example of his criticism is this:

> It might be reasonably expected that the clergy of various denominations would be anxious to know and anxious to tell the people about the presence of the Lord, and would joyfully receive any news concerning his presence. We find the facts to be just to the contrary, however, and we again notice that this is one of the evidences given by Jesus himself marking his second presence… Instead of these clergymen as a class joining in the proclamation, 'Behold the Bridegroom! The Lord has returned, the kingdom is at hand,' they scoff and jeer… Of course the Lord foreknew this and therefore he caused the Apostle under inspiration to write: There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts… (The Harp of God 1921, 241-242)

The Russellite doctrine of Jesus' second presence since 1874 was false and JWs discarded it in 1930. The above quote therefore mocks and scoffs at Christian ministers, accusing them of walking after their own lusts, for doing what the Bible says they should do, which is to condemn false prophecy. This example of criticism is representative of hundreds in which Russellites and Rutherfordites were wrong, and their criticisms invalid, but no apology has ever been made or published.

In the 1920s Rutherford invented the conspiracy theory whereby religion, government and big-business worked together to oppress the common people and fleece them of their money. With this idea as justification the WTS's campaign of vilification re-started in earnest. (See: *VITUPERATION*)

Further false prophecies by the JWs leaders came and went but the denunciation of the "apostate churches of Christendom" continued unabated, mostly in broad, general terms:

> …they are rejecting the Bible as myth and setting aside its moral code as out-of-date. (w1966 10/1 608)

> Christendom's sects ... have failed to recognize the modern day fulfillment of 'the sign' that Jesus gave… (w1985 1/1 15)

Briefly

Put briefly, the gulf between Christianity and JWs began in 1878 when the ministers of Pittsburgh offended Russell by rejecting his unchristian nonsense such as Christ's invisible return in 1874.

In the 1920s Rutherford scaled up the conflict into an official program of continuous denunciation.

(See: *VITUPERATION; GOAL OF WORLD DOMINATION*)

CHRISTENDOM IN PROPHECY

The Watchtower sect predicted the destruction of Christendom for 1914, then 1915, 1918, the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1970s, this

generation, and the twentieth century. (See: *DATES*)

There is no prophecy in the Bible about Christendom being destroyed. What the JWs leaders do is claim that the destruction of ancient Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE are prophetic pictures with modern counterparts in which Jerusalem corresponds to Christendom:

> CHRISTENDOM is represented by her hundreds of religious sects… How could such a numerous, mighty religious organization ever be desolated, be brought to ruin? And yet it will be!
>
> Who, though, suggested such an almost unbelievable thing? It is One whose prophecies have not failed in one case till now. It is the Almighty God, Jehovah God, the Author of the Holy Bible. He foretold it by a number of his prophets, even by means of his Son Jesus Christ. Christendom's destruction had its prophetic picture made nineteen hundred years ago. That picture will shortly prove to be a true prophecy. The reader may wonder, Why so? How?
>
> The name Christendom is not found in any prophecies of the Holy Bible. But she had her type back there in Bible times. Her type, the prophetic figure of her, is the unfaithful Jerusalem of the first century of our Common Era. Such Jerusalem was considered holy by the Jews down till its destruction in 70 C.E., and it was the type, the warning example. (1 Cor. 10:6, 11) Christendom is the antitype or the thing that was typed so long ago. Hence, although not directly named in Bible prophecy, she is typed or prophetically pictured. The desolating of unbelieving Jewish Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E. is a type or prophetic picture of the desolating of modern-day Christendom… (w1970 12/1 720)

With this parallel as their ideological foundation the JWs leaders blame Christendom for evils throughout the world — war, crime, Communism, immorality, AIDS, etc — and hold Christendom responsible.

The *Dictionary of Philosophy* defines responsibility as:

> The notion that a person is answerable for his actions and so is a proper subject for praise or blame. This can be so only when the act is within the agent's power ('up to him')… Two principal conditions are normally necessary for responsibility: (1) that the agent knows what he is doing, and (2) that his desires and intentions play some role in the act…

Thus it is individuals who are responsible for their actions whereas JWs by the way they use the term Christendom blame everyone (except themselves).

JWs completely ignore the hospitals, charities, millions of volunteer workers, schools, Bible translation and distribution, and hundreds of church-attending scientists who founded modern scientific disciplines which benefit JWs every day of their lives.

CHRISTENDOM OR CHRISTIANITY—WHICH ONE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD? (1955)

A WTS booklet in which it is claimed that Christendom consists of false religion, hypocrites, hypocrisy and stubborn people:

> They [religious leaders] are even now howling in their woe! They are eating the fruit of their hypocrisy! (p.7)

Christendom is: "…war-ridden, bloodstained, religiously split Communist breeding Christendom." (p.31)

Jesus, according to this booklet: "…did not tell his apostles ... to establish monasteries or nunneries..." (p.11) Of course Jesus did not instruct his Apostles to build printeries or drive cars either. The absence of a statement does not imply a negative conclusion. As regards monasteries — in the monasteries ancient knowledge was preserved and monks copied manuscripts even as empires and civilizations around them collapsed. The preserved knowledge became the foundation of modern science and hence of today's high standard of living.

The criticisms in the booklet are justified as love because: "Love expresses itself in correcting..." (p.22)

CHRISTIAN

To JWs all Christians other than themselves are "professing" Christians, "apostate" Christians, "false" Christians, and "imitation" Christians. They are all imposters who misrepresent God and will be destroyed. Only JWs understand and follow the Bible in all its points.

CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

A Corporation formed in 2000 CE to attend to full time workers of the JWs Organization including staff at headquarters and branch offices, circuit and district overseers, and special pioneers and missionaries.

(See: *CORPORATIONS*)

CHRISTIAN GREEK SCRIPTURES

The designation used in WTS publications and at meetings to refer to the New Testament.

(See also: *NEW WORLD TRANSLATION*)

CHRISTIAN MILLENNIAL FELLOWSHIP

The Christian Millennial Fellowship based in Hartford, Connecticut, was founded by Italian-American Gaetano Boccaccio as the Italian Bible Students Association.

In 1928, following a break with the International Bible Students Association, the Italian Bible Students changed their name to the Millennial Bible Students Church and reorganized as a nonprofit religious organization. Later the name was again changed to Christian Millennial Fellowship. In 1940 the CMF began to publish *The New Creation* magazine edited by Boccaccio.

CMF is one of three Bible Student groups that agree in theology but are separated administratively. The other two are the Western Bible Students and the Christian Believers Fellowship.

CMF is headed by a board of directors elected annually by the membership. Member churches elect officials to the offices of elder, deacon, secretary, and treasurer. No officers receive a salary, all are volunteers.

The CMF offers free Bible correspondence courses and literature in English, Spanish, Nigerian, Malawian, and Tulugo (an Indian language) paid for by voluntary donations.

CMF began work in Italy in 1939 and in the 1980s established fellowship groups in Great Britain, Ghana, Nigeria and other countries.

CMF is one of the more successful offshoots from Russellism.

(See also: *SPLINTER GROUPS*)

CHRISTIAN QUEST

A website set up in 2000 for:

> Promoting progressive Biblical study for former Jehovah's Witnesses and others … in small home study groups through a unified international network … not bound to any hierarchical agency that serves to enforce … doctrinal interpretation.

CHRISTIAN QUEST, THE

A theology journal published in the USA from 1988 to 1990, edited by M. James Penton.

CHRISTIAN WITNESSES OF JEHOVAH

An alternative designation for JWs promoted in their publications to emphasize the claim that they are Christians.

CHRISTIANITY

In the Bible a Christian is a person who obeys Christ's commandments, has the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; 1 John 3:24), confesses that Jesus is the Son of God (1 John 4:15), and accepts the Gospels.

Russell believed that Christians are scattered among all denominations and he wrote of our Adventist brothers and Protestant fellow worshippers.

In the 1920s Rutherford taught that other religions contain a great multitude of second-rate Christians who would be resurrected to live near the throne of God in the Pleiades star constellation. This teaching that people in other churches can get eternal life was discarded after 1930.

Rutherford had excused the failure of his prophecies for Armageddon in 1918-1920 by claiming that a brief denouncing or polemic work needed doing before Armageddon. To denounce <u>all</u> Christendom was, however, inconsistent with Christendom containing people who get eternal life. Therefore the new stance in the early 1930s was that only JWs are genuine Christians and would survive Armageddon. People in other churches are false Christians deceived by the devil and would be killed at Armageddon.

JWs today still claim they alone are genuine Christians with salvation available nowhere else. JWs still refer to the Russellites as sincere Christians (w1984 12/1 16-17) although also stressing that genuine Christians must have accurate Bible knowledge, which Russellism couldn't have had, since thousands of its teachings were rejected by JWs.

Furthermore, Russellites who rejected Rutherford's doctrinal changes and stayed faithful to Russell's theology have since been labelled unfaithful slave class. So, are Russellites sincere Christians or unfaithful? JWs want it both ways.

After Rutherford died, the new leaders in their turn deviated from many of Rutherford's doctrines although they continued to call Rutherfordism "true Christianity". (See: *ERROR; EXCUSES*)

CHRISTMAS

The followers of Russell observed and celebrated Christmas and the WTS sent out Christmast cards.

The 3½ by 5½ inches "Christmastide" card for 1916, signed by Russell, conveyed Christian greetings and best wishes. The upper left corner displays a crown and cross, the upper right corner Christmas bells.

The Russellite attitude to Christmas was:

> Since the celebration of our Lord's birth is not a matter of divine appointment or injunction, but merely a tribute of respect to him, it is not necessary for us to quibble particularly about the date. We may as well join with the civilized world in celebrating the grand event on the day which the majority celebrate—Christmas day. (wr1904 12/1 364)

An advertisement in w1927 p.334 says: "The Most Opportune Gift This Christmas will be a copy of Vol. VII "Studies In The Scriptures.""

In 1919 Judge Rutherford expressed excitement over the numerous Christmas presents he received. (w1919 1/15 31)

JWs now declare Christmas to be paganism and its celebration has been banned among them since1929. (Yearbook 1975, 147)

The given reasons are:

- Many Christmas customs are originally of pagan origin, and to reinterpret something of Pagan origin and give it a Christian meaning is unacceptable to God;
- Christ's birth date is unknown — December 25th was chosen to help convert Pagans since Mithraists already held December 25th as a feast day and Romans had the Saturnalia festival from December 17-24;
- Early Christians discontinued even Jewish festivals;
- Many people, including children, become depressed and even suicidal at Christmas. (g1973 12/22 3)

The Watchtower says:

> Yet the most serious danger of celebrating Christmas is that it could lead to losing God's favor. Why? There are a number of reasons. For example, Christmas promotes idolatry, something forbidden in the Bible (1 John 5:21)... Furthermore, the celebration of Christmas has promoted the worship of Jesus in place of his Father, Jehovah God. This is another form of Idolatry... Christmas gives religious covering to what in reality is a time of overindulgence and abandon. (w1984 12/15 7)

If a JW were to celebrate Christmas he would be summoned by the judicial committee of his congregation and asked to stop his idolatry. If he continued his "rebellion" he would be disfellowshipped. Christmas celebration and many of Russell's other beliefs and doctrines would, if advocated now, merit excommunication despite the many published claims in WTS publications that Russell's religion was "the truth".

[See also: *CELEBRATIONS*]

CHRONOLOGY

Chronology is the computing and assigning of dates to events.

The main dates and their interpretation in Russell's chronology were:

- 4128 BCE — Adam and Eve created.
- 1799-1915 AD — The Time of the End.
- 1829 — End of 1290 years counting from 539 AD to the start of the Millerite movement.
- 1844-1874 — 30-year tarrying time corresponding to 2 BCE to 29 CE, Jesus' birth to his baptism
- 1846 — End of 2300 days.
- 1872 — 6000 years from creation and the beginning of the 1000-year reign of Christ.
- 1874 — Christ's second coming.
- 1874-1914 — Harvest period of 40 years.
- 1878 — Kingdom in Heaven established; God rejected all mainline churches.
- 1881 — Rapture of the living saints.
- 1906-1907 — Europe-wide war to occur.
- c1912-1914 — Start of Armageddon.
- 1914 — Israel restored and governed by resurrected heroes of the Old Testament.
- 1914-1915 — All nations submit to rule by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other resurrected Old Testament "worthies" resulting in global peace and prosperity. This takeover by the ancient worthies constituted the end of the Gentile Times.

Russell called his dates "God's dates".

Correct beyond a doubt and of God

In the 1920s Rutherford claimed that Russell's chronology is correct beyond a doubt and of divine origin and proven certainty:

> If the contention of his opponents concerning Chronology is right, then everything that transpired in 1914 since must be disregarded as evidence of the Messiah's kingdom. It is admitted by them that the tenure of office of Israel's kings must be changed in order to agree with some historians who were agents of Satan. Such a change would put out of joint all our chronology, and destroy the value of the dates 1874, 1878, 1881, 1910, 1914 and 1918. Such would be equivalent to saying, Where is the proof of his presence? My Lord delayeth his coming. (w1922 5/1 139)
>
> …where the agreement of dates and events come by the dozens, they cannot possibly be by chance, but must be the design or plan of the only personal Being capable of such a plan—Jehovah himself; and the chronology itself must be right.
>
> In the passages of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh the agreement of one or two measurements with the present-truth chronology might be accidental, but the correspondency of dozens of measurements proves that the same God designed both pyramid and plan—and at the same time proves the correctness of the chronology.
>
> The agreement of the chronology with certain measurements of the Tabernacle and the Temple of Ezekiel further stamps the chronology as true.
>
> It is on the basis of such and so many correspondencies—in accordance with the soundest laws known to science—that we affirm that, Scripturally, scientifically, and historically, present-truth chronology is correct beyond a doubt. Its reliability has been abundantly confirmed by the dates and events of 1874, 1914, and 1918. Present-truth chronology is a secure basis on which the consecrated child of God may endeavor to search out things to come.—1 Peter 1:11, 12; John 16:13. (w1922 6/15 187)
>
> … this chronology is not of man, but of God. Being of divine origin and divinely corroborated, present-truth chronology stands in a class by itself, absolutely and unqualifiedly correct. …
>
> In the chronology of present truth there are so many inter-relationships among the dates that it is not a mere string of dates, not a chain, but a cable of strands firmly knit together—a divinely unified system, with most of the dates having such remarkable relations with others to stamp the system as not of human origin…
>
> It will be clearly shown that present-truth chronology displays indisputable evidence of divine foreknowledge of the principle dates, and that this is proof of divine origin, and that the system is not a human invention but a discovery of divine truth. (w1922 7/15 217-218)

Chronology discarded and changed

In 1930 Rutherford switched Christ's return from 1874 to 1914 after which WTS leaders published little about chronology until 1943. In 1943, after having barely mentioned their "indisputable … divine truth", "divinely corroborated" from "Jehovah himself", for about 15 years, they officially threw it out like trash and published a new chronology.

In *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (1943) the WTS presented a new chronology in which Adam was created in 4028 BCE and 6,000 years from Creation ended in 1972-1973.

Much JWs chronology is concerned with proving that Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon in 607 BCE and not 586 BCE as stated in history books. 607 BCE is vital to calculating 1914, which is the platform on which WTS authority and many of its doctrines stand.

The Chronology entry in *Aid to Bible Understanding* (1971) and *Insight On The Scriptures* (1988) therefore tries to undermine historical records, archaeological discoveries, ancient writers like Berossus and Ptolemy, and calculations based on astronomy.

In *The Gentile Times Reconsidered* (1983) Carl Olof Jonsson compared the secular data with the Bible and confirmed 586 BCE. The JWs error lies in assuming that the Bible mentions one 70-year period in relation to Jerusalem's destruction whereas it mentions two partly overlapping 70-year periods:

1. The 70 years of Jeremiah 25:10-12, 29:10 are 70 years of servitude by Judah and surrounding nations to Babylon. These 70 years run from about 605 BCE, when the first group of Jewish exiles were deported to Babylon, until Babylon's fall in 539 and Judah's restoration a few years later when about 50,000 exiles returned.

2. Zechariah 1:7, 12 mentions seventy years of indignation or wrath on Judah, Jerusalem and the temple but not on surrounding nations. This "indignation" began with the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple in 586 BCE and finished in 516 BCE.

The other error of the JWs leaders is that there were four "devastations" of Jerusalem, 605 BCE, 597 BCE, 586 BCE, 581 BCE, and the 70 years count from the first one. JWs, however, count 70 from the third devastation and thus get an extra 20 years.

(See also: *CREATION; DATES; DAYS; GENTILE TIMES; KINGDOM*)

CHRYSSIDES, GEORGE D.

Author of *Historical Dictionary of Jehovah's Witnesses* (2008), a hardcover book published by The Scarecrow Press.

The book has 250 cross-referenced entries covering prominent JWs and ex JWs, historical events, structure of the organization, major doctrines and concepts, and terminology peculiar to JWs. It includes a seven-page Chronology of events, a 41-page Introduction on the historical development of JWs, and a Bibliography.

Chryssides seems to endorse the official JWs slant on many controversies and says almost nothing negative about the sect. He received assistance from staff at the British and American headquarters and was given the *Watchtower Library* CD which was normally supplied only to JWs.

George D. Chryssides is the head of religious studies at the University of Wolverhampton in England where he specializes in minority religious movements.

CHURCH

The Greek ekklesia refers to assemblies, crowds, and gatherings. In the Bible ekklesia also refers to individual congregations and occasionally to all Christians collectively.

Russell taught: "The one true church, dear friends, is the church of the Bible." (Convention Report 1913, 229)

JWs leaders used to limit the phrases "the Christian congregation" and "Jehovah's witnesses" to the 144,000. The "great crowd" were considered associates of JWs and of the Christian congregation. Outsiders found this confusing especially as the "remnant of the 144,000" became fewer and fewer.

Gradually "the Christian congregation" and "Jehovah's Witnesses" came to refer to the whole sect, all of its members.

CHURCH OF GOD (1888)

The Church of God (Abrahamic Faith) developed from smaller groups of similar faith (several dating from 1800).

They organized in 1888 under the name Church of God in Christ Jesus. The churches began to function as a unit in 1921 when a national conference was established with the name Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith.

The Church regards the Bible as the supreme standard of faith. Literal interpretations of the kingdom of God and the premillennial return of Christ are central. The dead are regarded as asleep and will be resurrected on Earth and the wicked destroyed when Christ comes.

These doctrines must be accepted along with repentance and baptism by immersion for admission to church membership. The individual churches are autonomous and missionary work is carried on in India, Mexico and the Philippines.

In the 19th century the Church of God included many Second Adventists from the great disappointment of 1844 — the same crowd that gave rise to Russellism and contributed to C.T. Russell's beliefs.

CHURCH OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD (EGLISE DU ROYAUME DE DIEU)

Founded in 1918 when Alexander Freytag (died 1947), head of the WTS Geneva Office in Switzerland, broke with Rutherford.

Freytag's followers outnumbered the Witnesses in Europe until 1946. About 14,000 once convened in Paris. The total membership in all countries at Freytag's death was about 50,000 making is one of the biggest split-off groups from Russellism and JWs.

French and Swiss segments of the movement then split. The French group became known for its altruism and social action and numbered about 15,000 in 1970. The Swiss branch, centered at Cartigny, had perhaps 5,000 adherents in Switzerland and Germany. (Wilson 1970)

CHUUK

Formerly known as Truk, Chuuk is located in the Caroline Islands (north of New Guinea) and is one of four states of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Chuuk and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1990				
1995	44	1,504	462	143
2000	58	1,238	746	96
2005	61	1,041	749	85
2010	46	1,469	260	260
2015	42	1,158	230	211
2018	47	1,035	181	269
	Ave.			
2019	41	1,195	207	237
2020	33	1,515	87	575
2021	31	1,742	175	309
2022	27	2,000	180	300
2023	23	2,348	103	524
2024	28	1,929	143	378
2025	28	1,786	144	347

CHYKE, C.
Member of the Governing Body in the1980s.

CIGARETTES
Cigarette/cigar smoking was banned among JWs by Rutherford. It gradually crept in again despite being frowned on but was tolerated if done privately.

Smoking was again banned to JWs in 1973/1974. Smokers were given six months to either quit smoking or stop being publishers. Any JW involved in tobacco production or employed in selling tobacco products had to leave his job.

In 1984 JWs leaders banned non-nicotine cigarettes as well. (w1984 6/15 31)

CIRCUIT
Since 15th October 1946 a circuit is an area comprising up to 10-20 congregations — and was previous to October 1946 referred to as a "zone".

Each circuit has a circuit overseer who visits congregations successively, staying for a week, to check up on everything, give inspiring talks, and encourage more zeal in going door to door.

CIRCUIT ASSEMBLY/CONVENTION
Twice yearly weekend series of meetings of all the congregations of a circuit. Initiated and held for the first time in San Francisco in 1938 as a Zone Assembly. (w1983 9/15 24) Zone Assemblies were discontinued temporarily from late 1941.

The venue for circuit assemblies is a JWs assembly hall if there is one in the area, otherwise a rented hall, rented school auditorium or a rented stadium.

CIRCUIT OVERSEERS
Elders appointed by the WTS to oversee all the congregations in a circuit (usually about 10 congregations):

> Worldwide, there are some 3,900 circuit and district overseers... In the United States, where 499 circuit and district overseers were serving in 1992... (Proclaimers 1993, 298)

A circuit overseer visits congregations in his circuit for a week each, stays in a private home, gives pep talks at meetings, checks the congregation accounts, checks on progress in the door to door work, solves conflicts and problems, considers candidates for eldership and pioneering, and sends a report to branch headquarters.

They were previously (1938-1941) called "zone servants", then "servants to the brethren", and then until 1971"circuit servants".

Until 2007 congregations received two circuit overseer visits per year, and from 2007 three.

CIRCUIT WORK
The duties of a circuit overseer.

CITY OVERSEER
A local elder in a city appointed by the WTS to handle city-wide matters pertinent to JWs.

CITIES OF REFUGE
Moses provided for six cities of refuge where persons who had accidentally killed someone lived until the high priest died. To leave the city prematurely risked execution. (Numbers 35)

JWs regard the cities of refuge as a prophetic picture of JWs surviving Armageddon by staying in the Organization. (w1934 8/15 247; w1967 8/15)

CLARKE, C.C.
Author of *Russell, Rutherford And The Heresies Of Jehovah's Witnesses* (c.1935).

CLARK, DANIEL C.
Author of *I Witness: The Shocking Insider's Story of Jehovah's Witnesses* (2007) in which he describes his upbringing as a JW. The Amazon description says: "Daniel shares the story of his journey from an abusive childhood to his escape from the religious cult that held him and his entire family prisoner."

CLASS
A group enrolled for special teaching or instruction such as the trainee missionaries at Gilead Missionary School, or elders, or pioneers attending training or refresher courses.

CLASS 2
JWs are divided into various theological categories or classes.

People who entered the Organization prior to 1919 and stayed loyal constitute the Mordecai class and the Naomi class. Those who joined in 1922-1935 are the Esther class and Ruth class. Together these two groups form the wise servant class (w1972 2/1 85) or "remnant of the 144,000"
.
The defectors of 1917-1919 who formed organized groups or sects are the "evil slave class".

The remnant of the 144,000 is the heavenly class, Jeremiah class, Ezekiel class, and God's modern-day collective prophet. The great crowd is the earthly class, Jonadab class and Ebed Melech class.

Christendom is the Edom class, and Christian ministers have been called the swine class, false Christ class and goat class. (w1972 2/1 88)

CLASS WORKER
A term in use during Rutherford's time, equivalent to congregation publisher.

CLEAN ORGANIZATION
A phrase referring to the enforcement of certain ethical rules among JWs and to the practice of disfellowshipping (excommunicating) any JWs who are immoral, take blood transfusions, join political activity, or who expose WTS errors.

Disfellowshipping of such "evildoers" maintains a "clean organization".

CLERGY
A term that JWs use pejoratively.

JWs leaders lump ministers of all denominations together as "clergy" or "clergy of Christendom" and stereotyped them as apostates, traitors, hypocrites and opposers of scriptural truth.

JWs consider the clergy to be paid agents of false religious organizations. JWs have paid officials also (i.e. missionaries and elders above the rank of congregation elder who receive monthly allowances). But these are not dubbed "clergymen" or "hypocrites", despite getting remuneration and promoting all current WTS errors, rather "ministers" of "true religion" and "Christian shepherds".

WTS publications refer to the Pharisees of Jesus' time as "clergy" and "hypocritical clergy" and to Christian ministers as "Pharisees" or "modern-day Pharisees" thereby, in the minds of JWs, linking Christian ministers with the murderers of Jesus:

> CHRIST Jesus when on earth worked hard and long to bring the comfort of the truth … to men of good will, and his disciples and apostles did likewise… Therein they were opposed by a greedy, lazy and hypocritical clergy… (w1953 5/15 315)

> He [Jesus] made known truth … in his disputing with the hypocritical clergy, and by his living example. (w1992 3/1 18)

> So in this twentieth century we find that Christendom's clergy have made Pharisees of themselves. (g1961 11/8 8)

On the *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD the word "clergy" occurs 5693 times, "clergymen" 1804 times, "clergyman" 1076 times, and "clergy of Christendom" 452 times.

Statements that portray clergy (or "clerics") as wilful opposers of Bible truth abound:

> That strong and very active congregation naturally has the disapproval of the clergy. Not having any Biblical defense against the forceful thrusts of the truth, the clerics resorted to personal invective. (Yearbook 1979, 93)

The context here is to Russellism in 1912 which differed in thousands of points to current JWs doctrine. If the interpretations in 1912 were "forceful thrusts of the truth" why do JWs now reject hundreds of these "forceful thrusts"? (See: *ERROR*)

The negative, hate-instillng, hate-promoting stereotyping is incessant:

> …the clergy of Christendom have miserably failed in their professed Christian mission. They have taught their church people religious doctrines that have been bitter to their spiritual taste, adulterating God's Word with pagan doctrines or exalting the traditions of uninspired men above the Bible. They have led Christendom in a course of active association with this wicked world that has made church people the enemies of God and that has brought spiritual death to them now and that leads on to literal physical death during the approaching day of vengeance on the part of our God. (w1969 12/1 717)

> Millions upon millions of people and their hypocritical clergy in Christendom's religious organizations today have actually thrown the words of God behind them. (w1969 1/1 12)

Slanderous generalities such as these have appeared in JWs publications by thousands and became more numerous and obnoxious as more WTS prophecies failed and Christians exposed those false prophecies. It is the sort of situation that Jesus foretold:

> But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' and then begins to beat his fellow-servants and to eat and drink with the drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 24:48-51)

(See also: *CHRISTENDOM; VITUPERATION*)

CLIMAX

A subheading in w2005 2/1 17 says "Harvest Reaching Its Climax" but gave no details about the climax.

JWs think of Armageddon as the climax, grand climax and greatest climax which is always "impending", "soon", at "the brink", "rapidly approaching", "at the doors", "at hand", and "very near":

> Divine prophecy now in course of fulfillment shows beyond all doubt that the end of Satan's uninterrupted rule is at hand and that the climax will soon be upon the world in the form of the battle of the great day of God Almighty. (w1940 3/1 72)

> The day of preparation for Armageddon has been in progress for some time. There is now a short period of grace until the battle of God Almighty, and which time brings all creation to the greatest climax ever known. God has shortened the day of tribulation and afforded time and opportunity for his warning to be sounded (Matt. 24: 21, 22), and all the Scriptures and all the physical facts relating thereto clearly indicate that the final conflict at Armageddon is very near. (w1940 5/15 149

CLOWES, Brother

The Russell cult began in 1872-1874 as a split in the Pittsburgh Advent Christian Church. Brother Clowes was a pastor in the Advent Christian Church who remained friendly with the Russell group.

Clowes is mentioned in an 1889 letter by Russell's father in *Zion's Watch Tower*:

> I am very sorry to know that Brother Clowes is so very low. Possibly before this time he has gone to his rest. But his works will follow after; and may we also be ready, for we know not when our change may come. We are all in usual health at present, and hope you are all well. Joined by Wife and Mabel in love to you all, I am your loving Father,
> J. L. RUSSELL.
>
> [The above is from the Editor's aged Father, whose appreciation, love and zeal for the truth, seem to grow with his years. Now in his seventy-fifth year, he is more and more seeking to let the light shine, loaning DAWN, tracts, etc. His fellowship is highly appreciated. On Jan'y 25th our dear Brother Clowes, with whom some of our readers were acquainted, having heard him preach the word of truth at various points near Pittsburgh, passed away full of triumphant faith and glorious hope. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the spirit, they shall rest from their labors, but their works follow with them.]
> (Zion's Watch Tower 1889, March)

Jonas Wendell, the Advent Christian Church preacher who converted C.T. Russell in 1869, had a letter published in *The World's Crisis* magazine in 1871, which mentioned that Clowes was elected pastor of the Pittsburgh Advent Christian Church. Previously Clowes

was a Methodist minister but was excommunicated in 1870.

CLUB SYSTEM

Deliveries of magazine subscriptions were carried out by government postage until 1990 after which congregation personnel did the deliveries. This was dubbed the "Club System"".

A WBTS letter to "All Congregations in Canada" said:

> Thus effective from March 1, instead of using Canada Post to deliver our subscriptions, we are now asking you brothers to deliver the majority of them. This arrangement is called the "Club System." (February 1, 1991)

The addressed and packaged magazines were delivered to JWs congregations in bulk after which "publishers" delivered them.

The reason given is that in Canada the government had removed subsidies resulting in "prohibitive postage rates". Additional reasons could be:

- To identify critics and not renew their subscriptions;
- To gain $millions by charging the full subscription rates but avoiding postage;
- To be able to continue deliveries if the government postage system broke down. Increased breakdown of all services was anticipated before Armageddon which at the time JWs still prophesied would occur in the 20th century.

COLE, BRIAN

A former JW who was in the sect from age 16 to 46 and who put his testimony dated June 2003 on the Internet.

Cole served at Brooklyn headquarters from 1974 to 1979. After that he served as a minister in Oregon for 20 years, including as a pioneer and from 1987 to 1989 as a circuit overseer supervising 21 congregations in Northern Minnesota.

He contacted the Apostolic Faith church in 2001 and disassociated himself from JWs in 2002:

> I had to pretty much start over, build a new biblical foundation. There are still a few things that I think the JWs have right, but most of their doctrines have proven to be unbiblical…
>
> My disillusionment with JW beliefs was accelerated by reading critical literature of ex-Jehovah's Witnesses and others. The JW leadership tells the flock to never accept or read such literature, an argument that comes from a position of weakness…

Cole accepted belief in the Trinity and in "one hope" i.e. that the destiny of all Christians is heaven — rejecting the JWs belief in an earthly class of Christians. The slave Jesus spoke of (Matthew 25:45-47) is not, he now believes, a special class of Christians but an exhortation to Christian leaders to care for the sheep in their churches.

Cole says:

> I miss my witness friends, but they truly believe Jehovah expects them to shun me…
>
> As for new light, I came to appreciate the statement at Jude 3: earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. All the light a Christian will ever need was established and delivered to the first-century Christian congregation.

COLE, MARLEY (1916- 2009)

Author of *Jehovah's Witnesses—The New World Society* (1955) and *Triumphant Kingdom* (1957).

Cole was a JW until his death and interviewed WTS personnel and other JWs for these books but did not admit this. The first book has been described as: "an approved promotional piece framed as an objective third-party account." An outside publishing firm was used so as to reach persons who do not buy WTS literature.

Cole was a news reporter. He also wrote several theological works independently of the WTS besides his biography titled *Harvest of Our Lives* (1996 Stoops Publishing).

COLLECTION PLATE

JWs do not take up a collection as part of their meetings — viewing this practice as demonstrating false religion's obsession with money — but have contribution boxes in Kingdom Halls and at conventions.

The WTS makes money through books and by regularly reminding JWs of various ways to donate money, property and assets even produces booklets on how to do this.

(See: *CONTRIBUTIONS*)

COLOMBIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Colombia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	7,083	3,021		
1975	15,506	1,569		
1980	16,044	1,703	65,469	417
1985	26,536	1,143	114,800	255
1990	46,800	698	182,300	179
1995	75,000	438	296,200	111
2000	107,600	390	372,200	113
2005	126,600	364	426,800	108
2010	149,200	306	460,800	99
2015	166,400	297	511,000	97
2018	181,700	274	512,400	97
	Ave.			
2019	183,900	274	568,000	89
2020	186,400	273	498,494	102
2021	188,600	272	633,000	81
2022	185,600	278	568,100	91
2023	185,000	279	544,700	95
2024	188,800	277	552,800	94
2025	192,400	274	526,600	100

COLPORTEURS
Persons appointed by the WBTS to sell Russell's, and later Rutherford's, books full-time. Renamed "pioneers" in 1931.

Year	Number of Colporteurs
1893	114
1916	373
1917	461
1918	Nil
1919	150 in March

COMENTARY ON THE LETTER OF JAMES (1979)
An official WTS book authored by Edward Dunlap a JW of 40 years and Registrar of Gilead Missionary School. Dunlap was dismissed and disfellowshipped in1980 for questioning Frederick W. Franz's (the WTS's president) date-setting.

COMES ON APACE
Another phrase occasionally employed in WTS publications to imply Armageddon is too near for anything other than devotion to the WTS:

> Jehovah's battle of Armageddon comes on apace… (w1950 8/15 263)

> The war of the great day of God the Almighty comes on apace… (w1987 1/1 27)

COMFORT
JWs believe that one purpose of witnessing is to bring comfort. JWs themselves are said to "Take Comfort in Jehovah" (w2000 4/15 5-6) The word "comfort" appears over 4000 times on the *Watchtower Library 1950-2007* CD.

COMFORT ALL THAT MOURN (1941)
Booklet by Rutherford.

COMFORT FOR THE JEWS (1925)
A book in which Rutherford gives:

> …conclusive proof that it is God's purpose to restore Israel to his favor upon certain conditions. (p.45)

Comfort teaches:

> This volume … is the first unbiased presentation of the subject from the Scriptural viewpoint published. (Introduction p.3)

> The rebuilding of Palestine is now beginning and is well under way. This is being done clearly in fulfilment of prophecy uttered as promises from Jehovah. (p.12)

Israel's restoration is:

- in fulfilment of prophecy (pp 12, 67, 125);
- absolutely certain of fulfilment (p.19)
- promised (pp 53, 55)

The book says that:

- Israel's wars and persecution have ended. (pp 56-69, 123, 126-7)
- The Millennial Jubilee starts in 1925. (p.123)
- The Jews therefore need right knowledge which will be made available in late 1925 (pp 87-88, 94-95) — [which date coincided with the release of *Comfort For the Jews*].
- Israel will become a mighty nation and lead the world back to harmony with God. (p.97)

Christians who disagree with the book are:

> … in ignorance of God's purpose concerning the Jews. (p.52)

In 1931 Rutherford rejected Russell's doctrine of Israel's restoration and applied the Old Testament restoration prophecies (Isaiah 65, Jeremiah 32, Ezekiel 11, 34, 36) to the WTS and its supporters i.e. to the JWs "organization":

> …the affairs of God's kingdom with reference to the things of earth are of far greater importance than the rehabilitation of the little strip of land on the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea. The Jews have received more attention at their hands than they have really deserved. Therefore this prophecy must have its chief fulfilment upon the true people of God's kingdom which are now on the earth. (Vindication II, 258)

In 1939 Rutherford claimed:

> It therefore follows and the Scriptures conclusively prove that the nation of Israel or Jews will never be restored as a nation… (g1939 11/29 17 Australian edition)

Reasons for the switch were:

- Rutherford's prophecies about Israel, like Russell's, repeatedly turned out false and so it seemed best to forget them:
- "Because the promises of God are not always fulfilled at the time when men think they should be fulfilled, many lose faith in his promises made." (Comfort 1925, 12)

- Rutherford's agenda was to make the WTS a world government that leads the world back to harmony with God. This goal gave the WTS the role previously attributed to Israel and its ancient heroes and therefore Israel became prophetically redundant. (See: *GOAL*)

Even the title of *Comfort for the Jews* is misleading since false prophecies supposedly coming from God do not comfort anyone for very long, but instead make people sick because, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick". (Proverbs 13:12)

COMING
See: *RETURN OF CHRIST*

COMING WORLD REGENERATION, THE (1944)
Booklet about the recreation of a world of righteousness, (p.9)

The "regeneration" began in 1914 (p.24) and will lead on to a new righteous organization on this earth (p.25) which will be complete after Armageddon. (pp 25-26) Visible Princes will rule on behalf of the invisible heavenly Kingdom. (pp 26)

COMMANDER TO THE PEOPLES, THE (1945)



A booklet which develops the theme that:

…thoughtful persons are convinced that someone must be put in supreme command of all the globe, if international chaos is to be prevented in the long run. (p.4)

That someone is Jesus (p.18) who will rule from heaven with 144,000 assistants. (p.20) Soon the Kingdom in heaven will destroy the United Nations which is the final line-up of this old world against Jehovah's universal domination. (p.28)

Meanwhile everyone should flee into the Theocracy i.e. into the JWs Organization for protection (p.29) and join in giving the witness. (p.24) A global government must be Theocratic if it's to be successful. (pp 15-16)

The implication that if enough people flee into the Theocracy national sovereignties will collapse, leaving the WTS to rule the world, is not developed.

The official teaching is that the bulk of world conversion will occur after Armageddon has destroyed all opposition and God resurrects the dead who died since the time of Adam and Eve.

COMMANDS OF MEN AS DOCTRINES
Jesus condemned men who teach their own commands as equivalent to doctrine. (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7)

JWs leaders have taught many doctrines and commands as coming from God, and later

discarded those same doctrines and commands. Opposition to marriage and tissue transplants are two well-known examples.

COMMENT
To "comment" at a JWs meeting is the remark or the answer given by a member of the audience who is selected to answer a question. Answering questions regularly at meetings — especially if in one's own words rather than quoting the book or the *Watchtower* being studied — is to JWs a sign of maturity.

COMMITTEE
1. In November and December 1916 the WBTS was administered by a committee of three — A.I. Ritchie (Vice President), Van Amburgh (Secretary/Treasurer), and Rutherford (legal adviser).

2. Individual JWs congregations have a Service Committee of three members. Until 1971 the three members were the overseer (congregation servant), assistant overseer, and Bible-study servant.

With the introduction of the elder arrangement in 1972 the committee consisted of presiding overseer, field overseer, and Bible-study overseer. In 1983 the committee consisted of the presiding overseer, secretary, and service overseer.

When a judicial committee is needed to examine cases of wrongdoing or reinstate a disfellowshipped person, the same three men (but including sometimes other elders) will be in it.

3. Since 1972 each branch office has had a committee of elders rather than just one branch servant in charge.

4. In 1976 the Governing Body organized itself into committees. Franz (1983) listed them as the:

- Chairman's Committee
- Personnel Committee;
- Publishing Committee
- Service Committee;
- Teaching Committee;
- Writing Committee;

This agrees with *Yearbook* 1977 pp 258-259.

In 1992 the committee members, consisting of Governing Body members and assistants, were:

- Personnel committee — Gerald Grizzle, Patrick LaFranca, Ralph Walls
- Publishing Committee — Richard Abrahamson, Don Adams, Robert Butler
- Service Committee — Gerrit Losch, William van de Wall, Robert Wollen, Leon Weaver
- Teaching Committer — Harold Jackson, William Malenfant, David Mercante
- Writing Committee — Joseph Eames, Robert Pevy, Gene Smalley.

COMMITTEE ACTION
A committee action occurs when a congregational judicial committee officially disciplines a wayward member of the congregation by disfellowshipping him or imposing some sort of restriction.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS
1 Any information that is kept confidential by a congregation's committee.
2 Tasks handled by a committee such disciplinary actions.

COMMON ERA
The expression JWs use instead of Anno Domini or A.D. Usually abbreviated C.E. as in 1914 C.E.

COMMUNION
The Lord's Evening Meal celebration or Lord's Supper, which JWs call the Memorial or Memorial Service and hold once each year.
(See: *MEMORIAL*)

COMMUNISM
Russell defined Communism as: "…a social system in which there will be community of goods; in which all property shall be owned in common and operated in the general interest…" (Studies IV 1897, 473)

He considered Communism impractical because:

> We would soon have a competition as to who would do the least and the worst work; society would soon lapse into barbarism and immorality leading to the rapid extinction of the race. (ibid p.474)

Russell claimed that Armageddon would consist of global uprisings including Communist uprisings starting near 1912.

In the 1940s several Catholic writers suggested that WTS religion was anarchistic and Communistic. JWs rejected this as slander by false religion. (w1950 8/15) The origin of the accusation is Rutherford's book

Government (1928) which predicted a global uprising by the great multitude resulting in the destruction of all earthly governments. JWs leaders in 1950 made no mention of the prophecy in *Government* and instead threw accusations of being Communist back at other religions. One JWs slogan was "Communist breeding Christendom".

In 1958 JWs leaders interpreted the King of the North (Daniel 11) as the Communist nations. The book *Your Will Be Done on Earth* (1958) describes the struggle between the king of the south (=Britain and America) and the king of the north defined as "…the Soviet Union, the Communist power that, since it seized power in Russia in 1917, has held world domination as its aim to this day." (p.278)

The book predicted that Communist USSR would perish at Armageddon:

- Down to the time of the end at Armageddon there will be competitive coexistence between the two kings. (p. 297)
- Jehovah's angel foretold further aggressions by the Communist king of the north before his end at Armageddon. (p. 300)

In 1989 Communism collapsed without Armageddon and another set of WTS prophecies turned out false.

COMMUNIST COUNTRIES — PUBLISHERS

Peak publishers in Communist countries

1950	1960	1970	1985	1995
Albania				
100				600
Bulgaria				
50	50	50		655
China				
132	40			
Cuba				
7500	13,100	20,000	20,000	30,000
Czechoslovakia				
2900	7000	10,000	15,000	16,800
Estonia				
				2700
German Democratic Republic				
21,000	10,000	12,000	15,000	30,000
Hungary				
2300	4000	5000		16,900
Laos				
	6	23		
Latvia				
				980
Lithuania				
				1650
Poland				
18,100	50,000	60,000	80,000	123,900
Romania				
4400				33,540
USSR				
8000	25,000	30,000	40,000	78,000
Vietnam				
	17	52		
Yugoslavia				
500	3000	3000	3000	3130

COMMUNIST KING OF THE NORTH
The book *Your Will Be Done On Earth* (1958) identified the king of the north (Daniel 11:36-45) as the Communist countries led by the Soviet Union, and the king of the south as the democracies led by the USA and Britain.

Both kings would survive down to Armageddon at which time both would perish:

> Down to the time of the end at Armageddon there will be competitive coexistence between these two kings.… In the confused fighting between the two kings as crazed enemies of Jehovah God and his kingdom, the kings will have the opportunity and occasion to try out and use their frightful, deadly weapons of all kinds against each other. (p.297)

The Soviet Union and its Communism rule disintegrated in 1989-1990. The two kings therefore did not coexist until Armageddon and did not use their "deadly weapons of all kinds against each other". Considering that these events were to occur in the 20th century they must be included among the hundreds of false predictions of the JWs leaders.

COMPANY
The term for "congregation" from 1932 to 1950.

COMPANY PUBLISHER(S)
The term for a JW publisher until 1950.

COMPANY SERVANT
From 1936 the Rutherford-appointed leader of a congregation. (See: *SERVICE DIRECTOR*)

COMPLETE DONATION ARRANGEMENT
A policy instituted by the WTS in the USA in 1990 by which specific contributions were no longer requested for literature offered at doors. Instead publishers were instructed to tell householders the publications are free but donations would be accepted.

The policy also meant that JWs no longer bought WTS publications for door-to-door use but gave voluntary contributions for them which contributions were passed to the WTS.

The new policy followed a Supreme Court ruling in California that religious organizations should not be exempt from sales tax.

(See: C*ONTRIBUTIONS*)

COMPOSITE SIGN

JWs believe the prophecy of Jesus in Matthew 24 is "A composite Sign of Many Parts". (g1993 3/22 5) The composite sign, JWs believe, has two fulfilments — one in the first century and the second in the 20th century.

The supposed composite sign is said to confirm that the last generation before Armageddon was in existence by 1914 and world destruction followed by paradise on Earth is imminent.

Until the 1970s it was argued that earthquakes, war, pestilence and famine had all occurred on their greatest scale since 1914. This was refuted by writers who listed greater wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes in previous centuries. (Jonsson & Herbst, 1987)

Therefore JWs leaders placed less emphasis on the unique severity of such events and instead stressed their composite aspect — all the various components of the sign had to occur all together in one generation — that of 1914.

The supposed sign has about 28 or 30 components (or parst) (the exact number varies) to be fulfilled in one generation from 1914. The components include war, pestilence, famines, earthquakes, increased lawlessness, anguish of nations, the JW preaching, etc.

w1993 3/1 5 lists 24 parts to the sign. Regarding Matthew 24:7 — "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" — the article said: "This meant global war on an unprecedented scale." (p.4) Jesus, however, doesn't say that — it's what the JWs leaders say.

The composite sign was supposed to cover one generation starting with people old enough to see and understand the events of 1914. By 1995 it became obvious that the prophecy is false. The meaning of "generation" was therefore in 1995 redefined and made indefinitely long. (See: *GENERATION*)

However, the JW interpretation of Matthew 24 is wrong anyway. How so? Jesus said:

> YOU are going to hear of wars and reports of wars; see that YOU are not terrified. **For** these things must take place, <u>but the end is not yet</u>. (24:6 NWT)
>
> **For** nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be food shortages and earthquakes… (24:7)

The little word "**For**" after "see that YOU are not terrified" connects the reader to the reason for not being terrified — which is "these things must take place…"

Another "**For**" is in verse 7 where the word "**For**" connects the reader to the reason why "the end is not yet." The reason why "the end is not yet" is that "nation will rise against nation … and there will be food shortages and earthquakes…" In other words the events of the supposed composite sign — war, famine, etc — are not events that indicate the end, but events that indicate "the end is not yet." Wars, famines, earthquakes, etc, are ordinary events that do not indicate the nearness of the end!

Therefore, the "composite sign" interpretation of JWs reverses what Jesus taught. No wonder then that Armageddon failed to come in 1914, 1918, the 1920s, the 1930s, the 1940s, the 1970s, the 20th century and this generation!

The composite sign misunderstanding appeared in preliminary form in *The Harp of God* (1921) in which Rutherford claimed that WWI fulfilled Matthew 24:7. Rutherford introduced a brief transition period of a "few years" (pp 340, 333) from WWI until the ancient Jewish heroes return from the dead and ruled the world. The "few years" have now stretched to more than 100 years.

(See also: *WORLD WAR I; HARP OF GOD, THE; GENERATION; TWENTIETH CENTURY; 1925*)

COMPREHENSIVE CONCORDANCE (1973)

A concordance of *New World Translation* words, which lists the chapter and verse locations of each word in the NWT.

The concordance is satisfactory for locating particular Bible passages (especially in the NWT). However, it is unsatisfactory for in depth Bible study. This is because many English words of same meaning, or of different meaning but same spelling, may be translated from different Greek words or from different Hebrew words. All NWT instances of "see", for example, appear in one list although

translated from many different Greek and Hebrew words. Likewise there is but one list for the word "boil" despite its two meanings.

The *Comprehensive Concordance* is a concordance of English words only. Therefore it is useless for finding out how often individual Hebrew and Greek words appear in the Scriptures and their translation in different verses.

COMPROMISE

JWs are often counselled by their leaders to not violate Christian standards through compromise.

Yet they often misrepresent JWs history or deny the failed prophecies, and this compromises biblical instructions to "Speak the truth…"

Franz (1983, Chapter 6) writes that the Mexican Constitution forbids religious organizations to own property. The government holds the property in custody but permits its use to religious organizations. To get around this the WTS in Mexico was registered as a cultural organization and JWs meetings were cultural meetings and conducted without prayer or songs. This compromised the biblical commands to "speak the truth" and to pray.

Another compromise, also in Mexico, allowed JWs to join the army. Young men in Mexico received an Identity Certificate after one year's military instruction that made them members of the Army Reserve. But young JWs routinely bribed officials to obtain the Identity Certificate without attending military classes. The Governing Body permitted this although JWs officially oppose both joining the military and bribery! (g1972 3/22 3)

In Malawi in contrast the Governing Body refused to let JWs purchase party cards of the Malawi Congress Party (g1976 8/8) which resulted in severe local persecutions. To JWs, joining the military or joining a political party are violations of neutrality.

Many things which JWs used to regard as compromise or against the Bible later become matters of conscience including vaccinations, marriage, tissue transplants, witnessing for less than 10 hours a month, college education and in 2026 transfusions of the major blood components.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Witness sufferings in Nazi concentration camps have provided some stirring testimonies published in WTS publications.

About 6,000 Witnesses were arrested, 2000 were sent to concentration camps, 635 died while imprisoned, and 203 were executed. (Yearbook 1974, 212) These estimates might be low and possibly 1000-2000 died. (Kater, 1969)

w1983 11/1 31 mentions Konrad Franke who spent four years at the Sachsenhausen camp and in April 1945 was among 230 JWs who survived the death march from Sachsenhausen to Schwerin.

The courage of JWs was stiffened with predictions that Armageddon would occur in the 1940s and the doctrine that if they broke neutrality they would be destroyed. Hitler's war was interpreted as the final attack of the King of the North (Daniel 11:40-45) and Rutherford predicted that God could intervene any day. This official teaching, as well as prophetic speculation within the concentration camps, buoyed up imprisoned Witnesses. (Yearbook 1974, 174)

Furthermore Witnesses expected protection from Jehovah. Some felt so immune they expected Jehovah to deflect the bullets of Nazi firing squads. (See: *PROTECTION*).

Persons of other religions also suffered including Christadelphians, Bible Students (Russellites), Adventists, Lutherans, etc. Prisoners at Dachau Concentration Camp included 2720 clergy of whom 1034 died but WTS publications don't mention this. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priest_Barracks_of_Dachau_Concentration_Camp.htm)

Rutherford's fanaticism exacerbated the problems of his German followers. In April 1933 the Nazis closed the JWs headquarters in Magdeburg but later permitted its reopening. Not content to leave well enough alone Rutherford sent his followers on campaigns of distributing provocative tracts. Telegrams were even sent to Hitler. JWs were inspired by Armageddon's nearness and therefore in effect asked for trouble. Nowadays when JWs are banned the Governing Body allows them to remain inconspicuous and use low-key methods.

CONCERNED CHRISTIANS GROWTH MINISTRIES

An Australian anti-cult ministry founded in October 1979, based in Perth, Western Australia, and directed by Adrian van Leen.

CCGM did research, published information and literature, maintained a reference library,

and sold or loaned out a wide range of books, brochures, cassettes and videos, many about JWs.

CCGM also:

- Offered family counselling;
- Sent speakers to churches, schools and other venues;
- Did consultative work;
- Had a half-hour weekly radio program;
- Conducted classes and seminars.

CCGM ceased most of their public activities in 2012 but continued producing magazines, newsletters and "Sonshine Radio" programmes until May, 2013.

CONDITIONAL DONATION

Money donated to the WTS on the condition that the donor can have it back (without interest) if facing extreme financial stress.

CONFESS/CONFESSION

See: *PUBLIC DECLARATION*

CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF

An African country named Zaire from 1971 to 1997. It is the first African country in which over 1 million people attended the JWs annual "Memorial of Christ's death".

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Democratic Republic of Congo and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	15,401	1,405		
1975	17,477	1,373		
1980	22,032	1,180	90,200	288
1985	35,600	848	153,400	197
1990	50,700	730	156,600	236
1995	89,100	505	367,000	123
2000	118,500	422	584,000	86
2005	131,900	425	777,000	72
2010	162,500	423	1,040,000	66
2015	206,300	375	1,131,000	68
2018	229,740	366	1,220,000	69
	Ave.			
2019	225,000	386	1,264,000	69
2020	214,900	414	1,010,000	89
2021	201,700	458	1,080,000	86
2022	218,000	437	1,108,000	86
2023	244,300	402	1,243,000	79
2024	266,700	396	1,403,000	75
2025	297,200	389	1,411,800	82

CONGO, REPUBLIC OF

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Republic of Congo and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,595	564		
1975	1,717	757		
1980	968	1,653	1,900	842
1985	1,078	1,531	3,409	484
1990	1,916	1,018	5,955	328
1995	3,130	831	14,351	181
2000	4,050	716	20,102	144
2005	4,854	803	23,722	164
2010	5,484	732	26,331	152
2015	7,448	620	25,444	181
2018	7,899	684	34,550	156
	Ave.			
2019	8,260	651	34,800	155
2020	8,277	667	21,820	253
2021	8,045	703	25,022	226
2022	8,200	707	25,093	231
2023	8,992	661	30,468	195
2024	9,579	652	33,800	185
2025	10,344	635	33,700	195

CONGREGATION

An organized local body of JWs usually numbering less than 150 that meets together at set times of the week.

Most JWs congregations have elders and ministerial servants. Until 2008 meetings were usually three times weekly, totalling five hours, reduced in 2009 to two occasions and four hours.

In Russell's time local elders often introduced reforms without consulting Russell and until 1932 elders were locally elected.

Then the elder arrangement was discarded and replaced with "service positions". (w1932 10/15 319). Until 1971 congregations had no body of elders, rather one overseer each.

A new elder arrangement permitting multiple elders in each congregation was instituted in 1972.

Number of Congregations Worldwide

1876	1	1985	49,700
1914	1200	1990	63,000
1918	1000	1995	78,600
1938	3600	2000	91,500
1940	5100	2005	98,300
1945	c.7000	2010	107,200
1950	c.13,000	2015	118,000
1955	16,000	2017	120,000
1960	21,000	2020	120,000
1965	24,200	2022	118,000

1970	26,500	2023	118,200
1975	38,300	2024	118,800
1980	43,200	2025	119,700

The phrase "the Christian congregation" (singular) used to designate either the 144,000 members of the "body of Christ" or the "remnant" of that body still living on Earth. JWs today do not use the phrase in that sense. Today the "Christian congregation" or the "Christian congregation worldwide" refers to all JWs worldwide.

The term "congregation" is often attached to official positions giving such phrases as "congregation publisher", "congregation elder" and "congregation service committee".

CONGREGATION ACCOUNTS
Records of donations and expenses kept by a local congregation and maintained by an accounts servant on forms provided by the WTS.

CONGREGATION NAME
Congregations of JWs are usually named after the suburb or town in which the kingdom hall is located, or if there is no hall then the suburb in which they meet.

CONGREGATION SERVICE COMMITTEE
In each local congregation the top three elders, made up of the presiding overseer, secretary, and service overseer.

CONLEY, W.H. (1840-1897)
William Henry Conley, a Pittsburgh businessman, was a founder and the first president of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society **prior** to its incorporation. C.T. Russell was the first president **from** its incorporation.

The Society was founded in February 1881 as an association. Its President was Conley; Vice President Joseph L. Russell (C.T. Russell's father); and Secretary/Treasurer C.T. Russell. Conley donated $3500 of the original $5000 capital, Joseph Russell donated $1000, and C.T. Russell $500.

In its first year the Society spent $40,000 (mainly donated by Conley) on *Food For Thinking Christians* and other free literature.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=102139614

Conley and his wife Sarah (1841-1908) were among the five original Bible Students with which the Russell cult started in 1872-1874. The other three were C.T. Russell, his sister Margaret, and their father Joseph Russell.

The Conleys and Russells became acquainted in about 1870 at the Advent Christian Church where they listened to Second Adventists Jonas Wendell, George Stetson, and George Storrs.

Advent Christians experienced controversy in the 1870s due to their doctrine of Christ's imminent return and the burning up of the world. This possibly led to the Conley/Russell group holding separate meetings.

The Russells built up J.L. Russell & Son, a chain of five men's clothing stores. Conley was much wealthier — he was co-owner of Riter-Conley Company, a metal fabrication company that supplied mining and other industries. In the late 1880s Riter-Conley had over 600 employees.

Conley was the bookkeeper for the original Riter Company in the 1860s. When the founder died in 1873 his brother and Conley formed a partnership which continued until Conley's death when Riter formed a corporation.

The Russell cult amalgamated with the Nelson/Barbour Second Adventists in 1876. Barbour's cult had predicted Christ's visible return for 1873/1874/1875 and then opted for an invisible return that occurred 1874.

The combined Barbour/Russell cult predicted the rapture for 1878 when the living saints would ascend to heaven. This prophecy failed and in 1879 Russell and Barbour separated.

Russell started *Zion's Watch Tower* and also predicted 1881 for the rapture.

In 1880 and 1881 the venue for the Memorial was Conley's home:

> It has for several years been the custom of many of us here in Pittsburgh to do this; i.e., remember the Passover, and eat the emblems of our Lord's body and blood, and it has ever been an occasion of solemn pleasure and communion, and was particularly so this year. We met on the night of March 24th, as usual, at the house of Brother and Sister Conley (it being the most commodious); and ate together the unleavened bread… (wr 1880 April, p.94)

> We will celebrate it this year at the residence of Bro. W. H. Conley, No. 50, Fremont street, Allegheny City, Pa. April 14th, at 8 o'clock P.M., and cordially invite all who can do so, to be present and join with us. Brethren and sisters from a distance will be entertained by the friends here. If possible please send a postal card to "WATCH TOWER" office, No. 101 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, and call there on your arrival. (wr1881 April p.208)

In 1882 the Russells and John H. Paton split up. Paton was Barbour's former co-editor who stayed with the Russell faction after the split with Barbour. The Russell/Paton split was due to:

- Russell's false prophecy for 1881;
- Paton's belief in universal salvation which Russell considered heresy;
- The Trinity doctrine, which Russell rejected in 1882.

Conley's large donation toward *Food For Thinking Christians* along with disagreement over doctrine and false prophecies made him reconsider his loyalties. In 1882 he stopped giving large donations to Russell and his name stopped appearing in *Zion's Watch Tower*. His home also ceased to be the venue for the Memorial which in 1882 was held at the home of Joseph Russell. (wr1882 March)

In 1884 Russell incorporated the Society to more effectively handle legal and financial matters and Conley disappeared as president.

Conley joined the Presbyterian Church which believes in the Trinity, eternal punishment for the wicked, and that Christians go to heaven at death. It did not accept the Russell belief that Jesus returned in 1874 or that Jesus' kingdom was set up in 1878.

Therefore, in joining the Presbyterians Conley must have rejected many of the beliefs of Russell's cult. Apparently he also accepted Lutheran beliefs since the book *Theocratic Kingdom* (1884) by Lutheran minister George N.H. Peters included an acknowledgment of financial assistance from Conley. Later Conley also supported an orphanage/school and hospital in Pittsburgh, sponsored religious conventions at Carnegie Hall, and organized and funded a Christian mission in Jerusalem.

A letter from Conley in *Zion's Watch Tower* in 1894 (June 11, p.1664) supported Russell in a major rift in Russell's cult at the time. The letter is introduced as being from a member of the early Allegheny Bible Class without disclosure that Conley was the Society's first president:

> [Another brother who was a member of the early Allegheny Bible Class writes as follows:]
> My Dear Bro. In Christ:—
> I have read carefully pages 92 to 119 of *A Conspiracy Exposed* and *Harvest Siftings* with special interest, and must say my recollection of events named by you are very much like your own; and while there are some details, in some cases, of which I know nothing, and hence cannot speak as to them, yet I do know there were such transactions as you name, and at the dates given. I am quite conversant with some of the dealings, and am surprised at the very merciful manner in which you speak of those with whom you were associated. The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have done these things in a green tree, what will they do in the dry?—Perils among false brethren, etc., etc.
>
> As to myself, you can rely on one thing, viz., All reports stating that I deny the ransom are absolutely false. The no-ransom people may talk, but they have nothing in me.
> As ever, Yours in him,
> W.H. Conley
> *Massachusetts*.

Conley's death (July 1897) was not announced in *Zion's Watch Tower* — although the deaths of Stetson and Storrs (1879) and Joseph Russell (1896) merited notice. This omission suggests a final rift with Russell had occurred.

John H. Paton, however, acknowledged Conley's death in *The World's Hope* and mentioned that he stayed at the Conley home many times over the previous 20 years:

It is with deep sorrow that we are called upon to record the death of one of our most valued fellow-laborers … and one of the few princely Christian merchants... We refer to Mr. Henry Conley, of Pittsburg, Pa., who passed away at his home in Pittsburg on Sabbath evening, July 25th, after a brief illness of only about a month.

Indeed, he was only confined to his room about a week before the end. Mr. Conley was a business man of very high standing in Pittsburg, and a vast concourse of his fellow citizens gathered at his funeral to pay their last tribute of respect and affection to his memory. The funeral services were conducted at his home in Pittsburg by Rev. [Founder], Rev [Board Member], Rev. [Board Member], and Rev. [ ], of Pittsburg, who referred in appropriate terms to his high character and great usefulness.

Mr. Conley … carried the spirit of business enterprise into his Christian work and did nothing by halves. He was one of the few Barnabases of the church and it is easier to supply a dozen preachers than one such whole-hearted Christ-filled business man. But God remains and He is equal to every need.

Mr. Conley's heart was much in the work of, and his spontaneous liberality has largely helped to keep in operation the blessed [evangelizing] which has been so successfully carried on by our friends in Pittsburg.

But his heart had also caught the Master's greater thought for the evangelization of the world. And he has been for many years in the very front of the great missionary movement. Many years ago he supplied the means for planting the present mission in Jerusalem, and he sustained work up to the close of his death. He was a member of the Board [of the national organization]. He has been from an early day one of the official Board [of their seminary] and took the deepest interest in its welfare.

He leaves a wife, who has long been the sharer of his Christian hopes and plans, to take up the broken thread and finish his life and hers. We are sure the blessed Master will both sustain and use her.

The inspiration of Mr. Conley's life and the theme of his constant testimony was the coming of the Lord Jesus…

CONSCIENCE MATTER

Issues, conduct and ethics in which the Governing Body permits freedom of choice are called "conscience matters".

Many *Watchtower* articles deal with the role of conscience. The word appears over 5200 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007).

JWs do not follow conscience alone since their conscience is guided by WTS publications.

JWs, for example, should not work in blood banks where everything is devoted to preparing blood for transfusions. However:

> A Witness in Colorado worked in a hospital as the chief medical technician running tests of various types on body tissue and fluid. Among the many things he was expected to test were blood samples. Sometimes it was simply to check a patient's blood for the level of sugar or cholesterol. But at other times it was to cross match for transfusion purposes. Could he do that?
>
> This Christian gave careful thought to the matter. It could be seen that it would not be right for a Christian to work exclusively for a blood bank, where everything was devoted to an end that was in violation of God's law. But that was not his situation; he ran tests of many kinds. Also, if one were a doctor responsible for the decision, one could not order a blood transfusion for a patient, any more than a Christian store owner could order and stock idols or cigarettes. However, this technician realized that in connection with blood he was merely running a test, even as a nurse might have taken the sample, a messenger might have delivered it to the laboratory and someone else might administer a transfusion or other medication on a doctor's orders. He reflected on the principle at Deuteronomy 14:21. According to that text a Jew finding a carcass of an animal that died of itself could clear it away by selling it to a foreigner who was not under the Law's restrictions about animal flesh not drained of its blood. So the technician's conscience at that time allowed him to run blood tests, including those of blood for transfusions to patients who did not care about God's law on blood.
>
> Is that how your conscience would have reacted? …

> In this particular case, after many years of running tests, the technician began to be troubled by his conscience. It was not as if someone else should or could tell him that he was doing wrong. Nor was he looking for someone else to make his decisions for him. But he began to think: Is it consistent to talk of neighbor love, and yet contribute, in part, to my neighbor's breaking of God's law? (Matt. 22:39; Acts 21:25) Appreciating his Christian duty to support his family, he discussed the matter with his wife. (1 Tim. 5:8) Together they agreed that, if his conscience was troubled, it would be better to make a change. He left his $15,000-a-year job and began doing cleaning work, though he started off earning just $3,600 a year. (w1975 4/1 215-216)

Sometimes matters of conscience lead to arguments and it is then referred successively to the circuit overseer, branch office, New York headquarters, and finally the Governing Body.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION
The JWs doctrine of neutrality requires them to decline military service. This often resulted in imprisonment.

JWs Imprisoned as Conscientious Objectors

Canada 1939-1945	300
England 1939-1945	1593
Korea 1950-2011	16,000
New Zealand 1939-1945	80
USA 1939-1945	4300

The *Yearbook* (2012) says of Korea:

> Since 1950, more than 16,000 of Jehovah's Witnesses have been sentenced to over 31,000 years in prison for refusing to perform military service.

CONSECRATION
Consecration is the decision to give one's life to God. Nathan Knorr replaced the word with dedication. Consecration had to precede baptism for baptism to be valid. (Studies VI 1904, 450)

Consecration/dedication is until death. This point tends to be emphasized in WTS publications whenever prophesied dates approach and fail and people start leaving the sect. (w1912 12/1 5142)

CONSOLATION
Forerunner to the *AWAKE!* published from 1937 to 1946.

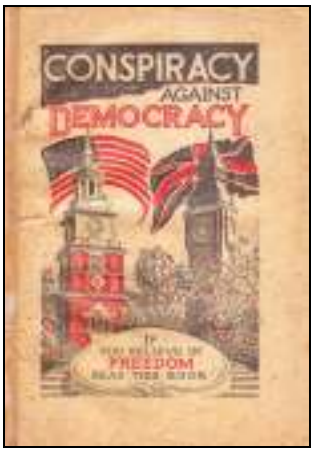
The misnamed *Consolation* achieved notoriety for its continuous and provocative anti-Christian propaganda. For example when **one** Greek Orthodox minister ignored 13 summaries for illegal parking it's concluded that:

> Only a religious racketeer would have the effrontery to do a thing of this kind, the whole gang are a menace to humanity, and a curse.

CONSPIRACY
Rutherford often alleged that Satan's organization was in a conspiracy to destroy the "anointed" of the Lord (i.e. JWs of the "remnant"). (Riches 1936, 117) This had reference to the rising incidence of persecution most of which Rutherford's policies of criticising ministers and churches provoked. (See: *VITUPERATION*)

CONSPIRACY AGAINST DEMOCRACY (1940)
Booklet by Rutherford which starts off:

> Self-Government of the people is rapidly vanishing from the earth. Harsh, scornful dictators are taking control. Great distress is upon the world, and millions are seeking a place of refuge. What is the remedy for such terrible conditions? (p.3)



Rutherford's remedy was to invent new definitions of common words, make false accusations, create false hopes, and use this mixture to persuade people to follow him. The new definitions include:

- Religion means the doing of anything that is contrary to the will of Almighty God… religion is demonism, introduced and taught under the power and influence of the Devil. (pp 5, 11)

- Christianity means joyfully doing that which is in full harmony with the will of Almighty God… (p.5)

Further reading reveals that only Rutherford's religion, and no other, is Christian — certainly not the Catholics:

> …the Hierarchy of Authority now stoops to all unholy means of conquering the world. The Hierarchy acts in full harmony and conjunction with the cruel dictators, including, Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini… (p.14)
>
> Satan and his horde of demons now are making the last desperate attempt to rule the world by religious dictators in opposition to The Theocratic Government under Christ. (p.29)

Fortunately Armageddon was very near and will thwart the demons and the Hierarchy from their last desperate attempt to rule the world:

> This vengeance Jehovah will execute upon the religionists and others at the battle of Armageddon, which is very near. (p.31)

Therefore, join Rutherford's religion:

> The real and only remedy for human suffering and distress is The Theocratic Kingdom of God under Christ… The worship of Jehovah God is the only true worship and is the only way to life, physically and spiritually. (pp 32-33)

Then come further reminders of Armageddon's nearness:

> All the evidence now strongly points to the fact that Armageddon is very near and that soon we may witness Satan's defeat… While the door of opportunity to participate in God's strange work [i.e. distributing Rutherford's publications] is rapidly closing… (pp 40, 41)

The sign that Armageddon is about to begin is when dictators, the hierarchy and commercial leaders unite to destroy JWs and declare Peace and safety! (pp 42, 43, 52)

> The leaders and rulers of this world, religionist, political, commercial, and their allies all unite in their opposition to the name of Jehovah and his King. When Jehovah's witnesses make known publicly that it is the purpose of God, in the near future, at the battle of Armageddon, to destroy all opposers of his kingdom, that message greatly disturbs and angers the dictators and their religious allies. Therefore they all set about to stop Jehovah's witnesses and put them to complete silence. (p.48)
>
> When they conclude that they have silenced all the witnesses, then the religious leaders in particular will say: 'We are at peace, and we are safe.' (p.51)
>
> The Roman Catholic Hierarchy … scorn the message … and boastingly say: 'We will now rule the world…' (p.53)
>
> The Scriptures clearly show that Armageddon will begin with the sudden downfall of the Hierarchy and their closer allies… (p.55)

The dictators and Hierarchy of 1940 never did unite and declare Peace and Safety and the JWs remedy for the problems of 1940 was not a remedy at all.

CONSPIRACY EXPOSED, A (1894)
A book in which C.T. Russell gives his version of a rebellion against his authority in 1894.

Early in 1894 Rogers, an American colporteur in England, wanted all colporteuring to stop and be replaced by a new procedure. The new procedure was to send speakers from town to town, hire a hall in each town, advertise, give public speeches, then call at the homes of interested people.

After Russell rejected this suggestion Rogers began to visit *Watch Tower* readers and present Russell as sinful and dishonest. Later that year three other prominent Russellites (O. von Zech, Bryan and Adamson) joined Rogers in accusing Russell of business dishonesty and sexual impropriety. Von Zech, a German, was the most influential since he published a regular paper with 600 subscribers of whom 200 also subscribed to *Zion's Watch Tower*. The plotters visited the ecclesias (congregations) and distributed anti-Russell letters.

Maria Russell and Russell's father sided with Charles and visited the ecclesias to defend him.

A Conspiracy Exposed lists Rose Ball, Russell's supposed foster daughter, among the

directors of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society and includes copies of letters from her defending Russell.

This suggests that Russell had bribed her support by promoting her to the highest position the cult offered. It also refutes Russell's later claim in court that he did not know Rose's age and that she was a child aged at most 15. Rose was born in 1869, and was 25 in 1894.

The four opposers of Russell soon disagreed among themselves and their influence faded.

Russell's losses in followers were heavy. He cited a Bible verse that subsequent WTS leaders used in similar circumstances: "the love of many waxes cold." (wr1894 12/15 1776)

Henceforth Russell's travelling representatives were issued printed, signed, annually renewed, certificates to identify themselves.

CONSTRUCTION/PROPERTY

WBTS policy under Russell and Rutherford regarding real-estate was that:

> …magnificent temples of worship, called churches are no more necessary to the preaching of the gospel now than they were in the days of the Apostles. (Studies II 1889, 259)
>
> This is no time for the erection of buildings for the purpose of assembling in them and going through a form of worship, but it is the time to go from house to house… (Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, 1938 p.3)

The Organization subsequently acquired many farms and buildings including:

- Kingdom Farm in South Lansing 255 miles north-west of New York City. The 1600-acre farm was bought 1935 and became the location of Gilead Missionary School. (Yearbook 1944, 41)
- Beth Shan — House of Security. A 75-acre property located next to Beth Sarim (House of Princes) in California intended as a refuge for the JWs leaders in the remaining months before Armageddon. Sold in 1945. (See: *BETH SHAN*)
- Watchtower Gardens — a farm and canning factory on Staten Island. (Yearbook 1943, 28)
- Mountain Farm in New Jersey.
- Watchtower Farms at Wallkill, New York, obtained in 1963 and 1967. This became the site for WBTS printing operations.

During the 1970s the WTS bought various Brooklyn hotels to add to its Brooklyn assets. A 1978 financial report calculated its assets in properties and deposits at $332 million. (Franz 1983, p.28) Sales of the Society's Brooklyn properties in the early 21st century during the construction of the new headquarters NW of New York City passed $1000 million by 2015.

In the 1970s JWs began a global spree of building Assembly Halls many worth $millions. Germany for example had seven by 1990 and Australia five.

Many branch headquarters were also enlarged in the 1970s and 1980s or entirely replaced with massive new structures built mainly by volunteer labor and paid for by donations and interest-free loans.

Examples between 1978 and 1984 include Spain, Korea, Tahiti (w1983 11/1), Germany (w1984 9/15), Norway (w1984 10/15), Australia (w1983 8/1), Belgium (w1984 6/15), England (w1984 2/1), Denmark (w1984 3/15) and Finland (w1985 4/15). The new Australian headquarters was worth $8½ million upon completion. (The Macarthur Advertiser 1983, March 15, p.22)

From 1982 a spate of building prefabricated Kingdom Halls commenced, some of which went up in two days (e.g. g1984 9/22 12-17). In 1984 was announced a program to enlarge existing Kingdom Halls or build or buy larger new ones.

This accumulation of wealth contrasted with rank-and-file JWs who were encourage (in 1974) to sell their homes to finance their door-to-door preaching.

The explanation given for all this accumulation of real-estate is that the buildings, halls and other property prepares for an influx of converts before Armageddon, helps to give a great witness, and would be used after Armageddon:

> Why, though, does the Society construct new buildings when the world is in such an uncertain state? Brother Barry explained that Jehovah's organization expects to survive these troubled times. God's people are getting equipped and organized to give the greatest witness possible in these final years before Armageddon brings an end to this system of things. And they hope that many of their new facilities will be used in the great post-Armageddon reorganization work. (w1983 11/1 30)

Some JWs saw the asset drive for what it was — proof that the Governing Body did not believe Armageddon is imminent and that Armageddon would not occur in the 1970s, 1980s or twentieth century. But they could not say this openly. The Governing Body suggested the building activity is an indicator of greater things after Armageddon:

> Do not doubt what Jehovah will accomplish with the willing hearts and hands of his people in the New Order. Even today the construction world is amazed at what Jehovah's Witnesses accomplish in putting up buildings, such as quickly built Kingdom Halls. (w1985 1/15 18)

Other published reasons for building halls include that building activities strengthen faith (w1984 10/15 28), prove they are Jehovah's blessed people (w1984 10/15 28), prove Jehovah's spirit is operating (w1984 10/15 29), prove they can do what others cannot do (g1984 9/22 16-17), and is the evidence of Jehovah's blessing (w1982 12/1 31):

> Another evidence of Jehovah's rich blessing on the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work is seen in expansion of Bethel homes and factories in many parts of the earth… assembly Halls and many Kingdom Halls have been constructed this past year—all evidence of Jehovah's blessing on his expanding organization. (Yearbook 1983, 20)

Early Christianity preached to all creation by 60 CE. (Colossians 1:23) The first buildings, however, were built two centuries later (Unger 1983) by what JWs call apostate Christianity whose example they claim not to follow!

According to the Bible "The Spirit" dwelt in early Christians (1 John 3:24; Romans 8:9) but they did not prove this with bricks and mortar. Other religions and building companies today erect churches, houses and even buildings in as little as several days but JWs do not advertise such achievements as proof of God's rich blessing.

A distraction from failed prophecy

An unstated reason for JWs construction works is that when prophesied dates fail a common strategy of cult leaders is to provide something tangible to compensate.

When Russell's prophecies for 1878 failed he started *Zion's Watch Tower*. When his prophecies for 1881 failed he started publishing books and got followers to sell them. When the "Golden Age of purity and bliss which next awaits the world" (The Finished Mystery 1917, 315) failed in 1918-1922, Rutherford provided a magazine called *The Golden Age* instead.

The ploy of issuing new books or obtaining new buildings, as well as making members work harder, is commonly used among JWs and other religions to distract members when prophecies fail to use up their time and energy constructively instead of in doubts and arguing.

The physical effort of working promotes pride in accomplishment, and gives a sense of achievement. The invested effort makes it harder to leave the sect when the next date for Armageddon fails. (This is also true of money donations and house to house preaching — the more that people sacrifice, the harder it will be to leave.) A comparison can be made with gamblers at a casino — the more they lose the bigger they make their bets to recoup their losses. JWs similarly gamble away ever more time and energy to win the big payoff — survival at Armageddon.

Building works also constitute effective advertising. The flurry of activity gives an image of progress, success, blessing, power, strength, of a powerful, all conquering Organization on the march.

Principles flouted

Rapid erection of buildings permits flaunting of achievements. Comparisons are made with church pastors who may take years to get a church bell replaced. Construction provides reason for self-praise although this contradicts the counsel that: "…we must resist the temptation to flaunt our acquisitions and supposed attainments." (w1984 10/1 13).

The worldwide percentage increase in JWs publishers are currently way below the 1973-1974 rates. But being positive by predicting growth, and building for expansion, and keeping people busy while disappointment recedes are effective strategies.

The building-activity is stimulated by numerous promises that Armageddon is just ahead, soon and very near, promises that have failed many times. To stimulate work and donations with such promises ignores counsel to "conduct ourselves honestly in all things" (w1984 10/1 18) and exploits "Christian contacts" for personal profit. (w1984 7/1 28) It also copies what Rutherford accused other religions of doing, which is to use fear and deception to:

> …exercise worldly power and hold the masses in subjection—minds, bodies and pocketbooks. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 388)

Another reason

Organizational expansion including the acquisition of ever more property and wealth is consistent with Rutherford's vision of depriving religions and governments of popular support so that God's Organization can eventually take over and rule the world.

(See: *GOAL; ORGANIZATION; BROOKLYN WTS PROPERTIES*)

CONTI, CANDACE (1986-)

A JW girl sexually molested by a "ministerial servant" when she was aged 9 to 10.

Conti was awarded $15.6 million in damages in 2012 which was cut to $2.8 million in April 2015 by San Francisco's First District Court of Appeal. Punitive damages of $8.6 million against the Governing Body for failing to warn congregation members of prior offending by the offender were also overturned.

The Court said churches have no legal duty to warn congregants of a sex offender among them as that would be too socially disruptive:

> …the adverse social consequences the duty would produce outweigh its imposition.
>
> The burden would be considerable because the precedent could require a church to intervene whenever it has reason to believe that a congregation member is capable of doing harm, and the scope of that duty could not be limited with any precision.

The elders had, however, failed to properly supervise the offender during his door-to-door recruitment activities when he was regularly paired with Candace and were responsible for leaving her alone with him.

CONTRADICTION

In logic a contradiction occurs if a statement is both affirmed and denied.

JWs leaders have changed their interpretations of numerous Bible verses, some of them multiple times. However, a person who changes his mind about an interpretation does not necessarily contradict himself since all people learns new things and change some of their views. A person might believe in Santa Claus at age five but not at 20. If he holds both beliefs simultaneously — that Santa Claus exists and does not exist — that would be contradictory.

In the sense of both affirming and denying a statement at the same time JWs believe in many contradictions. For example:

1. Whenever they sum up Russellism or Rutherfordism as "the truth" or "true Christianity", implying thereby that the doctrines are true and that they believe them, but teach different doctrine now which they also call "the truth";

2. Whenever previous doctrines **and** revisions of them are attributed to God who, they also claim, knows everything and "does not lie".

CONTRIBUTIONS

JWs speak of contribution and freewill contribution where others speak of donations.

Contributions include money placed into contribution boxes at Kingdom Halls, money received from literature, and money or property given directly to the WTS.

"Contributions" received door-to-door

When going door-to-door JWs request a contribution for literature and until 1990 used to specify the amount as stipulated by the WTS. In the 1990s they began to suggest to householders that a contribution can be given but refrained from specifying the amount. The change happened as follows:

The California Board of Equalization wanted to assess sales tax on the sale of books, tapes and other items by the Jimmy Swaggart ministry. The WBTS filed *amicus curiae* (a friend of the court legal brief) in support of Swaggart's position which was that religious organizations should be exempt from sales tax. On January 17, 1990 the Supreme Court in *California Board of Equalization vs. Jimmy Swaggart Ministries* ruled against Swaggart.

One month after the Supreme Court ruling, the Governing body announced a new policy — that in the USA JWs literature which was until then offered at fixed prices should be offered free to the public and "contributions" solicited.

Observers often interpret this change as the WTS wanting to avoid tax on profits from literature sales. If moneys received for literature are classified as "contributions" then there are no sales, no profits and no taxes. The WTS still comes out ahead financially because JWs give to the WTS the contributions they

receive from the public or "contribute" for it themselves.

In other countries the free literature for a contribution came into force later. In Australia this was in January 2000. Perhaps, the Goods and Services Tax, effective in Australia from July 1, 2000, was the catalyst.

Policy of no soliciting for money

JWs claim they don't "solicit" money:

> From the time the Watchtower Society was formed in 1884 it has never solicited money. (w1960 5/1 265)

> 'Where do such funds come from?' is an often-asked question. Unlike the churches of Christendom, Jehovah's Witnesses do not take up collections or send out envelopes to solicit donations. Rather, contribution boxes—like the treasury chests of Biblical times—are set up at their Kingdom Halls. (w1987 12/1 30-31)

> …is it not a comfort for them to know that in the local congregation of Jehovah's witnesses they will never be tithed to pay out a percentage of their income? Nor will unscriptural money-raising schemes be imposed on them. It is at the Kingdom Hall that an unobtrusive contribution box is located for use by those who wish voluntarily to give money to support the work of the congregation. Donations mailed to the headquarters of the Watch Tower Society are also unsolicited and entirely voluntary. (g1975 9/8 26)

> The Kingdom Halls of this happy group are open to you and you may attend free of charge, without having to suffer embarrassment by a request for contributions or the passing of a collection plate. (w1974 9/15 559)

> The emphasis in all giving among the Witnesses is that it must be voluntary and spontaneous, from the heart. In fact, ever since the earliest days of the modern witnesses of Jehovah it has been their policy that never should there be any passing of collection plates or similar solicitations for money. (w1971 8/15 506)

> How May I Contribute? Jehovah's witnesses have never gone begging for finances. (w1962 5/1 278)

In 1879 Russell wrote that Zion's Watch Tower had Jehovah for its backer and hence there would be no request for money. Nevertheless, he wrote that to withhold money: "…is a grave mistake dear friends." (wr1890 January, p.1173)

The no-soliciting policy not adhered to

Russell urged followers to set aside cash each week and mail it to him quarterly. (wr1898 12/15 2410; wr1892 2/1 1361) Some followers objected that this resembles Babylon. (wr1892 3/1 1378)

Russell obviously solicited money and lots of it from within the cult but his method was different than using collection plates:

> ...we do not put money first in any case, nor recommend that the money talent is the superior one, nevertheless we wish to encourage those who are seeking to use their financial talents by saying that in our judgment the Lord will be pleased to bless those who serve his cause financially, as well as those who serve otherwise—by oral or other preaching. (wr1901 12/15 2923)

Rutherford urged setting aside money each week. (w1931 5/1 142) Every year *The Watchtower* on page 140 reminded readers: "…to participate in the work and do so by laying aside a specific sum each week."

This solicitation for money was denied as being a solicitation on the same page with: "This is no solicitation for money..." The page-140 reminders for money were discontinued after World War II.

Literature for a "contribution"

After 1937 JWs offered literature for a contribution rather than sell for a price to sidestep peddling and license laws. The exact amount of the contribution was stipulated and hence, in practice, it was identical to selling. JWs argued that the publications were sold for less than their cost and therefore the householder "contributed" to the cost and did not buy it or give a donation.

Less than their cost, however, is not less than their cost to the WTS. The WTS has voluntary workers in its printing factories and volunteer distributors who all perform their labours to survive Armageddon — and all this volunteering reduces the costs compared to commercial book publishers and bookshops which have to pay workers award rates.

Donations from JWs solicited

In the 1960s and 1970s direct requests for money by the WTS to JWs were rare. Kingdom

Halls had voluntary contribution boxes. But strong hints to contribute money continued: "It is a privilege for Jehovah's witnesses and interested persons to financially support the theocratic activities in their respective lands." (w1960 5/1 267) In 1960 JWs were still required to send in estimates of the donations they expected to give the following year. (ibid)

Around 1980 construction works of halls and branch offices swung upwards. Pleas for money became urgent and repetitious. (e.g. w1984 2/1 26; w1983 12/1 20-22; w1984 3/1 10; w1989 12/1 27) We read exclamations such as "What a response!" and "They responded wonderfully!" JWs were told that by giving and working they really prove that they belong to Jehovah's blessed people. (w1984 10/15 28) At the same time an early Armageddon and new world was predicted with renewed urgency — the implication was that if money is not given now it will soon be lost anyway. (See: *DATES; PROPHECY; CREATOR'S PROMISE*)

Soliciting contributions and encouraging them with predictions of paradise resembles what JWs leaders say Christians should not promote, namely a get-rich-quick-scheme. (w1984 10/1 18) The Organization expanded rapidly in wealth, influence and real estate while ordinary JWs, believing Armageddon was imminent, sometimes sold their homes to support themselves while going door to door.

Russell argued that giving to foreign missions was wrong since such giving would promote error: "Better far to ... waste or destroy the money, than to use it thus to fetter others with error and to dishonour our God." (wr1890 January, p.1173)

Nevertheless, JWs leaders solicit contributions although this "fetters others with error" — the proof being thousands revisions in JWs doctrine and the many failed prophecies. (See: *ERROR; DATES*)

The Watchtower says:

> Now such printing [of literature] is also being done in some 30 other countries. Voluntary contributions provide the needed funds. (w1984 2/1 25)
>
> Many … are surprised when Witnesses calling at their door do not solicit funds. Others are likewise amazed when attending a Witness assembly or visiting a Kingdom Hall the first time, they find that no collection is ever taken. How is the witness work financed? The answer: through voluntary contributions from those who want to honor Jehovah with their valuable things. Following are some ways this is accomplished.
>
> Gifts: Donations of money may be sent directly to the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania…
>
> Conditional Donation Arrangement: Money, stocks bonds and property can be given to the Society…
>
> Insurance: The Watch Tower Society may be named as the beneficiary of an insurance policy and should be thus informed. Likewise, bank savings accounts can also be placed in trust for the Society. (w1985 12/1 22)

Gifts , donations, cash, valuable things, real estate, insurance policies, savings accounts, stocks and bonds does not leave much out!

Similarly *The Watchtower* in 1994 discusses:

- CONTRIBUTIONS
- GIFTS
- CONDITIONAL-DONATION
- INSURANCE
- BANK ACCOUNTS
- STOCKS AND BONDS
- REAL ESTATE
- WILLS AND TRUSTS
- PLANNED GIVING

(See details in w1994 12/1 19)

The WBTS has established a Charitable Planning Office which in 2000 produced the 32-page brochure *CHARITABLE PLANNING To BENEFIT KINGDOM SERVICE WORLDWIDE* (2000). The brochure outlines various ways people can turn their assets over.

Although the WTS implies that its main funding comes from contribution boxes and voluntary contributions, greater gain probably always came from selling publications. JWs themselves are captive buyers obliged to buy (or contribute for) personal copies of WTS magazines and books.

The WTS buys materials in bulk and every step in its production of literature involves volunteers. Plenty of money has therefore always been made on literature.

(See also: *PUBLICATIONS — COST OF*)

CONTRIBUTION BOX

A receptacle for donations at Kingdom Halls and conventions. A general or all-purpose contribution box may be supplemented with others for specific purposes. JWs regard

passing a collection plate or collection bag to be a practice of false religion and don't see the similarity of purpose in using a collection box.

CONVENTION/ASSEMBLY
JWs hold three conventions annually:

- Two circuit conventions each lasting two or three days are held each year and are attended by JWs from the local circuit. If the area or circuit has a JWs assembly hall, it will be used as the assembly venue; otherwise a rented hall, school auditorium or sports stadium.

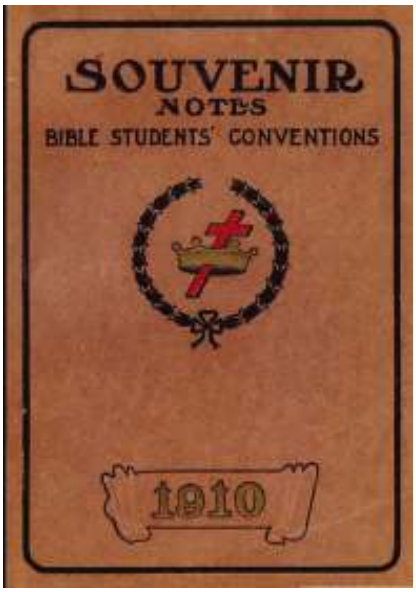
- A district convention is held annually, attended by JWs from a number of circuits.

- Occasionally the district conventions are replaced with international conventions meant for all JWs in a country or a number of countries.

CONVENTION/ASSEMBLY REPORTS
Paperback publications published between 1904 and 1969 which summarize events and speeches at major conventions

The Russellites produced convention reports from 1904 to 1916, sometimes several in one year. The report in 1911 had over 300 pages with many speeches summarized and some speeches fully transcribed along with photos of the speakers.

Until 1908 the reports were titled *Convention Report*, and from 1909-1916 *Souvenir Notes of the Bible Students' Conventions*.



1910 Convention Report has 300 pages

Convention reports of Russellite conventions were edited until 1916 by L.W. Jones.

In the 1920s convention reports appeared in the *Peoples Pulpit* and *The Watch Tower,* and from 1927 to 1946 in *The Messenger* a WBTS publication in newspaper format.

The 1943 assembly report appeared as a supplement to *Consolation* magazine (November 24).

Paperback Assembly reports of American/International conventions were published in 1941, 1942, 1944, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1966 and 1969.

Reports of national conventions were produced in South Africa, Australia, Canada and other countries. A 36-page brochure, *The Australasian New World Assembly*, describes the Sydney 1941 convention.

CONVENTION/ASSEMBLY REPORTS LIST

- 1904 Souvenir Notes from Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's Convention St. Louis, Missouri

- 1905 Souvenir Notes from Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's Convention Niagara Falls, New York

- 1906 Souvenir Report from the Conventions of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (Asbury Park, New Jersey; and Saint Paul, Minnesota)

- 1907 Souvenir Notes from Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's Conventions (Parts I and II) (Indianapolis, Indiana; Niagara Falls, New York; and Norfolk, Virginia)

- 1908 Put-in-Bay Convention Report (Ohio, U.S.A.), (w1908 9/15)

- Souvenir Notes from Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's Convention (Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.)

- Souvenir Notes of Watch Tower Convention at Cincinnati, Ohio

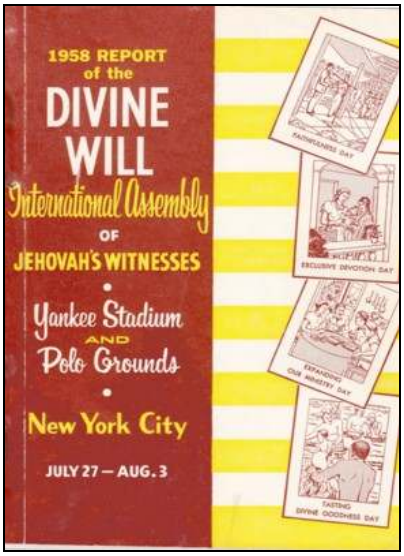
- 1909, Souvenir Notes From Watch Tower Bible Tract Society's Convention

- 1910 Souvenir Notes — Bible Students' Conventions (Tenth Souvenir Convention Report, International Bible Students)

- 1911 Souvenir Notes — Bible Students' Conventions (International Bible Students

Souvenir Convention Report)

- 1912 Souvenir Notes — Bible Students' Conventions (International Bible Students Souvenir Convention Report)
- 1913 Souvenir Notes — Bible Students' Conventions (International Bible Students Souvenir Convention Report)
- 1914 Souvenir Notes — Bible Students' Conventions (International Bible Students Souvenir Convention Report)
- 1915 Souvenir Notes — Bible Students' Conventions (International Bible Students Souvenir Convention Report)
- 1915 Souvenir Notes — Bible Students' Conventions (Supplement)
- 1916 Souvenir Notes — Bible Students' Conventions (International Bible Students Souvenir Convention Report)
- 1919 Report of General Convention (Cedar Point, Ohio, U.S.A.), (w1919 10/1)
- Cedar Point Convention (Ohio, U.S.A.), (w1922 11/1)
- International Bible Students Convention (Toronto, Canada), 1927
- General Convention International Bible Students Association (Detroit, U.S.A.), 1928
- 1931 International Convention, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.)
- 1938 Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses for the Northwest (Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.), (g1938 7/13 supplement)
- 1939 General Convention (New York, U.S.A.)
- 1940, Theocratic Conventions (worldwide)
- 1941 Jehovah's Witnesses Assembly (Saint Louis, U.S.A.)
- 1942 New World Theocratic Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses
- 1943 Free Nation's Theocratic Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses (g1943 11/24 supplement)
- 1944 United Announcers Theocratic Assembly (Buffalo, New York) (g1944 10/25)
- 1946 Glad Nations Theocratic Assembly (Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.), (The Messenger)
- Theocracy's Increase Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses (New York, U.S.A.)
- 1951 Clean Worship Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses (London, England)
- 1953 New World Society Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses (New York, U.S.A.)
- 1958 Divine Will International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses (New York, U.S.A.)



1958 Convention report

- 1963 Everlasting Good News Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses — Around the World
- 1966 Convention News Canada's Largest Christian Convention (Toronto, Canada)
- 1969 Peace on Earth International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses (New York, U.S.A.)

CONVENTION CENTRE/HALL

Since the 1950s JWs have built or purchased assembly halls with seating for about 1,000-2,000 people in cities around the world. Ownership is often by the WTS.

CONVENTION OVERSEER

An elder responsible for organizing and supervising the various departments needed to run a convention.

CONVENTION RELEASES

"Convention releases" are new WTS books, booklets, tapes, or CDs made available for the first time at District or International conventions.

CONVENTIONS HISTORY

The first assembly or convention of Russellites took place April 14-18, 1889 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

On the first day (a Sunday) they held the Lord's Supper attended by 225. Twelve states and Canada were represented, and 22 converts were baptized. (wr1989 June, 1110-1111) The venue was the cult's Meeting Room or hall at101 Federal Street. (wr1889 March, p.1101)

The first national convention of Russellites took place in 1893 in Chicago and 360 attended.

There were regular travelling conventions from 1905 to 1916 when Russell and up to 240 followers travelled by train around the USA from one convention site to another. The 1913 trip covered 12,000 kilometres and attracted a total attendance of 40,000 in 20 cities.

In the 1920s came large national conventions where Rutherford issued proclamations against religions and governments in supposed fulfilment of the seven last plagues of the Bible book of Revelation. In the 1930s came international conventions in which separate audiences gathered in many lands and were linked by radio.

In 1950, 1953 and 1958 JWs held huge international conventions at single locations in the USA.

After 1958 there were international conventions in 1963, 1969 and 1978 but at many convention sites, not just one location. The 1963 around the world convention concluded in Pasadena, California where 118,000 attended.

In 1978 there were 20 International Conventions sites.

In the years between International Conventions JWs annually hold two Circuit conventions and one District convention. Circuit conventions bring together a number of neighboring congregations and are nowadays often held in WTS-owned convention halls.

District conventions bring together all the congregations from a number of Circuits.

Attendance figures for all District conventions are often totalled and published. For example:

- 1982 Kingdom Truth District Conventions — world-wide Attendance: 4,000,000
- 1999 USA had 201 district conventions in 14 languages. Attendance: 1,481,000.

Until 1977 many volunteer workers at conventions worked in the Cafeteria Department — they prepared the food, served it, and cleaned up. In 1978 the process was simplified with hot meals of standard precooked items. In 1987 hot food serving was discontinued, and from 1990 people brought their own food.

Conventions are managed by departments staffed by volunteers with each department supervised by a prominent local elder or circuit overseer. Departments may include Auditing, Cleaning, Food Service, Seating, Publicity, Pioneering, and Rooming (which finds accommodation for out-of-town visitors).

New WTS literature-releases are first issued at International and District conventions. From 1989 new publications were given out at American conventions without direct charge.

Conventions are showpieces to impress the public. They often result in a "great witness" (w1984 5/1 30), impress newcomers with the Organization, attune publishers to official doctrine more intensely, promote camaraderie, and keep JWs busy. Publishers must come to all programs for the sake of a great spiritual feast even if it means losing their employment. (w1984 5/1 29-30) Conventions provide memories, strengthen commitment, promote a sense of unity and strength, and help to prevent people falling away (w1931 9/15 275).

Conventions are always described in glowing terms: thrilling; tremendous; wonderfully uplifting; stimulating; strengthening; marvellous; grand. The audience always feels overflowing gratitude, heartfelt appreciation, great joy. They are always uplifted and thrilled.

Every major convention stimulates speculation that it might be the last convention before Armageddon. For example in 1918 over 1,200 attended in Brooklyn with 73 (40 women and 33 men) baptized. *The Watch Tower* reported:

> For many years the Lord's people have wondered whether or not each convention might be the last. …abundant evidence, not only from the Lord's Word, but also from corroborative occurrences pressing in upon us from all sides lend more basis for the hope that this might be the last in this vicinity, before the

great convention beyond the veil. (wr1918 4/1 6233)

List of major conventions

The following table lists major conventions since 1893. Up to 1919 they can be considered national, after that international:

Convention	Attendance and Baptisms
1893 Chicago, Illinois	360 / 70
1904 St. Louis, Missouri	2600 / ?
1908 Put-In-Bay, Ohio	4800 / 363
1911 Mountain Lake, Maryland	6000 / 227
1919 Cedar Point, Ohio	7500 / 200
1922 Cedar point, Ohio	18,000 / 361
1923 Los Angeles, California	30,000 / ?
1924 Columbus, Ohio	35,000 / ?
1925 Indianapolis, Indiana	10,000 / ?
1926 London, England	7000 / ?
1927 Toronto, Canada	15,000 / ?
1928 Detroit, Michigan and 106 radio stations	12,000 / ?
1931 Columbus, Ohio, and 50 convention sites	15,000 / ?
1935 Washington D.C	? / 840
1936 London & 10 USA cities	68,000 / ?
1937 Columbus, Ohio	25,000 / ?
1938 London. 50 other sites connected by radio	150,000 / ?
1939 New York & 28 cities linked by radio	18,000 / 2218
1941 St Louis, Missouri	115,000 / 3903
1942 New World Assembly. Cleveland, Ohio and 52 other locations	USA130,000 / 5000 baptized at all sites
1944 United Announcers Assembly, Buffalo, New York and 17 other sites	140,000 / 3503
1946 Glad Nations Assembly	80,000 / 2602
1950 Theocracy's Increase Assembly, New York	124,000 / 3381
1953 New World Society Assembly, New York	166,000 / 4640
1958 Divine Will Assembly, New York	254,000 / 7136
1963 Everlasting Good News Assembly, 26 sites	581,000 / 16,653
1969 Peace On Earth Assembly, 25 sites	1,076,000 / 36,613
1973 Divine Victory Assembly, 41 locations	1,402,000 / 39,313
1978 Victorious Faith Assembly, 290 locations	3,184,000 / 34,853

The number of countries represented at various conventions were 1924 (11); 1936 (25); 1939 (4); 1946 (32); 1950 (67); 1953 (96); 1958 (123); 1963 (161); 1969 (114).

CONVERSION to JWs

Many householders purchase or accept WTS publications merely to get rid of the caller.

This may, however, be the first step to conversion since JWs usually follow up their placements with a return visit to discuss the contents or offer more literature.

The JW will bring up universal concerns such as sickness, poverty, crime, war, terrorism and family breakups and suggest that the Bible has positive answers.

If the householder is responsive and not too argumentative the JW offers to come regularly to share what the Bible says and in this way a "Bible study" is started.

It is actually a book study of a WTS book with Bible verses being looked up to support what the book says. Week after week the householder learns JWs interpretations and is told that only JWs have the truth. He learns about the end of "this system of things", the false doctrines of Christendom, the power and wonder of Jehovah's Organization, the persecutions by governments and religions, and that the Governing Body are God's modern counterpart to the 12 apostles. (w1984 11/1 17) He learns that salvation lies in the Organization, and that acceptance of the truth implies baptism and submission to the Organization.

The JW often brings another JW along and also encourages the householder to come to the Kingdom Hall: "…so that the student starts to make new friends as quickly as possible." (wl984 11/1 17)

The householder is invited, even harassed, to attend meetings to: "Give the student a visual idea of the scope of the whole association of brothers." (w1984 11/1 18)

At meetings friendly people make a fuss over the newcomer similar to the "love bombing" practiced by cults:

> …the sooner a student begins to associate with the local congregation, the sooner he will recognize where the truth really lies… They delight in the brotherly love… (w1984 11/1 18)

Gradually the householder is persuaded to give up "worldly" practices such as smoking, discos, Christmas, birthdays, sports, voting, college studies and hobbies. He is warned

Satan will bring opposition and only genuine seekers of truth will overcome and persist in the truth.

Sure enough, opposition results when the convert speaks to others about his new ideas. Relatives rarely know how to answer JWs and therefore may get angry. The convert regards this as opposition and persecution and marvels at the wisdom of the Governing Body in foretelling it.

Provided the convert does not study JWs history too deeply and shows increasing conformity he is praised as being honest hearted, intelligent (w1984 10/1 10), humble, teachable, etc. His commitment deepens when he goes house-to-house.

Finally the presiding overseer meets with him to ask 40 official, pre-set questions; and if he answers correctly he is baptized at the next convention.

Conversion to any religion begins with internal conflict — moral, intellectual, emotional or social. This causes dissatisfaction without which there would be no point in changing one's beliefs.

One psychologist writes:

> …the constant searching for a true philosophy often conceals the search for a social group into which one may fit and cease to be an outcast in one's own eyes. When such a group has been found, its beliefs and mores will be accepted no matter how absurd they may seem … and their removal will be resisted with all the strength of one who fears becoming an outcast once more.

Eventually many JWs notice false prophecies and other changes to God's truth. Fearing to be an outcast once more, and faced with having to rethink numerous beliefs besides being ostracized by his JWs friends, he finds himself emotionally trapped. Many continue to give token service to avoid disfellowshipping.

Anyone who notices a friend or relative becoming interested in JWs or joining them should stay calm. New converts may be desperate for attention and a sense of belonging which JWs satisfy, and will reject whatever disturbs their euphoria. To the new convert a display of anger confirms JWs warnings that Satan hates the truth and will stir up opposition.

A better approach is to get information about JWs from the Internet. Make sure of the facts and back them up with photo-copies from WTS publications.

CONVERTED JEHOVAH'S WITNESS EXPOSITOR, THE
Periodical edited by William Schnell.

CONVERTING THE WORLD
The phrase converting the world appears in several editions of *The Watchtower* for 1929:

> The creeds teach that man is to convert the world before the second coming of Christ, while the Bible teaches that Christ comes for the purpose of **converting the world**. It is these creeds that are responsible for all the confusion in connection with an understanding of the Bible. The answer to our question, Who goes to heaven? we have found to be, Only those who are to share with Jesus in the work of **converting the world** of mankind. These must prove their loyalty and obedience now. They must be fitted for their work. They must be faithful. They must be overcomers. They must suffer with him if they would reign with him. Their reward is a grand one. Not only will they have the divine nature, with all its powers, and spirit bodies, with all their glory, but they will share with Jesus in blessing both the living and the dead. (w1929 5/1 140)

(See: *GOAL OF WORLD DOMINATION*)

CONVERTS
Most converts to JWs are former churchgoers. JWs try to avoid arguments with competent exponents of other views. JWs in such a situation usually retreat and then in private label the other person "unreasonable", "puffed up", "blind" or "bombastic".

JWs have made little impact on Muslims, Hindus or Buddhists. Their expansion has largely exploited the work of Christian missionaries whose converts may have lapsed or have little knowledge. JWs success is therefore parasitic upon the work done by the major denominations.

Russell asked two groups of followers, a total of 539 individuals, how they were first contacted:

Method	Group I	Group II	%
Public meetings	40	42	15%
Free literature	41	58	18%

Colporteurs & books	70	64	25%
Private conversation	70	154	42%
Total	221	318	100%

In Russell's time 42% were first contacted by what JWs now called "informal witnessing".

In Japan only 58% of converts in the 1980s became interested following a house call. (w1983 2/1 24) This suggests that going door-to-door to find converts is inefficient — although if continued for decade after decade the effects mount.

COOK ISLANDS

Publishers and Memorial attendance on the Cook Islands and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	9	2,197		
1975	41	476		
1980	55	329	192	94
1985	75	227	217	78
1990	118	153	308	59
1995	149	134	356	56
2000	157	122	387	49
2005	191	112	524	41
2010	183	102	575	32
2015	217	61	469	28
2018	196	89	482	36
	Ave.			
2019	188	96	549	33
2020	205	88	398	46
2021	198	91	565	32
2022	199	90	500	36
2023	184	92	538	32
2024	194	103	572	35
2025	190	89	522	33

COOK, GORDON (1951-)

An American JW who left JWs after 28 years and published his story on the Internet.

Cook accepted a Bible study in 1971 using *The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life* and was baptized in 1972. He married a JW, had seven children, and became a ministerial servant.

In 1996 he had a breakdown and was treated for acute clinical depression. He appeared before a judicial committee: "Their whole answer to my problem was 'go on the preaching work, attend meetings.'"

Cook turned to the Internet and found out about the false prophecies:

> It was all clear evidence that for the past 28 years it had all been a lie… I spoke to various ones over the phone, ex-JWs who had been in it for 20, 30, 40 or more years and then found out the truth.

Cook joined a Pentecostal church:

> I get the occasional letter from a serving JW… If you tell them about the Watchtower's past, false prophecies, changes in doctrine, doctrine that changes to new then back to old, then even back again to new. They say I'm making it up, when it can all be found in their own publications.

COOL OFF

"The love of the greater number will cool off." (Matthew 24:12) JWs leaders nowadays apply this verse to Christendom, and predict that their own followers will stay with the Organization and not cool off. (w1984 10/1 31)

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN

> Foolishness is tied up with the heart of a boy; the rod of discipline is what will remove it far from him. (Proverbs 22:15)

JWs believe unruly children sometimes need to be spanked. In some countries such as Norway and Sweden corporal punishment of children is illegal. This became an issue in Norway and the Branch Office Overseer appeared on a television program to deny JWs beat their children. The interviewer replied by quoting WTS publications that advocated spanking. Threatened with court action the WTS agreed to stop advocating corporal punishment.

CORPORATIONS

With the expansion of the Watchtower cult corporations were created to handle printing requirements, real-estate ownership, receipts of money, and legal matters.

Pennsylvania Corporation

The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania is a not-for-profit organization headquartered in the New York City borough of Brooklyn (USA). It is the main legal entity of JWs. It holds the copyrights of most JWs literature.

The WBTS was founded as an unincorporated association named Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society in 1881 with Pittsburgh businessman William Henry Conley as the first president and C.T. Russell secretary-treasurer.

The Society was incorporated under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania as a non-profit corporation on December 15, 1884 with Russell as president.

C.T. Russell also owned the Tower Publishing Company which was a private company which published *Zion's Watch Tower* until 1896.

In 1896 the corporate name of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society was changed to Watch Tower Bible And Tract Society and in 1955 to Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania

On April 15 1898 this corporation took over the publishing of Zion's Watch Tower. In 1909 the offices were moved to Brooklyn, New York.

The Pennsylvania Corporation directs the activities of the sect in the USA. It has no printeries in the USA but gets literature from the New York Corporation. It controls branch offices in foreign lands and operates printeries there. It receives contributions of money, wills and estates.

A copy of the charter appeared in *The Laodicean Messenger* (1923) and in the *1945 Yearbook of JWs* pp 30-31. The executive office is at 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York. The registered office and the usual location of the annual meeting (in October) is 4100 Bigelow Boulevard, Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania.

Voting membership of the Pennsylvania Corporation is limited to 500. These annually re-elect to terms of one to three years any director whose term has expired. There were seven directors of whom three were officers — the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. From 1944 when the Governing Body was created the directors were all Governing Body members until 2000 when they resigned as directors.

After the general meeting the seven directors adjourn to a private meeting to re-elect four officers (previously three) from among themselves — four because since 2000 the Corporation has had two vice-presidents.

The officers and directors in September 2005 were:

- President: Don A. Adams
- Vice Presidents: Robert W. Wallen, William F. Malenfant
- Secretary/Treasurer: Richard E. Abrahamson
- Directors: Danny L. Bland, Philip D. Wilcox, John N. Wischuk

Pennsylvania Corporation (WBTS)

	President	Vice President	Secretary
1917	J .F. Rutherford	A.N. Pierson	W.E. Van Amburgh
1918	J .F. Rutherford	C.H. Anderson	W.E. Van Amburgh
1919-1939	J .F. Rutherford	C.A. Wise	W.E. Van Amburgh
1940	J.F. Rutherford	N.H. Knorr	W.E. Van Amburgh
1942	N.H. Knorr	H.C. Covington	W.E. Van Amburgh
1946	N.H. Knorr	F.W. Franz	W.E. Van Amburgh
1947-1976	N.H. Knorr	F.W. Franz	G. Suiter
1977	F.W. Franz	M.G. Henschel	
2006	D.A. Adams	R.H. Wallen & W.F. Malenfant	R.E. Abrahamson

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society Inc. of New York, Inc.

Formerly known as the "People's Pulpit Association" which came into existence February 23, 1909 under the religious membership corporation laws of the State of New York. The name was changed in 1939 to Watchtower Bible and Tract Society Inc. and in 1956 to Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

This corporation managed distribution of literature, is often cited as the publisher of JWs publications, received money for literature distributed in the USA, administered real-estate in the USA, organized proselytizing activities and trained missionaries. The charter is reprinted in the 1944 *Yearbook* p.21.

The corporation's stated purposes are:

> Charitable, benevolent, scientific, historical, literary and religious purposes; the moral and mental improvement of men and women, the dissemination of Bible truths in various languages by means of the publication of tracts, pamphlets, papers and other religious documents, and for religious missionary work.

Corporation membership is 50 to 70 voting members and the annual meeting takes place in January. The voters re-elect for two-year terms any of the seven directors whose term has expired. The seven directors then meet

privately to re-elect from among themselves four officers — always the same four unless one has died. The 50 to 70 voters are selected and are replaced as necessary by the directors. This entire procedure is similar in the other corporations.

At the January 3, 1973 meeting the directors up for re-election to two-year terms were G.M. Couch, F.W. Franz, J.O. Groh, G. Suiter. The other Directors were N.H. Knorr, L.K. Greenlees, M.H. Larson. These seven afterwards met separately to re-elect four officers for one-year terms: Knorr (President), Franz (Vice President), Suiter (Secretary-Treasurer), Groh (Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. (Yearbook 1974, 259)

From 1944 when the Governing Body was created most of the directors were Governing Body members until 2000 when all Governing Body members resigned as directors.

The New York Corporation was by 2001 one of the 40 largest revenue-generating companies in New York City reporting an annual revenue of US$950 million.

New York Corporation

	President	Vice Presidents	Secretary
1917	J.F. Rutherford	A.H. Macmillan	W.F. Hudgings
1926	Rutherford	H.H. Riemer	A.R. Goux
1932	Rutherford	E.J. Coward	A.R. Goux
1934-1941	Rutherford	N.H. Knorr	A.R. Goux
1942	N.H. Knorr	H.C. Covington	A.R. Goux
1947	N.H. Knorr	H.C. Covington	G. Suiter
1949-1976	N.H. Knorr	F.W. Franz	G. Suiter
1977	F.W. Franz	M.H. Larson	
2006	M.H. Larson	G.M. Couch; L.R. Schilling	G.F. Simonis

Other Watchtower corporations in America

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New Jersey, Inc. (Incorporated 1955)

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Florida, Inc. (Incorporated 1986)

Valley Farms Corporation (Incorporated 1987)

International Bible Students Association

International Bible Students Association was incorporated in 1914 under the laws of Great Britain. The IBSA has affiliated Corporations in various Commonwealth countries.

International Bible Students Association (IBSA)

	President	Vice President	Secretary Treasurer And Assistant
1926	J.F. Rutherford	J. Hemery	H.C. Thackway Van Amburgh
1931	J. F. Rutherford	J. Hemery	E.C. Chitty Van Amburgh
1943	N.H. Knorr	J. Hemery	E.C. Chitty Van Amburgh
1947-1974	N.H. Knorr	A.P. Hughes	E.C. Chitty G. Suiter
1975	N.H. Knorr	A.P. Hughes	J.E. Barry G. Suiter

The IBSA is a not-for-profit, charitable, incorporation for the production and distribution of religious literature and to promote the spiritual welfare of JWs in Britain.

Additional USA Corporations in 2000

The Governing Body established three additional corporations in the USA in 2000 to promote specific tasks and further JWs interests:

- Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, New York, filed for incorporation in August 2000 in New York and in 2006 in Florida.
  It specializes in congregation matters such as appointments of elders and servants in the USA and corresponds with district and circuit overseers. The corporation is used by USA Branch Committee to oversee the JW preaching work in the United States and several other countries.
  Officers and Directors in 2006:
  President: William L. Van De Wall
  Vice Presidents: Charles I. Woody; Leon Weaver, Jr.
  Secretary/Treasurer: William H. Nonkes
  Directors: Harold K. Jackson; Merton V. Campbell; Stanley F. Weigel

- Religious Order of Jehovah's Witnesses, New York, incorporated 2000.
  This corporation oversees assembly halls and people in full-time service, such as Bethelites, district and circuit overseers, missionaries and special pioneers.

  Officers and Directors in 2006:
  President: Patrick J. LaFranca
  Vice Presidents: Peter D. Molchan, Ralph E. Walls
  Secretary/Treasurer: Joseph D. Mercante

Directors: Marvin G. Smalley; Kenneth J. Pulcifer; Eugene D. Rosam, Jr.

- Kingdom Support Services, Incorporated, New York, 2000.
  This corporation deals with kingdom-hall and assembly-hall construction, engineering needs and vehicles.

  Officers and Directors in 2006:
  President Harold: L. Corkern
  Vice Presidents: Alan D. Janzen, Robert L. Butler
  Secretary/Treasurer: Alexander W. Reinmueller
  Directors: James F. Mantz, Jr.; Thomas Kalimeris; Alan G. Browning

Corporations in non English countries

Watchtower corporations also exist in countries around the world including:

- Australia. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of Australia, Inc.
- Brazil. A Sociedade Torre de Vigia de Biblias e Tratados (1947)
- Canada. International Bible Students Association, Ltd. (1982)
- East Africa. Association of Jehovah's Witnesses of East Africa
- France. Association Les Temoins de Jehovah de France (1979)
- Germany. Wachturm Bibel und Traktat Gesellschaft (1956)
- Japan. Mononi-no-To Seisho Sasshi Kyokai (1953)
- Mexico. Congregación Cristiana de los Testigos de Jehová.

(See also: *CHARTER* of INCORPORATION)

CORPORATIONS and GOVERNING BODY

In 1944 the new category of "Governing Body" was introduced, this Body being the same as the seven directors of the Pennsylvania Corporation.

In 1971 the Governing Body was expanded to 11 members. The four additions not being directors did not have a position recognized by law. In 2000 CE Governing Body members who were on the Board of Directors resigned from the Board. This made the Board and Governing Body separate and distinct groups

The *New York Daily News* reported changes:

Changing the Watch At the Watchtower

The president resigned, the ruling Governing Body was stripped of its legal power, and three new corporations were set up to run the society's U.S. operations…

They were made last weekend at an annual business meeting, in Jersey City, but without any public notice or discussion. Milton Henschel, 80, the fifth president, stepped down after eight years, along with six other directors of the Watchtower Society. He remains a member of the Governing Body…

The Governing Body was not abolished, but under the new setup, it will oversee only religious affairs, among them Bible doctrine, evangelization and pastoral care… (Charles W. Bell, October 14, 2000)

When the Governing Body resigned as officers and directors of the corporations in 2000 they divested themselves of legal protection of their authority. In taking this step they also took steps to insure against the possibility of a future rebellion against their authority by directors of one or more corporations. The side protected by law and in control of assets and real-estate could in such a contest win the support of the majority of people in the JWs religion as happened in 1917.

Notice that since 2000 all the corporations have different boards of directors. The multiplication of corporations <u>each with different board members</u>, the divisions of work between the corporations, the necessity for their officers and directors to be reelected annually whereas the Governing Body perpetuates itself without reelection, makes a widespread challenge to their authority by other JWs almost impossible. Possessing authority without elections would also be an argument that they are appointed by God and have ultimate ruling legitimacy.

(See also: *GOVERNING BODY SHAKE-UP*)

CORRESPONDENCE

Branch Offices are issued a booklet for guidance on answering correspondence with the public.

Questions sent to Brooklyn headquarters are usually redirected to the branch office of the country of the inquirer.

Questions about false prophecies will likely get the response that claims about failed prophecies are exaggerated. If the inquirer sends another letter and supplies examples, the WTS won't reply but may send two elders to investigate.

If a question arouses suspicion or cannot be answered from WTS literature the Branch redirects it to the appropriate congregation and local elders will pay the person a visit.

JWs are encouraged to consult the elders in preference to writing to the branch office.

Occasionally a difficult question is redirected to Governing Body to consider.

Letters and correspondence from the WTS to congregations and individuals are anonymous and signed with a rubber stamp. But a code is used so that writers can be identified.

Recently the Governing Body discouraged JWs from writing in to ask questions:

> Neither Branch Office or World Headquarters is in a position to analyze and answer all such questions that have not been considered in our literature. We can be satisfied that the Bible provides sufficient information to guide us through our life but omits enough detail so as to require us to have strong faith in its divine author. (w2011 10/15)

CORRESPONDENCE GUIDELINES (2007; 2009; 2011)
A manual of about 120 pages issued to WTS branch offices as a guide to answering letters received from JWs and the public.

COST OF PUBLICATIONS
See: *PRICES OF PUBLICATIONS*

COSTA RICA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Costa Rica and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	3,123	552		
1975	4,651	413		
1980	5,542	400	15,828	140
1985	9,210	262	25,850	93
1990	12,516	236	33,300	89
1995	17,082	193	43,700	75
2000	19,880	182	47,500	76
2005	21,024	201	53,400	79
2010	26,043	173	67,700	67
2015	30,100	160	69,200	70
2018	31,800	156	70,000	71
	Ave.			
2019	31,800	159	71,472	71
2020	31,900	160	70,900	72
2021	32,400	160	80,900	64
2022	32,300	161	72,400	72
2023	31,900	163	70,100	74
2024	32,200	163	70,100	75
2025	32,400	159	67,600	76

COTE D'IVOIRE
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Cote d'Ivoire (formerly Ivory Coast) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	431	9,513		
1975	1,021	4,016		
1980	1,340	4,978	4,572	1,459
1985	2,143	4,327	8,349	1,111
1990	3,415	2,715	15,166	611
1995	5,007	2,481	18,826	660
2000	6,272	2,614	23,398	701
2005	7,002	2,747	26,995	713
2010	8,855	2,553	44,600	507
2015	10,607	2,137	64,700	350
2018	11,938	2,001	69,529	344
	Ave.			
2019	11,913	2,159	75,800	339
2020	11,584	2,277	29,851	884
2021	11,613	2,330	40,100	674
2022	11,657	2,521	37,400	787
2023	12,062	2,436	52,400	561
2024	12,761	2,502	57,600	554
2025	13,545	2,415	52,600	622

COUNSEL AND ADVICE
Much advice in WTS publications initially appears reasonable and well-intentioned. This perspective changes upon considering the thousands of doctrinal changes.

For example consider, "Why Be Reasonable in Our Expectations?" (w2000 8/1 29) There is nothing wrong in teaching reasonableness in expectations. However, if an organization has a history of thirty dates when prophecy failed, it would be unreasonable to expect its latest predictions to be reliable. Similarly, to expect scriptural truth from a religion that has made thousands of alterations to its doctrines but calls everything Bible truth and "the truth" is unreasonable.

"Wisdom is with the modest ones". (w2000 8/1 14) Modesty of course is good. However, an Organization that promotes itself as the one true religion agreeing with the Bible in everything despite having changed its interpretations by hundreds, and routinely labels everyone holding different beliefs as deceivers and hypocrites, is neither wise nor modest!

"Presumptuousness Leads To Dishonor". (w2000 8/1 9) JWs leaders label all other religions as false and JWs alone as "true religion". In 1917 they even predicted the destruction of Christianity to start in April 1918. Instead, the WBTS itself faced destruction that year and over the next twelve years lost 80% of its people by defection. The leaders nevertheless made more false predictions — 1925, 1936, 1942, 1975, the twentieth century and "this generation" — thereby revealing themselves as "presumptuous" and "dishonourable".

Counsel published by the WTS is often good but leaves a bad taste whenever it is meant only for other religions. Such counsel givers are reminiscent of the scribes and Pharisees:

> Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples, The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but do not what they do; for they preach, but do not practise. (Matthew 23:1-3)

COUNSEL ON THEOCRATIC ORGANIZATION FOR JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (1949)
A 64-page booklet detailing the positions of responsibility in JWs congregations.

COUNT TIME
Until 2023 all JWs kept track of how many hours they spent going door to door, conducting Bible studies, standing alongside display tables, and preaching by phone or letter. They recorded it in the hours-box on a field service report slip [or form].

The practice is based on the phrase buying out the opportune time (NWT) or making the most of the time (NRSV) (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5).

The local records were totalled nationally and internationally and the totals published annually in the *Yearbook*.

JWs are not paid for their hours, but the Governing Body apparently anticipates future compensation since: "the very resources of the nations will come to you." (w1992 4/15 11)

After 2023 the counting of hours continued for pioneers and special pioneers.

COUNTRIES
See: *LANDS*

COURSE IN THEOCRATIC MINISTRY (1943)
A 94-page WTS book which was used at meetings to instruct JWs in aspects of their ministry such as proselytizing, debate and using references.

COURT/STATE CONFLICTS WITH JWs
JWs are noted for their conflict with secular governments because of their stand on flag-saluting, voting, war, war-related work, door to door preaching, freedom of association, blood transfusions, political neutrality, the right to decline military service, child sexual abuse, and mistreatment of so-called "apostates".

JWs have experienced opposition over their religious activities in many countries. The U.S. saw several thousand mob actions against JWs in the early 1940s, and 18,866 arrests of JWs between 1933 and 1951.

JWs refer to their court battles as "Defending and legally establishing the good news". Peters (2000) in *Judging Jehovah's Witnesses* writes that JWs have helped to widen people's civil liberties in many Western societies and broadened the rights of the majority.

Notable court successes

The WBTS had an excellent legal team led by Hayden C. Covington and usually chose cases that provided maximum publicity for JWs or issues that involved the right of JWs to publicize their message without restrictions.

The legal clashes JWs had with government authorities led to 23 separate Supreme Court rulings between 1938 and 1946 which exceeds the efforts of any other religion.

WBTS lawyers achieved noteworthy success in arguing questions of religious freedom before the Supreme Court, winning 14 of 20 such cases from 1938-1946. The courts upheld the right to ring door bells, solicit from house to house, be exempt from peddler's licenses, and refuse to salute the flag.

Why the violence

King (1983) writes:

> They are not pacifist, they simply believe that they are already enlisted in the army of Jehovah and cannot give allegiance to another power, that of the civil state. Thus, whilst they are exemplary citizens in matters of tax payment and obedience to moral and criminal laws, they will not undertake civil duties which they see as

> conflicting with their duty to Jehovah-God. Witnesses will not vote ... salute a national flag or recognize a national anthem, and they refuse to enlist. In peace time they are normally tolerated in democratic countries, but in war-time and in totalitarian regimes they frequently face imprisonment.

Common catalysts that ignited violence were provocative mass descents by JWs on communities that did not want them, public playing of records of Rutherford's criticisms of other churches, and the JWs refusal to support the war effort or salute the flag (JWs compared flag-saluting to idol worship).

In *Minersville School District v. Gobitis* (1940) the U.S. Supreme Court Supreme ruled that it was constitutional for public schools to compel students to salute the American Flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance despite the students having religious objections to these practices.

A Pennsylvania school district had expelled two JWs children because they kept their arms lowered during daily flag salute. This decision contributed to a wave of persecution against JWs across the U.S. with their literature often confiscated or burned, and 1500 being attacked in 300 communities.

Partly to quell the violence the Supreme Court in *West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette* (1943) overruled the previous decision. One Justice wrote: "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion or other matters of opinion."

JWs provocation

Factors behind anti-JWs violence besides the sect being unpatriotic were that JWs were impressively organized, disdainful of other religions, and believed they were delivering God's final denunciation on religions and governments before Armageddon which was "just ahead". JWs believed that they themselves also faced execution by God unless they did the WTS's bidding and served notice on everyone else. All this put ordinary JWs on a constant collision course with the rest of society.

Many WTS publications were designed to stir trouble with vitriolic attacks on government, religion (especially Catholics) and big business. A common JWs slogan, appearing on banners, sandwich signs and cars was "Religion is a snare and a racket".

In his correspondence with WBTS lawyers Rutherford called Roman Catholic clergy "girls", "jackasses", "s.o.b.s" and "roosters" and advocated violence against Catholics who interfered with JWs. Labels and descriptions of Catholics in WTS literature included frauds, dogs, devilish, blind, drunkards and liars. (See: *VITUPERATION*)

And some cartoons in *Consolation* magazine were vile and libelous. In booklets and in *The Watchtower* Rutherford alleged that the Catholic Hierarchy was in a conspiracy with Adolf Hitler to destroy democracy and enslave America. These were false accusations intended to turn public sentiment against the Catholic Church — but this aim boomeranged.

Wills (2006) describes a confrontation in 1939:

> The Kingdom Hall at Saco, Maine, having been burnt (October, 1939) by mobsters, the Witnesses moved to Kennebunk… The hall was raided by 2,500 persons, Jehovah's Witnesses defended themselves, shooting two of the raiders and crippling them for life… Six Witnesses were arrested for assault with intent to kill… The marauders then turned their attention to homes of the Witnesses. They entered the home of Witness family Robb, threw their furnishings into the street and set the house on fire. They dragged out of his home one Witness, clad in underwear, with the intention of tarring and feathering him, but police prevented this.

At Madison Square Garden, New York, in 1939 Rutherford spoke on Government and Peace and stated: "The Catholic Church, no matter what anybody tells you, supports Hitler." Many in the audience booed and threw eggs and JWs ushers rushed over and struck them with thick canes. (Newsweek, July 3, 1939)

Sometimes the police or local officials joined the attackers or stood back and did nothing.

Sometimes officials were involved in stopping JWs conventions. In 1940 the main assembly site was at Columbus, Ohio where the contract was cancelled after JWs had spent much effort in preparation:

> …a petition was circulated [by JWs] throughout the United States requesting Governor John W. Bricker to permit the Witnesses to use the hall. 2,042,126 signed and on appointment 350 Witnesses showed up at the Governor's house, each bearing a parcel with about

> 6,000 signatures ... but he failed to act for the Witnesses... (Wills 2006)

A ruling regarding free speech followed the United States Supreme Court case *Chaplinsky vs. New Hampshire* (1942).

Walter Chaplinsky was arrested in Rochester, New Hampshire, for street-corner preaching in which he compared the Catholic Church to a harlot. A mob attack followed. When Chaplinsky was taken into custody he called the town marshal a "damn fascist" and a "racketeer" which were sentiments taught in WTS publications.

The Court articulated the "fighting words" ruling which put a limitation on the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech by placing "fighting words" outside the First Amendment's protection if they "inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace."

Other reasons why JWs got arrested around 1940 were violations of local ordinances, charges of blasphemy, inciting violence, and breach of the peace.

It was not legally clear at the time whether the First Amendment protected religious activity from restrictions at local levels — whether for example small towns could or could not have local ordinances to prohibit door to door preaching. This came up in the case Cantwell vs. Connecticut (1940). Cantwell and his two sons were arrested and charged with:
(1) Violation of a Connecticut statute which required anyone soliciting to obtain a certificate before soliciting funds from the public; and
(2) Inciting a common-law breach of the peace (for playing a gramophone record criticizing false religion).

The Supreme Court ruled that Newton Cantwell and his sons should not have been arrested for soliciting without a license, that their action was in fact protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments. This increased and strengthened the right to the public practice of religion for everyone.

It was never, however, the intention of the WTS to enhance everyone's freedom. Armageddon was too near to bother trying to improve society, being only months away. Many statements, articles and cartoons that Rutherford sanctioned in WTS literature would today get an author sued for libel or for inciting religious hatred. JWs therefore caused most of their own problems.

The JWs intention was to enhance their own freedom to denounce religion and proclaim Armageddon, which they did offensively to increase publicity and force people to take notice. The increased freedom of religion that resulted from many of WTS court actions, for which the WTS is nowadays praised, was an unintended by-product.

There were further court actions after the 1940s. But by then JWs had changed — under orders of the new post-Rutherford leaders — and treated the public in a more conciliatory manner which they called "theocratic tact", and violence became infrequent.

One issue was that JWs opposed singing of national anthems, regarding these as prayers for the prosperity of the nation, therefore contrary to the Bible which supposedly foretold the violent destruction of nations at Armageddon. (w1960 2/15)

In 1961 three JWs children refused to stand during anthem singing and were expelled from school. After two years of litigation the U.S. District Court ruled that they could go back to school. (New York Times, August 30, 1963, p.2)

Word of caution

Some writers on JWs legal history have repeated the Governing Body's version which presents the story of their court actions as a struggle of peaceful, freedom loving, truth-speaking JWs against the forces of false religion trying to suppress freedom and truth.

For example, Allen Rostron (2003-2004), in a Book Review of S.F. Peters' book *Judging Jehovah's Witnesses* (2000), writes:

> Peters' book shares a fundamental flaw with previous accounts of the legal history of the Jehovah's Witnesses. He has chosen to passionately and unequivocally support the Witnesses' side of each and every one of the legal battles he describes. In Peters' hands every episode in the Witnesses' legal struggles becomes a story about how an extraordinary brave and dedicated Witness challenged an indefensible rule of law, and how every case ultimately resulted in either a watershed victory for liberty, or a disheartening judicial failure to protect our freedom.

Nazi Germany

JWs have experienced legal conflicts in many nations of the world due to their non-negotiable allegiance to the WTS, their

ceaseless verbal attacks on other religions, and their "neutrality".

These attitudes in turn follow from their belief in an imminent worldwide theocracy and that all nations are aligned with the Devil and about to be destroyed. With the end of the world being imminent and impending many agendas governments promote such as higher education, national prosperity, infrastructure, scientific research, national security, trade agreements and environmental protection become a waste of time. Correct from the JWs viewpoint is non-involvement so as to have more time to go door to door with their message.

The most extreme reactions came from dictatorships — Nazi, Communist and African — where JWs recourse to law courts often led to pre-determined anti-JWs outcomes.

The Third Reich of Germany did not tolerate dissent from minority cults which, like the Jews, were proscribed. The most conspicuous persecution went to JWs because of their numbers (almost 20,000 publishers when Hitler came to power), their widespread proselytizing, and their public refusal to join political activities.

Rutherford repeatedly declared that the preaching had reached its climax, Armageddon was at hand, and Satan was launching his final efforts to suppress Jehovah's truth. JWs, therefore, expected increased opposition and when it came it confirmed their belief in the imminent collapse of all nations and their own elevation to everlasting life.

In 1933 Nazi Germany banned WTS activities and stipulated sentences in prisons and penitentiaries for infractions.

Rutherford initially tried to placate the Nazis. Germany's JWs distributed 2.1 million copies of a *Declaration of Facts*, which was also published in the 1934 *Yearbook of JWs*. The *Declaration* made statements that some critics consider to be anti-Semitic and even pro-Nazi such as the statement that JWs agree with the principles of Hitler's National Socialist Government. (Penton 1985) Of course in 1934 Hitler's public image still had widespread international approval and his monstrous policies were still in the future.

During the next ten years about 2/3 of Rutherford's followers in Germany left the sect. Several thousand were sent to concentration camps and prisons where about 1000 died. Survivors often survived because they were highly integrated within their JWs social group. They clung to their faith because they believed compromise meant being slaughtered by Jehovah's angels at Armageddon which could start any day.

Canada

In 1940 the government of Canada passed a law under the War Measures Act that banned JWs. Intolerance and suppression of unpatriotic beliefs were a reaction to the danger Canada and the British Empire faced from Nazi Germany and Japan and because no other organization was so offensive in its methods while working under the guise of Christianity. JWs were regarded as subversive and offensive religious zealots.

When JWs ignored the ban and insisted on distributing their pamphlets the consequences were mob actions, hundreds of arrests and state prosecution. Many young JWs males were sent to camps, and others were imprisoned. The conflict especially in Quebec continued until 1959.

In Canada, JW lawyer W. Glen How repeated before the Supreme Court of Canada what Covington had achieved in the USA.

William Kaplan (1989) in the preface of *State and Salvation* writes:

> One of the results of the Witnesses' legal battles was the long process of discussion and debate that led to the Charter of Rights, which is now part of the fundamental law of Canada.

However, as noted previously, this benefit was not the WTS's intention but an accidental by-product.

Soviet Union; Greece; Malawi

In the Soviet Union of the 1950s thousands of JWs were rounded up and transported to labor camps. JWs (and some other religions) were regarded as antisocial opponents of human rights, distributors of anti-Soviet propaganda, threatening the Soviet way of life by a holy war, and evading civic obligations.

In Greece the struggle of JWs versus the State and the Greek Orthodox Church continued for half a century. Usually the conflicts centered on JWs refusal to join the military and their insistence on trying to convert people of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Particularly vicious attempts to suppress JWs took place in Malawi in the 1960s and 1970s. Under the presidency of Dr. Banda, Malawi was almost a police state and disallowed

active dissent. Thousands of JWs were brutalized over their refusal to purchase a card identifying them as supporters of the government. Over 20,000 fled to neighboring Zambia and lived for years in refugee camps. The persecution was widely advertised and even received mention in several *Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook*s.

Are they really neutral?

Under the entry Goal of World Domination in this *Dictionary*, is presented evidence that Judge Rutherford's goal was future world rule by the WTS. His agenda was that intense and widespread promotion of his message by ever increasing numbers of united, dedicated "publishers" would lead to mass desertions from churches and from support of governments.

This means that the much trumpeted political neutrality of JWs, which creates much of their conflict with government and law, is not what it seems but is really very political!

In a WTS world — if Rutherford's goal were to approach success — most of the freedoms the WTS helped to win would be rolled back because they would benefit dissenters who oppose JWs.

Analysis

Jerry Bergman (1996) concludes:

> The history of many conflicts between the Watchtower and the secular state often involved two unyielding and rather rigid power structures, with millions of Jehovah's Witnesses caught in the middle. The Watchtower's intransigence, though, is no excuse for the inhumane manner in which the secular state has often responded to the Witness problem. The suffering that has resulted from this conflict has been enormous and the blame falls on both the Watchtower and the secular state.

COURTS

The New Testament says: "To have lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong?"

Based on this Scripture JWs are told that to take one another to court would bring reproach upon the Organization, therefore don't:

> That is why a brother may not take his brother into court; there is reproach upon the organization. (w1954 10/1 595)
>
> Rather than bring such reproach upon the organization, Paul argues that it would be better to be defrauded. If brothers are going to judge the world and angels, when associated with Christ in heaven, can they not judge trivial matters among themselves, without having to call in unbelievers, men looked down upon by the congregation, to settle their difficulties? (w1955 2/15 126)

JWs who take each other to court might even be disfellowshipped depending on circumstances. As a minimum they will suffer loss of reputation and prestige among their peers:

> However, if any member of the Christian congregation, without regard for the effect of his action on the good name of the congregation, ignores the counsel from God's Word on this matter, such one would not be free from accusation as a Christian… He would not be an example for others to imitate, so this would affect the privileges that he might have in the congregation. (w1973 11/15 704)

Child abuse

The doctrine that courts should be avoided has had sad consequences for thousands of JWs children.

Based on the avoid-reproach-on-the-Organization argument many elders advised victims and their parents against reporting child abuse to the police.

Because of the fear of losing privileges in the congregation most JWs complied and did not report child sexual abuse. In Australia alone the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that 1000 JWs child abusers were not reported to the police (between 1950 and 2015) and 1800 children of JWs were victims. About 400 alleged perpetrators were expelled by disfellowshipping but 230 were later reinstated. The Royal Commission reported over 500 surviving perpetrators to the police.

Adding to the problem was the teaching that if an accused person denies the charge two credible witnesses are required to establish guilt. Without two credible witnesses who observed the abuse the accused remains in good standing and the accuser must say nothing more about the child abuse or be disfellowshipped for slander. "Gossipping" is also said to bring reproach upon the Organization (w1957 5/1 285) and complaining about sexual abuse without two

witnesses would be gossip.

Rutherford, followed by the Governing Body, instituted uniform policies in all JWs congregations worldwide which means child sexual abuse of JWs children also went worldwide.

Blood, Crime and Ostracism

Other issues that may bring JWs into court are blood transfusions, dog attacks when going door to door, and child custody cases of which an estimated 1000 are fought in USA courts each year.

Another category is violence either by JWs against defectors who confront them with the Organization's false prophecies or violence by ex-JWs when they disrupt meetings or damage kingdom halls.

JWs also commit the same sorts of crimes as the general public and go to trial for theft, murder, fraud, rape and other crimes.

There have also been lawsuits over the shunning/disfellowshipping practice but redress has failed because there is no constitutional right to be talked to.

Disfellowshipping with Shunning

A news report from 1987:

> Bette Vauls' Baltimore County civil suit is one of about three dozen court cases being monitored nationally by dissident Jehovah's Witnesses who charge the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based sect with cult-like mind control and Big Brother surveillance tactics.
>
> The Vauls case is not an isolated instance of a former Witness suing the sect known for its aggressive door-to-door proselytizing, said Gaila Noble, head of a Phoenix, Ariz., support group for former members suffering the mental anguish of being forced out of the Witnesses. "I've heard there are as many as 35 lawsuits now from all over—Montana, Texas, Oklahoma, California and I heard about Bette Vauls' case by word of mouth," she said.
>
> The Witnesses, whose most famous member is rock 'n' roll superstar Michael Jackson, have recently lost some court cases and more are pending. In Oregon, former Witness Daniel Duron recently won a child custody case against his Witness ex-wife, who refused him visitation rights, according to church dissidents. In California, Mark Pyle and Gary McGready won an assault and battery claim against Witnesses who roughed them up after they distributed leaflets near a Kingdom Hall.
>
> In the last decade, Noble said, more than 1 million people have left the Witnesses voluntarily or through formal disfellowship, which severs all ties to family and friends remaining in the sect.
>
> More lawsuits have not been filed, Noble said, because most of us were so sick, the statute of limitations ran out. When many leave they're intimidated and depressed and go into isolation. Some commit suicide or end up in mental wards. When I was disfellowshipped, I saw a psychiatrist for six months and was in the hospital twice.
>
> Jerry and Gerry Porter left the Witnesses three years ago in Buckeye, Ariz., a small town west of Phoenix. Under pressure to conform to the sect's stringent code and to watch over everyone else's lives, Mrs. Porter said they couldn't take it any more. You have to give unquestioning obedience. It's enslaving, brainwashing, a them-versus-us mentality. I'm afraid of another Jonestown incident.
>
> Grounds for disfellowship and the resulting ostracism include smoking, drinking, taking blood transfusions, independent thinking, going to another church, voting or holding elected office, and a catch-all conduct unbecoming a Christian, said Robert Rush, who started a telephone ministry for fellow ex-Witnesses in Logansport, Ind. six months ago. He was expelled in 1982 when he campaigned for township trustee because he needed the extra money. If you mess up just one time, that's it, he said. They'll mark you and defame your character and you can't leave with honor.
>
> In 1985 alone 36,000 Witnesses were disfellowshipped, said California attorney Ronald Reed, who refers to himself as sort of retired Witness handling dissident lawsuits. A lot of people are suffering and the more people who call me, the more I realize injustice is being done. The elders think they're the anointed of God and can do what they want, but I'd like to make them accept their responsibility.
>
> Bob Balzer, Witness spokesman in the Brooklyn headquarters, denied there is a

dissident movement, but admitted some people are disciplined for wrongdoing…

Balzer declined to comment about any court eases. The charge that we spy or brainwash is ridiculous, he said. We try to help save people's lives. People have a right to believe in what they want. If they disagree with us they're free to go do what they want. (Ukens 1987)

An employment case

Raleigh — The N.C. Court of Appeals has upheld a New Hanover County Superior Court decision that Pilot Freight Carriers was not guilty of religious discrimination in firing one of its employees.

The New Hanover Human Relations Commission had said that when Pilot fired James A. Robinson, a Jehovah's Witness, the company had violated Robinson's rights.

Robinson had refused to work Thursday nights because of church activities.

But in a decision released Tuesday, the appeals court said the commission's findings were "unsupported by the evidence."

The appeals court said Pilot had fulfilled its constitutional obligations to attempt to accommodate Robinson's religious beliefs and practices, agreeing with the New Hanover court that Pilot "went beyond the efforts required by law." …

Elliot Inman, *Wilmington Morning Star*, 1987, January 8

An estate-resurrection case

Rollason (1993) reported about a JW who wanted his estate returned to him after he rises from the dead and made provision for its maintenance until that happened:

> The Court of Appeal ruled unanimously that Peter Tucker, described as a devout Jehovah's Witness, cannot direct from the grave that his farm will be looked after by his neighbour until the day he returns from the other side… Tucker believed his body would be resurrected and he would return to his farm. Consequently his will directed his son to live in the house, while his neighbour, Fred Faucher, would look after the farm, pay all taxes and utilities from the farm's income and mow the lawn.

See also: *ARRESTS*; *CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE; CRIME & COURTS; SHUNNING*)

COVENANT

See: *NEW COVENANT*

COVER/COVERAGE

The frequency with which publishers visit all homes in their congregation's territory. A JW visiting another congregation might ask: How often do you cover your territory?

COVID 19

The Covid 19 pandemic began to make news in January 2020 and within a few months led to "lockdowns" and curfews all over the world.

With door to door visits restricted the world total of average publishers declined in 2020 for the first time since the late 1970s although only by 47,000 or 0.6%. Memorial attendance declined by more than 3 million or by 14.7%. These figures recovered in 2021

Home Bible studies and hours on the ministry declined drastically, and baptisms were the lowest since the 1980s. "Hours" in the following table are in millions:

	Studies	Hours	Baptisms
2018	10,080,000	2075	282,000
2019	9,618,000	2089	304,000
2020	7,706,000	1670	242,000
2021	5,908,000	1423	171,000
2022	5,667,000	1502	146,000

JWs adapted by switching from door knocking to writing letters.

The discouraging decline in hours reported may explain the Governing Body's 2023 policy-change to discontinue the counting and reporting of hours. Another discouragement was that the number of hours required on average to produce one baptized convert was getting embarrassingly high, in England about 10,000 hours! Something so negative is better left concealed.

COVINGTON, HAYDEN COOPER (1911-1978)
Texas attorney who assisted Rutherford in the WBTS's legal office in 1940 after attorney Olin R. Moyle defected.

Covington was the son of a Texas Ranger and was raised on a farm. He was a big man, 6¼ feet tall, who sometimes fought physically with Catholics who disrupted JWs conventions.

Covington completed law school in San Antonio in 1933 and was admitted to the Texas Bar. He was baptized in 1934 and was of the great multitude class. Trained by Rutherford, he became one of America's leading constitutional authorities and argued First and Fourteenth Amendment cases, defending JWs religious freedom in the 1940s and 1950s.

He always studied cases beforehand and picked the ones he thought he could win — where the JWs defendant was preferably white, articulate, presentable and female with children. He argued before the Supreme Court some 50 times, scored 37 victories, and the results have protected the rights of all Americans. He lost, however, on the blood transfusion issue.

Covington was elected president of the Pennsylvania and New York corporations of the WTS on January 13, 1942 but was replaced as President by Nathan Knorr and became a director. He resigned as a director of the Pennsylvania Corporation in October 1945 after gaining Knorr's disapproval, but remained a voting member.

The official/theological reason for Covington's demotion was the theological claim that the directors of the Pennsylvania Corporation must all be of the remnant whereas Covington was of the other sheep or great multitude:

> ANNUAL meetings of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania have been held since January of 1885. When the in gathering of anointed Christians was underway in the late 19th century, the directors and officers of this corporation had the heavenly hope. In fact, this has almost always been the case.
>
> There was one exception. In 1940, Hayden C. Covington — then the Society's legal counsel and one of the other sheep, with the earthly hope — was elected a director of the Society. (John 10:16) He served as the Society's vice president from 1942 to 1945. At that time, Brother Covington stepped aside as a director to comply with what then seemed to be Jehovah's will—that all directors and officers of the Pennsylvania corporation be anointed Christians. Lyman A. Swingle replaced Hayden C. Covington on the board of directors, and Frederick W. Franz was elected vice president.
>
> Why did Jehovah's servants believe that all the directors and officers of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania should be anointed Christians? Because at the time, the board of directors and officers of the Pennsylvania corporation were closely identified with the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, which has always been made up entirely of spirit-anointed men.
> (w2001 1/15 28; w1955 11/1 650; Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom 1993, 91)

Covington married in the early 1950s shortly before Knorr, thereby helping to reverse Rutherford's anti-marriage policy. He overcame a 50-per-day smoking habit to conform to the WTS's anti-smoking policy.

By 1960 the WBTS had less need for Covington's legal skills. He left Bethel and became a heavy drinker. He continued to be listed in the WTS Yearbooks as an ordained minister until 1963 when he was disfellowshpped for drunkenness. He was unemployed most of the time but was defence attorney in world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali's draft case in 1967, arguing that Ali was a minister! Mostly he relied on his wife for support — she worked 20 years in a newspaper pressroom.

Covington overcame his alcoholism in the 1970s and was reinstated to JWs in time to share in the 1975 prophecy disappointment. Covington had one daughter who also attended law school.

(Investigator 99, November 2004)

COWIE, RON
South Australian Christadelphian who authored the book *The Watchtower Society False Witnesses of God* (1983), reissued as *Jehovah's Witnesses — a Scriptural and Historical Analysis* (1984).

CREATION
Russell interpreted the length of each of the seven days of creation in Genesis as 7000 years. (Studies VI 1904, 19, 29-58) The creation of the heavens and earth (Genesis

1:1) until the first day of creation was of unspecified length.

Russell adopted a canopy theory in which rings of water and minerals surrounded the earth and crashed down on successive days of creation. The last ring was of pure water and dropped in Noah's time. Rutherford's account of creation in his book *Creation* (1927) was similar.

CREATION (1927)
A book authored by Rutherford.

CREATION DAYS
JWs used to believe that the six days of creation and God's one day of rest are each 7000-years long. With 1000 years of the 7th day still ahead, that meant that creation by God started 48,000 years ago.

The 7th period of 7000 years is supposedly God's day of rest and consists of 6000 years of human evil followed by Christ's 1000-year reign of peace. (Let God Be True 1946; 1952)

There was no Bible basis for this doctrine, nor geological or other scientific basis. Furthermore, since 6000 years from Adam's creation supposedly ended in 1975 the world should already (in 2026) be about 50 years into Christ's post-Armageddon 1000-year reign!

In 1987 the 49,000-year schedule was still Bible truth but no longer expressed with certainty:

> Second, a study of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy and of our location in the stream of time strongly indicate that each of the creative days (Genesis, chapter 1) is 7,000 years long. It is understood that Christ's reign of a thousand years will bring to a close God's 7,000-year 'rest day,' the last 'day' of the creative week. (Revelation 20:6; Genesis 2:2, 3) Based on this reasoning, the entire creative week would be 49,000 years long. (w1987 1/1 30)

This doctrine was changed in 1988. The length of the days became vague — not exactly 7000 years long, but still thousands of years:

> The Bible does not specify the length of each of the creative periods. Yet all six of them have ended... Also, more than 4,000 years after the seventh day, or God's rest day, commenced, Paul indicated that it was still in progress... The Thousand Year Reign of Jesus Christ, who is Scripturally identified as Lord of the sabbath (Mt 12:8), is evidently part of the great sabbath, God's rest day. (Re 20:1-6) This would indicate the passing of thousands of years from the commencement of God's rest day to its end… And, since the seventh day has been continuing for thousands of years, it may reasonably be concluded that each of the six creative periods, or days, was at least thousands of years in length. (Insight Volume I, 1988, 545)

In 1994 JWs leaders implied the seven days were of greatly different lengths — from 24 hours to thousands of years:

> The Bible does not say that each creative day was 24 hours long; indeed, it includes all these 'days' in the much longer day that Jehovah God made earth and heaven, showing that not all Biblical 'days' contained just 24 hours. (Genesis 2:4) Some could have been many thousands of years in length. (w1994 9/1 6)

In 1996 **every** creative day covered thousands of years and none were 24 hours:

> Wonderful developments took place on earth during the six creative days of Genesis chapter 1, each day covering thousands of years. (w1996 4/1 13)

CREATOR'S PROMISE
From 1982 until 1995 the inside front cover of *AWAKE!* had the following words:

> Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away.

This alleged "Creator's promise" was published in about 300 editions of *Awake!*

JWs understood this promise to mean that Armageddon and paradise on Earth would come within the lifetimes of people alive before 1914 and within the 20th century:

> Jesus was obviously speaking about those who were old enough to witness with understanding what took place when the 'last days' began… Even if we presume that youngsters 15 years of age would be perceptive enough to realize the import of what happened in 1914, it would make the youngest of 'this generation' nearly 70 years old today… Jesus said that the end of this wicked

system would come *before* that generation passed away in death. (g1968 10/8 13)

The "Creator" as portrayed by JWs became a promise-breaking liar when in 1995 "generation" was re-defined as the period between 1914 and Armageddon irrespective of how many years it is.

Around 2010 CE when the "youngest of this generation" were about 110 years old "generation" was redefined further and meant two overlapping generations.

The *AWAKE!* wording was altered to:

> Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order.

It should be self-evident that to build "confidence" in a promise-breaker is unworthy work!

(See: *GENERATION; PROMISE; TWENTIETH CENTURY*)

CREDENTIALS

JWs leaders claim to have overwhelming credentials to prove that the "remnant" (surviving members of the alleged 144,000) are the faithful and discreet slave class, the only group genuinely speaking for God:

> OVERWHELMING CREDENTIALS
> The faithful and discreet slave has abundant credentials. Following is a partial list of Scriptural and prophetic designations applying to or being represented in the remnant of Jesus Christ's anointed followers since the notable year of 1919:
> (1) Noah's wife. Gen. 7:7; (2) angels sent to Lot, Gen. 19:15; (3) Rebekah, Gen. 24:64; (4) Joseph and Benjamin, Gen. 45:14… [79 examples are listed]
> (w1981 3/1 27)

All of the 79 items in the list depend on the unique JWs interpretations of Bible stories to constitute a credential. Rutherford invented the idea of prophetic pictures wherein he gave Old Testament stories 20th century parallels. The good guys in each Old Testament story represented God or Christ or the remnant, and the bad guys represented Satan or governments or religion or the Roman Catholic Hierarchy.

Rutherford invented dozens of pictures or parallels that no other religion accepted, not even his predecessor C.T. Russell, and these parallels are alleged to be "overwhelming credentials".

The reasoning is circular. It's like a bombastic boaster who says: "I am the greatest person in history and have credentials to prove it. Just look at this long list of famous men and women, and then read these writings of mine in which I claim that I'm better than all of them."

(See also: *PICTURES*)

CREEDS

In Christianity a creed is a concise, formal and authorized statement of important points of Christian doctrine — e.g. The Apostles, Creed, the Nicene Creed.

Creeds are useful as concise summaries of essential beliefs when people lack time, education, ability, interest, or opportunity for extensive study. For most of history few people could read, books were few and one book could cost a year's wages, work hours used up all daylight hours, and many people were slaves without the freedom to spend hundreds of hours examining religion in detail.

Russell associated creeds with "corruption":

> But ere long Protestantism also became corrupt, and her clergy began to formulate creeds to which they have taught the people to look as the epitomized doctrines of the Bible, and of paramount importance. (Studies IV, p.63)

JWs leaders use the expressions creed and creeds of Christendom pejoratively. To JWs the creeds demonstrate:

> Satan's power of concocting gibberish… (The Finished Mystery 1917, 110)

> The less Bible, the more Creed and the thicker and blacker the darkness. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 111)

Theologian B.H. Shadduck (1928) writes:

> For many years, as time permitted and occasion required, I have studied early and late editions of the books of the "pastor" and the "Judge," yet *I have never found a concise statement of what they believe*. And why not?
>
> They have some plausible doctrines that they feed to beginners and reserve the camel-swallowing until they have the beginner's gullet stretched. Every crafty propagandist starts with something easy

> to believe, knowing that when he has a mind on the skids the rest is comparatively easy…
>
> It takes them something like 6000 pages to tell their theories and after wading through them, I cannot even guess what they believe in some details absolutely vital to the application of their doctrines…

The JWs leaders insist that **everything** they write be accepted as definitely as Christians accept their creeds. To JWs all WBTS literature — not 6000 pages as in the 1920s but now about 500,000 pages — has the authority that creeds have for Christians. Thousands of JWs doctrinal points have, however, required revision because they were "gibberish", or too obviously wrong to be defended any longer, or because prophecies failed, but if any JWs publicly point this out they would be expelled and ostracized.

Creeds stating the essentials, learned in a few hours, seem preferable to 500,000 pages of "new light" and "old light", the latter mostly hidden from the public.

(See also: DATES; *ERROR*; *FINISHED MYSTERY*, *THE*)

CRIME AND COURTS

Since the 1950s WTS publications have portrayed JWs as the world's best, most law-abiding people, morally superior to immoral Christendom.

Despite Governing Body counsel, based on I Corinthians 6, to not take disputes to courts or other secular authorities, so that JWs and Jehovah are not brought into disrepute, increasing numbers of crimes committed by JWs and legal disputes between JWs are coming to light.

This *Dictionary* discusses some famous JWs criminals under their names. Below are general comments.

The website http://jwdivorces.bravehost.com gives details of many crimes and frauds involving JWs a few of which are:

- A Special Pioneer who sold worthless stock investments to local JWs;
- A Tax Compliance Officer who underpaid her federal taxes by wrongfully claiming charitable contribution deductions.
- An elder sentenced to nine years in prison for mail fraud and money laundering.
- A JW sentenced to 30 years in prison for fraud and ordered to make restitution to 165 victims.
- A JW convicted on one count of money laundering and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and sentenced to 121 months in federal prison.
- Two elders convicted of swindling $7,150,000 from a 100 year old JW woman in their congregation;
- A stockbroker who operated a Ponzi scheme (which involves paying money from earlier investors to later investors but otherwise pocketing much of the investments) and was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison;
- An elder convicted on charges of theft by deception, falsifying records, misapplication of entrusted property, and failure to file income tax returns and sentenced to 8 years in prison;
- A financial dispute when an elder refused to pay back a loan made to him by a member of the congregation or pay the interest;
- A New Yorker convicted of second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter for suffocating two of his children to collect life insurance money.
- An elder and president of an insurance and investment firm who pleaded guilty to theft and was sentenced to nine years.

The website www.bishop-accountability.org includes numerous reports of sexual abuse involving JWs.9

Regarding Australia's Royal Commission investigation into child sexual abuse among JWs, *The Washington Post* reported:

> From 1950 to 2014 the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society amassed 5,000 files detailing sexual abuse of Australian children by 1,006 of its members…
> Young girls were assaulted by neighbors. Teenagers were raped by their fathers. Victims were forced to pray with their abusers… Victims, ordered to keep quiet, were forced to confront their abusers in person. (2015 August 14)

The Governing Body's portrayal of JWs as the world's best people ignores news reports, court reports, and the Internet, which tell it differently.

(See also: *COURTS*)

CRIMES AND CALAMTIES (1930)

An official WTS booklet authored by Rutherford.

The "calamities" refer to natural disasters:

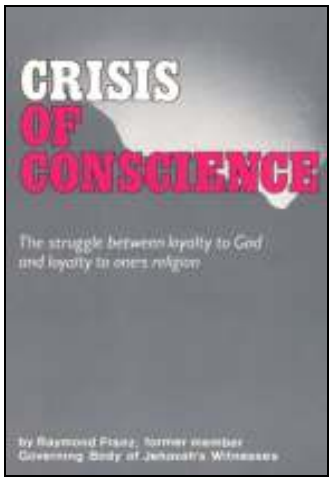
> There have been many great calamities, such as floods, fires, earthquakes and tidal waves, all of these being brought about by the operations of Satan and wrongly charged against Jehovah God. (p.46)

The "crimes" are by high officials and common people of the land. (p.11)

Rutherford was a heavy drinker and considered Prohibition (of alcohol) a serious crime for which he blamed the tools of the Devil, the clergy:

> Because of the subtle and wicked influence of Satan many of them yielded to flattery, and to gratify their selfishness they were easily induced to join hands with the commercial and political forces of the world. Men claiming to be representatives of God and of Christ on earth have readily yielded to prejudice, selfishness, and the like besetments, and have become the tools for the Devil… (p.27)
>
> It was the clergymen, urging the use of any and all means to enforce the prohibition law, that have caused many to suffer… (p.31)

CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE (1983)
A book authored by former Governing Body member Raymond Franz about the JWs Organization and its internal dissent, false prophecies, and doctrinal changes, and his own exit from it.



CRISIS QUOTES
A common method by which JWs leaders reinforce belief in the imminent onrush of Armageddon and instil renewed zeal, fear and anticipation into JWs is to quote politicians, authors or even children who write or voice the opinion that a great crisis is looming:

> One scientist concluded in the very conservative journal named Science: We may have even less than a 50-50 chance of living until 1980… The shortness of the time is due to the exponential and multiplying character of our problems. (w1973 1/15 37)

Many crisis quotes appear in WTS literature. Generally quotes are chosen that harmonize with the current truth of the JWs leaders. At the time the above quote was published in 1973 the emphasis was on the mid 1970s for Armageddon and therefore the "less than a 50-50 chance of living until 1980" was a zeal-stimulating quote.

CRISIS, THE (1933)
Booklet by Rutherford.

CRITICISM
JWs argue that it is right, proper and loving to criticize the errors of other religions:

> Love expresses itself in correcting... (Christendom Or Christianity—Which One Is The Light Of The World? 1955, 22)
>
> Because the full statement of facts tends to shock the susceptibilities of some persons (this) furnished no excuse or justification to withhold from the public any part thereof, particularly when the public welfare is involved...
> Previous belief or opinion should never be permitted to hinder one in receiving and considering a statement of facts. (Face the Facts 1938, 3)
>
> Contrary to what some may think, it is not unkind and unloving to lay bare falsehood and corruption. (w1966 3/1 132)
>
> We believe it to be in the interests of all men to be informed of the true state of affairs, including those areas wherein church organizations or their leaders do not conform to the teaching of Christ. If people are taught to worship God in a way that conflicts with true Bible teaching, and which he will not accept, it is surely showing them love to inform them of the facts... (g1985 2/8 28)
>
> Would You Rather Have The Truth Covered Over...? Or Do You Want To Know The Facts? (w1974 1/15 35)

JWs leaders specialize in making thousands of generalized, negative claims about "Christendom" and the "clergy of Christendom". Here is a sample taken from just one page:

- "Why have the churches of Christendom failed?"
- "Christendom with her thousands of sects, Catholic and Protestant, is teeming with degradation."
- "Christendom is not Christian."
- "She does not represent the Christianity of the Bible."
- "In fact the clergy of Christendom are largely responsible for the sick state of the world… Why is this true? … Because the religions of Christendom have thrust aside God's Holy Bible."
- "The churches have involved themselves in politics, supported wars, approved of violence and revolution."
- "Christendom is filled with disunity and confusion. She exercises no influence toward bettering the lives of her members." (g1973 8/22 6)

Multiply these and similar assertions by thousands, studied and repeated by JWs year after year, and imagine the hate, prejudice and loathing that develops toward other religions.

The fallacy is that by highlighting the bad and ignoring the good, any group can have its reputation blackened. In every country there are cheating doctors, child-abusing school teachers, law-breaking teenagers, lying police officers, etc. If we consider only the "bad apples" and pretend their crimes represent the entire group we can stigmatize the majority i.e. the decent doctors, teachers, teenagers and police officers.

"Christendom" is a really big group — about 30% of the world's population — wherein we can find "bad apples" in the millions. Christian ministers have no control over these bad ones just as they have no control over stopping JWs leaders from making false predictions and claiming the false predictions came from the Bible. Nor can Christian churches prevent all child abuse just as JWs — despite their Organization's tighter control over its members than any Church has — could not stop the child-abuse of thousands of JWs children. (See: *CHILD ABUSE*)

If we consider the many failed predictions of the JWs leaders, the thousands of revised interpretations, the JWs criminals mentioned in news media, the existence of numerous spin-off religions, the ex-JWs who now number millions, the conflict generated by the shunning rules, and the JWs child-sex-abuse cases before courts, then much JWs criticism of "Christendom" is true of JWs themselves.

Therefore it can be said:

- JWs have failed.
- JWs are teeming with errors and degradation.
- The Governing Body and other leading elders are largely responsible for the sick state of JWs.
- The WTS and JWs are not Christian and do not represent the Christianity of the Bible.
- They are filled with disunity and confusion.

When corrective criticism is given to JWs by people who have studied them, their Governing Body ignores its own teaching that criticism is love and tries to suppress "love". They don't want JWs errors pointed out. JWs are told to turn away from critics! (w1984 5/15 17)

At least the criticisms of JWs by critics are specific to one religion and therefore state grievances that the Governing Body can correct. This is very different to lumping all law-abiding Christians in with criminals and atheists and demonizing the entire mix under the label "Christendom".

It is difficult to find any statements in WTS publications about the thousands of schools, hospitals and charities organized by various denominations and the millions of ministries undertaken by members of churches — much of which benefits JWs.

CROATIA

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Croatia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	4,585	1,043	8,829	542
2000	5,330	898	9,859	485
2005	5,434	817	9,606	462
2010	5,577	805	9,684	464
2015	5,427	791	8,472	507
2018	5,042	831	7,579	553
	Ave.			
2019	4,858	850	7,843	527
2020	4,723	859	6,727	603
2021	4,766	856	8,146	501
2022	4,693	867	7,218	564
2023	4,642	870	7,256	557
2024	4,612	835	7,179	536
2025	4,560	850	7,014	552

CROMPTON, ROBERT

According to his story on the Internet titled "A Path Few Have Taken", Robert Crompton did not commit any disfellowshipping sin.

He disagreed with WTS teaching and the elders disfellowshipped him in 1965 when he was in his early 20s.

Crompton was brought up in the JWs faith, baptized at 11, and served as a special pioneer at 19 near Glasgow, Scotland.

He read books on Psychology, Philosophy and Logic in the public library and stopped pioneering a year later. He began reading *Studies in the Scriptures* and Rutherford's books and the whole Watch Tower system of belief fell apart.

Compton studied Philosophy at Lancaster University after which he attended a Methodist Church, did ministerial training, and was ordained in 1987. His mother and other family members broke ties with him.

As an ordained minister he was obliged to do further study. At the University of Durham he did research which led him to write the book *Counting the Days to Armageddon* (1996).

Crompton says he is at the liberal end of the spectrum and: "Many conservative believers would not recognize me as any sort of Christian, but I remain a Methodist minister."

http://robertcrompton.com

CROSS / CRUCIFIXION

WTS publications today depict Jesus' crucifixion on a stake or post without a crossbeam and speak of him as "impaled" rather than crucified.

Previously WTS publications depicted Jesus on a cross or carrying a cross. For example:

- *The Harp of God* (1921) 114
- *Creation* (1927) 265, 336
- Reconciliation (1928) 168
- *Life* (1929) 198

Life (1929) says:

> Jesus was crucified upon the cross; but it is a well-known fact that, contrary to the custom in respect to the victims of crucifixion, not one bone of his body was broken. (p.216)

The *1975 Yearbook* says the JWs interpretation was switched from cross to stake in the book *Riches* (1936) p.27. However, ten years earlier *Deliverance* (1926) showed Jesus on a stake (p.169).

Until 1928 the Russellites pinned emblems of a cross sticking through a crown to the upper left of their coats. At the 1928 Michigan convention such emblems were declared objectionable.

From January 1891 until October 1 1931 the cross and crown symbol appeared on the *Watchtower* front cover.

Linda Geddes (2014) writing in *New Scientist* about the blood-flow suggested by the image on the Shroud of Turin says:

> …the marks on the shroud did correspond to a crucifixion, but only if the arms were placed above the head in a Y position, rather than in the classic T depiction…
> But not all artists show Jesus in a T-shaped posture. For instance, the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens repeatedly painted Jesus with his arms above his head on the cross, as did many others.

The argument for switching from cross to stake is that the Greek word *stauros* meant stake, not cross, and that crosses were symbols of Pagan religion.

The *Deliverance* (1926) depiction of a stake shows Jesus' arms stretched upwards, one hand over the other, one nail driven through the palms, and this became the WTS norm. The Bible, however, suggests several nails were used. (John 20:25) Therefore WTS illustrations began to show Jesus' hands above his head, next to each other, and one nail through each hand.

The magazine *Bethel Ministries* argued against this portrayal:

> …an Austrian radiologist Herman Moedder, experimented with medical students in the 40's, hanging them by their wrists with their hands directly above their heads (much like the Watchtower pictures Jesus on a stake). In a few minutes, the students became pale, their lung capacity dropped form 5.2 to 1.5 liters, blood pressure decreased and the pulse rate increased. Moedder concluded that inability to breathe would occur in about six minutes if they were not allowed to stand and rest.
> The same would apply to Christ… He would have suffocated in a matter of minutes. (September/October 1989, Volume 8, Number 5, p.2)

Both sides in this dispute forget that the Roman "stauros" often included a piece of wood on which the crucifixion victim sat or partly sat and another small piece on which the feet stood and these features supported much of his weight — therefore not just a simple vertical post. The word "Stauros" covered a range of designs — Y-shaped and T-shaped and others, with the presence or absence of timbers to support the feet or seating.

Witherington (2013) reports on two graffiti images of crucifixion probably from the 2nd century, and a 4th century image on a gemstone. All three showed the crucified man on a T or tau-shaped structure, arms stretched right and left rather than upwards, and feet nailed separately to the sides of the T.

Hurtado (2013) reports that ancient Christians shortened the word *stauros* and also represented Jesus' crucifixion by superimposing the Greek letter *rho* which looks like our P, onto the letter *tau* or T giving a T with a circle above it.

This resembles a human figure on a cross and historians call it a Staurogram. The earliest Staurograms date to about 200 CE.

CROSS AND CROWN
The Cross and Crown logo was adopted for the cover of *Zion's Watch Tower* in 1891. (Yearbook 1975, 148)

CRUCIFY
The words "cross" and "crucify" are removed from the *New World Translation New Testament*, because JWs consider crosses to be Pagan symbols, and replaced with "torture stake" and "impale". (See: *CROSS*)

CRUMBS
A word used to describe the spiritual food i.e. the teachings of other religions. (w1989 9/22 17)

JWs, in contrast to the "crumbs" served by other religions, are always served a spiritual feast and often a rich, great or sumptuous spiritual feast:

> Those who accepted the special invitation and came [to the district convention] experienced for the first time what a sumptuous spiritual feast among Jehovah's Witnesses is like. (Kingdom Ministry, April 2007, p.3)

CUBA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Cuba and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1950	7,500			
1960	13,100			
1970	20,000			
1985	20,000			
1995	30,000			
2000	86,900	129	188,600	59
2005	88,900	126	188,100	60
2010	92,800	121	232,300	48
2015	96,487	117	232,000	49
2018	95,000	121	230,900	50
	Ave.			
2019	94,600	120	223,400	51
2020	93,900	121	178,495	63
2021	93,400	121	191,400	59
2022	90,300	123	166,900	67
2023	86,000	129	194,700	57
2024	83,600	120	194,700	52
2025	82,800	118	196,600	50

CULT
Defined by the WTS as religions in which the followers: "idolize certain charismatic leaders and follow their teachings instead of God's Word, the Bible." (g1988 1/8 27)

Considering the countless changes in doctrine that JWs always had to follow "instead of God's Word, the Bible", the JWs by their own definition are a cult.

CULT AWARENESS & INFORMATION CENTER and FREEDOM in CHRIST
An Australian-based anti-cult ministry directed by disfellowshipped JW Jan Groenveld (1945-2002) and supported by the Assemblies of God. The ministry published the *CAIC/FIC Newsletter*.

CURACAO
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Curacao and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1980	784	205	2,380	68
1985	1,211	140	3,465	49
1990	1,460	111	3,704	44
1995	1,537	97	4,385	34
2000	1,434	100	4,003	36
2005	1,508	89	4,163	32
2010	1,781	80	4,559	31
2013	1,906	80	5,308	29
2015	2,033	77	5,463	29
2018	2,057	78	5,259	31

	Ave.			
2019	2024	81	5,605	29
2020	1,965	83	4,510	36
2021	2,018	82	6,447	26
2022	1,991	83	5,629	29
2023	1,949	85	5,219	32
2024	1,906	78	4,963	30
2025	1,917	81	4,942	32

CURE (1938)
Booklet by Rutherford.

CUT OFF
Someone who is disfellowshipped is described as "cut off" from the congregation. No JW talks to them, acknowledges them or greets them. Newspaper reports about the practice use the terms "shunned" or "ostracized" but JWs speak of offenders as being "cut off".

"Cut off" also refers to being killed or executed at Armageddon when **All** the wicked, not just ex-JWs will be "cut off".

CYPRUS
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Cyprus and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	562	1,107		
1975	821	804		
1980	1,008	496	1,608	311
1985	1,083	522	2,165	261
1990	1,285	447	2,755	208
1995	1,667	383	3,109	205
2000	1,812	368	3,344	199
2005	1,967	381	3,708	202
2010	2,391	370	4,461	198
2015	2,575	344	4,609	192
2018	2,659	333	4,674	189
	Ave.			
2019	2,675	448	4,966	241
2020	2,713	445	4,808	251
2021	2,818	432	5,588	218
2022	2,908	421	5,178	236
2023	3,047	404	5,673	217
2024	3,126	406	5,723	222
2025	3,128	438	5,712	240

CZECH REPUBLIC
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Czech Republic and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	16,777	616	32,453	318
2000	16,418	625	31,069	330
2005	15,617	655	27,408	373
2010	15,433	693	26,940	397
2015	16,269	648	26,177	403
2018	15,442	688	26,370	403
	Ave.			
2019	15,396	693	26,748	399
2020	15,245	701	25,075	426
2021	15,418	696	29,999	358
2022	15,518	678	29,183	360
2023	16,515	657	30,600	355
2024	17,066	636	30,600	355
2025	17,367	626	30,600	356

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