DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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WAIT/WAITING ON/FOR JEHOVAH

> … waiting for Jehovah to work out his will through his appointed channel. (w1982 6/1 23, 19)

The *WT Library CD* (1950-2007) lists "wait on Jehovah" 70 times since 1953, and "waiting on Jehovah" 43 times starting in 1966 where A.H. Macmillan writes:

> I have seen the wisdom of patiently waiting on Jehovah to clear up our understanding of Scriptural things instead of getting upset over a new thought. (w1966 8/15 504)

To wait on Jehovah is an instruction to put up with doctrinal errors, harmful practices, false prophecy and even child abuse in the JWs religion, without comment or criticism, in the expectation that God will in "due time" rectify matters.

Waiting on Jehovah means don't anticipate new doctrines or criticize current "truth" or practices. JWs who interpret Bible verses differently to the leaders — even if accurately — are judged "presumptuous" for refusing to "wait on Jehovah".

The reality is that the JWs leaders themselves do not "wait on Jehovah". This is proved by their false prophecies and thousands of changed interpretations, which they insisted on forcing on sect members, and were often after a while revised again! (See: *ERROR; BIBLE; TRUTH*) As errors multiplied the leaders promoted the phrase "wait on Jehovah" where in practice "Jehovah" referred either to themselves or to a fickle, fallible, error-prone god — not the Jehovah of the Bible.

People join the sect believing it had "the truth" but then have to preach error and "wait on Jehovah". The "Jehovah" they had to wait on was Russell, Rutherford, Knorr/Franz and now the Governing Body. New interpretations that were received after much waiting were often also wrong but sect-members had to preach them and wait again. Their own intelligence and research was irrelevant and they had to suppress it from their thinking.

Macmillan's downplay of waiting as "getting upset over a new thought" ignores that the "new thought" replaced previous "**Bible truth**". The previous "truth" often consisted of major doctrines and prophecies allegedly communicated or "revealed" by God and taught for decades and were so important that doubters were expelled from the sect, ostracized, and cast out to "everlasting punishment". That's plenty to be upset about!

Regarding other religions, the JWs leaders urge people whose religion teaches contrary to the Bible to leave their religion. They don't tell them to "wait on God". But JWs, with often bigger and more numerous errors, are told to be "loyal", show "humility", avoid presumptuousness, and "wait on Jehovah".

The Bible says of God, "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:6) To "acknowledge him" includes the "straight path" of truthfulness. (Proverbs 12:17-20; Jeremiah 7:8-10) But this is flouted if lies and faulty theology are labeled "revealed truth" and adherence to them justified as "waiting on Jehovah".

WALLIS & FUTUNA ISLANDS

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Wallis and Futuna Islands (about 500km NE of Fiji) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1990	4	3,500	—	
1995	20	750	84	179
2000	54	278	259	58
2005	94	163	366	42
2010	67	202	259	52
2015	50	286	174	82
2018	52	212	275	40
	Ave.			
2019	53	208	221	50
2020	59	186	231	48
2021	63	175	184	60
2022	63	175	212	52
2023	62	177	272	40
2024	77	143	277	40
2025	83	133	282	39

WALLKILL, NEW YORK STATE

Wallkill is a rural area 61 miles NW of Brooklyn, New York.

The WTS purchased farmland there in 1963 and established Watchtower Farms to produce food for its headquarters staff and workers in Brooklyn and later for the new

Warwick headquarters complex 15 miles to the south.

A huge printing factory was added in 1973 to print the English-language *Watchtower* and *Awake!* and to supplement and eventually replace (after expansions and upgrades) the printing of JWs publications previously done in Brooklyn.

In 2004 the entire WTS printing operation in the USA including printing, binding and shipping were consolidated at Wallkill, making it one of the largest non-government printing operations in North America.

The printing is highly automated and modern and staffed by about 280 people.

Besides Wallkill the WTS in 2005 had printing factories in Canada, Mexico and 12 others in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America. (Yearbook 2005, 22-24)

(See also: *WATCHTOWER FARMS*)

WALSH, JOHN T. (1816-1886)

John Tomline Walsh, born in Virginia, was a Millerite and a founding member of the Adventist sect The Life and Advent Union.

In April 1845 the last conference of the Millerites met in Albany, New York after which the Millerite movement split into various factions.

One group believed in the immortality of the soul, Sunday worship, and that Christ was about to return. Another group, led by Walsh, believed that Christ returned unseen on the predicted date of October 22, 1844 and the Millennium began on that date. In 1848 he separated from other Millerites and began preaching in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, declaring there would be no resurrection of the wicked, and Earth not Heaven is the eternal dwelling of the righteous.

Walsh became associate editor of George Storrs' magazine *Bible Examiner* published in New York.

Disagreement with the Advent Christian Church resulted in Walsh and Storrs organizing the Life and Advent Union in August 1863 which continued until 1964 when it rejoined the Advent Christian Church.

Storrs and probably Walsh influenced the beliefs and doctrines of C.T. Russell for some years from about 1870 onward.

WAR

Until 1916 Russell allowed his followers to do military service but advised that if involved in war that they don't shoot to kill. (See: *NEUTRALITY*)

In Germany 380 Russellites were in the German army in 1915. (Convention Report Supplement 1915, 142) This fact refutes Rutherford's propaganda that religious leaders could have prevented World War I. If, however, the Russellites couldn't stop 380 men from enlisting how could church ministers stop millions?

Regarding World War II the JWs leaders argue: "The clergy bloodied their hands in support of Hitler." And regarding the JWs: "None of them bloodied their hands in military action for Hitler, since they refused to fight in his armed forces. (g1985 6/8 9, 11)

The definite article "The clergy" implies all clergy, whereas many did not support Hitler and died in concentration camps. Of JWs, probably more than 1000 enlisted in the German forces, although by stopping their ministry they were no longer counted as JWs. A few examples are given in the 1974 *Yearbook* of JWs.

Many but not all Protestant ministers compromised with Hitler. The Pope made a Concordant (agreement) with Hitler in 1933 — not to enslave America as Rutherford claimed — but that Catholics might be protected. This is comparable to Governing Body's attempts to negotiate with the government of Malawi to alleviate distress of JWs in that country.

JWs claim that German JWs: "courageously championed Christian principles... They did not attribute Heil, or salvation, to Hitler…" (g1985 6 /8 10) JWs, however, believed that if they followed Hitler they would die at Armageddon which they believed to be only "months" away! Their "courage" was based on greater fear of Armageddon than of the Nazis.

(See: *CONCENTRATION CAMPS; PROTECTION*)

WARNING

JWs call their preaching a "warning":

> The **warning** has been dinned into their ears, especially since 1919. (w1981 2/1 24; Yearbook 1982 Text May 16)

> For years, Jehovah's Witnesses **have warned** Christendom of Jehovah's displeasure. In 1955, for example, the public discourse entitled "Christen-

dom or Christianity—Which One is 'the light of the world'?" was delivered worldwide… As an organization, Christendom has failed to heed the **warning**. (Isaiah's Prophecy Volume I 2000, 152)

"A few short years ahead"
***The Watchtower* 1967**

The Watchtower (1967 4/15 243-249) describes what it calls The Most Urgent Warning Ever Given. The warning is supposedly:

- "from God, who has given reliable warnings in the past" (p.243)
- "the peril of which it warns is very near!", and
- "It is to come within the generation that has already seen two world wars and is only a few short years ahead of us." (p.244)

The pronouns "you" and "us" in this and similar articles mean that the warning and "few short years" were "most urgent" to the readers who received the original publication, in the present instance the readers of 1967.

The warning referred to the destruction of false religion which allegedly deserves destruction because of teaching false doctrines and inflicting persecution on JWs:

> Now for about forty-eight years, since as long ago as 1919 C.E., people have been fleeing from Babylonish false religion, for at that time she lost her power to maintain control over those in her who were deceived and held in slavelike position by her false doctrines...
>
> The destruction of Babylon the Great would immeasurably brighten the earthly situation for Jehovah's people, his Christian witnesses, for they have been misrepresented, defamed and persecuted by the world empire of Babylonish religion. (p.244)
>
> Babylon the Great herself stands for the world empire of false religion with its priests, clergymen, monks, nuns, astrologers, spiritists and sorcerers (p.245)

Response to the 1967 criticism

Firstly, to speak of a "world empire of Babylonish religion" as if all religions are united in action, attitude and goals, is nonsense. Lumping large numbers of different people and organizations together under one label, as if all are members of one group, teaches prejudice and hate. Examples of this error are racial bigots who speak of "the black man" and under this label describe alleged evils perpetrated by Negros; and the Nazis of Germany who spoke of "the Jew" and blamed all of Germany's problems on a global Judeo–Communist or Jewish-Bolshevik conspiracy and then murdered Jews and east Europeans in millions.

Secondly the so-called persecution of JWs by "religion" consisted mainly of churches and towns resisting when JWs arrived and distributed pamphlets that called Christianity a "whore", "snare" or "racket" and predicted its early destruction. The so-called persecution affected a few thousand JWs.

But JWs themselves have "persecuted" other JWs in hundreds of thousands with ostracism and abusive criticism for exposing the false predictions for 1925, 1975, "this generation", and 2000. Persecution of JWs by other JWs includes ostracism of members who accepted a blood transfusion in order to live or who left a congregation after they were sexually abused and the elders opposed notifying the police.

Ostracism — being shunned by family and friends — supplemented with abusive labels and other criticism **is** persecution. Psychologists compare ostracism to severe, ongoing physical pain. It can be so traumatic that its victims commit suicide. It is the maximum hurt that JWs can lawfully inflict on each other, and since the 1950s they have officially (as part of standard doctrine) inflicted this maximum allowable pain and persecution!

Thirdly, how is it possible for JWs to identify "false religion" when their own religious falsehoods — doctrines and interpretations taught as "Bible truth" but then discarded — number thousands? Can an infant who gets all his basic arithmetic wrong judge qualified mathematicians? No. Similarly, JWs cannot honestly judge whether other religions are false. Doing so is a conflict of interest.

According to the WTS the Great Pyramid, whose corridors supposedly confirmed Christ's second coming in 1874, the kingdom of 1878 and Armageddon in 1914, is "God's stone witness", "inspired" by God, "designed" by God, and "correct beyond a doubt". Christian ministers who refuted such nonsense did not "misrepresent", "defame" and "persecute". Also it was individuals and not any "world empire" that studied WTS books and refuted them.

Page 245 [in w1967] lists "The Reason For False Religion's Calamity" which is said to include "shameless luxury", "monetary gain", "rich cathedrals ... while ... people are in abject poverty", "clergymen have lorded it over their parishioners like owners of the flock", "demanded titles such as Reverend...", "carrying on a religious racket", etc.

These accusations are all true of the JWs leaders who have a billion-dollar new headquarters whereas many congregations had to sell their kingdom halls and pass on the money, and also get "lorded it over" by having to conform to every detail of continually changing doctrines.

JWs leaders never mention that Christianity produced modern science, including modern medical science, electronics and food production, with thousands of discoveries that benefit JWs and the whole world every day. JWs remain thankless and continually prophesy the destruction of their benefactors — but have always prophesied falsely — and yet present themselves as the only true and worthwhile religion.

Page 249 concludes:

> ...do not fail to give attention to this worldwide warning from the Creator of the universe. Listen to it. Learn what steps to take to flee from Great Babylon and act at once, for her destruction is alarmingly imminent.

The "few short years" since 1967 have not been "few", nor "most urgent", nor was destruction "alarmingly imminent". Most of the adults of 1967 who read the 1967 *Watchtower* article are now very old or dead. To them the "warning" was not a warning but a false alarm. The "Creator of the universe" got the prophecies for 1975, the 20th century and the "generation of 1914", wrong.

Warning — always "near", imminent", "shortly", "at hand", and "divine"

The JWs leaders compare their "warning" to Noah preaching before the Flood, and to Jesus' predicting the destruction of Jerusalem which occurred less than 40 years later. (w1981 2/1 16-18)

The JWs warning is always supposedly "God's warning" or a "divine warning". And the time to deliver it is always short or "about run out" or has only a "few years:

> Shortly God's executional forces will go into action… (w1960 10 /1 583)

> …this system of things is in its "time of the end." Its last days have about run out. (w1981 2/1 18)

> This makes it urgent for the "watchman" class to sound the warning that the "year" of Jehovah's goodwill is about to end and his "day of vengeance" is about to break. (ibid p.24)

> At this late date, in the closing days of Christendom and all the rest of this doomed system of things, there is a great need for united action. (ibid p.25)

The warning supposedly began in the 1870s. (When God Speaks Peace to all Nations 1959, 23) But in the 1870s the emphasis was on 1878 then 1881 and after that "the time of the end" was prophesied to end in 1914. All of that was false and failed.

Cries of "Wolf"

Critics of the "warning" by JWs compare it to the proverbial story about the "boy who cried wolf!" There was no wolf, and when a real wolf came, no one believed the boy and all his sheep got killed. Anyone who sounds false alarms is not giving "warning", but is a charlatan whose lies can result in apathy when genuine danger threatens! Rutherford wrote:

> False doctrines promulgated in the name of the Lord do not constitute the truth, nor do such doctrines place responsibility upon men. (The Standard for the People 1926, p.28)

Awake! (1993 3/22) mentions several false predictions of other cults and some private comments by a Pope and by Martin Luther and says:

> The flood of false alarms is unfortunate. They are like the wolf-wolf cries of the shepherd boy—people soon dismiss them, and when the true warming comes, it too is ignored. (g1993 3/22 4)

Clearly, the JWs leaders know about false "wolf" cries, therefore know their own culpability. So what are their excuses for their false predictions?

An excuse answered

The same 1993 *Awake!* article says:

> Never in these instances, however, did they presume to originate predictions 'in the name of Jehovah.' Never did they say, 'These are the words of Jehovah.' (p.4)

However, the inside cover of the same *Awake!* states:

> Most importantly, 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 C.E. passes away.

Calling their predictions "the Creator's promise" is equivalent to stating "These are the words of Jehovah". The "creator's promise" was published in *Awake!* in the 1980s and until 1995. The JWs leaders in effect slandered God by presenting him as a liar. And when exposed that they did this they either tell lies by denying it or make juvenile excuses.

The JWs leaders — Russell, Rutherford, Knorr, Franz and the Governing Body — cried "wolf" not several times but many times! (See: *DATES*)

Another excuse — We're Not infallible

Awake! 1993 3/22 presents another excuse, originally offered in 1896, namely that they don't claim to be infallible:

> *The Watchtower* ... has said, "We have not the gift of prophecy." (January 1883, page 425) "Nor would we have our writings reverenced as infallible." (December 15, 1896, p.306)

If a habitual liar were to justify his lies when they are exposed by saying "I did not claim to be infallible" it would not improve his reputation. No one qualifies everything he says by adding "in this I'm infallible" or "today I'm not infallible"! JWs leaders also never added "infallible" or "not infallible to every page they published.

The truth is that the JWs leaders **do claim infallibility** for themselves and their doctrines but use other words that mean the same as "infallible". (See: *INFALLIBLE*)

JWs Warned

The following comment suggests that JWs themselves want to be warned (although in practice they would excommunicate a "brother" and ignore any outsider who warns them):

> When persons are in great danger from a source they do not suspect or are being misled by those they consider their friends, is it an unkindness to warn them? They may prefer not to believe the warning. They may even resent it. Does that free one from the moral responsibility to give that warning? (w1974 1/15 35)

It follows that JWs ought to desire to read books that show them they "are being misled by those they consider their friends" i.e. misled by their leaders. But if any JWs consult such books or share what they find out they would get expelled from the sect.

WARWICK

Warwick replaced Brooklyn, New York, in 2017 as the location of the world headquarters of JWs.

The new "World Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses" is a 253-acre site with a lake, forests, four residential buildings for 800 staff, a Bible museum, and other buildings.

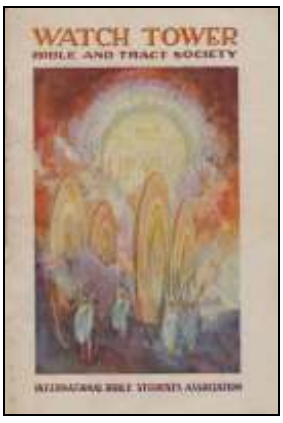
(See: *WORLD HEADQUARTERS*)

WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY (1938)

A booklet that lists Rutherford's books and booklets published from 1926 to 1938, and other items, along with prices, but omits the book *Life* (1929).

Life was omitted because it predicted the restoration of Israel, which doctrine was discarded in 1931.

Page 33 lists 73 languages in which, "Rutherford's writings on the Bible had been translated and published."



WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY of PENNSYLVANIA

> How mightily Jehovah God has used this Society over the past hundred years! (w1984 7/1 19)

The Pennsylvania Corporation is the parent body of today's many WTS corporations in the USA and other countries. It was founded by William H. Conley (a Pittsburgh industrialist), C.T. Russell, and Russell's father on February 16th 1881, for the

purpose of publishing religious tracts, with Conley its first president. It was legally incorporated December, 15, 1884 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania under the name Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society (ZWTS) with Russell as president, renamed Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in 1896, and Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania in 1955.

The early Financial Reports of ZWTS were as follows:
1881 under President Conley
Total cash received: $35,391
Expenditures in print: $35,336
(wr1882 January and February)
1882: No report
1883 and 1884
Expenditure for Publications: $2366.10
Voluntary Contributions received: $2491.43
(wr1885 January)

$35,000 in 1881 was equivalent to about $700,000 in the early 21st century, a significant amount.

The decline in 1882-1884 indicates a serious problem had occurred within the new cult, the first of many. The problem was probably a combination of the failed predictions for 1881, Russell's rejection of the Trinity doctrine in 1882, and Conley (the wealthy financial contributor) stopping his financial assistance, and John Paton (one of the first supporters) leaving.

Until the 1940s every $10 donation to the WBTS bought one voting share.

God's Channel

The WBTS was regarded as the "earthly instrument of the faithful and wise servant." (The New World 1942, 228) It was also "God's channel" after Russell died until 1943:

> 8:3. **And another angel**.—Not the "voice of the Lord," mentioned in the preceding chapter, but the corporate body—the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY, which Pastor Russell formed to finish his work. This verse shows, that, though Pastor Russell has passed beyond the veil, he is still managing every feature of the Harvest work. "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)

In the 1940s the new interpretation of God's "channel" declared the "remnant class", the "faithful and discreet slave class", to be the channel. From 1944 onwards the WBTS was presented as an "instrument" of the "faithful and wise servant class", an "instrument" of the channel.

Voting members of the WBTS attend an annual business meeting every October. On the 100th anniversary in 1984 this was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The WBTS was originally headquartered in Pennsylvania, then Brooklyn, New York City, and from 2017 in Warwick

It is the main legal entity for administering the JWs religion and is the parent corporation of many subsidiaries — collectively known as "The Society". What JWs call "the Organization" differs by including with the Society everything worldwide that the Governing Body has authority over such as congregations, assembly halls, real-estate and factories and the personnel and rules by which it's all regulated.

The WBTS has 300 to 500 voting shareholders all of whom are long-term, active, JWs.

By the late 20th century thousands of JWs worked as volunteers in the Brooklyn buildings of the WBTS and farms in New York State and smaller numbers at branch offices and factories in other countries.

Charter

The Charter had ten Articles of Incorporation, the original version was published in w1917 11/1.

The charter stated the Society's purpose:

> …the mental, moral and religious improvement of men and women, by teaching the Bible by means of the publication and distribution of Bibles, books, papers, pamphlets and other Bible literature, and by providing oral lectures free for the people.

It stipulated a board of seven directors. Three would serve as officers (the president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer), chosen from the directors and elected annually. The directors would hold office for life or until removed by vote by shareholders.

Russell said of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society: "This is a business association... It has no creed or confession ... a business convenience in disseminating the truth."

Voting members were originally persons who donated money to the Society and were entitled to one vote per $10 donated. Russell and his wife Maria retained full control because they owned most of the voting shares, 3705 of 6383 in December 1893.

Peoples Pulpit Association (1909), and IBSA (1914)

After Russell moved to Brooklyn New York he founded two more corporations, the People's Pulpit Association (1909) with the president elected for life, and the International Bible Students Association (IBSA) incorporated in Britain in 1914.

The Pittsburgh property was sold and the staff moved to New York.

The WBTS was the head corporation and collectively all three were the "Watch Tower Society".

Leadership dispute (1917)

Russell died in October 1916. Board member Joseph Rutherford was elected president of the WBTS on January 6, 1917 and bylaws were passed that expanded the president's power.

In June 1917, four WBTS directors decided that expanding Rutherford's power was a mistake and sought to rescind the new bylaws. Rutherford accused them of conspiracy to seize control and got them ousted and replaced with appointees chosen by him.

Rutherford's presidency was confirmed in January 1918. In January 1919 Rutherford was reelected although at the time in prison with seven followers for sedition under the Espionage Act.

From 1918 to 1920 about 15% of sect membership left and founded the Standfast Movement, Paul Johnson Movement, Dawn Bible Students Association, Pastoral Bible Institute of Brooklyn, Elijah Voice Movement and Eagle Society.

(See: *DIVISIONS/SPLINTER GROUPS*)

Theocracy

In the 1920s Rutherford began to transform the WBTS from a publishing business into a "religious society" which ruled "companies" i.e. congregations in many countries. Rutherford appointed congregation leaders and "zone servants" (later called "circuit overseers" to visit congregations and promote and enforce his instructions. In 1938 with himself in control as thoroughly as any political dictator, he designated his religious organization "theocracy" which means ruled by God:

> The Theocracy is at present administered by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, of which Judge Rutherford is the president and general manager.
> (See: *THEOCRATIC ORGANIZATION*)

Amendments to the Charter

Following Rutherford's death in 1942, Nathan H. Knorr became president of the Watch Tower Society. In Pittsburgh, on September 30, 1944, coinciding with the annual meeting, he announced changes to the 1884 charter to bring it into "closer harmony with theocratic principles".

The amendments altered the terms of membership and stated that the Society now functioned as the governing agency of JWs, to regulate the preaching, and send out missionaries and teachers. The new charter took effect January 1, 1945 with the following changes (here quoted from Wikipedia):

1. An altered and expanded explanation of article II, detailing the purpose of the society. This included the preaching of the gospel of God's kingdom to all nations; to print and distribute Bibles and disseminate Bible truths with literature explaining Bible truths and prophecy concerning the establishment of God's kingdom; to authorize and appoint agents, servants, employees, teachers evangelists, missionaries, ministers and others "to go all the world publicly and from house to house to preach Bible truths to persons willing to listen by leaving with such persons said literature and by conducting Bible studies thereon"; to improve people mentally and morally by instruction "on the Bible and incidental scientific, historical and literary subjects"; to establish and maintain Bible schools and classes; to "teach, train, prepare and equip men and women as ministers, missionaries, evangelists, preachers, teachers and instructors in the Bible and Bible literature, and for public Christian worship of Almighty God and Jesus Christ" and "to arrange for and hold local and worldwide assemblies for such worship".

2. An amendment to article V, detailing the qualifications for membership of the society. Each donation of $10 to the society funds had formerly entitled the contributor to one voting share; the amendment limited membership to "only men who are mature, active and faithful witnesses of Jehovah devoting full time to

performance of one or more of its chartered purposes ... or such men who are devoting part time as active presiding ministers or servants of congregations of Jehovah's witnesses". The amended article stipulated that "a man who is found to be in harmony with the purposes of the Society and who possesses the above qualifications may be elected as a member upon being nominated by a member, director or officer, or upon written application to the President or Secretary. Such members shall be elected upon a finding by the Board of Directors that he possesses the necessary qualifications and by receiving a majority vote of the members..." The amendment limited membership at any one time to between 300 and 500, including approximately seven residents of each of the 48 states of the US. It also introduced a clause providing for the suspension or expulsion of a member for willfully violating the society's rules, or "becoming out of harmony with any of the Society's purposes or any of its work or for willful conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Society and contrary to his duties as a member, or upon ceasing to be a full-time servant of the Society or a part-time servant of a congregation of Jehovah's witnesses".

3. An amendment to article VII, dealing with the governance of the society by its board of directors. The amendment deleted reference to adherence to the constitution and laws of Pennsylvania of the US. It also specified powers of the board including matters of finance and property.

4. An amendment to article VIII, detailing the office holders of the society and the terms of office and method of appointment of officers and directors. A clause stating that board members would hold office for life was deleted. The new clause provided for board membership for a maximum of three years, with directors qualifying for re-election at the expiration of their term.

5. A Governing Body was now in existence.

The amendment by which voting members were now directly selected by the Board of Directors, meant that the directors (at that time the same as the Governing Body) could not be dismissed or their authority face serious challenge.

In 1971 the Governing Body was increased to 11, therefore less closely identified with the seven directors but even at this stage the president and vice president together probably had supreme authority.

The power structure was changed further in December 1975 by a vote to elevate the Governing Body's role and bring the WTS and JWs congregations under its supervision. This reduced the power of the president and made all Governing Body members theoretically equal in authority. (See: *GOVERNING BODY*)

In 2000 CE Governing Body members who were directors in the WTS resigned from that position. The directors and Governing Body became separate, distinct groups.

Presidents of the WBTS

William H. Conley (1840- 1897)	February 16, 1881 – Dec. 1884
Charles T. Russell 1852 -1916)	Dec. 15, 1884 - October 31, 1916
Joseph F. Rutherford (1869 – 1942)	January 6, 1917 - January 8, 1942
Nathan H. Knorr (1905 – 1977)	January 13, 1942 - June 8, 1977
Frederick W. Franz 1893 - 1992)	June 22, 1977 - Dec. 22, 1992
Milton G. Henschel (1920 – 2003)	Dec. 30, 1992 - October 7, 2000
Don A. Adams (1925 - 2019)	2000-2014
Robert Ciranko	2014-

Operations

The WBTS is a major publisher of religious publications including the *New World Translation* and several other Bible translations .

By 1999 it had 109 branch offices worldwide including dozens of printeries. In 2013 the printing of *The Watchtower* approached 45 million per edition.

All staff and workers are officially "volunteers", not employees, and designated as members of the Worldwide Order of Special Full-Time Servants of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Resident workers receive meals, accommodation, and a monthly money allowance. The Brooklyn Branch, until discontinued in 2017, was considered the "headquarters" of JWs, and known as "Bethel", and the staff as the "Bethel family". It was largely self-sufficient — it had hairdressers, dentists, doctors, cleaners, carpenters and repair shops, and much of the food was produced on WTS-owned farms.

The WTS does not file publicly accessible financial figures, but announces the annual total spent on special pioneers, missionaries and traveling overseers.

WTS Properties in Brooklyn

The WTS was first located at 44 Federal Street Allegheny [Allegheny was amalgamated in 1907 to the city of Pittsburgh] and moved in 1889 to newly built "Bible House" at 56–60 Arch Street owned by Russell's Tower Publishing Company.

Bible House had an assembly hall with seating for 200, living quarters for staff, and printing and shipping facilities. The title for the building was transferred in April 1898 to the WBTS. (See: *BIBLE HOUSE*)

In 1909 the Society transferred to a four-story parsonage formerly owned by Congregationalist minister Henry Ward Beecher at 124 Columbia Heights in Brooklyn, New York. This had residence facilities for 30 staff and an office for Russell. A former church building at 13–17 Hicks Street became the Watch Tower headquarters with an 800-seat hall, shipping department, and printers.

Expansion continued:

- 1909 Purchase of adjoining building at 122 Columbia Heights.
- 1911 Nine-story residential block built at the rear of the headquarters, fronting Furman Street, overlooking the Brooklyn waterfront.
- 1920 Printing facilities established at Myrtle Street, Brooklyn, and *The Watch Tower* printed there from February, 1920, and *The Golden Age* two months later.
- 1922 The printing transferred to a six-story building at 18 Concord St, Brooklyn.
- 1926 The printing was moved to a new eight-story building at 117 Adams Street.
- 1926 A building was bought at 126 Columbia Heights and neighboring buildings demolished and rebuilt for accommodation and offices as 124 Columbia Heights.
- 1946: Properties adjoining the Adams St. factory were bought to expand printing facilities.
- 1949: Five properties next to 124 Columbia Heights purchased.
- 1950s: 107 Columbia Heights (opposite 124 Columbia Heights) purchased and a residential building for staff constructed.
- 1956: A 13-story building constructed in Sands St. and in 1958 a 10-story building was purchased.
- 1968: 11-story printing factory completed.
- 1969: More residences built at 119 Columbia Heights, and the Squibb complex purchased.
- 1974: Towers Hotel, 79–99 Willow St., purchased for accommodation.
- 1983: The 360 Furman St. building purchased for office and factory use, and the Bossert Hotel at 98 Montague St. for residence.
- 1986-1995: Several more buildings purchased or built on site.

Many of WTS's Brooklyn buildings were connected by overhead bridges and below-ground tunnels.

Headquarters Relocation

In the new century the Governing Body announced plans to transfer the world headquarters to Warwick, New York, and printing operations to its Wallkill factory complex.

From 2004 to 2018 the Brooklyn properties were progressively sold and the move to Wallkill made in 2017.

Other countries

The WTS opened overseas branches wherever converts were being made:
1900 Britain
1903 Germany
1904 Australia

By 2000 CE about 100 branches, many joined with farming properties and printing factories, reported to the American headquarters.

Directors WBTS in 2000 CE

The directors of the WBTS in 2000 CE were:

- Don A. Adams, president
- William F. Malenfant, vice-president
- Robert W. Wallen, vice-president
- Richard E. Abrahamson, secretary-treasurer
- Danny L. Bland
- Philip D. Wilcox
- John N. Wischuk

Previous Directors

- Milton George Henschel, 1947–2000
- Lyman Alexander Swingle,1945–2000
- W. Lloyd Barry, 1916–1999
- Frederick William Franz, 1945–1992
- Grant Suiter, 1941–1983
- William K. Jackson, 1973–1981
- Nathan Homer Knorr, 1940–1977
- John O. Groh, 1965–1975
- Thomas J. Sullivan, 1932–1973
- Alexander Hugh Macmillan,1918–1938
- Hugo Henry Riemer,1943–1965
- William Edwin Van Amburgh, 1916–1947
- Hayden Cooper Covington, 1940–1945
- Joseph Franklin Rutherford, 1916–1942

- Charles A. Wise, 1919–1940
- J. A. Baeuerlcin, 1923
- R. H. Barber, 1919
- Charles H. Anderson, 1918–?
- J. A. Bohnet, 1917–?
- George H. Fisher, 1917–?
- W. E. Spill, 1917–?
- Andrew N. Pierson, 1916–1918
- Robert H. Hirsh, 1917
- J.D. Wright, 1916–1917
- Isaac F. Hoskins, 1916–1917
- Alfred I. Ritchie, 1916–1917
- Henry Clay Rockwell, 1916–1917
- Rose J. Ball, 1894–?
- Henry Weber, ? –1904
- William M. Wright, ?–1906
- Charles Taze Russell, 1884–1916
- Maria Russell, 1884–1900
- J.B. Adamson, 1884–1895
- Simon O. Blunden,1884–1895
- W.C. McMillan, 1884–1898
- W.I. Mann, 1884-1892
- J.F. Smith,1884-1892

WATCH TOWER PUBLICATIONS INDEX
Indexes/dictionaries listing articles, scriptures and points discussed in WTS publications, were published in hard-cover at five-year intervals. Hardcover editions for longer periods such 1930-1960, 1930-1985 and 1986-2007 were also produced.

WATCHFUL/WATCHFULNESS
One Governing Body rationalization for their failed prophecies is that the dates demonstrate "watchfulness" and that so-called "apostates" who rejected the dates encouraged spiritual "sluggishness". (w1984 12/1) Therefore JWs are, "How happy and how thankful". (p.19)

> [14] Finally, we might consider what the Society has published in the past on chronology. Some opposers claim that Jehovah's Witnesses are false prophets. These opponents say that dates have been set, but nothing has happened. Again we ask, What is the motive of these critics? Are they encouraging wakefulness on the part of God's people, or are they, rather, trying to justify themselves for falling back into sleepy inactivity? (1 Thessalonians 5:4-9) More importantly, what will you do if you hear such criticism? If a person is questioning whether we are living in "the last days" of this system, or perhaps is entertaining ideas that God is so merciful that he surely will not cause the death of so many millions of people during the "great tribulation," then this individual already has prepared his heart to listen to such criticisms.— 2 Timothy 3:1; Matthew 24:21.
>
> [15] Yes, Jehovah's people have had to revise expectations from time to time. Because of our eagerness, we have hoped for the new system earlier than Jehovah's timetable has called for it. But we display our faith in God's Word and its sure promises by declaring its message to others. Moreover, the need to revise our understanding somewhat does not make us false prophets or change the fact that we *are* living in "the last days," soon to experience the "great tribulation" that will pave the way for the earthly Paradise. How foolish to take the view that expectations needing some adjustment should call into question the whole body of truth! The evidence is clear that Jehovah has used and is continuing to use his one organization, with "the faithful and discreet slave" taking the lead. Hence, we feel like Peter, who said: "Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life."— John 6:68. (w1986 3/15 19)

Jesus, in contrast, implies that misled people are misled because they **failed** to "look out" or to "watch out". (Mark 13:22; Matthew 24:11) Believing in false prophecy is not proof of watchfulness but of being misled and is **not** reason to be "happy and thankful" but miserable. In fact few JWs were happy when prophecy failed; if they were happy over failure then multitudes would not have deserted the cult nearly every time.

WATCHING THE WATCHTOWER
Founded in 1992, one of hundreds of ministries that inform about JWs. Led by Rev. George L Kesterson (b. 1951) this one is situated in Salisbury, North Carolina, USA.

Carabus News (1995 Volume 2 Number 16) showed Kesterson and assistant Susan Foutz outside an Assembly Hall — called an "education center" in the article — and wearing paper bags over their heads:

> And if Kesterson and Foutz are identified by local JWs, their "mug shots" would be posted in all local Kingdom Halls, which is what the JWs call their churches, as well as at the education center with warnings to JWs not to have anything to do with them or be "disfellowshipped" (excommunicated).

Kesterson was raised a Southern Baptist, joined the JWs at 12, was disfellowshipped and returned to the Baptists at 33, became

an ordained minister and missionary and, via "Watching The Watchtower", developed a national network of volunteers to alert people to beware of the JWs.

WATCHMAN (Ezekiel 3:17)
The prophet Ezekiel was a "watchman" to ancient Israel to warn Jews of the coming attack on Judea by Babylon.

The Russell cult believed in a second fulfillment of Ezekiel in the person of Russell from 1881 to 1916. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 386)

Rutherford in 1930 changed the alleged second fulfillment and claimed the "watchman" is not Russell but, a class of people, the "remnant" (i.e. the remaining ones of the 144,000):

> Even before World War I broke out he [God] has his "watchman" class posted to sound out the warning…
> Today we are faced with an "act of God" just as global as the flood of Noah's day. Whom do the records show him as using to serve notice of this upon the whole world? Devoted Christians, everywhere known as "Jehovah's Witnesses." (w1981 2/1 20)

WTS publications use the term "Jehovah's Witnesses" in two senses. Initially, 1930s to 1940s, the name applied to the 144,000 and the "remnant" of the 144,000. The "great crowd" were known as associates" of Jehovah's witnesses.

Gradually the name was applied to the "great crowd" as well, because they cooperate with the remnant and to avoid public confusion since otherwise the "great crowd" would be a religion without a name.

The 1981 The *Watchtower* specified that Ezekiel pictured the "spiritual Israelites" (which is another name for the "remnant"):

> So Ezekiel pictured the organized body of Jehovah's spirit-anointed witnesses at the present time, the spiritual Israelites … anointed witnesses… (p.22)

The Bible, however, no where states that Ezekiel has a second fulfillment in Russellism or in JWs.

The changing WTS interpretations of Ezekiel can be studied in *The Finished Mystery* (1917), *Preparation* (1933) and *The Nations Shall Know…* (1971)

WATCHMAN HEALING MISSION
An African offshoot of Russellism known also as *Church of the Watchtower* and *People of Jehovah and Michael*.

The sect began in 1910 when Elliot Kamwana baptized 10,000 Tongas into the Russellite cult. The movement collapsed in Malawi but was reorganized after 1937 in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia). Members practice cooperative farming in collective villages. Zambian membership in 1978 was 4,000 with 30,000 affiliated.

WATCHTOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY ORIGINAL DIRECTORS
The following notice, explaining the reasons for incorporation, appeared in *Zion's Watch Tower*, October 1884:

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. (w1884 October)

Incorporation succeeded and was detailed in *Zion's Watch Tower* in January 1885:

> **Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society**
>
> A charter of incorporation for Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society was granted December 13th, 1884. In accordance with the same, Certificates have just been sent to each contributor to the Fund, whose donations (all told) amounted to Ten Dollars or more. Each ten dollars representing one voting share.
>
> The certificates are neatly printed and bear the Society's seal upon the face. On the reverse side is a brief statement of the object and past efforts of the Society, the time and mode of electing its officers, etc. The Incorporators are the Directors, named below, from among whom the officers indicated have just been elected for the year 1885:
>
> DIRECTORS:
>
> C. T. RUSSELL, Pres.,
> M. F. RUSSELL, Sec. and Treas.,
> W. C. McMILLAN,
> W. I. MANN, Vice Pres.,
> J. B. ADAMSON,
> J. F. SMITH.

The original Corporate Charter, filed in November 1884, included a seventh director, Simon O. Blunden of New York. He is included in a review of the events of 1884, along with the ten Articles of Incorporation fully quoted, in w1917 11/1.

The resignation dates of the original directors are listed in w1917 1/1 as follows:

- W. I. Mann — April 11, 1892
- J. F. Smith —- April 11, 1892
- J. B. Adamson — Jan. 5, 1895
- W. C. MacMillan — May 13, 1898
- Mrs. M. F. Russell — Feb. 12, 1900
- S. O. Blunden —- Jan. 6, 1908

Blunden was the last of the original directors to resign. His resignation coincided with the New Covenant dispute when many hundreds left the Russellite cult. Mrs Russell was, after her husband, the most prolific writer for *Zion's Watch* Tower until 1894, usually signing as Mrs C. T. Russell or Mrs C. T. R. She discontinued as associate editor with the November 1, 1896 Watch Tower.

An article by J.F. Smith titled "Seven Stages" was published in *Zion's Watch Tower* April 1883, and another titled "Eternal Torment" in May. An excerpt about a "Brother Smith", probably J.F. Smith, appeared in 1892, February 15:

> Brother Smith is making a thorough canvass of Pittsburgh and vicinity. He is letting the light shine and attracting the attention of some of the children of the light. In the portion of the city already gone over, he has circulated over 2000 copies of DAWN, which, sooner or later, will bring results.

W.C. MacMillan was published in January 1886, and a letter from him in Zion's Watch Tower 1892 7/15 :

> DEAR BROTHER RUSSELL:—I feel that I want to do something in the vineyard of our Lord; but fear I may not be humble enough --or perhaps I am too ambitious, or may undertake "eye" or "hand" work, rather than that belonging to members of lower degree in "the body."
>
> My health both physically and spiritually leaves me to a certain extent strengthless. Oh! how I do realize this--even more keenly spiritually than otherwise. The suggestions you gave me have found lodgment in my heart. I want them to remain there. I want to ponder over them. I do not know just what the result will be, but I want to loose my hold on business at least to the extent that it has overcharged me with this world's cares. My first work will be partly to regain lost ground. While getting business in shape to get more time to devote to the Lord's service, I will have time to study and exercise my senses, both in getting an understanding of, and in defending, the divine plan (which embraces the glad tidings to both Church and world).
>
> For want of practice I cannot make as good "music" on my "harp" as I could a few years ago. Then I had great confidence, so that I did not fear to meet and fight with a Goliath; becoming rather an expert with the two-edged sword. How ashamed I have felt sometimes within the past year or two, when I realized that I was concealing my light, fearful lest some "Philistine" giant might get the better

of me in discussion, if he saw and accused me of being "one of them." I am truly glad that I never denied my Lord, nor indeed ever denied being one of his disciples; but realizing that I had to a great extent lost my power to use the Scriptures in defense of my views, I often felt it prudent to keep quiet, when otherwise I might have improved a good opportunity for exposing error, spreading the truth, or putting to flight its adversaries. How thankful I am for the vivid glimpses of truth I had at different times while attending the Convention. I do not know to what to compare them-- unless to what I have seen at night, during a terrible thunder storm, as I lay in bed looking out of a window. A few flashes of lightning divided the heavy, choking darkness, and for an instant revealed objects such as trees, houses, etc. These glimpses of truth seemed very, very distinct, and the impression they made remains with me. If the presentation of truth to the mind may be compared to the brightness of the sun at noon-day, these glimpses or pictures seen might be compared to the clean-cut flashes of lightning, even more dazzling than the brightness of the sun.

The feeling that always followed was like this: Oh, that I could always, constantly, have such clear conceptions of truth. Oh, that this bright shining, with the confidence it inspires and the love it enkindles in my heart, would remain. Then, how I could with confidence go into the vineyard, knowing that I would succeed — that I could hold fast, that I could stand, that I could overcome, that I could win the prize and wear the crown.

How sweet to leave the world a while, to retreat from its busy scenes, and to seek the fellowship of our Lord and the wise virgins.

In Christian love
Wm. C. Macmillan

(w1892 7/15)

WATCHTOWER COST LIST January 1 1987

64-page booklet listing WTS stationery, forms and publications in every language that JWs congregations could order. The lists of publications include prices to be paid by pioneers and by the public. Certain items are available only in bulk such as "Handbills" in lots of 1000 for $6. Publications were available in 247 languages.

WATCHTOWER FARMS

A group of WTS-owned farms past Wallkill north of Brooklyn, New York.

The first farm, near the town of Wallkill, was purchased in 1963, and the second 6km away in 1967. Together these comprised 3000 acres.

There is another, 550-acre, farm near South Lansing, New York, and a 150-acre farm near Port Murray, New Jersey.

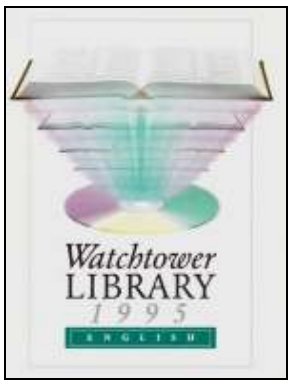
These farms supplied much of the food for the 2500 staff at Brooklyn. Over 40 kinds of fruit and vegetables were produced at the farms besides, meat, milk and eggs.

Residence buildings were built and dedicated at Watchtower Farms in 1968, 1971, 1973 and 1986. A printing factory was also completed at Wallkill in 1973 and printed *The Watchtower*. (g1987 2/22 25-27

In 1979 JWs at Wallkill began work on a computerized printing system, the Multi-language Electronic Publishing System, which could publish in 600 languages.

The Watchtower Bible School of Gilead was located at Wallkill from 1988 to 1995 (when it was transferred to the Watchtower Educational Center in Patterson, New York).

WATCHTOWER LIBRARY CD (1995)



In 1995 the WTS produced a CD-ROM of some of its publications.

Watchtower Library (1995) has:

- *Reference Bible*;
- *Insight on the Scriptures* I & II;
- *Watchtower Publications Index* 1930-1985; 1986-1990; 1991-1994; 1995;
- *The Watchtower* 1950-1995;
- *Awake!* 1970-1995;

- Books (40 books), the oldest *Your Will* (1958)
- Yearbooks (27) 1970-1996
- *Kingdom Ministry* 1970-1995
- Brochures (18) 1978-1995
- Booklets (18) 1970-1986

The first *Watchtower Library CD* came out in 1993 and updates have appeared at two-year intervals.

It was intended for JWs only, and making copies for distribution was not permitted. By 2015, however, *Watchtower Library* CD could be downloaded from the jw.org website.

Watchtower Library is also the title of the instruction booklet for the CD. The English (1996) booklet has 100 pages.

WATCHTOWER LIBRARY CD (2007)
A WTS-produced CD-ROM of post-1950 WTS publications but not all publications.

Watchtower Library (2007) has:
- *Reference Bible* (1984);
- *Insight On The Scriptures* I & II;
- *Watchtower Publications Index* 1930-1985; 1986-2007;
- *The Watchtower* from 1950-2007;
- *Awake!* 1970-2007;
- Books (49) from 1971-2007;
- Yearbooks (38) 1970-2007;
- *Kingdom Ministry* 1970-2007;
- Brochures (29) 1983-2005;
- Booklets (20) 1970-2008;
- *Kingdom News* (22) 1973-2006;
- Tracts (21) 1987-2005.

The estimated total number of pages of these publications is about 105,000.

Watchtower Library leaves out:
- First editions of multi-edition publications;
- Pictures;
- The annual country-by-country statistics chart in the yearbooks and *The Watchtower*;
- Daily Texts
- *Aid to Bible Understanding* (1971);
- You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth (1982)
- Songbooks
- Invitation leaflets, calendars, and other miscellaneous papers.

Four books on the 1995 CD are omitted on the 2007 CD probably because of changes in doctrines besides failed prophecies:
- *Your Will Be Done on Earth* (1958)
- *Babylon The Great Has Fallen* (1963)
- *All Scripture is Inspired of God and Beneficial* (1963)
- *The Truth that leads to Eternal Life* (1968 edition).

On the 2007 CD any word or phrase can be searched for, either in all publications on the CD or certain categories such as *The Watchtower*, *Awake!, Kingdom Ministry,* etc. The search turns up a list of all occurrences, each of which can, with a click of the mouse, be read on screen and scrolled up or down.

In 1989 JWs still believed Armageddon would occur in the twentieth century. The single issue *Watchtower* therefore said, "The apostle Paul was … laying the foundation for a work that would be **completed in our 20th century**." (w1989 1/1 12) This is altered in the bound volume edition to read "…completed in our day" and the CD-ROM has the bound volume version. The phrase "within our twentieth century", in *The Nations Shall Know That "I Am Jehovah"—How?* (1971, p.216), however remains unaltered.

Previous versions of changed doctrines appear on the CD publications without revision i.e. identical to the original paper edition.

WATCHTOWER MAGAZINE PRODUCTION & PLACEMENT STATISTICS.
See: *MAGAZINES*

WATCHOWER SOCIETY
Besides the original Pennsylvania (1884), New York (1909) and British (1914) corporations of the WTS there are now many more corporations in many countries. They are still known collectively as The Watchtower Society or to JWs simply "the Society".

The corporations and their officers and directors in the USA in 2004 were:

Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania (Incorporated 1884)
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

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc. (Incorporated 1909)
President: Max H Larson
Vice Presidents: George M. Couch; Lonnie R. Schilling
Secretary/Treasurer: Gerald F. Simonis

Directors: Gerald D. Grizzle; David G. Sinclair; Robert M. Pevy

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New Jersey, Inc. (Incorporated 1955)
President: Charles V Molohan
Vice Presidents: James L. Bauer; J. Richard Brown
Secretary/Treasurer: Alan K. Flowers
Directors: Allen E Shuster; David L. Walker; Vernon C. Wisegarver

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Florida, Inc. (Incorporated 1986)
President: Leonard R. Pearson
Vice Presidents: Alejandro G. Rodriguez; Maurice C. Turcot
Secretary/Treasurer: Mark L. Questell
Directors: Jim Moody, Sr.; Anselm J. Packnett; Donald R. Krebs

Valley Farms Corporation (Incorporated 1987)
President: Charles J. Rice
Vice Presidents: Kent E. Fischer; Robert L. Rains
Secretary/Treasurer: Albert L. Harrell
Directors: John R. Strandberg; Samuel D. Buck; Louis A. Travis

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses (Incorporated 2000)
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 (Incorporated 2000)
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, Inc. (Incorporated 2000)
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

Notice that no individual holds multiple positions in several corporations. Until the presidency of F.W. Franz (1977-1992) the president of Pennsylvania Corporation was also president of other WTS corporations. Until 1971 the seven directors of the Pennsylvania Corporation were the same as the seven-member Governing Body. Until the 1990s some Governing Body members also held positions in several corporations.

The division of labor and power came about in October 2000 AD. The Governing Body not only established three new corporations in the USA but also voted itself out of holding positions in any corporation. This included Milton Henschel who was a Governing Body member and also the 5th WTS president. This separated spiritual/religious authority from the legal authority.

The division of power protects the Organization against rebellion or apostasy — which if it happened could be contained without spreading far. In the 1917 showdown over the publication of *The Finished Mystery* those individuals won whose power was protected by law. If today one man were president of many corporations the Governing Body's authority would be vulnerable.

Separation of legal and spiritual power may also protect the corporations against certain lawsuits resulting from detrimental instructions or policies ordered by the Governing Body. Perhaps the division of authority also prepares for the equivalent of "separation between church and state" if Rutherford's agenda of his Organization taking over the world were to make significant progress. (See: *GOAL*)

The reason for the changes given in a WTS press release, however, is that the "revisions … were dictated by the need to keep pace with growth" by separating religious and administrative duties.

Of the three corporations established in the US in 2000 one oversees construction of halls and other buildings, another supervises personnel, and the third directs various congregational activities. The new corporations affect operations in the US; in other countries other corporations oversee legal matters there.

The Governing Body now oversees religious affairs such as doctrine, evangelization and pastoral care.

WATCHTOWER STORY, THE (1948)
An official WTS booklet that distances the WTS from the violence perpetrated by the African Watchtower movement.

The African Watchtower movement was started in 1910 by Joseph Booth who, at the time, represented C.T. Russell. John Chilembwe, the main instigator of the 1915 uprising, was baptized by Joseph Booth and knew about Russell's apocalyptic pro-

phecies for 1915 as taught in *Studies in the Scriptures*. (See: *CHJILEMBWE, JOHN*)

In 1916 the WTS distanced itself from the African movement it had formerly praised.

The Watchtower Story makes no mention of these points and states:

> John Chilembwe, the leader of the "rising" and who founded what is known today as the Providential Industrial Mission was never at any time one of Jehovah's witnesses nor was he ever associated with the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society nor the native so-called "Watchtower movement". (p.4)

By 1930 WTS colporteurs began preaching in indigenous Watchtower movement areas. The latter used some of the WTS publications. This led to confusion between the two groups and reflected negatively on JWs during the 1935 "Copperbelt" disturbances when mine-workers, urged on by Watchtower-movement agitators, rioted.

Commencing in 1936 the Northern Rhodesian Government *permitted* the WTS to maintain a depot under European control in Lusaka. In Southern Rhodesia restrictions on WTS literature ended in 1946.

WATCHTOWER STUDY

The weekly congregational meeting devoted to paragraph-by-paragraph study of the main *Watchtower* article using question-and-answer method. Usually held on Sunday.

WATCHTOWER, THE

> The chief organ of Jehovah's Witnesses for disseminating Bible truths is The Watchtower. (w1977 10/15 633)
>
> For the past 114 years, *The Watchtower*, like a skillful lawyer has established itself as a defender of Bible truth and doctrine… And it continues to be the principal instrument of 'the faithful and discreet slave' and its Governing Body for announcing Jehovah's established Kingdom and dispensing spiritual food "at the proper time." (w1994 1/1 21)

The magazine was started by Russell in 1879. The name may have been inspired by a book written by George Storrs (1796-1879) about 20 years earlier titled *The Watch Tower: Or, Man in Death; and the Hope for a Future Life*.

Storrs belonged to an Adventist sect, was Russell's mentor in the early 1870s, and published material written by Russell. Storrs was near death when *Zion's Watchtower* started and Russell may have, by choosing the name *Watchtower*, acknowledged his influence. Watchtowers were also a common symbol used by Adventist groups in the 19th century.

The high initial circulation of 6,000 resulted because H.B. Rice, a Second Adventist, discontinued his own journal *The Last Trump* and gave the subscriber list to Russell.

The full name of *The Watchtower* at different times was:

- Zion's Watch Tower And Herald Of Christ's Presence 1879-1907
- The Watch Tower And Herald Of Christ's Presence 1908-10/1931
- The Watchtower And Herald Of Christ's Presence 10/1931-1938
- The Watchtower And Herald Of Christ's Kingdom 1939 January & February
- The Watchtower Announcing Christ's Kingdom 3/1939
- The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom 3/1939 - present

The "Tower" had 16 pages until 1950 and then 32 pages. It was published monthly until 1892, then bimonthly.

Reprints of issues 1879-1916 became available in the 1920s and are still sold by the Chicago Bible Students. The WTS produced reprints from 1879 to 1918 in the 1920s but stopped because a lot of its so-called "Bible truth" changed.

Circulation of *The Watchtower* (July)

	Circulation		Circulation
1879	6,000	1980	8,750,000
1890	10,000	1985	11,150,000
1900	12,000	1990	13,950,000
1910	30,000	1995	16,100,000
1915	55,000	2000	22,398,000
1925	30,000	2005	26,400,000
1930	55,000	2007	28,580,000
1940	375,000	2008	37,100,000
1945	600,000	2009	37,252,000
1950	750,000	2010	39,601,000
1955	2,100,000	2013	44,978,000
1960	3,800,000		
1965	4,550,000		
1970	6,450,000		
1975	9,550,000		

The circulation jump in 2008 (which occurred in January) may reflect the division of *The Watchtower* into a "Study Edition" meant for JWs and a public edition. The Study Edition did not show a circulation

whereas the public edition jumped by over 8 million which was approximately the number of people who attended *Watchtower* study meetings worldwide.

God's channel without human opinions

Rutherford claimed:

> The Lord is using and has used THE WATCH TOWER from its foundation as his channel of communication to and between his people. (w1931 8/15 244)

> The Watchtower would not and does not give any man's opinion, but, guided by the Lord and used by him, sets forth to the remnant information which Jehovah and the Lord Jesus Christ give concerning the scriptures and concerning things brought to pass which are in fulfillment of prophecies. (w1936 3/15 85)

> …the Lord permits these truths to be published in The Watchtower. What is said is not the opinion of man… (w1936 4/1 107; w1945 4/1 98)

> Again it is not the "voice" of creatures, not the voicing of human opinions by Jehovah's witnesses, that "Christendom" hears, but these cry out to her what the voice of the Lord has said in his Word. (w1942 5/15 147)

The 1939 *Yearbook* p.85 says that God is using the Watchtower as a means of communicating with his people on earth. *The Watchtower* May 1st 1964, p.277 says Jehovah is using The Watchtower to communicate and counsel his people.

These claims imply that what is published is all from God therefore infallible — and that's how loyal members of the sect have always treated the published material. Regarding this, see the entries: *DATES*; *ERROR*; *FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*.

In 2008 the WTS began publishing two versions of *The Watchtower*, one for use by JWs and called the "Study Edition", and the other for the public.

WATTERS, RANDALL (1952-)
Former elder at New York headquarters who left in the early 1980s and authored *Thus Saith The Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses*.

Watters published his biography, *The Story of Randall Watters*, on the Internet.

He was born in Oklahoma City in 1952, brought up Baptist, and attended the Garden Grove Community Church in California, Dr. Robert Schuller's church, for whom his mother was one of the secretaries.

In 1971 Watters lived at Newport Beach with the hippie crowd when he obtained the WTS book *The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life* (1968).

He got baptized in 1972, was appointed as magazine servant and "pioneered" while also working three days per week. He writes:

> By 1974 I was a TRUE BELIEVER in the WT as the only true religion, and all others would be destroyed soon at Armageddon…
> I went out 6-7 days a week and knocked on almost every door in San Luis Obispo in 6 months, and ended up with 6 "Bible studies" that got baptized from my efforts.

In late 1974 the *Kingdom Ministry* called for Bethel volunteers who would serve 4 years for $14 a month.

Watters became one of 100 "new boys" at New York Bethel and later worked on "the big MAN web presses that printed all their Bibles":

> There was no air conditioning in the factory, and we worked summer with 100 degrees outside and 110 degrees inside, breathing the heavy ink that the presses spewed out.

Watters became "floor overseer" in charge of Bible printing." He worked at Bethel for six years and attended a congregation where he was appointed as an elder at age 25:

> In my 1st three years at Bethel I became aware of the moral shortfallings of many a Bethelite, from smoking to swearing, racial fights and so forth. Some managed to avoid going to meetings at all…

> The trouble began when a handful of brothers were commissioned to write the book *Aid To Bible Understanding*. In researching their chronological dating system for the "last days," historical research indicated that their precious date of 1914 (supposedly the invisible return of Christ) was nothing more than the start of World War I. My overseer, Tom Cabeen, began to share this with me, a little each day in a hushed tone behind the printing presses. According to all historical records, Jerusalem was destroyed in 587-586 BC, a full 20 years later than

> the Witness date. Neither was there found any basis in the Bible for a 2520-year "Gentile Times."
>
> I had to go down in the Bethel library and do my own research on the dates, the identity of the "great crowd," and more. I had to prove it for myself, and the history of their flip-flops and miscalculations were quite obvious. I researched through every bound volume of *The Watchtower,* in their own Gilead library, from 1879 to 1979 on certain subjects…

The dating errors became known to others and in 1980 the Governing body found out. Individuals including Bible translators were interrogated in isolation by "special committees" and disfellowshipped. Dozens of others who "knew too much" also left.

Waters found that:

> The things being said by the GB were just too blasphemous. Albert Schroeder, speaking to elders of the Bethel family on May 29, 1980 said: "We serve not only Jehovah God but we are under our `mother.' Our 'mother' has the right to make rules and regulations for us... This book, entitled Branch Organization Procedure, contains 28 subjects; and its sub-sections involve regulations and administration. In it there are 1,177 policies and regulations... this is an improved, fine-tuned organization, and we are expected to follow its policies. If there are some who feel that they cannot subject themselves to the rules and regulations now in operation, such ones ought to be leaving and not be involved here in the further progressive work."
>
> On April 30, 1980, Karl Klein of the GB stated to the whole family: If you have a tendency towards 'apostasy,' get a hobby and keep yourself busy to keep your mind off of it. Stay away from deep Bible study to determine meanings of the scriptures…
>
> Another member of the GB, Lloyd Barry, said on May 29, 1980 in addressing the elders of the Bethel family:
>
> > When we talk about law, we talk about organization. With all our hearts we need to search after that law. Jehovah doesn't give individuals interpretation. We need a guide, and that is the 'faithful and discreet slave.' We should not be getting together in a clique to discuss views contrary to the 'faithful and Discreet slave.' We must recognize the source of our instruction. We must be like an ass, be humble, and stay in the manger; and we won't get any poison.

In 1980 Watters got involved with a church in California called Hope Chapel where he was baptized after he sent a letter of resignation (January 1981) to the Governing Body.

He was a voluntary pastor for three years and could use their computer equipment and wrote the book *Refuting Jehovah's Witnesses* and the tract *What Happened at the World Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses In the Spring of 1980?*

Waters contacted ex-Witnesses Edmond Gruss author of *Apostles of Denial* (1970), Rob Bowman, the MacGregors, Bill and Joan Cetnar, Duane Magnani, and many anti-JWs ministries. He spoke about JWs on radio and television and at Christian meetings.

In 1993 Watters reorganized his ministry as a standalone non-profit educational organization and "Free Minds, Inc" was born. In 1996 *freeminds.org* website went online and in 2006 visits to it passed two million.

WATTERS, RANDAL — LETTER

The following letter was sent by R. Watters in 1981 to the Governing Body after which JWs viewed him as "disassociated."

> January 22, 1981
>
> Dear Members of the Governing Body,
>
> This is not an easy letter to write, considering that I had recently spent almost six years at Bethel working with you, serving as a Bethel elder and a factory overseer. I gave my work the best of my ability, as many of you are aware.
>
> Last July I left Bethel. I explained that I had family situations that needed to be cleared up. This was most assuredly true; but I also did not mention that I had come to realize a lot of things in the last year of my Bethel service, enough to cause me to want to leave, as have many other faithful ones in the last few months.
>
> As does most everyone who comes to Bethel to stay, I stood in awe of the men in responsible positions, especially N.H.Knorr and later the members of the governing body. Of course, in time, I saw that you were

human, too; and that all of us have shortcomings. But in the last couple of years, it seems to me that the personality of Christ has not been reflected in your dealings with others.

Having been a table head, I was always down in the morning for the text discussion. In time I began to detect a subtle campaign on your part aimed at discrediting a fellow member of the body as well as others whose beliefs on certain organizational doctrines differed from the majority.

I guess you could say that I knew quite a bit more about the situation than others did. I began to see how Ray Franz had been a 'thorn' in your weekly meetings, due to the fact that he always sought the Biblical approach, rather than by tradition or popular opinion. You actually began to ignore him often, and this undoubtedly contributed to his having to take an extended leave of absence last year.

Not a few know how, back in the early sixties, Ray, Ed Dunlap and Reinhard Lengtat were commissioned to assemble the AID book and how Fred Franz had told them to really examine the Bible to make sure we had the correct understanding on certain things; and that if we needed to make some changes, that we would. We gained a more accurate understanding of many matters, including elders in the 1st century congregations. In time, however, some of the 'proofs' that support our doctrines on chronology and the last days, as well as the 'other sheep' class distinction were revealed to be quite shaky; not to speak of Paul's words in Romans and Galatians that show Christians as living by faith and not by works of law. But you repeatedly refused to consider these things.

It was unfortunate that some of the Spanish elders in a local congregation spoke to their congregation as they did last March 31. But instead of handling this in a calm way, you called in Chris and Norma Sanchez and Nestor Kuilan, who had nothing directly to do with that, and you disfellowshipped them all, despite the fact that they had spent many years in faithful service in responsible positions. When I read the appeal letter that Chris wrote afterwards, it was heartbreaking to see how cold they were treated and how they were called names such as 'suckers' and 'liars' by those who claim to be Christian, even a member of the governing body.

Then you formed another committee in order to frame Ray by taping confessions extracted from close friends of his of things he had said in private to them, I was shocked. Two weeks were spent making tapes, and then you proceed to call him back from his leave of absence and sit him down in a room and play them all back to him in front of everyone. I could have cried. Then you all but disfellowship him and he leaves, but this was just the beginning. Ed Dunlap was extensively questioned, and when he would not back down on what he felt about all of this, he was disfellowshipped. Then I saw how you began to interrogate everyone in the writing department, not on their loyalty to God and Christ, but to the Watchtower Society. Brother Lingtadt was put through over 20 hours of intensive interrogation and subjected to the 3rd degree. Others, I was shocked to find, had their personal phone calls re-directed through the service department in order to spy on them and 'catch' them. Some who gathered in their rooms to study the Bible together were called in and told to quit. A series of 'special questions' were made up and many had to take the 'loyalty' test if they were suspected of knowing about these things.

When Albert Schroeder gave his warning on 'apostasy' to the family, I expected some clarifying information for the family. Instead, the hatred gleamed from his eyes as he proceeded to belittle anyone who would entertain doubts about the Society's interpretations, saying that such persons were weak in faith or proud and presumptuous. Then in his later talk to the Bethel elders, Schroeder stopped at nothing in wrenching the word 'organization' out of the scriptures. He called the organization our 'mother' and said, "She has the right to make rules and regulations for us," and then holds up the Branch Organization Procedure book and pointed out it's 1,177 rules and regulations, knowing full well what Romans 7:6 says about Christians following sets of 'spiritual rules'.

Then he actually admits that the beliefs of those dismissed were not an apostasy from the Bible, but from the organization. There is a difference, isn't there?

I managed to find some words of C.T. Russell himself that you would have done well to heed:

"The endeavor to compel all men to think alike on all subjects, culminated in the great apostasy and the development of the papal system, and thereby the gospel, the one faith that Paul and the other apostles set forth, was lost- buried under the mass of uninspired decrees of popes and councils. The unity of the early church, based upon the simple gospel and bound only by love, gave way to the bondage of the church of Rome... Each new reform movement has made the failure of attempting to make a creed just large enough for its prime movers." p.1572 9/1893 WT

Soon after the disfellowshippings and the talks, each one of you got your turn at the table to heap insults at these individuals and others, not even flinching at twisting the meaning of the scriptures you used.

Persons who did not fully accept all that the WT teaches were denounced as 'spiritual fornicators,' 'mentally diseased' and 'insane.' I know that even to this day such is still continuing, much to the disgust of many in the family.

We strive to impress others with the thought that we do not have a clergy-laity class distinction. But we do seem to have a mediator between Christ and man, and that is the governing body. Remember when brother Klein said in private that Franz (Fred) has "been our oracle for the last 67 years"? Few people know who the man is who was the ghost-writer for Rutherford's books and who dreamed up all of the 'types and antitypes' that we still hold to. Those 'types' supposedly identify 'class distinctions' and add support to the distinction between those who interpret the scriptures and those who accept that interpretation as being from God. In the last few months, I remember brother Klein encouraging us not to study the Bible 'too seriously' but to 'Develop hobbies to keep our minds off of doubts.'

It is one thing to claim that the Bible is God's Word and it is incomplete; it is another thing to say we need someone to interpret it for us. The same feeling exists today as it did in Russell's day, and I quote him:

'"We find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the "Scripture Studies" aside, even after he has used them...after he has read them for ten years, and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness." p. 298, Sept.15, 1910 WT

The same attitude is displayed today about the Watchtower and other books; and we end up reading and studying them instead of God's Word. This doesn't show much faith in the power of the scriptures and the holy spirit.

Let's face it, brothers, this organization has made a lot of mistakes; many that the friends never realized. Jesus did not say he would be the head of any man-made organization with rules. He is the head of the Christian congregation, and he gives his spirit to those who pursue the truth. Being the member of an organization has little to do with whether you are approved by Jehovah; it is our hearts that tell the story. The greatest insult to Jesus Christ comes from your telling millions that they cannot receive God's spirit to become his spiritual sons. You know very well that this undeserved kindness is offered to all who read the Word of God; and just because you thought that the number that could fit into heaven was filled, first in 1881, then 1918 and later 1935, you tell others that they will live on the earth and that it will take 1000 years to make them perfect. Newcomers are intimidated from partaking in the Lord's memorial. You do not believe that the 'other sheep' are technically Christians, as you used to admit years ago (p.249 August 1934 WT). The whole basis for the 'Jonadab class' has it's roots in your chronology; saying that you came up with this idea because it was time to reveal it, even though no one else has ever drawn such a conclusion from reading the Bible…

Sincerely,
RANDALL WATTERS (c) 2009 Freeminds.org

WAY TO PARADISE, THE (1924)



A book authored by WTS officer W.E. Van Amburgh. It predicted that Abraham and other ancient Bible heroes were about to be resurrected and, ruling from Jerusalem, would establish paradise on Earth starting 1926:

> Let us suppose that you are living after the kingdom is established and the blessings have begun to flow out to the people in abundant measure. Of course it will take some time to get things in smoothly running order after the great stress between now and 1926. It may be ten years before you get your house all fixed up. (p.128)

This statement apparently extended by one year Rutherford's predictions for 1925 made in *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (1920).

The Golden Age magazine stated:

> Lo, our King is here, and the year 1925 marks the date when all shall see His might power demonstrated in the resurrection of the ancient worthies, and the time when "millions now living will never die." (g1922 3/1 350)

Rutherford lost faith in his 1925 prophecy soon after *The Way to Paradise* was published. He discarded Russell's invisible, heaven-located kingdom of 1878 — a corner stone of WTS doctrine for about 45 years — and invented and substituted the equally-imaginary kingdom of 1914.

(See: *DATES*; *KINGDOMS)*

WBBR

A radio station in New York owned by JWs 1924-1957.

The station broadcast JWs doctrine and commercial music. Its news broadcasts highlighted world distress and religious failure. There were mock debates in which JWs played the part of clergymen and gave weak arguments that were easily defeated by the "truth".

WEAK/WEAK SPIRITUALLY

A JW is regarded as "weak" if he:

- Fails to give uncritical obedience to the Governing Body/WTS;
- Is immoral;
- Attends meetings irregularly;
- Doubts an official doctrine or interpretation;
- Gives only minimal or token time to public proselytizing.

The last-listed category Rutherford described as "completely blind", "disobedient", "lukewarm" and "slothful":

> nor will we have anything in common with those who are lukewarm. (w1933 5/15 155)

> Indifference, slothfulness or slackness of duty will mark such ones as disobedient, and disobedience means destruction. (ibid 152)

Such comment probably became invalid in 2023 when the Governing Body cancelled the requirement for JWs to count and report their hours on the ministry which they had done for 103 years.

WEAPONS

Rutherford permitted weapons for self defense. At WTS conventions in Rutherford's time squads of ushers, armed with thick canes, attacked unruly onlookers. Occasionally JWs provoked riots in country towns and then shot attacking rioters with shotguns. (Manwaring, 1960) Zambian Witnesses, who were forced to hide in forests after confrontation with the State in 1968, armed themselves with bows and arrows. (Cross, 1978)

In 1983 the WTS banned ownership of fire-arms among JWs. (w1983 7/15 23-24) One reason is that several JWs had shot and killed disinterested householders. (See: *JOY*)

Secondly, JWs leaders advertise and promote the Organization as a haven of safety where law-abiding Christians practice political neutrality, non-involvement in war, and reject use and ownership of weapons. The aim in such promotion is to influence terrorists, governments, criminals and revolutionaries to see JWs as unthreatening and therefore not attack or molest them. Opposing this we-love-peace image are high levels of child abuse and of people leaving the religion and being ostracized by family and friends — conflict in millions of families.

The official picture of the Organization as a haven of safety in an unsafe world, and this picture promoting rapid expansion, has only partial success.

WEBER, JACOB

The 1987 *Yearbook of JWs* (pp 131-132 reports that:

> The year 1925 started very promisingly with the new Bethel home and factory in Bern...
>
> However, some had their own personal convictions with respect to the year 1925. Would they let themselves be admonished by The Watchtower of January 1, 1925? It cautioned:
>
> "The year 1925 is here. With great expectations Christians have looked forward to this year. Many have confidently expected that members of the body of Christ will be changed to heavenly glory during this year. This may be accomplished. It may not be..."
>
> Among others Jakob Weber, who was responsible for the Service Desk at Bethel, was not impressed. He was so sure that all the anointed would be glorified in heaven by the end of the year that he pursued a "liquidation course." He sent large quantities of literature to congregations without having received orders for it, instructing them to distribute the publications free of charge in their territory before the end of 1925.
>
> All the efforts of the brothers at Bethel to reason with him were to no avail. Finally, he left not only Bethel but the truth and caused much grief among the brothers throughout the country, since he drew many with him. Some congregations were reduced to less than half their former size. (1987 Yearbook of JWs pp 131-132).

The fact is that *The Watchtower*, *The Golden Age*, Rutherford in his *Millions* book, and WTS speakers at conventions and via newspapers had predicted 1925 for the resurrection and return of the Old Testament heroes. The date was calculated from the Bible — actually a misuse or twisting of the biblical text — and also forecast to happen ten years after Russell's predictions for 1914/1915 failed, under the assumption that Russell was mistaken by ten years.

Therefore 1925 wasn't just Weber's "own personal conviction". Weber demonstrated a loyalty to what the *Yearbook* calls "the truth", although the prophecy and thousands of other points taught in the 1920s wasn't "truth" at all. The prophecy for 1925, in the view of other religions, was perversion, nonsense and false. However, the WTS and JWs regard everything in their religion, even when false and against the Bible, as "the truth", even the "revealed truth".

Note also that Weber is blamed because many left the cult after 1925. It is, however, standard JWs belief that people should get out of their religion when they see errors. Most JWs say and advocate this but don't themselves do it!

(See: *MILLIONS NOW LIVING*; *VAN AMBURGH*)

WEBSITES ABOUT JWs

The following is a partial list of English-language websites functional in July 2024 which focused on JWs or substantially included them. The list is alphabetical and does not distinguish ex-JWs, pro-JWs, Christian, atheist, legal, commercial or discussion sites.

Because websites come and go, many may either no longer be online or have a different address:

- http://www.exjws-united.com/
- https://4jehovah.org/
- https://ajwrb.org/
- https://alecholmesxjw.tumblr.com/
- https://buy.hereliesthetruth.com/
- https://captivesofaconcept.com/index_for_site_all.html
- https://.carm.net/
- https://chrisfugue.tumblr.com/
- https://ed5015.tripod.com/
- https://ed5015.tripod.com/jwdictionary/
- https://freedomofmind.com/
- https://investigatormagazine.net
- https://jaynepersian.wordpress.com/
- https://jeffro77.wordpress.com/
- https://jwchildcustody.com
- https://jwleaks.org/
- https://jwwatch.org
- https://reasoningwithjehovahswitnesses.com/
- https://revealnews.org/topic/jehovahs-witnesses/
- https://towerwatch.com/
- https://witnessesforatheism.wordpress.com/
- https://www.aawa.co
- https://www.aomin.org
- https://www.geocities.ws/thewatchtowerstudy/
- https://www.jw.org/en/
- https://www.jwfacts.com/
- https://www.jwfiles.com/index.htm

- https://www.reddit.com/r/exjw/new/?rdt=52966
- https://www.theguardian.com/world/jehovahs-witnesses
- https://www.watchman.org/
- www.x-j-w.org/

Websites are vastly outnumbered by web-pages a few of which are:

- https://cne.news/article/4220-jehovahs-witnesses-ease-shunning-rules-after-blow-in-oslo-court
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah's_Witnesses
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah's_Witnesses_beliefs
- https://firstamendment.mtsu.edu/article/jehovahs-witnesses/
- https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/factsheets/jehovahs-witnesses/
- https://theconversation.com/who-are-jehovahs-witnesses-a-religion-scholar-explains-the-history-of-the-often-misunderstood-group-201617
- https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-13/jehovah-witnesses-child-abuse-four-corners-investigations/100444320
- https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-20/former-jehovahs-witness-elder-to-stand-trial-accused-of-rape/103612422
- https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cv06m814068t
- https://www.britannica.com/topic/Jehovahs-Witnesses/Beliefs
- https://www.catholic.com/tract/history-of-the-jehovahs-witnesses
- https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/case-studies/case-study-54-institutional-review-jehovahs-witnesses
- https://www.childsafety.gov.au/resources/jehovahs-witnesses-2021-progress-report

A quick way to get information about almost anything to do with JWs is to search with Googal on the word "Jehovahs" along with the topic of interest such as:

- 607 BC
- apostates
- Armageddon
- beards
- beliefs
- bible
- child abuse
- dates
- education
- governing body
- headquarters
- history
- increase
- meetings
- murders
- prophecies
- rapes
- shunning
- suicides

WEDDING SHOWER
A social gathering or celebration, permitted among JWs, for bestowing gifts on engaged couples.

WEEKEND MIRACLE (1986)
A book authored by Wayne and Norma Roper, who say they are not JWs, which describes "quick builds" of JW kingdom halls in only a weekend during the 1980s.

To JWs "quick builds" provided pride in their Organization and proof of the "spirit" at work in their religion, although secular construction companies often do similar with fewer workers, sometimes erecting small towns in days.

A house I once signed a contract for was built to "lock up stage" by four men in three days. Had I hired several more men they could have also painted, landscaped and planted trees in only one extra day.

Roman legions using only ancient technology erected camps and barriers against enemies in only hours after a day's march.

WEISSMAN, GEORGE and CLAIRE
Free Minds Journal (1995 Jun/Aug) tells the story of Claire Arbuckle [later Weissman] who was baptized at 17 in 1944.

She signed up as a special pioneer, was assigned initially to New Mexico, later to Ft. Scott, Kansas where she started a new congregation, rented a church building for the meetings, and went door to door alone for 4 years. She spent 34 days in jail at age 23 for preaching and refusing to pay the fine, because "It would be an admission of guilt, and I didn't do anything wrong."

Claire attended the 13th class of Gilead Missionary School followed in 1949 by special pioneering on the eastern seaboard.

She met George, a 19 year-old JW, in 1953 in New York City and they were married by Milton Henschel (the future WTS President).

Eventually, what stood out in George's mind was this:

> "The main thing that got to me was not the failure of 1975 to bring the end, but the guilt being passed off to the publishers for expecting that to happen, when it was so obvious the Watchtower had predicted it."

He read *Crisis of Conscience* and in 1992 and sent his letter of resignation.

Claire also left, saying that the organization had become totalitarian and oppressive.

WELL ADVANCED

Another phrase used in WTS publications to increase the zeal of JWs and stimulate their anticipation:

> Without a question of doubt we are now **well advanced** within "the times and the seasons" of the Lord's presence and of his judgment of the nations and we are approaching unto the time of Armageddon… (w1940 8/15 246)

WELLCOME, Isaac C. (1818-1895)

A member of the Advent Christian Church (with which C.T. Russell was associated in the 1870s) born in Maine, USA, and a prolific author and publisher.

Wellcome's main work was the 720-page book *History of the Second Advent Message and Mission, Doctrine and People*. (1874) This is a useful resource on early Adventism including many preachers prominent at the time:

> While it has now become well known that a body of Christians exists in America and Europe called "Second Adventists," who are said to hold and teach doctrinal views widely and essentially differing from those of other churches, yet but few, comparatively, know anything properly of them, as many vague, strange, and false representations have been constantly set afloat by opposers, concerning their doctrine, objects, influence, numbers, social standing, moral culture, principles, and conduct, causing many erroneous ideas to be entertained by honest persons concerning them and their views. (p.10)

Wellcome documented positive examples as well as cranks and fanatics:

> One instance was a woman who claimed she could walk on water. Another was Silas Lamson, a former patient in a lunatic asylum who always wore white clothing and carried a white umbrella and was allowed to speak for hours about himself at some Millerite gatherings under the guise of free speech. Another notable example was John Starkweather of Boston who, in 1843 and 1844 ... would regularly convulse like an epileptic and encourage the audience to do the same...
> http://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=DADN&highlight=school

Several preachers who influenced C.T. Russell get much mention, in particular George Storrs (pp 281-282), and others only briefly such as Rufus and Jonas Wendell (spelled Wendall in Wellcome's book).

Wellcome's own biography (pp 567-572) says that: "he is enjoying 'the blessed hope' of seeing Jesus coming in all his glory during this generation..." (p.572)

Wellcome joined the Millerites in 1843 and the Advent Christian Church in the early 1860s.

WENDELL, JONAS (1815-1873)

Jonas Wendell was born in Edinboro, Pennsylvania.

He was a follower of William Miller in the 1840s, lost his faith in the Great Disappointment of 1844, regained it by further study of Bible chronology, and preached extensively in New England, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Wendell's parents were Jacob and Magdelena Wendel. His brother was Rev. John I. Wendell (a Methodist minister), and his nephew Rufus Wendell. Jonas was married and had a son, Daniel.

Jonas Wendell began in the Methodist-Episcopal Church but joined the Millerite movement in the 1840s and played a role in offshoots from this movement which predicted Christ's return in 1852, 1854, 1866-8, and 1873.

C.T. Russell

The relevance of Wendell to JWs is that Wendell rejuvenated the faith of Charles Taze Russell.

After a brief period (perhaps a year) as a skeptic Russell attended one of Wendell's meetings in 1869, and had his faith restored in the Bible as God's word.

Wendell, at this time, was a minister of the Advent Christian Church and believed the world would be burned up in 1873 with the Second Coming of Jesus and he explained these views in his book *The Present Truth or Meat in Due Season* (1870).

Letter

A letter from Wendel to George Storrs was published in the latter's magazine *Bible Examiner*:

> Edinboro, Penn,
> January 18, 1854.
> Br. Storrs:
>
> The light of "life, only through Christ," is spreading in these parts, though not without opposition. The other evening I preached on the subject and, after I closed, a Methodist minister arose and spoke in defense of their "traditions," and closed by saying we made man like the beast. I remarked, in reply, that we did not make man like the beast, but God declares he is so; and then quoted Ec 3:18,20; Ps 49:20. Thus, while God declares man to be "like the beasts that perish," you correct the Almighty, and say man is like God. Where is your authority? Where is your proof from the Bible? I admit you have, in the Bible, one proof text for your position, and only one, viz: Ge 3:4-5. But I reject your witness; he stands impeached by all the other witnesses, as well as by direct testimony, that he is a liar from the beginning. The discussion lasted till near midnight. I then told him I should be happy to meet him at any time, and discuss the question, but he would not agree to meet me. It has created quite an interest, and I am invited in every direction to come and preach the word of life — all new places. I have been here but a few weeks, and the traveling has been bad — no sleighing nor wagoning; consequently, I have remained near home; but the prospect seems fair for doing good, but the blessing of God, which I pray may rest upon all our efforts. Amen. (1854 Volume 10, February 1, No. 3)

Wendell's Churches

Wendell organized Advent Christian Churches in Allegheny/Pittsburgh in the 1860s.

He is mentioned in "History of the Town of Yorkshire" — Yorkshire is a town in western New York:

> In 1865 Rev. Clinton Colgrove, originally a Baptist, held a series of meetings of the Advent persuasion in the school house at Yorkshire Corners. In 1868, with Revs. William A. Fenn and Jonas Wendell, he organized the Advent church of Yorkshire with sixty-three members, and remained their pastor until 1875. A church edifice was built in 1869 at a cost of $3,000. It will seat about 300 persons.
> (History of the Town of Yorkshire www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyccatta/history-of-the-town-of-yorkshire)

The Yorkshire Advent church was organized from revival meetings held in a tent and still had 20 members in the early 21st century.

The following (from the Internet) is a report of a church in Ohio:

> This church was organized February 18, 1867, in the early part of the winter of which year **Elder Jonas Wendell**, of Pennsylvania, and Elder D. R. Mansfield and wife, of Michigan, came to Nevada [Ohio] and conducted a series of meetings in the Lutheran Church building, as a result of which there was an extensive revival, and the above-named ministers assisted by Elder King effected an organization. Elder King was the prime mover in securing the services of the clergyman referred to, and had prepared the field for their effective work by having previously promulgated the doctrines of the Advent denomination to quite an extent throughout the vicinity. By his influence and that of others the services of the able **Dr. G. W. Stetson**, as pastor, were subsequently secured…
>
> The first and present church building was erected in 1869, and was dedicated in October of the same year. The edifice is made of brick, and cost when completed and furnished $11,000...
>
> Elder H. G. McCulloch was the first pastor engaged and remained with the church about one year; his brother, Elder Eusebius McCulloch was next called and was retained eleven years; Elder J. W. Hobbs, of New York began his pastorate November 20, 1881, and has continued to the present time... [1884].

A letter by Wendell was published in *The World's Crisis*:

> April 23, 1873
> Bro. Grant:
>
> Since closing *my labors with the N.Y.S. Mission Tent last fall*, my labor has been with the church in this place, and in an adjoining county. During the winter we had *Bro. G.W. Stetson of Ohio* with us in a protracted effort for four weeks, which resulted, we humbly trust, in much good; the church was revived, and wanderers were induced to return. To God be all the glory. Amen.
>
> The church in Edinboro numbers something over 100 members, but they are scattered over a territory of several miles, and for a few years have had no pastor, but only occasionally a sermon — they had become scattered as sheep without a shepherd. At the close of our protracted meetings, Bro. Stetson was invited by the church to take the pastoral charge of the same, which he consented to do from May 1 next. May God bless pastor and church is my prayer. Amen.
>
> Should my life and health continue, I shall (if the Lord will) after May 1 go 'into the regions beyond,' and proclaim in the ears of this doomed world the swift judgment of God and give to the household 'meat in due season.'
>
> Jonas Wendell

Jonas Wendell and George Stetson were close friends, and sometimes traveled together. After Wendell moved from Pittsburgh to Edinboro in 1872, Stetson also moved there (from Alleghany) and later replaced him as pastor.

Rufus Wendell

Rufus Wendell was vice-president of the Life and Advent Union and served under Storrs who was president. Both left this sect and returned to the Advent Christian ministry.

Rufus was a scholar and effective in debates. He contributed to the first edition of *Young's Concordance* (his name appears on the title page), published two editions of the Bible, and authored the book *The Speeches of the New Testament*.

Obituary

The magazine *The World's Crisis* (1873, September 10) published an obituary written by Jonas Wendell's personal friend, George Stetson. The following summary is from the Internet:

In Memory of Elder Jonas Wendell

> "He was born December 25, 1815, and fell asleep August 14 1873. Age fifty seven years, seven months, and fourteen days…
>
> "He had settled on 1873 as the year in which "the hope of seeing Jesus and being made like him" should be realized by a waiting and expectant church, and set forth the reasons for his hope in a little work entitled, "Present truth," or "Meat in Due Season," ...
>
> "... on Wednesday evening, 13 August, by request, in absence of the pastor, he led the prayer and conference meeting, and much edified all present by his unusual fervency in prayer, exhortation, and singing. "What a friend we have in Jesus" was the last hymn he ever sung with us. On Thursday the 14th, he went to the Sabbath School picnic in most excellent spirits, and seemed to be very happy in the Lord. When time for adjournment arrived, he got out his horse to return home, but seeing a lad in trouble from a fickly horse, he went to his assistance, where he overtaxed his physical strength, and returned to his own buggy quite exhausted. But he got in and took the lines from his niece, to start home, but immediately loosened his hold, dropped them, and fell over backward in his seat, dead. He gave but two slight gasps for breath, and all was over...
>
> "On Saturday, 16 August, at 2 P.M. his funeral was numerously attended at our chapel, when all the clergy of our village came to observe his obsequies, sympathize with his bereaved family, and participate in the services of the occasion... Medical opinion is divided between apoplexy and heart disease as cause of death.

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY ABOUT SURVIVAL AFTER DEATH? (1955)
A WTS booklet about survival after death.

WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO YOU?
JWs who engage in activities on the borderline of theocratic acceptability such as university studies, working overtime, or play sports are likely to be asked by elders, "What good will it do you?"

If the person can't name a good consequence then he'll likely be told that he's "stealing time" from "Jehovah's service". If he specifies a benefit to himself then he'll be called "selfish", "self pleasing" and "doing what is right in your own eyes" — these, to JWs, being negative evaluations.

Either way, whether the person specifies a benefit or not, the intention is to make him modify his behavior, such as to go door to door more, by making him feel guilty.

WHAT HAS GOD'S KINGDOM BEEN DOING SINCE 1914? (1966)
A booklet containing arguments that the Gentile Times ended in 1914, Satan was thrown down to Earth in 1914 and is the source of world distress, JWs preaching fulfils prophecy, and Armageddon will strike within one generation from 1914.

WHAT HAS RELIGION DONE FOR MANKIND (1951)
A book-length critique of everyone who rejects "true religion, fully enlightened by revelations from his Holy Scriptures". The book predicts:

> …a terrible end for people who do not love the pure truth of God's written Word but prefer to have their ears tickled by the religious lies of these clergy "Gods". (p.322)

However, JWs themselves in the 1950s did "not love the pure truth" and had "their ears tickled by the religious lies". This is proved by the Governing Body still producing books at the time so stupid with in their themes and reasoning that even JWs now don't study them. For example You *May Survive Armageddon* (1955) is based on the idea that 42 stories in the Bible were prophetic, have modern parallel events, and confirm the JWs doctrine of a "great crowd" that will survive Armageddon in the generation of 1914.

WHAT IS TRUTH? (1932)
A booklet by Rutherford.

WHAT PASTOR RUSSELL SAID (1917)
A compilation prepared by L.W. Jones, of questions asked of Russell at public question sessions along with the year in which each question was asked, and the answer Russell gave.

The 1917 printing has 740 pages to the start of the index. A reprint of the book, by the Chicago Bible Students, retains the same page numbering up to page 740, but after that has 112 additional pages.

The questions covered a wide range of topics including congregation matters, the responsibilities of elders and deacons, doctrinal topics such as "the great company" and covenants and resurrection, prophecy, chronology, etc.

For example:

> *Question (1909)—5—If the "Time of the Gentiles" began in October, 606 B. C., will they not end in October, 1915, instead of October, 1914?* (p.75)

> *Question (1914)—1—Do you think the saints will all be sealed by October, 1914, whether they are here or not?* (p.79)

> *Question (1909)—2—How would you explain the fact that several of the brethren thoroughly consecrated are lapsing into insanity, generally shortly before death? How would this "square" with the spirit of a sound mind that we would expect to be pretty well developed by this time?* (p.343)

> *Question (1911)—2—Do you know that the science of geology and archaeology, prove absolutely and conclusively that this earth is not only six thousand years old, but millions of years old; that man's remains have been traced back even beyond the glacial period, which is not less than one hundred and fifty thousand years, and that animal life can be traced back through all period of time?* (p.632

Most of Russell's answers were brief, but the answer to a question on p.79 covers ten pages.

The additional 112 pages in the reprint of the book omit the dates the questions were asked.

The question on page 852 is: "*When will the world come to an end? T.W.L.*" Russell had apparently given up on 1914-1915 when this question was asked as is seen from his conclusion:

> The evidences about us, in the fulfillment of the Scripture prophecies, are clear and strong that **within the next decade**, the new and better order ("the world to come") will be established in the earth.

WHAT PASTOR RUSSELL TAUGHT (1919)

A compilation by L.W. Jones (associate of C.T Russell) of (mainly) *Watchtower* material on the topics:

- Covenants
- Mediator
- Ransom
- Sin Offering
- Atonement

WHAT PASTOR RUSSELL WROTE FOR THE OVERLAND MONTHLY
A book of reproductions of Russell's articles published in the magazine *Overland Monthly* from 1909-1916. Copies are available from the Chicago Bible Students.

WHAT SAY THE SCRIPTURES ABOUT SPIRITISM? (1887)
A 119-page book in which Russell discussed:

- "Psychographs" (an instrument used by mediums to contact the dead)
- Demons, and
- Swedenborgianism.

Russell claimed that deceased people contacted by mediums are evil spirits impersonating the dead.

WHAT YOU NEED (1932)
A booklet by Rutherford with the following claims:

> The Scriptures also indicate that there are millions now living that will not die but will be taken through that trouble and be given an opportunity to obey God and live forever. (p.47)
>
> Those of good will now on earth who do see and who are diligent to perform the requirements of Jehovah will be carried through the battle of Armageddon. Millions of such good people are now on earth, and for this reason it is confidently stated that there are millions now living who will never die. (p.55)

That "millions" in 1932 would survive Armageddon looks like another false prediction

WHEAT
See: *MIRACLE WHEAT*

WHEAT AND WEEDS
Parable of Jesus. (Matthew 13) JWs interpret the wheat as "the 144,000" and the weeds as, "the large crop of…Christendom". (w1960 10/1 607)

WHEELOCK, RICHARD (1915-1990)
A factory overseer who supervised printing presses at Brooklyn headquarters and committed suicide by jumping out of the third-story window of the infirmary.

Speculation is that he was depressed because his wife of 60 years died five years earlier and her death made him realize that the doctrine that many who saw 1914 would never die was false.

Wheelock had worked at headquarters for 50 years, therefore had lived through the false predictions for the 1940s as well as for 1975 and probably knew about 1925.

http://governingbodyletters.blogspot.com/2008/05/richard-wheelock-committed-suicide-at.html

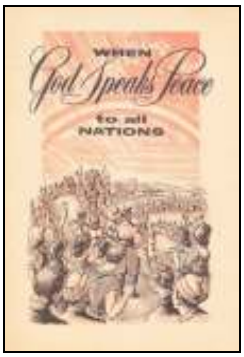
WHEN ALL NATIONS COLLIDE HEAD ON WITH GOD (1971)
Booklet reaffirming 607 BC and 1914 CE, and explaining why all nations were about to perish and only JWs survive.

WHEN GOD IS KING OYER ALL THE EARTH (1963)



A booklet which tells about man's rebellion in Eden, Jesus as Earth's ruler, 1914, Armageddon and paradise on earth.

WHEN GOD SPEAKS PEACE TO ALL NATIONS (1959)



A booklet claiming that:

> Christendom ... has sown the wind; she must reap the whirlwind. (p.13)

This "reaping" occurs at Armageddon, "A war worse than international nuclear warfare" and which, in 1959, was "just ahead." (pp 19, 23)

It claims that:
JWs are already at peace with God. (pp 25-29)
All people "who have not now sued with peace with Him [Jehovah]" will be annihilated, destroyed. (p.30)

WHERE ARE THE DEAD? (1932)
A booklet by Rutherford.

WHERE CAN WE FIND THE ANSWERS TO LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS? (2014)
A tract inviting people to the official JWs website to "Find the Bible's answers."

WHILE THERE IS YET TIME
A phrase used particularly at the ends of articles to motivate the reader to accept what he's just read. (e.g. w1969 7/1 396; w1984 12/15 7; y1985, 65)

People are urged to:

> Flee while there is yet time... It means your very life. (w1982 11/15 5-7)
>
> While there is yet time, let us do all we can! (Australian Kingdom Ministry 1969, November, p.3)

The exhortation, "While there is yet time, let us do all we can!", was nonsense considering that 50 years later JWs could call themselves ministers if they reported only 15 minutes of ministry per month, and in 2023 such time-reporting by all publishers was discontinued. It means that in 1969 there was plenty of time!

WHIRLWIND
In the early 1940s the WTS taught that the King of the North (Daniel 11:36-45) is Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and the Roman Catholic Church. The "whirlwind" in "the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind" (Daniel 11:40) is Hitler's "blitzkrieg". (w1941 12/1 357-358)

WHISTLE-BLOWER
> The term "whistle-blower" has come to describe a venturesome government or corporate employee who exposes high-level-illegalities or abuses… Today many people wish to see justice meted out to those in power who commit illegal acts. But "the system," or any worldly organization, rarely rights the wrong. (w1985 3/15 24)

JWs too have had "whistle-blowers" who exposed JWs cover-ups of false prophecies, doctrinal changes and child sexual abuse.

Such JWs get disfellowshipped (excommunicated) and shunned to stop detrimental information spreading among JWs. In other words: "the system…rarely rights the wrong".
(See: *APOSTATES; CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE; DATES; DEFECTION; ERRORS; SHUNNING)*

WHITE, K.H.C.
A JW female teacher's aide convicted of rape:

> A Delaware judge is allowing a lawsuit against a Jehovah's Witness congregation to continue, but repeated concerns about the constitutionality of the state's law that shields clergy from having to report child abuse disclosed during confessions.
>
> Superior Court Judge Mary M. Johnston issued a 12-page ruling last week in which she refused to dismiss the lawsuit, citing genuine issues that can only be decided at a trial.
>
> Attorney General Matt Denn's office filed a lawsuit against the Laurel Delaware Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in 2014 alleging two elders failed to report to state authorities a sexual relationship between a woman and 14-year-old boy, both of whom were members of the congregation.
>
> The congregation's attorney asserts that the elders were exempt from reporting because of a state law that does not require disclosure when the abuse is disclosed in an attorney-client setting or "that between priest and penitent in a sacramental confession."
>
> Johnston agreed that the exemption "if narrowly interpreted, is unconstitutional on its face" and could violate the prohibition on laws that give preference to any religion. But she then added that the law could potentially be read to apply to all religions, the court ruling said.
>
> The suit arose after a 14-year-old boy disclosed to his mother in January 2013 that he was in a sexual relationship

with Katheryn Harris Carmean White, a fellow member of the congregation and a teacher's aide at Seaford Middle School, court documents said.

The boy and his mother met with elders at the religious hall that same day, and the elders said they would speak with Carmean White regarding the allegations, the suit said. Four days later, the elders met with Carmean White, but did not call the state abuse hotline, according to the suit.

She was arrested in February 2013 and admitted to authorities that she had sex with the boy about 40 times over a 10-month period. She was convicted of third-degree rape, fourth-degree rape and child endangerment, and is serving a six-year prison sentence.

https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2016/02/04/judge-gives- green-light-child-abuse-reporting-suit/79832066/.htm

WHITE HORSE Revelation 6:2
Interpreted in 1917 as representing apostolic doctrines. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 107) The rider of the white horse was "the personal representative of Satan." (p106)

These "truths" were altered in 1930. The white horse now represented righteous warfare. The rider, formerly the "personal representative of Satan", became Jesus!

WHITEWASH
The WTS claims that among JWs: "Senseless and unprincipled ones are never whitewashed."

In reality JWs suffer from endless "whitewashing" of false prophecies and doctrinal flip-flops published by their "senseless and unprincipled" leaders. The whitewashing has gone in for more than 150 years!

In connection with this see: *HISTORY; TRUTH; BIBLE; EXCUSES; DATES; FINISHED MYSTERY, THE; KINGDOMS*)

WHO IS GOD? (1932)
A booklet by Rutherford.

WHY I LEFT JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES. See: *DENCHER, TED*

WILD BEAST(S)
Human governments under the control of Satan the Devil.

The wild beast out of the abyss is the League of Nations, and then later the United Nations organization, according to Watchtower interpretations of Revelation 17:8.

The wild beast out of the sea is the world-wide political system of human governments under the control of Satan the Devil, according to Watchtower interpretations of Revelation, chapter 13.

The two-horned wild beast is the Anglo-American world power, the alleged de facto combine of Britain and the United States.

WILL AND TESTAMENT of CHARLES TAZE RUSSELL
Reproduced in wr1916 12/1) and in the Appendix of *Crisis of Conscience.* Most of the clauses of the Will and Testament were rejected by Rutherford in the 1920s, even though Russell was still considered to be the "faithful and wise servant" who spoke and wrote for God.

WILLIAMS, DALE SPENCER(1948-)
A Tlinget Indian in Alaska, born out of wedlock, abandoned by his mother, and raised by grandparents.

He tells his story on the Internet, describing injustices he experienced and what attracted him to JWs at the age of 16:

> "I was taken in by their love bombing. At the first meeting 26 people came up to me smiling and shaking my hand… Little did I realize that this … lasted only until baptism."

He was baptized in 1967 and considered attending college: "My Jehovah's Witness friends however told me how foolish this would be since The End was so close."

Beginning with losing his job to attend a convention Williams narrates guilt trips, unfairness, insensitivity, and injustices JWs imposed on him over the next 30 years which eventually convinced him (and the wife he married in 1981) to leave JWs in 1998.

WILLIAMS, VENUS (1980-) & SERENA (1981 -)
Women's doubles champions in the 2012 London Olympics, who were raised as JWs. Their mother, Oracene, was baptized in 1984 but their father, Richard, did not join.

Serena won four Olympic gold medals in tennis and "often thanks Jehovah after winning matches."

Venus also remains an active JW and is considered: "one of the all-time greats of women's tennis."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serena_Williams

WILLICK, W.
The Star (Phoenix) reported:

> A former elder of the Jehovah's Witnesses Lakeview church pleaded guilty Wednesday to sexual exploitation of a teenage girl who was a member of the same congregation.
>
> Wendell Willick, 47 … admitted he touched the teenager with his hands and penis over a three-year period…
>
> The complainant, now 25, was 14 when the offences began… (September 18, 2007)

Other reports place the offending in Saskatoon and say that the 14-year-old girl was on a weekend pass from the psychiatric ward when Willick had sexual intercourse with her the first time.

(www.canada.com/reginaleaderpost/news/story.html?id=ad03cda7-a1dc-4294-b213-809d05d10862)

In the Willick case JWs elders apparently ignored the usual JWs procedure still in place at the time to cover up the crime and they instead cooperated with police investigation.

WILLINGLY
In the 1980s JWs leaders made numerous requests for money, free labor on building projects, and greater proselytizing effort. Applying Psalm 110:3 they reminded their followers that their sacrifices are made "willingly".

To give willingly is said to be "wise" because it is to "Jehovah's praise" and because Armageddon is "impending" and will render money worthless. "Willingly" and synonyms thereof such as "willing service", "willing volunteers", "make yourself available", "self sacrificing spirit", etc. have occurred up to twelve times on a page. (w1984 5/1 17-22; w1984 12/1 21-24)

Such phrases are backed up with statements that persons who obey are "happy" and "joyous". JWs leaders imply and suggest that giving money and labor is of particular importance "at this late date".

The psychology behind this is that the more a person has sacrificed the harder it will be for him to admit he was deceived. And the busier someone is kept the less opportunity he has to think up awkward questions.

To stress "willingness" is also important because about 50% of JWs eventually defect. This amounts to a lot of angry "sheep" resentful at having had the wool pulled over their eyes and having been financially fleeced. By stressing "willingness" the leaders shield against possible compensation claims. To such angry sheep they can say, "You offered yourself willingly without compulsion."

This raises philosophical and legal questions of what "willingness" is. Many JWs would act otherwise if not misled by the leaders. If actions are motivated by belief in endlessly repeated falsehoods such as "only JWs understand the Bible" are the victims' actions truly willing?

WILLING WORKER
Anyone who works for the WTS for free (or for a small allowance) and believes he's working for Jehovah.

WILL OF GOD
Any command or request by the Governing Body and/or the WTS is considered by JWs as the will of God.

WILSON, BENJAMIN
Christadelphian producer of the interlinear (bilingual) New Testament called *The Diaglott*.

In Matthew 24 it renders the Greek word *parousia* as "presence" instead of "coming" as most other English Bibles render it, and this moved Nelson Barbour to explain Christ's non-coming in 1873-1875 as an invisible presence that began in 1874.

WILSON, DIANE
Author of *Awakening of A Jehovah's Witness: Escape From The Watchtower Society* (2002, Prometheus).

Diane Wilson describes her 23 years as a JW. The chapter headings are:
1 Groomed To Be A Victim
2 Hooked
3 Abusive Love
4 The Watchtower Society Plays God
5 "You Shall Know My Disciples By The Love They Show"

6 Excuses, Excuses, Excuses
7 Truth or Consequences
8 The Rubber Band Cycle
9 My Struggle to Stay In the Organization
10 Awakening
11 Compassion
12 My Struggle to Get Out of the Organization
13 Hiding Behind A Screen
14 Leaving The Guidebook Behind
15 The Vision
16 The Shoe Fits: A Cultlike Organization
17 Now You See It, Now You Don't: False Prophecies
18 Playing Follow-The-Leader: Zigzagging Doctrines That Affect Lives
19 The Guise of Spiritual Authority
20 Codependency Held Me Hostage
21 The Illusion of Choice: Mind Control
22 The Final Hurdles
23 The Last Straw: Rape
24 Escape!

Wilson was a struggling single mother from an abusive family background, isolated and vulnerable, when JWs found her. After being baptized in 1968 she married a fellow member who became an elder. She got baptized due to being "frightened" because of Armageddon predicted for 1975, and because she was showered with friendly attention including free babysitting for her child (which stopped after baptism).

Her book goes into the JWs rejection of celebrations such as Christmas; their opposition to friendships with non-Witnesses; theocratic warfare (which refers to members lying to non-members to furthers the Organization's interests); past medical doctrines (e.g. forbidding vaccinations); disfellowshipping (which involves shunning or treating someone as non-existent); false prophecies; elders with more power over people's lives than any ministers in churches; "spying" to identify and report anyone with doubts; and how JWs are stopped from reading older WTS publications.

Diane Wilson's daughter tried to leave JWs simply by staying away from them. But she got cornered when a "good personal friend" made up a lie (i.e. used "theocratic war strategy") to meet with her, and the elders were there and confronted her.

Wilson's husband refused to read her book but became inactive and also filed for divorce.

WINDER, JEFFREY
Governing Body member appointed in January 2023.

- Winder was raised in Murrieta, California, U.S.A. by JWs parents;
- Baptized in 1986 and regular pioneer in October;
- Invited to serve at Wallkill facility of JWs in 1990;
- Married his wife, Angela, in 1997;
- 2014 Transferred to Warwick to help in the construction of the new world headquarters;
- 2016 Moved to the Patterson facility and worked in Audio/Video Services;
- 2020 Moved back to Warwick and got assigned to the Personnel Committee Office;
- 2022 Assigned as helper to the Personnel Committee of the Governing Body.

WIRELESS. See: *RADIO*

WISCHUCK, JOHN (c.1920s-)
A senior member of the Brooklyn Writing Department. Wischuck was single but wrote many of the *Awake!/Watchtower* articles about marriage, children and education in the 1980s.

Barbara Andersen comments: "Yes, a man who was not married was giving advice about marriage; A man who did not engage in sexual relations was helping to create policies about intimate behavior; A man who never reared children was giving advice about child rearing."
(www.freeminds.org/bethel/writing_dept.htm)

Andersen says Wischuck also authored *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*. (1959)

WISE IN HIS OWN CONCEITS
A Rutherford description of people who queried the current so-called "truth" taught in the cult he led, particularly ministers and rabbis. (e.g. w1927 11/15 338)

WISE MEN, THE
In the JWs viewpoint the Christmas story of the three wise men is the story of a Satanic plot. The evil astrologers were led by the Devil to find the baby Jesus to have the Christ-child killed.

WITNESS
As a noun Witness is short for Jehovah's Witness.
As a verb, not capitalized, "to witness" means speaking to nonmembers about the JWs faith.

Witnesses of Jehovah — a variation of the name Jehovah's Witnesses.

WITNESSES
Abbreviation of "Jehovah's Witnesses":

WITNESSES FOR FREEDOM
One of hundreds of ministries started in the 1990s targeting or helping JWs. The founder Renee Halley was reported in *The Northern Light* (1994 June):

> The purpose of Witnesses for Freedom is to help and educate families and individuals who are affected by false religion—to teach Christians about the dangers of cults, to equip churches to defend the faith against cults and false religion, to train children and adults to recognize cults and cult propaganda, and to help those coming out of cults to develop a strong understanding of Christianity and a growing relationship with Christ…
>
> I became a Jehovah's Witness when I was about 10. I was raised in a house where my mother was nothing and my father was an atheist. When I had this free Bible study, we sat down and it was like learning history. I had never heard of Noah or Jonah. I studied until I was 16.
>
> One of the most important things you learn as a Jehovah's Witness is that salvation comes from knowledge. The more you have, the greater your chances of surviving God's day of wrath. When I was 16 my workload became too hard, and I wasn't keeping up with my Bible study.
>
> The average Witness Studies five hours a week and puts in five hours of service. When I didn't put in enough hours and wasn't learning fast enough, they disfellowshipped me. When that happens, no one in the church is allowed to talk to you any longer…
>
> The organization is the mother through which knowledge comes to you, and without that knowledge you cannot get into paradise…
>
> Life for children is very difficult. Witness children have to leave during Birthday parties, can't sing patriotic songs or the national anthem, can't sign their constitution test—if you are of this world, you are of Satan, and particularly where the government is concerned.
>
> You are kept so busy in the organization, you never have time to doubt or to check. You are constantly trying to earn your place.
>
> One of the greatest ways Jehovah's Witnesses are appealing to people who are already Christians is by taking advantage of loneliness by meeting their needs. A family moves to a new town, and the wife has two children. They ring her doorbell and say, "I see you're having trouble with your child. Why don't you come to a meeting tonight. We're talking about that."…
>
> By the time she figures it out, there is no honorable way out of the organization. When I was disfellowshipped, I felt I had died. When I found out it was a false prophet and a cult, it was like I woke up and read a paper that said Jehovah was dead. Now I didn't know anything. I was back where I was when I was 10. And I was more afraid because I had been taught that Christianity was wrong…

WITNESSES NOW FOR JESUS CONVENTION
An annual coming-together of ex JWs and people in ministries that expose JWs. The conventions were started in 1979; held each autumn at Blue Mountains Christian Retreat in Pennsylvania; and were hosted until 2011 by Joan Cetnar.
http://wnfj-v2.com

WITNESSES OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT (1934)
A critique of JWs by G.S. Lloyd. The booklet's title is based on Revelation 9:1-11.

JWs interpret the "locusts" from the bottomless pit in Revelation 11 as JWs, but some other religions interpret the locusts as the demons.

WITNESSING
The process of disseminating the WTS religion. Since the 1930s the official reason for witnessing is to serve notice of Armageddon and to gather potential survivors into the Organization. (w1977 10/15 632)

In 1876 Nelson Barbour convinced Russell that genuine Christians would ascend miraculously to heaven in 1878. This and other prophecies provided a sense of urgency and a reason for preaching. Russell and his associate John Paton preached in parks, streets and outside churches.

When the prophecies for 1878 failed, Russell put the miraculous ascent off to 1881. The shortness of time again implied the necessity for vigorous advertising. This in turn was assisted by creation of new facilities such as meeting places, publication of a magazine and established arrangements for meetings.

This pattern repeated itself through many subsequent prophecy failures. Prophetic dates implied witnessing; witnessing required publications to distribute; when prophecy failed it implied the time was nevertheless short; shortness of time implied new facilities and new procedures and renewed witnessing; and the renewed effort required new publications and new prophetic deadlines. In this way the emphasis on preaching, selling books and witnessing grew out of false prophecy and was sustained by false prophecy.

Russell introduced door-to-door work for selected followers in 1881 after Christian ministers opposed the sale of his books in bookstores. Followers who were not authorized colporteurs were urged to offer books as circumstances permitted. Approved methods included discussions with individuals, open-air preaching to crowds, "dropping a word" during conversations, offering Russell's books to acquaintances, and paying others to go door to door. (w1881 July-August pp 1-2) Everyone who attended meetings, colporteurs and non-colporteurs, was urged to distribute tracts. (wr1896 12/1 2077)

Russell's aims in getting his followers to sell his books were to:

- "Harvest" the saints, which referred to getting more people into his cult;
- Sell more of his books;
- Keep his followers busy, too busy to engage in mischief:

> The church of god should give its entire attention and effort to preaching the Kingdom of God, and to the advancement of the interests of that Kingdom according to the plan laid down in the Scriptures. If this is faithfully done, there will be no time nor disposition to dabble in the politics of present governments. (Studies I, 267)

Under Rutherford the witnessing of 1917-1918 consisted of provocative denunciation of Christendom and announcing its destruction for 1918-22. As a result the Russellites experienced mobbings, imprisonments and beatings, *The Finished Mystery* was banned, Rutherford imprisoned, and the cult's influence reduced.

When Rutherford restarted operations in 1919, after his release from prison, witnessing was initially peaceful and optional: "If your talents and opportunities permit no more active service for the truth than such Godly living and suffering therefore, rejoice!" (Peoples Pulpit 1919, July 1, p.3, Column 2)

This initial choose-for-yourself policy was a deceptive cloak. It reduced internal opposition to Rutherford until his authority was secure and the majority of Russellites won over.

However, Rutherford had goals that could not be accomplished by Godly or stay-at-home living. He wanted to destroy religious and political authority in "Christendom" and replace it with the WTS! (See: *GOAL*)

Russell had advocated tact and mildness:

> …simply to find fault with matters which others are as powerless to correct as we ourselves is worse than useless, because it merely produces unhappiness, vexation, etc., without accomplishing desired results.
> (Studies VI, 607; wr1916 11/1 5980)

Rutherford argued that gentleness was proper prior to 1918. But since 1919 God's vengeance had to be declared. That is why Armageddon did not occur in 1920, he argued, but delayed — so that God's judgment might be proclaimed.

Rutherford became ever more insistent that every Russellite and every new follower make every effort to distribute WTS tracts, booklets and books. In 1927 compulsory Sunday witnessing was introduced. In 1930 the proclamation of "God's vengeance", initially directed at Christendom, was widened out: "…to the ends of the earth and to every part of Satan's organization." (Preservation 1932, 153)

In 1925 Rutherford's prediction of world-takeover by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob failed. His excuse was that God delayed matters again so that the Jews could read his book *Comfort For The Jews* (1925) and be informed that their time had come to restore the promised land. In 1931 Rutherford discarded this restoration doctrine and soon declared it to be false doctrine.

Such prophecy failures and doctrinal revisions were why Rutherford stressed witnessing ever more strongly. Witnessing was necessary for his goal, necessary to keep disappointed followers too busy to complain, necessary to replace followers

who defected, and necessary to channel internal dispute outwards.

Inactive followers (i.e. non-door-knocking) who wanted merely to attend meetings began to be described as "slackers", "disobedient", "suckers", "hindrance", "conceited", "wicked", "against God", "blind", "facing destruction", "selfish", etc:

> The Bible Students believe that the only reason for their being on earth at this time, and the only excuse for the existence of their organization, is that they might be witnesses that Jehovah is God and his kingdom is at hand. (Yearbook 1928, 12; Reconciliation 1928, 261)

> The fact is that indifferent Christians not only themselves do nothing, but are a hindrance to what could be done; and therefore it is better that they go away. (Yearbook 1928, 95)

> No man could be faithful to Jehovah now and fail or refuse to declare God's vengeance against every part of Satan's Organization. Those who don't are completely blind. (w1933 5/1 132-133)

Rutherford demanded 60 hours minimum per month from publishers. (See: *QUOTAS*) Witnessing became a polemic/denouncing work of serving notice. (Government 1928, 279) All other organizations were considered instruments of Satan and had to be "tormented" by means of WTS publications prior to their destruction.

Rutherford's followers soon heaped insults and accusations upon unsuspecting house-holders to such an extent that even Rutherford began to urge restraint:

> ...the friends are gradually learning to be more tactful in giving their witness. In the past, many have thought it necessary to be somewhat harsh and unkind.... (w1932 1/1 14)

The more "tactful" approach still often included calling Christian ministers "dumb dogs" and telling people, "You are of the Devil." (See: *CRITICISM; VITUPERATION; DUMB DOGS*) Unsuspecting householders had pamphlets pushed onto them that called their church a whore and their faith a racket.

Many JWs went witnessing while drunk. (See: *CHARACTER*) Others spoke like a "wound up spring" (Yearbook 1983, 62) and shouted householders down. Foot-in-the-door techniques were common. Some JWs even broke into houses to make people listen. (Manwaring, 1962) To **make them listen** was the basic idea. Any method, whether irritating, annoying or aggressive, was OK. And to spur the publishers on most *Watchtower* editions in the 1930s mentioned Armageddon and its nearness.

From 1933 weekly witnessing campaigns were sometimes synchronized in up to 80 countries. (Yearbook 1935, 44) Also there was mass use of provocative placards. (Yearbook 1983, 71) Sound machines — 20kg record players — on which records of Rutherford's speeches were played, were lugged house to house and turned up in volume whenever people slammed doors or moved away. "Sound cars" cruised the streets: "In one year almost every street in Melbourne resounded with stirring exposures of false religion." (Yearbook 1983, 66)

It was especially the sound cars and the sound machines that stirred up riots (Yearbook 1983, 66-69), eventually thousands of riots and mobbings. Occasionally JWs shot attacking rioters (in the USA) with shotguns. (Manwaring 1962)

Rutherford announced "the fight is on" and introduced militaristic terminology such as "attack", "battle", "sharpshooter", "war", "war equipment", "prisoners", "front", "time of war", "army", "victory", "fight", "strategy", "enemy". To disturb and stir up communities apathetic or opposed to JWs he organized car squads to swarm in at dawn, leave a tract at every door, and flee before the police arrived.

Relatively mild methods were also used. One was a testimony card handed to householders to read. Another was pavement witnessing. There were also signs, lighted or printed, for display in windows or on rooftops. All these methods were proclaimed to be "the Lord's commandment" and the "commandment of Almighty God." (Preparation 1933, 136-137; Religion 1940, 116-117, 119, 127, 130)

JWs were told ever more frequently that if they didn't preach they would die: "God … tells his witnesses in plain phrase that if they fail to give warning, as commanded, they shall suffer destruction." (w1942 1/1 10)

Severity lightens/diminishes

After Rutherford himself suffered destruct-tion by dying in 1942 his successors, Knorr and Franz, moved to end bad language and drunkenness in witnessing:

> 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… Those engaged in the field service, therefore, should...employ proper language. It is wholly inconsistent for a representative of the Lord to carry a chip on his shoulder and walk up to a person and say: "You are of the Devil's organization. (w1942 7/1 206)

Door-step sermons of three to eight minutes were introduced in 1943. Meetings began to emphasize ability at finding Bible passages. Abusive speech toward householders gradually gave way to "theocratic tact". When the number of JWs became too great to keep all busy at selling books and leaving tracts, the Bible Study and Sermon Work gained momentum. Time and energy of JWs were further drained by preparing for conventions, building "Trailer cities" at conventions, and by "rooming hunts" for convention delegates. Propaganda films were also made and widely shown.

Under Rutherford's rule discussion with evolutionists was "an insult to Jehovah God" and constituted "violating this scripture". (Reconciliation 1928, 49-61) Discussion with evolutionists was banned: "…it becomes the duty of the Christian to refuse to consider the man made evidence offered by so called "scientists"." (w1932 6 /1 173) Also:

> Why would anyone who believes God and believes that the Bible is his Word of Truth waste time listening to or entering into a discussion of a theory of evolution of man? To enter into a discussion as to whether or not the moon made itself from green cheese is foolishness. (w1931 8/15 252)

Under the next WTS president, however, it became alright, to "insult Jehovah God" and "violate this scripture" and discuss whether "the moon made itself from green cheese"!

Russell had asserted that Matthew 24:14 was fulfilled in the Bible-translating and distributing work of the Bible Societies. (Studies I, 91) In 1913 he extended this interpretation to include his boat trip around the world and the activities of his followers. (Convention Report 1913, 35)

Rutherford extended the interpretation of Matthew 24:14 further to include the "denunciation work" that he organized9 in the 1920s. In 1935 another extension was made so that Matthew 24:14 included the gathering of the "great multitude" into the JWs Organization.

In 1973 JWs heard that the preaching must be done in all nations "without exception", and in 1983 that the message must go to "all inhabitants" of the earth at least in printed form. (Yearbook 1983, 23) It extending and widening the meaning of Matthew 24:14 continues it could include the subjugation of the entire world to the WTS hierarchy!

JWs distinguish their door to door method from the clergy method: "whose way requires the people to come to religious edifices to hear preaching from a pulpit..." (The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 314) However, JWs leaders and elders also preach in religious edifices but call them "Kingdom halls" and "Assembly halls" and "require people to come to these edifices".

Function and benefit

Witnessing has many functions in addition to making converts and giving warning. It absorbs time and energy that might otherwise go into research and study. Constant repetition of one's beliefs, winning arguments against unprepared house-holders, and experiencing righteous indignation when householders criticize, promotes in-group cohesion among JWs and channels bad feeling outwards. The WTS therefore gives:

> good straightforward counsel about putting aside personal differences and getting on with the really important work of preaching the good news. (Yearbook 1983, 164)
>
> Thus, one of the best ways to enlarge and strengthen our faith, and to be able to stand firm, is to put forth earnest efforts toward inculcating faith in others… To the extent that unselfish love keeps us busy in the service and worship of Jehovah, to that extent we will be impervious to Satan's attacks. (w1984 10/15 pp 18 -19)

Witnessing:

- Distracts from "money positions, glittering entertainment, worldly lusts and vanities" (w1950 9/1 302);
- Protects from the world (w1981 5/15 16);
- Proves God is with them (United in Worship… 1983, 119);
- Crowds out "fleshly desires", suppresses worry and complaints while promoting joy. (w1984 11/15 24-25).
- Constitutes "proof" and "evidence" that the end is near. (w1974 1/15 37)

Also:

> …its tremendous success shows that it has God's approval. (w1983 2/1 24)
>
> Their world-wide witness since then has been the most plain-speaking evidence that the kingdom of heaven is

at hand. (The Kingdom is at Hand 1944, 307)

…they can put in hours in the field service and thus prove their integrity. (w1940 2/15 55)

Reflecting on what has been accomplished this past year in expanding the Kingdom proclamation, we freely confess that it was only possible because Jehovah gave his people guidance and direction... (Yearbook 1983, 32)

The argument that book selling and preaching proves God is in charge was already used by Rutherford to persuade the Russellites to sell his book *The Finished Mystery*. (wr1918 1/1 6194)

Witnessing is done by, "All who really love God..." (Religion 1940, 181)

By going witnessing JWs:

- …prove that they are zealous and loyal supporters of God's Kingdom.
- (w1985 3/1 24)
- …demonstrate their love for Jehovah God and Jesus Christ. (w1985 3 /1 21)
- …show their love for others. (w1985 3 /15 23)
- …build for the future [since] this world has no future. (w1984 1/15 21)
- …prove...faithfulness. (w1984 6/1 17)

Witnessing also demonstrates "maturity":

Often a new or immature publisher will want to stop after an hour of telling the good news, but the mature companion should encourage him to keep on. (Kingdom Ministry 1958, May)

Those who don't preach will die. Rutherford stressed this point in the 1930s and it is still stressed. JWs must preach or die:

A person can know the truth that leads to an earthly paradise; he can be living a morally upright life; he can be associating with God's organization; yet he may not be in line to receive life as a citizen of God's righteous new system. What is missing? The person must also be an advocate of the truth. He must be a Kingdom preacher! (w1983 2/15 15; w1983 2/1 26

Articles urging "intensified service" and "exceptional activity" (w1984 6/1 17) often include the arousing line "while there is yet time" or "we are a long way into that generation" or a similar reminder.

As their Organization spreads over the globe the leaders boasted of its size and scope:

- …the most widespread preaching campaign in the history of the world. (w1971 8/1 469)
- The largest thoroughly unified activity on earth. (g1971 9/22 3)
- …the greatest preaching and teaching work ever done. (w1972 10/1 605)
- …the greatest publicity campaign in history. (g1972 10/8 16)
- …the greatest campaign of enlightenment of all human history. (w1975 11/1 658)
- …the most extensive evangelizing work ever. (w1981 2/1 20)
- …the mightiest preaching activity ever to be conducted on this earth! (w1984 2/1 14)

Success in converting the unwary is how the leaders convince themselves that despite thousands of theological flip-flops, it is still "God's truth". They call the scope of witnessing a "sign", a "modern miracle" (Matthew 7:22) accomplished in "Jehovah's power".

The main power, however, lies in advertising. Each conversion in the late 21st century cost on average 5,000 hours of preaching.

Comparison

Sometimes it's suggested that the Organization's mighty witness exceeds the combined efforts of: "Christendom's nearly one billion members, each one doing what is right in his own eyes." (Yearbook 1983, 257)

Such boasts are exaggerations. In 1980 the United Bible Societies distributed 440 million copies of the Scriptures; the JWs printed a mere 15 million not in one year but from 1942-68! A Korean based organization headed by Johnny Lee, cooperating with 400 denominations, reached one million homes with literature every day in 1968 and by 1981 neared 3 million per day. (I Survived A Communist Slaughter 1981, pp 67-80) Gospel Recordings distribute tapes on Christian topics in 4,000 languages. JWs publications in the 1980s were printed in about 200 languages. Just the Seventh Day Adventists, in the 1990s, distributed literature in 1,000 languages. Christianity grew at 20 million per year in the 1990s but JWs at only about ¼ million per year. Comparisons could go on but the point is made.

WITNESSING STOPPED
Since the 1930s the WTS has predicted a forced, global suppression of the Witness work just prior to Armageddon. (Yearbook 1968, 24) In the 1930s Rutherford taught this would be the "sign of Armageddon" and regularly claimed it was almost upon them. This was a way of stimulating anxiety among followers which they eased or worked off by more proselytizing.

WITNESS TO ALL NATIONS (Matthew 24:14)

> This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

According to Russell Matthew 24:14 was fulfilled in the translating and distributing work of Bible Societies. (Studies I, 91) This interpretation was expanded in 1913 to include Russell's world trip. (Convention Report 1913, 35) It was reinterpreted and extended again to refer to the *Millions* message of 1919 which predicted paradise on earth in 1925:

> In the year 1919 many of the Bible students … again assembled together and with united action went forth to proclaim the message, "The World Has Ended—Millions Now Living Will Never Die," clearly in fulfillment of the words of the Master in the text last above quoted. (The Harp of God 1921, 248)

The *Millions* message centered on the "ancient worthies" such as Abraham and Moses who would be resurrected and rule the world in 1925 i.e. "within the next few years":

> Therefore it is reasonable to expect them to be back on earth within the next few years. They will constitute the legal representatives of the Christ in the earth. (The Harp of God 1921, 340)

This implied that the "witness unto all nations" would be completed in 1925.

After these ideas failed the interpretation of Matthew 24:14 was further extended to include:
1. Rutherford's denunciation work;
2. Converting of the "great crowd";
3. Preaching in all "nations without exception";
4. Getting the Organization's literature to all people everywhere.

The interpretation of Matthew 24:14 is being stretched or extended to include more and bigger goals as each deadline is reached and prophecies of global paradise fail. Whether this "carrot on the stick" process, where fantasies of Armageddon and paradise are the "carrot", could lead to world rule by the WTS remains speculative. (See: *GOAL*)

WOMAN (Genesis 3)

> "I [God] will put enmity between you [the serpent] and **the woman**, and between your offspring and hers..." (Genesis 3:15)

The eleven occurrences of the word "woman" in Genesis 2 & 3, including nine times "**the** woman" clearly refer to Eve.

JWs, however, believe that one instance, Genesis 3:15, refers to a "woman" identified thousands of years later and who is not even a woman but a "symbolic woman":

> Logically, the "woman" of God's prophecy would be one who was alive and was listening when God spoke to "the original serpent" in Eden. The symbolic "woman" would live on long after the death of Eve, yes, down till God's own time to have the "woman" bring forth the promised "seed", which proved to be more than 3,000 years after Eve's death. So, who could this symbolic "woman" be but God's own "woman," that is to say, his heavenly organization of holy spirit creatures who refused to join "the original serpent" in rebellion? (w1980 4/1 19)

WOMAN DRUNK WITH BLOOD (Revelation 17:6)
This verse, according to Rutherford, referred to Catholicism. (Religion 1940, 350) Franz reinterpreted the drunk woman as "false religion".

WOMEN
Until 1958 JWs took literally Paul's instruction, "women should be silent in the churches". (1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11) This meant that JWs females missed out on public-speaking training at Kingdom Hall meetings. In 1958 the procedure of having two women on the platform address each other, thus not directly addressing the "brothers" in the audience, was introduced. Although this is not "silence in the churches" it was considered acceptable.

WOODWORTH, C. J. (1870-1951)
Clayton J. Woodworth helped compile *Berean Bible Teachers'* Manual (1909); assisted with *The Finished Mystery* (1917);

was imprisoned with Rutherford in 1918; and edited *The Golden Age* (renamed *Consolation* in 1937) from 1919 to 1946.



Born in New York in 1870 Woodworth was an editor and textbook writer before joining Russellism. An advertisement in *American Education*, Volume 10, 1906, p.488 says:

> "UNDERHILL'S RAPID PHONOGRAPHY", taught through correspondence at your own Homes.
> Clayton J. Woodworth, seven years Asst. Gen. Manager of International Correspondence Schools, an Underhill graduate, $3,600 salary.
> UNDERHILL'S BUSINESS INSTITUTE, ROCHESTER, N.Y. Free sample

Woodworth became a member at Russellism's Brooklyn headquarters in 1912.

Demon possessed

The following description in *The Finished Mystery* (1917) of demonic possession is based on Woodworth's personal experience:

> Have you enjoyed this work so far? Are you convinced it is of the Lord—prepared under His guidance? Have you carefully and prayerfully read the comments on Rev. 7:1? [i.e. pages 123-124] Then brace yourself for the truth that it is evidently God's purpose soon to allow the minds of many of His little ones to become an open battle ground, upon which the fallen angels shall be judged, and the manner in which we meet the tests will prove our worthiness of crowns at the same time that it proves these disobedient spirits unworthy of life on any plane. This is something with which some but not many are yet familiar… Without actual experience it is quite impossible to conceive of the intensity of such struggles as are here indicated. The base of the brain is seized as in a vise. Interpretations of Scripture, ingenious, but misleading beyond description, are projected into the mind as water might be projected through a hose. Visions may be tried, wonderful illuminations of the mind as by a soft but glorious greenish or yellowish haze. Seductive suggestions may be made, based on circumstances of the environment. Offers of inspiration may be made. The privilege of sleep may be taken away for days at a stretch. All this with the object of forcing the unfortunate into at least a temporary insanity so as to destroy his influence, and if possible, his faith in God. Failing in all other attempts, the mind may be flooded with thoughts that are vile beyond description. THEN REMEMBER THE VOW. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 126-127)

At a Russellite convention in Ashville, North Carolina in 1913 Woodworth addressed the audience about the "Vow" that Russell wanted all followers to take:

> I WISH to speak to you of something that I certainly never intended mentioning at this convention. I presume you have all taken the vow, but perhaps some of you have not.

Woodworth stated that he had initially opposed the vow as something Russell made up contrary to the Bible. He went on:

> There was a time for five consecutive nights when I never slept a wink; then came a time when the strain was too much; my mind became unbalanced, and I came directly under the influence of evil spirits, so much so that for three days I was as completely under demonical control as was Mrs. Eddy when she wrote "Science and Health"....
>
> Previous to this time I had prepared a 36-page book against the Vow, printed in double column, in which all scriptures which seemed to be directly or indirectly against the Vow were arranged. I know now that all these Scriptures were suggested to my mind by the evil spirits…
>
> Until this time I had never settled in my own mind that Brother Russell was "That Servant."... I never settled the matter until I yielded and took the Vow which he advised all the Lord's saints to take... I firmly believe that this "ribband in blue" is the Vow and inspired of God... (Convention Report 1913, 274-275)

The "riband in blue" (Numbers 15:38) were blue cords attached to Israelites' garments. No JWs today or any other religion believe that the blue cords referred to the Russellite Vow or regard this silly interpretation as "inspired".

Identifying Russell as "that servant", which Woodworth claimed to have "settled", joined hundreds of other Russell-era doctrines and interpretations that were revised or discarded in the 1920s-1940s.

Medical quackery

In *The Golden Age* and *Consolation* magazines Woodworth as editor grafted a lot of medical quackery into the cult's other dubious "Bible truth". Woodworth's quackery probably contributed to many deaths until the 1950s when JWs gradually abandoned it. He, for example, campaigned against vaccinations for 25 years with claims such as:

> The life is in the blood, and as vaccination is a direct injection of animal matter in the blood stream, vaccination is a direct violation of the law of Jehovah God. (g1935 4/24 471)

Such comment may have been Frederick Franz's original inspiration for the WTS's ban on blood transfusions in 1944.

Many informed ex-JWs believe that *The Golden Age* contained so much negative stereotyping of Christian churches, so much pseudo medical comment, and so much false prophecy (including the "millions" prophecy for 1925) that Woodworth was indeed, as he virtually admitted, demonized.

Director and coward

Woodworth also served as a director in the JWs New York Corporation, People's Pulpit Association, and Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

He was a coward afraid to question any false prophecy or any revision in doctrine no matter how senseless it was. Russell had defined the last generation before Armageddon as starting in 1799, later changed to 1878. In the 1940s when new "truth" fixed on 1914 and asserted that people living in 1914 would live to see Armageddon, Woodworth did not declare "We preached similar nonsense before" but instead again went along with it.

Woodworth's Cousin

One of the largest organized breakaway groups from WTS/JWs control is the Dawn Bible Students.

In 1928, Norman Woodworth, cousin of Clayton J. Woodworth, left the WTS after having been in charge of its radio ministry.

Norman Woodworth funded by Brooklyn Bible Students created the radio program *Frank and Ernest*. In 1931 he and supporters founded the Dawn Bible Students Association to publish Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures* which the WTS had stopped printing in 1927.

The Dawn Bible Students numbered about 50,000 worldwide in the 1980s.

C.J. Woodworth died unrepentant

Clayton Woodworth died at 81 in December 1951, and the JWs leaders officially cancelled the anti-vaccination doctrine the following year. He died still loyal to the JWs sect and unrepentant, and was buried "at the burial plot of the Bethel family adjoining the WTS Radio Station WBBR on Staten Island, New York." (w1952 2/15 128)

See: BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS; *DATES*; *FINISHED MYSTERY*; *GOLDEN AGE*; *MEDICAL QUAKERY*; *VACCINATIONS*; *VOW*)

WORD OF GOD

A phrase which refers both to the Bible and to the interpretations of JWs leaders — Russell, Rutherford, Franz, and the Governing Body:

> Because they hear not God, they heed not the Word of God when brought to them by his servants. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 382)

> But Pastor Russell never refrained from speaking or publishing the Word of God. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 390)

WORD SUBSTITUTIONS

To help make JWs distinct from other religions, facilitate indoctrination, and maintain separateness, the leaders introduced a lot of alternative wording. For example:

- Bulletin board — Information board
- Church — Kingdom Hall
- Collection — Contribution
- Cross — Torture stake
- Deacon — Ministerial servant
- Donations — Contributions
- Evangelist — Evangelizer
- Excommunication — Disfellowshipping
- Hierarchy — Positions of responsibility

• Holy Communion	Memorial
• Holy Spirit	Active force
• Hymnbook	Songbook
• Hymns	Songs
• New Testament	Greek Scriptures
• Old Testament	Hebrew Scriptures
• Ordained	Appointed
• Orchestra	Music department
• Pastor	Presiding elder
• Pew	Seats/Seating
• Preacher	Speaker
• Pulpit	Platform
• Saints	Holy ones
• Sermon	Public Talk
• Usher	Attendant

Church/biblical words that the JWs have retained include "God", "prayer", "meeting", "congregation", "minister", and "missionary". Some substitute words were tried out but eventually discontinued such as "grease" for "anoint", "breath" for "spirit" and "older man" for elder".

WORD, THE
Jesus Christ in his prehuman role as God's first creation selected to be God's spokesperson.

WORK, THE
JWs speak of "work" or "the work" in reference to their individual or collective proselytizing i.e. to their "ministry" and sometimes also to volunteer labor at WTS headquarters.

The "work" is always "much" or "great" or "tremendous", the workers are always "few" and the time for it is always "short". e.g. "…there is yet a tremendous work to be accomplished there in the short remaining time." (Yearbook 1974, 41)

Efficiency at WBTS branch offices is used as evidence that God is with JWs. Outside observers sometimes commented: "How can you get persons to work like that?" (Yearbook 1940, 48, 51)

JWs speak of "God's busy Organization" because everyone is kept busy:

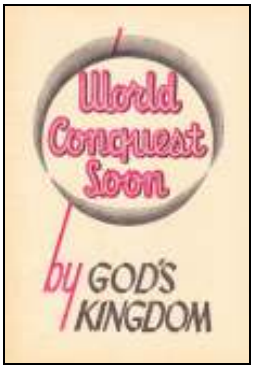
> "Idleness is a most injurious thing to fallen beings. Had it not been for the necessity of labour and sweat of face, the deterioration of our race would have been much more rapid than it had been. Idleness is the mother of vice; and mental, moral and physical degradation are sure to follow." (Studies I, 169, 337)

WORKING WOMEN
The WTS used to insist that the man of the household must earn the living. For a woman to work was unchristian and worldly. However, when two-income families became common in Western society after World War II, the JWs leaders taught that for a woman to work was Christian and O.K. provided time remained for meetings and preaching. (w1985 2/8 3, 9)

WORLD
All non-JWs social systems, governments, religions and economic practices are collectively "the world" i.e. human society. Russell gave advice on how Christians conduct themselves in the world. (Studies VI, 606)

JWs interpret Jesus' phrase "not of this world" to mean abstaining from politics, demonstrations, council elections, religion, immorality, get-rich-quick schemes, the military, higher education, excessive leisure, sports, environmental issues, etc. Involvement in these makes a person "worldly".

WORLD CONQUEST SOON BY GOD'S KINGDOM (1955)



A WTS booklet with arguments that: "centralized rule of our globe" (p.7) "by heaven above…and that soon" (p.7) will occur when Armageddon fills the nations "with corpses" (p.23) within one generation after 1914 (p.28) which year "the Bible marks" and "makes certain". (p.27) To survive one must join "his New World society". (p.30)

In short the idea is that JWs will rule the world. Some commentators have suggested that if the supernatural part of this agenda continues to fail, but JWs increase sufficiently in number, the time may come when the leaders instruct JWs to rise up and take over and call the uprising "Armageddon" and claim it was how God intended it all along.

WORLD CONVERSION
JWs believe that the main Christian denominations aim to convert the world:

> The ecclesiastical systems both Catholic and Protestant claim that their mission is to convert the world, thereby bringing the people into the churches. (Millions 1920, 64)

WORLD GOVERNMENT
World government is a major theme of JWs theology. The Kingdom of 1914 will rule the world after Armageddon through the JWs Organization. JWS Elders will be "princes" in that "new world".

The idea currently taught is that their "great educational work", producing many converts, will make the JWs Organization the "nucleus" for the post-Armageddon world. Armageddon will destroy all opposition to JWs after which the resurrection from the dead of all humankind (except those destroyed at Armageddon) occurs progressively over several centuries. They will be taught and converted by JWs.

Sometimes, however, the WTS publications imply that the preaching/proselytizing will itself lead to world control irrespective of whether a supernatural Armageddon occurs:

> The Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana "saw no way of abolishing war except by the *creation of a universal government* capable of imposing its will upon all of the states of the earth. No League of Nations or United Nations will suffice."—Italics ours.
>
> Why have the politicians not been able to achieve this ideal of one-universal government? One reason is that parochial nationalism stands in the way. As one historian states: "To control or eliminate it by any means *short of education in human brotherhood* will be difficult so long as we have a world increasingly beset with hatreds and fears." (Italics ours) Author H.G. Wells reasoned: "It is necessary…that the idea of mankind as one family should be a matter of *universal instruction and understanding*."—Italics ours.
>
> Is such an educational program feasible? Not only is it feasible; it is a reality! Where? Among several million Jehovah's Witnesses in 203 nations and lands…
>
> The Bible gave foregleams of this great educational work for this generation. Jehovah gave assurance through his prophet Isaiah that "all your sons will be persons taught of Jehovah, and the peace of your sons will be abundant." (Isaiah 54:13) <u>This will be continued until the whole earth is "filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters are covering the very sea."—Isaiah 11:9)…</u>
>
> This explains the intensive house to house educational campaign that Jehovah's Witnesses are carrying out in this 20th century. They are announcing the Kingdom government that will soon take action from the heavens to "crush and put an end to all these [present political] kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite. (g1985 4/8 12)

If to these *Awake!* paragraphs we add the idea that the "Kingdom" acts through the JWs Organization, we can see a plan to preach until so many converts are made that national governments collapse and JWs take over. (See: *GOAL*)

The doctrine of a destructive Armageddon with few survivors and which is always "soon", in "this generation", or even "in this 20th century" may therefore be a ploy to motivate zeal until the Organization is too powerful to be stopped.

(See also: *GOAL OF WORLD DOMINATION; GOVERNMENT*; *PREACHING; STATISTICS*)

WORLD GOVERNMENT ON THE SHOULDER OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE (1965)



A WTS booklet which claims that world government by Jesus will occur in "a short time" from 1914. Also: "the grand climax of sorrows [is] so near." If one wishes to survive then "now is the time to turn to the world government" (p.27) which is done by

submitting to the authority of the WTS. Page 4 quotes the *Americana*:

> …world government will not be established unless, first there is present in the minds and hearts of many millions of the people in various countries of the world a consensus, common desire or group consciousness to form a base for world control…

This is precisely the goal of the JWs leaders for their Organization. (See: *GOAL*)

WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF JWs

From 1909 to 2016 the Brooklyn, New York, complex of about 30 WTS-owned buildings was the World Headquarters of JWs.

The sale of these buildings was completed 2018 and the New World Headquarters opened at Warwick in 2017.

With the Brooklyn complex sold, JWs still had four major complexes of land and buildings in New York State:

- Warwick: In 2017 this complex on a 253-acre site at Warwick in upstate New York became the official new World Headquarters of JWs.
- Ramapo: The nearby complex on the 248-acre Ramapo site, purchased in 2009, is for offices and administration and called "Watchtower Administrative Complex".
- Patterson: The Patterson complex is called "Watchtower Education Center" and an "extension of the World Headquarters".
- Wallkill: Watchtower Farms and Printery

The workers who worked on the Warwick site to prepare it and construct the buildings had included 25,000 JWs volunteers.

The new headquarters is surrounded by forest, has views of Sterling Forest Lake (Blue Lake) and includes four residence buildings, an office building, two maintenance buildings, and a parking garage.

> The *Warwick Advertiser* in 2016 reported:
>
> WARWICK — The new Jehovah's Witnesses World Headquarters located in Sterling Forest will be completed in August, thanks to the help of more than 25,000 volunteers from across the country who contributed to its construction.
>
> Some of the volunteers have stayed at the site since ground breaking three years ago, such as spokesperson for Jehovah's Witnesses, Richard Devine, and his wife, while others have come for a week or a three-day weekend. With more than 1.2 million Jehovah's Witnesses in the United States, many of which own construction businesses or work in construction, there is a high skill level working on the project.
>
> "As Jehovah's Witnesses," Devine said, "we feel it's a real privilege to help with the building of the headquarters."
>
> The entire campus, which borders Sterling Forest Lake (Blue Lake), consists of eight buildings, including four residence buildings and a large office building, where the 800 to 850 Witnesses will live and work. There are also two maintenance buildings and a parking garage.
>
> Those that will be living at the 1.6 million square-foot world headquarters will start moving in this September, with the entire Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society slowly moving out of Brooklyn, the organization's location since 1909. Residents all have taken a vow to be members of a religious order, according to Devine, and as they accomplish their ministerial work in connection with the headquarters, the order in turn provides housing, meals, health care, and a small allowance each month to cover incidental expenses, like toothpaste and socks.
>
> And as far as children, Devine said that even though Jehovah's Witnesses in general are very family-oriented, the world headquarters staff is made up of only single or married adults. If any couples decide to have children, they would leave and settle down to a more traditional home life elsewhere. There is no stigma attached to deciding to have children and no longer living at the headquarters, he said, and it is considered to be a personal decision.
>
> "It's a way of life that's different than most," Devine said, "but it is very rewarding."
>
> **'Going green'**
>
> One of the goals for the world headquarters campus was to make it efficient, both for workers getting around and energy efficiency. The first was accomplished through connecting the buildings with covered walkways, some of which are above ground while others are below. Devine said this helps workers easily get around the

campus, especially elderly residents in the winter.

Being an energy efficient campus was created in a number of ways, one of which was through storm water control.

"We're not allowed to release storm water at any faster rate than it was in it's natural setting," Devine said, "so we've incorporated things like this permeable paving ... and there's a couple feet of gravel below this so as the rain comes, it will just immediately go back into groundwater and won't run off into the streams."

There is also a large amount of underground water storage. Around the lake, there is a double row of black silt fencing, which keeps mud and dirt from flowing into the lake, and keeps the rattlesnakes out.

As far as the landscaping around the campus, Devine said they were not allowed to use any plants that are not native to Sterling Forest. And one of the most "green" additions to the headquarters is the installation of a growing medium on all of the flat roofs, containing little succulents and other similar plants.

"The whole idea is when it rains, the roof holds the moisture up here and then the plants can aspirate it over time," Devine said. "By and large, we like to hold in as much water as we can and then that avoids having to discharge it into the streams or into our underground storage."

There's also a geothermal field on site. Using about 125 wells, each 500 feet deep, in the wintertime, the system pulls heat from the ground used to heat the buildings and make hot water, and in the summertime, heat is put into the ground. With just one plant providing heating and air conditioning to all eight buildings, it is more energy efficient and requires less personnel.

With all of this green technology installed, according to the head-quarters' engineers, the site will most likely receive four green globes, the highest rating given by the Green Building Initiative, an organization similar to LEED. Aspects like the use of recycled materials, construction practices, the use of green roofs, landscaping and storm water retention are all taken into account.

By Erika Norton
www.warwickadvertiser.com/
2016 June 9

WORLD POWERS
The WTS teaches there were seven world powers: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and Britain/USA.

WORLD RECOVERY (1934)



A booklet in which Rutherford argued that conditions in the world would keep getting worse until Armageddon. Satan ruled Earth 606 BC to 1914 AD. And 1914: "marks the date for the coming of earth's righteous ruler as shown by all the facts…"

Satan was thrown to earth after 1914 but continues awhile as "invisible ruler" (p.12) during which period JWs announce that "Christ is King". Political leaders are urged "to sever connection with the ecclesiastical leaders ... and act under the Lord's leadership" (p.19) which appears to be Rutherford's leadership and the WBTS. (pp 51-56)

That all nations should transfer their sovereignty to God's 1914 Kingdom — which implies putting the JWs leaders in charge of all nations — is regularly suggested in WTS publications since the 1920s.

WORLD, THE
All non-Witnesses, collectively, are "the world" as in the comment, "Get a shorter haircut, son, so that you won't look like people of the world!"

WORLD, THE
A New York newspaper which in its August 30, 1914 edition suggests the Russellite prophecies were being fulfilled and is therefore regularly quotes in JWs publications.

The paragraphs quoted include:

> The terrific war outbreak in Europe has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy. For a quarter of a century past, through preachers and though press, the "International Bible Students" … have been proclaiming to the world that the Day of Wrath prophesied in the Bible would dawn in 1914. "Look out for 1914!" has been the cry of hundreds of traveling evangelists who, representing this strange creed, have gone up and down the country enunciating the doctrine that "the Kingdom of God is at hand." … And in 1914 comes war, the war which everybody dreaded but which everybody thought could not really happen.

w1967 2/15 quotes *The World* and comments:

> Right on time, in the fall of 1914, "the kingdom of our god" in the hands of his Christ began ruling in the heavens… It was just as Jehovah's spirit had moved his devoted "slave" to warn in advance…
>
> Truly, the Samson class was vindicated in its support of Jehovah's Word of prophecy… (p.110)

g1973 10/8 17 quotes *The World* and comments:

> Why did they point forward to 1914—the very year historians now say was the "turning point" of modern history—as a marked date? Bible prophecy led them to do so. (g1973 10/8 17)

What they really believed

What the Russellites really believed is that:

- "The kingdom of our God in the hands of his Christ" **began in 1878**. [That fake 1878 kingdom they discarded in the 1920s and replaced with the equally imaginary kingdom of 1914.]
- The "time of trouble" or "day of wrath" began in 1874 and would last 40 years;
- 1914/1915 marked the end of the "time of the end"; 1914/1915 marked when ancient biblical "worthies" such as Abraham, Moses and Daniel would be resurrected in the flesh and, based in Jerusalem, start to rule the world in peace.

Nothing that Russell predicted happened neither "right on time" nor at any time. Nothing happened "just as Jehovah's spirit has moved his devoted slave to warn in advance". The so-called "Samson class" was refuted, not vindicated. Also the so-called "slave" around 1900 was Russell alone and not all members of the cult as taught in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Russellites did not predict a mere "turning point" or "marked date" or a war in Europe. They predicted worldwide revolution to occur before 1914 with the destruction of all churches, governments and societies, the ascent to heaven of the Russellite "saints", the resurrection of ancient Bible heroes who would rule the world in peace from Jerusalem, and the end of suffering. 1914 was the date when the Kingdom of 1878 would bring world peace.

The predictions failed. When JWs leaders refer to *The World* especially the words "has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy" they quote a faulty opinion in order to hide or cover the facts.

The World reporter did little research, perhaps relied mainly on an interview with a Russellite. Alternatively he may even have been a follower of Russell since members of the cult sometimes paid at advertising rates to get articles published in newspapers as part of their ministry.

WORLD WAR 1

When World War broke out in 1914 Russell interpreted it as the European war he had anticipated or predicted for 1906 or 1907, which would merge into Armageddon.

After WWI ended Rutherford interpreted the War as the legal end of the world and the start of the transition to world rule by ancient Jewish heroes who would rise from the dead in 1925. He claimed that the date, 1914, was right but some expectations failed. He interpreted the end of World War I in 1918 as the cutting short (Matthew 24:22) of the "great tribulation". Rutherford falsely claimed that Russell accurately predicted the 1914 war. He also placed the blame for the war on Christian ministers.

In *The harp of God* (1921) Rutherford claimed WWI fulfilled Matthew 24:7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom…"

Subsequent JWs leaders stressed that World War I was a "world war" and Matthew 24:7 supposedly meant world war: "This meant global war on an unprecedented scale." (w1993 3/1 4)

However, there have been other "world" wars. Strayer et al (1974 calls the War of the League of Augsburg (1688-1697) "the first of the modern world wars." (p.452) Other wars

sometimes called "world wars" occurred 1702-1714, 1756-1763, 1775-1783 and the Napoleonic Wars.

Jesus' words "**For** nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:7) do not denote a big war but explain his previous sentence which was "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars … but the end is not yet." (24:6) The word "For" introduces the explanation of why "the end is not yet." The explanation of "why the end is not yet" is that — "nation will rise against nation". In other words wars, all wars, are ordinary events and not signs of the end.

(See also: *COMPOSITE SIGN*)

WORLD WAR II
In 1938 Rutherford predicted that the Nazi/Catholic/Fascist combine would get control of Britain and America. (Face the Facts 1938)

In 1941 he modified this "fact" by predicting that the World War would end in a draw due to a Vatican patch up peace. (w1941 12/15 372-3) Nazi victories in 1941-1942 were the final attacks of the King of the North. The "patch up peace" would fall apart almost immediately in Armageddon.

In 1941 Armageddon was only "months" away. (w1941 7/15 222; 7/1 202) In 1943 the new JWs leaders wrote, "…the climax is here…" (w1943 4/15 119)

When Allied victory plus no Armagedon refuted these predictions, the JWs leaders then attributed Allied victory to the courage of JWs which, they said, imparted courage to the Allies. During the Nazi era JWs were banned or restricted in about 40 countries.

WORLD'S HOPE, THE
Magazine published by John H. Paton after he separated from C.T. Russell. The magazine came out monthly for three years, then semi-monthly.

(See also: *PATON, JOHN H*)

WORLDLY
Anything or anyone not in harmony with JWs is described as "worldly". This means he, she or it is in Satan the devil's evil "organization" or at least manifesting some of its standards.

Worldly expression
Any saying, comment or wording considered inappropriate for use by JWs.

Worldly girl
A young woman assumed to be immoral or otherwise lacking in spiritual values.

Worldly person
A person who is deficient in spiritual values and conduct and therefore presumed to be disapproved of by God. The label applies to most non-JWs but can also refer to JWs who become too "independent".

WORLDS APART
A 1½-hour movie produced in Denmark in 2008 about a 17-year-old JW girl who falls in love with a 23-year-old non-believer. It is based on the real-life events of a JW named Tabita Broener who is played by actress Rosalinde Mynster. The movie is accurate in details, realistic in dialogue, and the elders are portrayed fairly and not as hypocrites.

WORLDWIDE DESIGN CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
From *Yearbook of JWs* (2015) pp 16-18:

Worldwide Design/Construction Department

THE rapid growth in Jehovah's organization is creating an increased demand for more Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, theocratic school facilities, remote translation offices, as well as branch buildings in various places. Hence, in October 2013, the Governing Body established a new department so that the work of designing, building, renovating, and maintaining our facilities could be carried out in the most efficient and economical manner. This new department, called the Worldwide Design/Construction Department (WDC), is located at our world headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, and functions under the direction of the Publishing Committee of the Governing Body.

The WDC oversees the Regional Design/Construction Departments, which are at the branch offices located in Australia, Germany, South Africa, and the United States. These departments coordinate the design, construction, and maintenance work in their respective regions. Their goal is to speed up the construction of Kingdom Halls. Previously, Kingdom Halls were built with the help of either the Regional Building Committee or the program for lands with limited resources. These two arrangements

have now been merged into one, with a view to using the best of both systems to help accelerate our construction work.

To coordinate this ever-increasing need for Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls, a Local Design/Construction Department was formed in each branch. This department reports directly to the local Branch Committee. An exciting feature of these adjustments is that now all branches can assign full-time construction servants to help local brothers build Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls.

In April 2014, there were over 270 large projects that needed to be completed, including 90 remote translation offices, 35 Assembly Halls, and 130 branch projects. In addition, there is a pressing need for Kingdom Halls, with more than 14,000 that must either be built or undergo major renovation...

AS OF APRIL 2014, THERE WERE OVER 270 LARGE PROJECTS THAT NEEDED TO BE COMPLETED, INCLUDING:
90 Remote Translation Offices
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130 Branch Projects
There is also a pressing need for more than 14,000 Kingdom Halls either to be built or to undergo major renovation.

WORLDWIDE WORK
The global preaching and literature-production activities of JWs. Requests for donations are often said to be for "the worldwide work".

WORMWOOD
The name for a falling star. (Revelation 8:11) Russell claimed that the "star" referred to Protestant reformer John Calvin. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 151)

Rutherford identified the star as Satan. (Light I, 1930, 126-127)

Franz interpretation the star as: "the apostate Christian clergy of Christendom, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant..." (Then Is Finished The Mystery of God 1969, 224-225)

WORSENING WORLD CONDITIONS
From the 1930s JWs have pointed to alleged "worsening world conditions since 1914" as proof of living in the last generation and proof of Armageddon being at hand:

Worsening world conditions since 1914 are proof that John's vision has become a reality and that the end of all humans who refuse to submit to God's sovereignty is drawing perilously near. (w1990 10/15 19)

The fact is that never have so many people lived so well as in the 20th century. Some have even called the 1950s and beyond the "golden age of humankind" because the majority of people enjoyed thousands of benefits which earlier generations lacked.

WORSHIP
JWs tend to equate "worship" (Greek—*Proskyneo*) with activities performed for their Organization including field service, obedience to the leaders, and working as volunteers and even donating money.

WORSHIP
Trinitarians argue that Jesus being worshipped by angels (Hebrews 1:6) means that Jesus is God because only God should be worshipped.

JWs interpret the worship of Hebrews 1:6 as lesser or relative worship. (w1983 2/15 18)

In Revelation 22:8-9, however, the apostle John relatively worships an angel who immediately rejects being worshipped and says, "Worship God."

To JWs "worship" is not done by kneeling in prayer or by singing hymns of praise but by "witnessing" i.e. proselytizing door to door and other activities for their Organization. However, when the angels "worship" Jesus they presumably don't so by proselytizing!

Comment on Hebrews 1:6 includes:

1879
He of whom it was said, "Let *all* the angels of God worship him," [that must include Michael,] and "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever," (Heb. i. 6, 8) "left the glory he had with the Father before the foundation of the world;" "made himself of no reputation;" "was made a little lower than the angels; " "for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he, by the *grace of God*, should taste death for every man." Heb. ii. 9.
(wr, July 1879, p.9)

His position is contrasted with men and angels, as he is Lord of both, having 'all power in heaven and earth'. Hence it is said, 'Let all of the angels of God worship him' [that must included Michael, the chief angel, hence

Michael is not the Son of God] and the reason is, because he has "*by inheritance* obtained a more excellent *Name* than they."
(wr, November 1879, p.49)

1880
He was the object of unreproved worship even when a babe, by the wise men who came to see the new-born king… He never reproved any for acts of worship offered to Himself… Had Christ not been more than man the same reason would have prevented Him from receiving worship.
(WR, October 1, 1880, p.144)

1898
Question… Was he really worshipped, or is the translation faulty? Answer. Yes, we believe our Lord while on earth was really worshipped, and properly so… It was proper for our Lord to receive worship…
(WR, 111, July 15, 1898, p.2337)

1915
As the special messenger of the Covenant, whom the Father had sanctified and sent into the world to redeem the world, and whom the Father honored in every manner, testifying, 'This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased' - it was eminently proper that all who beheld his glory, as the glory of an Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, should reverence him, hear him, obey him, and worship him - do him homage - as the representative of the Father.
(At-One-Ment Between God And Man, 1899; 1915 ed.; p.134)

Jehovah God commands all to worship Christ Jesus because Christ Jesus is the express image of his Father, Jehovah.
(w1939 11/15 339)

1945
Since Jehovah God now reigns as King by means of his capital organization Zion, then whosoever would worship him must also bow down to Jehovah's Chief One in that organization, namely Christ Jesus, his co-regent on the throne of The Theocracy.
(w 1945 10/15 page)

1945
The purposes of this Society are: … public Christian worship of Almighty God and Jesus Christ; to arrange for and hold local and world-wide assemblies for such worship…
(Charter of the Watchtower Society of Pennsylvania, Article II, Feb 27, 1945)

[The 1969 *Yearbook* quotes Article II of the Charter, "and for public Christian worship of Almighty God...." leaving out the original requirement to worship Jesus]

1970
"But when He again brings his First-born into the inhabited earth, he says: 'And let all God's angels worship him' Hebrews 1:6."
(New World Translation, 1950, 1961, 1970 editions)
[The revised 1971 NWT has this changed to "do obeisance to" rather than "worship"]

WORSHIP U.N.
JWs believe that to cooperate with the United Nations is to worship it:

> They [JWs] therefore cannot accept and worship the symbolic "wild beast," that is, the Devil's worldwide system of political rulership, as the rightful government of the earth. Neither can they worship and pin their hopes to the political "image" of that "wild beast," namely, the United Nations that Christendom has sponsored for the perpetuation of imperfect human rulership over all mankind to time indefinite.
> (w1973 11/1 660)

JWs, however, follow the thousands of revised interpretations that come and go under the "imperfect human rulership" of the WTS, putting their hopes in these instead of the Bible. This, to observers, looks like worship of the leaders, no different to "pinning" one's hopes to the United Nations.

WORTHLESS SAYING
The Greek "argos" means "worthless", "useless", "idle", "unprofitable". Jesus said: "I tell you that every unprofitable saying that men speak, they will render an account concerning it on Judgment Day." (Matthew 12:26)

JWs are trained to regard as a "worthless saying" everything that is critical of their doctrines and Organization.

Under entries such as *ERROR* and *DATES* it is shown that JWs have published thousands of worthless expressions in the form of doctrinal interpretations that were wrong, revisions also often wrong, and called them "true Christianity". However, to point this out to JWs usually won't succeed because they are indoctrinated to reject all criticism

as worthless sayings and won't even look, listen or hear.

WRITING DEPARTMENT
The section of Watchtower headquarters responsible for researching and writing new literature.

From the *2011 Yearbook of JWs*:

> **'Tracing All Things With Accuracy'**
>
> Jesus said that the faithful slave would be discreet in giving the domestics "their food at the proper time." Christ thus indicated that those who dispense this "food" would be conscientious, prudent, and discerning in providing spiritual food for the household of faith.—Matt. 24:45-47.
>
> In our time, Christ's anointed brothers use the Writing Department in Brooklyn, New York, to provide spiritual information in the form of magazines, brochures, books, and other printed and electronic material.
>
> This spiritual food, like physical food, has to be well prepared. Even Bible writers, who were directed by holy spirit, made sure that they recorded information that was thoroughly researched and accurate. Luke, for example, spoke to many eyewitnesses and "traced all things from the start with accuracy."—Luke 1:1-4.
>
> The Writing Department follows the pattern of 'tracing all things with accuracy.' But where can reliable information be found? While the Internet is a convenient and quick source of vast amounts of information, our researchers do not rely on blogs or poorly documented Web entries written by unidentified or unqualified persons. For example, Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, warns that some articles on its own site "contain significant misinformation, unencyclopedic content, or vandalism," adding that "users need to be aware of this."
>
> Thus, the Writing Department looks to standard reference works, articles written by recognized experts, and books produced by respected publishers.
>
> The Writing Department itself has a comprehensive library with thousands of books. Additionally, our researchers make use of nearby public and academic libraries. They can also obtain specialized material from other sources by means of interlibrary loans. One of the large university libraries that our researchers use has some five million books, 58,000 periodicals, 5.4 million microforms, and thousands of electronic databases. The Writing Department also maintains a large archive of clippings, experiences, and historical information that is constantly being updated with material from local sources as well as from our branch offices around the world.

Comment on the preceding quote

It is a great advantage to have access to "five million books" and the other resources mentioned. But the constant changes in the doctrines of JWs, thousands of changes to what God supposedly "revealed, and still occurring after 150 years, suggest that the extensive library material is not used for self-correction. What the Writing Department staff look for are facts that support current belief or have no effect on current belief, but information that refute current belief is ignored.

Mentioning millions of books along with phrases such as "tracing all things with accuracy" is meant to impress rank-and-file JWs and intimidate them into not doing research themselves.

WRITERS OF SPIRITUAL FOOD
JWs believe that the Governing Body research and prepare most of the so-called "spiritual food".

This in principle was the case until the 1970s because Russell, Rutherford and Franz in succession did most of the Bible interpretation and wrote most of the Watchtower articles, booklets and books.

Former Bethelite Barbara Anderson who worked in the Writing Department at the Brooklyn headquarters prepared her "Writing Department resume" in which she says:

> ... the Watchtower organization misleads the flock by inferring that all "spiritual food" somehow emanates only from men and particularly from the Governing Body...
>
> I know without a doubt that while I was in the Writing Department, none of the Governing Body researched and wrote any articles and books that the Society published... Karl Klein stopped writing for the Writing Department many years before I arrived in the department in 1989. And by that time, blind and ill

> Fred Franz was in the Bethel Infirmary. Lloyd Barry was the only other Governing Body member who occasionally wrote...
>
> Witness women do make many more "spiritual" contributions than the Witnesses are led to believe. And because there were a number of women doing research in the Writing Department as late as 2002, one such researcher being a talented writer who worked for the New York Times before 1994, I believe they are still being used by some senior writers to do just what I did because many of these men are not adverse to accepting or assigning capable women to write articles...
>
> I was assigned by the Governing Body to be the major research assistant to senior Watchtower writer, Karl Adams, for the book, JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, PROCLAIMERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM
>
> During my research for PROCLAIMERS, I discovered many unknown facts about the early history of JWs which facts were included in the book. And remember, this book is considered to be "Spiritual Food" for JWs.
>
> I did all the research and contributed text for the 1992 Sunday afternoon District Assembly public lecture assigned to writer, Harry Peloyan, by Ted Jaracz. The subject was on John 1:1 discussing, Jesus, the "light" of the world, which was a very "spiritual" lecture. I sat in the audience at a convention in Virginia listening to my husband give the lecture and wondered what the elders in the audience would think if they knew that a woman put together practically the entire lecture.

Anderson says she did all or some of the research for:

- Why Is Life So Short? (g1995 10/22)
- Women Deserving of Respect (g1992 7/8)
- What Is The Purpose Of Life? How Can You Find It?" (1993 booklet)
- More Living Space For A Growing Family (g1989 4/22)
- Heeding the Warning Signs g1991 10/8)
- Millions Are Suffering, Can They Be Helped? (g1993 4/8)
- The Bill of Rights, Why Was It Needed (g1991 12/8)
- Students Participate in National History Day (g1991 12/8)
- Difficult Children (g1994 11/22)

After that:

> I continued to research and submit my findings on sexual child abuse to the Writing Department until I slipped away from the organization in 1997 because the Watchtower refused to change its policies which harmed so many of its members.

WRONGDOING

"Wrongdoing" by a JW is any offense against God's law as interpreted in WTS publications or against the rules of the WTS, and punishable by a JWs judicial committee.

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