



Supporting the Flight of Former Cult Members (JW and others)

FROM THE EDITOR, BRENDA LEE

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The viewpoints provided herein are *not* necessarily the editor's. Contact me if you have comments or would like to subscribe to this great newsletter.

One thing I hear repeatedly from active Jehovah's Witnesses around the world that really, really sets me off like a firecracker is that they don't shun family members, nor are they expected to, and that my family was just being overly "zealous" (read, obsessively fanatical) and that's why I was shunned at age 18. One person wrote: "Jehovah's Witnesses are certainly not taught to shun those who merely "drift away" from the congregation. Yet those who are "disfellowshipped" (ex-communicated) by the elders ...are certainly shunned."

However, saying JWs don't shun family who haven't been disfellowshipped is in direct contradiction with their September 15, 1981 WT: "Persons deliberately rejecting the faith and beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses should appropriately be viewed and treated as those who have been disfellowshipped for wrongdoing." And we all know how disfellowshipped ones are to be treated, now don't we? S-H-U-N...or be shunned.

This, by the way, is the same *Watchtower* magazine my mother used to justify my entire family shunning me back in 1981. So as any 'thinking' person who has been told for decades that they are wrong would do, I began to question my perception of reality. I mean, what if these JWs *are* right? Could I be the victim of a silly, erroneous interpretation of the WT's rules? Is my mother just a fanatic who took things too far? Perhaps the whole shunning thing is just a fabrication in my mind, like that whole 1975 thing. I needed to find out.

So with the Fourth of July celebration looming right around the corner, I decided to light a few fireworks myself: I wrote and mailed a letter to every single one of the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society's governing body, requesting *that my baptism be rescinded*, including a certified letter to Theodore Jacarz. (My letter is attached to the email of this newsletter.). As of the publishing of this newsletter, I've received nadda. Not a single answer from any of them. Are you surprised? Nope, didn't think so. I knew too that it was an exercise in futility, but I was willing to give them the benefit of the doubt, more than I ever received from them when I was 18.

Hmmm...so now I have to wonder, if the WT is indeed so "family oriented," why aren't they helping reunite me with a family that has shunned me for the last 28 years? If the Elders caught me committing some perceived sin (e.g., writing an "apostate" book), they would be right there to exercise their perceived authority over me, wouldn't they? Hell, my 47-year-old body, my only son, my dogs would all be gladly offered up in sacrifice by them. I'd be hauled before a judicial committee in nothing flat. And yet when I plead to be reunited with my 80-year-old mother because of a mistake that was made by THEM when I was a child, they ignore me.

My conclusion, which I already knew to be true, is that *most* Jehovah's Witnesses WILL shun family, *as directed by the Watchtower*. Those who don't are, quite frankly, displaying a small measure of rebellious common sense and are just, fortunately, not getting caught.

I know JWs prefer to overlook the carnage. They will gladly wear blinders like those you'd put on horses as you lead them out of a burning barn. What they don't see, won't upset them, right? My father is like that.

If only they could open their eyes! Living in denial doesn't negate the truth. Millions are living proof that the WT roof can come crashing down at any moment, and no blinder or blind faith will save *you* from getting burned someday by "the friends." If you truly believe what the WT recently wrote (see page 11 of this newsletter), take it up directly with the GB (forget the Elders!) and **demand** that the practice of shunning be forever abolished. If the GB wants to deny someone from membership with their "religion," they have that right. But they have no right to adversely impact non-members' lives by holding their families hostage through the despicable practice of shunning.



Brenda Lee to be Featured in THE SECRET LIVES OF WOMEN

Producers from Pangolin Pictures, New York, flew to Colorado in November 2008 to film me and my son in my hometown for a documentary entitled, *The Secret Lives of Women*. Four women, all cult survivors from different groups, will be profiled on the 1-hour show, which is set to air sometime this summer or fall on cable TV (Women's Entertainment--WE). Don't miss it! Keep checking their website (below). As of the publishing of this newsletter, I still don't have the air date, but I will send it out to everyone in my address book once I receive it.

Here are some 'secret' tidbits about the filming that no one else knows!

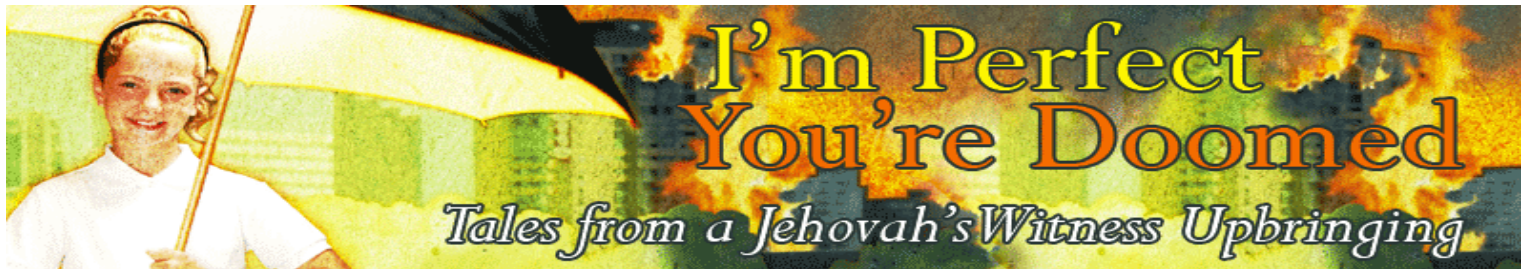
- We filmed the majority of my interview at Red Rocks Amphitheater, a beautiful location close to my home in Morrison, Colorado. (Google it.) While there, the local cameraman dropped his \$20,000 camera, which needless to say, didn't work anymore. He had to drive back to Boulder to get another camera, which, needless to say, delayed the interview. I hope he had good insurance!
- The green shirt that I wore for the park interview accidentally traveled to New York with the producers when they left because I had left it in their rental vehicle. You may ask, "hmm...why did she remove her shirt?" The answer: One of the shots involved me walking with my son and dogs through the park and we wanted to make it look like another day so the producers had me change shirts. Now you know that most interviews are done in 1-2 days even though they person featured may wear five different outfits. I did get my shirt back via Fed Exp a few weeks later (good thing—I love that shirt!).
- The book signing they filmed at Barnes & Noble was the worst I had ever done. Despite phone calls to the customer relations manager explaining the importance of this shoot, management only announced my appearance over the store loudspeakers one time in a 2 hour period. When I arrived, there wasn't even a table provided for my books. I have my suspicions that someone in the store was a JW and sabotaged me; of course that could be good ole Watchtower-induced paranoia coming through. Also, very few people wanted to approach and talk to me with a camera crew there. Now why didn't more people jump at the chance to be part of a documentary with a controversial subject that focused on an 'escapee from a religious cult?' Hey, at least I wasn't a *prison* escapee! Eh, actually, I guess I was. Hmmmm
- One day, the producers gave me money to go into a quaint coffee shop in Golden and order coffee. He wasn't thrilled about my suggestion to go into Loaf N Jug. Not wanting to do something entirely "fake," I ordered tea. Now, I don't drink coffee, or really even like tea that much (my son is the tea drinker in the family), but it produced that "hometown" feel to the film, I suppose and that's the flavor they were after.
- My puppy, in her blissful excitement, peed, tinkled, piddled, embarrassed herself on one of the crew. True story!



[Secret Lives of Women](#)



BRENDA LEE REVIEWS



BY KYRIA ABRAHAMS

A few months ago Simon & Schuster sent me a copy of *I'm Perfect, You're Doomed* and asked me if I'd be willing to review Kyria's book. What an honor! Since I was anxious to read her account, I, of course, was happy to oblige. Here's my review, which I intend to list on Amazon and my website [Out of the Cocoon](#).

A Tragic Comedy Made Perfect

Kyria's book, *I'm Perfect, You're Doomed* is a bittersweet recipe of the author's excruciating adolescence combined with scorpion-piercing wit that may leave the average reader wondering: "Should I laugh or cry?" I found the book simultaneously sardonic while grossly disturbing. Because I too was once a Jehovah Witness teen who considered suicide as a means to escape the Watchtower's stranglehold, but instead self-medicated through introspective humor, the undertones of falling prey to a dysfunctional lifestyle upon leaving a dysfunctional family were eerily but predictably unavoidable. The fact that Kyria has successfully shared her account with a flip of her strategic finger is indicative that she is on the road to recovery, purging the venomous sting of her painful past. *I'm Perfect, You're Doomed* is definitely not for cultic narcissists. Go Kyria, my "prodigal" sister.

Some of my favorite excerpts from Kyria's book, and there are too many to list, include:

p.7 – "Dad called out God's name so many times during a single prayer that one might wonder if, in addition to being the creator of the universe, God wasn't also suffering from ADD."

p. 12 – "The succession of power was this: Jesus was the head over man; man was the head over woman; and woman was the head over cooking peach cobbler and shutting up."

p. 68: "In short, the rest of my class was going to die at Armageddon. I was going to live forever, as long as I refrained from singing the national anthem or drawing a turkey from the outline of my hand."

p. 83: "The devil worked through wicked unbelievers to deceive us into turning away from the truth. These were the kidnappers, the SD dealers, the birthday cake decorators."

p. 125: "...I was pretty much failing every single one of my classes...I wasn't going to college, so it wasn't like I needed high school for anything. College was at best unnecessary, and at worst atheist boot camp."

p. 198: "If our conscience allowed, we could also invite thee same worldly people to the (wedding) reception after the ceremony. We just needed to keep in mind that people who do not have Jehovah's blessing usually indulge in recreational drugs, premarital sex, and alcohol...if you wanted your wedding to turn into ancient Babylon, with guests snorting coke off the mother of the bride's cleave while the DJ played backward death meta, by a means, invite plenty of worldly people."



Brenda Lee: Hosting Writer's Forum on Freeminds!

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Randy Watters, [Freeminds](#), recently solicited involvement from different contributors for a Writer's Forum to support current and up-and-coming authors. This is something I had been thinking about doing myself for quite some time, so I was quite honored when Randy picked me to host the forum.

One of the things I personally want to start offering is a professional review service for any book written by an ex-cult member (i.e., the group the author was involved with doesn't have to be Watchtower related). Therefore, if you know of anyone who has a book out there that they'd like to get reviewed, with that review appearing on both my website and on Amazon (assuming the new book is already there), please let me know.

As one who has had my fair share of excessively negative comments about Out of the Cocoon, even by other ex-Jehovah Witness authors, I intend to do this differently than most reviewers out there and I concede that my methods will be controversial. But hey, when aren't they? Here is my intent:

I will be honest in my review, but I will not be harsh or overtly negative in my comments. Of course, there will be things I do not like about a particular book. However, I intend to focus on the *positive* aspects of each and every single book I review because I believe that if I can do something of value for someone and further counter-cult education at the same time, then it's a win-win for all. Also, I intend to rank *all* books I review as 5-star on Amazon. Again, I believe that Amazon rankings are purely subjective and unfair and what's more important than a score is for this material to get into people's hands so that they can become better informed. Fellow survivors who hate my book (and there are plenty) and give it a "1" on Amazon don't do the world's population any good by turning people away from a real story that could possibly save others a lifetime of pain.

With that said, if you are writing a story and want to receive a review of your book that focuses on the positive, please contact me through my website [Out of the Cocoon](#). Let's talk!

Watchtower Subliminal Art

This NEW book gives an artist's perception of subliminal imagery in Watchtower publications. <http://www.lulu.com/content/e-book/watchtower-subliminal-art/7255727><http://www.lulu.com/content/e-book/watchtower-subliminal-art/7255727>

"The View" TV Program Discusses Jehovah's Witnesses

<http://youtube.com/v/JMmpjSFPG9U&feature=channel> (don't bother leaving comments; they are controlled by a Jehovah's Witness). Here's the comment I tried to leave:

"How sad that The View missed a golden opportunity to educate the rest of the world that the Watchtower/Jehovah's Witness organization has repeatedly warned people about the end times, invoking fear to gain membership, starting with their founder, Charles Taze Russell in the late 1800's. They have predicted many dates, including 1914, 1915, 1925, 1975 and even 2000. This light-hearted dialog only served to potentially propel the already paranoid, depressed and idealistic into the arms of one of the biggest, most dangerous cults on the face of the planet." Brenda Lee



CHILD CUSTODY ISSUES?

Dear Parent,

What if there is a way to get **SOLE LEGAL custody** of the most precious thing in your life--your kids?

What if you could end the struggle for custody? What if you could **stop the gloomy and endless** process of being dragged back into court for yet another child custody hearing? What if you could stop your Jehovah's Witness ex-spouse from repeatedly attempting to get control of your kids so that the Watchtower Society can raise and indoctrinate them? What if you **and your kids** don't have to suffer emotionally over and over again during the time you are being wrongly instructed that the best you can do is get "shared custody" and that your chances of winning "sole legal custody" are at best 50/50? What if your kids don't have to be subjected to the dangerous JW lifestyle while you watch them grow more distant from you every day?

It doesn't have to be that way, EVER AGAIN!

There is a much better way! To learn about our proven strategy that can release your kids from the Watchtower prison, call our toll free number and find out how we can help you. No one has anything like our lengthy experience or remotely like our winning track record--all over the USA. In case after case, we have helped our clients put an end to the tyranny of the Watchtower Society over their lives and the lives of their kids. Before it's too late, let us help you free your kids and get your life back once and for all.

Caring Parent, you may call us for a free initial consultation at (888) 322-2259 during our office hours. Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM PST; Saturday: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM PST.

Caring friend, we know that a picture is worth a thousand words. Well, a video can be worth a million! To see the danger to the JW kids in the most dramatic way and how to protect them--order a FREE copy of "Battling Over the Children" at [Jehovahs Witnesses Experts](#).

JOKES: From the Mouths of Babes

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?' The mother replied, 'Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.' The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he was ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'



“Grrraig’s Reunion Enderby BC, Canada



I recently had a brief reunion with my Mom and Big Sister who are active JWs. Mom is 78 now, and her big sister about five years senior just passed away--fifth of Mom's ten siblings to pass on. I didn't attend the funeral service. One JW funeral is a cookie-cutter of any other boring pontifical dumping of organic fertilizer-dogma on the memory of good beautiful people those scammers don't even know, though they own them. Before the service, I visited Mom and Sis because they were visiting from more than 1000 miles away for the funeral.

I noticed that with the other assorted aunts and uncles and cousins who attended, I played the "Designated Family Clown." Despite the sad occasion and Status of "Persona Non Grata" it was my job to raise the family spirits. And Aunt Anne (the deceased) would probably have enjoyed my jokes. She had the wonderful Ens humor and married a jovial jolly Heibert, so I believe she is celebrating on the Other Side, after she recovers from the idea that she is dead but still alive in spirit. Apparently that's a big trauma, and takes some healing light from the Source to get over.

During my brief family visit, I used self-deprecating humor, including the idea that I once hired a psychiatrist but drove him nuts so had to quit cold-turkey. I also lamented that the telephone company and power authority do not understand that Action Figures and Model Spaceships were just more important than paying those bills. It was all because I never got enough Major Matt Mason at age seven, you see. The whole psychiatric fiasco was blamed on that, and the fact that my little doggie died.

It was good to have family hugs, especially since Mom sees me about once a year now. I also appreciated that the JWs were cordial and not too preachy, although cousin's hubby immediately pontificated about a former buddy and his failed status with "The Truth." I diplomatically replied that I am unaware of his position on that issue. I was rather proud of that. I neither engaged nor skirted, simply stated that it is not a big issue. And I felt good about that position. It's settled in now, 20+ years as an Outsider has seasoned me.

No great pearls of wisdom on the encounter. Except that many relatives are now passing away, as my Dad did in 1998. They were all lied to in the 1930s through 1950s when they converted to JWs. They all believed they would never die, which is ironically the original lie of the Serpent in the Garden. "Truly I tell you, you will not die but will be like God knowing Good and Evil." Thus was humanity brought kicking and screaming into the world of the "Pairs of Opposites." And the big impetus was a lie by a Snake, a scheming manipulator who just wanted to mess things up by introducing sickness, old age, and death into the mix. As if this was never part of the biological profile in the deal.

I presently see way beyond literalistic idolatry toward this wonderful mythological tale. It's no more literal than the tale of Pandora's Box, which also speaks deeply to my soul. "Original Sin" speaks to me on a deeper level, of the profound truth of what lying Snakes come into my life and the mayhem they try and sow. As all good JWs know, "Sin" can mean "hamartia" which is Greek for "target practice." It is also "wasting one's seed upon the ground" or "the Sin of Onan." As well, the word Sin was literally the name of an ancient city and a guy who himself gave credit to the name. But with all these rich layers of meaning, "Original Sin" also says to me that something fundamental about humanity includes the need to steal from that cookie-jar that somebody just told us was off-limits. We can no more refrain from eating the Forbidden Fruit than we can refrain from eating, drinking, breathing and yearning. This is part of our nature, and some theologians have it bang-on when they say "Adam and Eve HAD to eat of the tree of Knowledge. It was a necessary step in cutting the apron-strings." The



Catholics call it the "Tree of Conscience." How much more-meaningful when one has a variety of source-translations to draw from!

My status to JW's is "Disfellowshipped." I tried to resign which is a form of "Self Disassociation," but I made a public spectacle of myself and they found enough dirt on me to give me the official boot. And by the way, they maintain the fiction that they have no records of baptisms, expulsions, public reproofs or formal or informal reprimands. So if you want to annul your baptism, or challenge your judicial process--they allow no access to their records to give you a hearing. Kind of speaks to the reality that they care NOTHING for the souls and well-being of their membership or Freed Ex-Slaves.

Public or Private Reproofs were OBSESSIVELY documented and it was such an obsession that I could literally SMELL it when there was about to be some kind of formal reprimand. I really believe that like a Beehive, they broadcast telepathy by means of pheromones and gutt-instinct. Quite often they gave telling lectures on a vague general problem related to "private counsel" or a "private reproof," and we just KNEW who specifically it referred to and all the juicy details. Because after all, the state of Jehovah's Witnesses is about "Knowledge of Good and Evil," not about a basic condition of love or acceptance. Their state is also denial of mortality, denial of the reality of death, that Death is the Great Equalizer and we will ALL get our turn.

I wish my departed relatives well and have become convinced through NON-RATIONAL experiences and learning that there is an immortal soul that exits the body and goes to other realms, other existences. I cannot argue by law or science that this is "fact" but I believe it to my very core. And it eased my fear of death somewhere along the way, a kind of gentle nudge that no Peer-Pressure, Group-Coercion or Mental Abuse could ever teach me. Something communicated with my soul on a deep level and said "Look, you WILL DIE and you ARE MORTAL and yet there is soul and spirit in the mix and you are just going to have to have faith that the mortal shell is no great loss when the time comes and is the RIGHT time." Get this, I even had a dream-encounter with God where he/she/it told me that we are all wanted children because at the Big Bang, the entire universe was the size of a pin-prick and everything about each of us was present in that Grand Hadron Collider. Cosmic! That's almost as good as my dream of the Great Squash from Outers Space that asked me to eat a bowl of squash as it lectured on telescopes and eternity. Great stuff.

I had some encounters with a more distant relative of the Burns family tree, a woman named Elaine. She had her own views and positions on mortality, sin and metaphysics. She was deeply compelling and her arguments demolished my trumped up Jehovah's Witness position. However she was probably as sadly misguided in her literalism and her formal posturing. For there are many approaches to a study of the soul or spirit, but one thing NOBODY can honestly claim is that there is a SCIENCE of spirit. The domains of knowledge simply defy dogmatism and categorization. Too bad she used coercive persuasion to shut me up and shut me down, forced me into amnesia and would not let me be free to be myself with my own thoughts. But I suppose she may have lost as much as she gained in that little 7-year war we had. Glad it's over, never to be visited again.

That opens up a whole body of ideas, such as that there is an appropriate time that God takes us, that life-lessons though harsh are all part of the Plan, that destiny is a curious mix of choice and predestination. God taking us home is not a theft, it is a homecoming, a family reunion, and a return to Mother Earth that bore us. And any human who takes another's life has sinned deeply. Even threatening harm to another being is a grave sin against the soul and all that is holy. I would say too, pronouncing evil upon others or pontificating, "disfellowshipping" and condemning all Outsiders to Death is itself a sin against the Holy Spirit. And there is a deep compelling urge inside me that says Slavery and Domination of human beings or cruelty even to animals actually wounds the soul of the offender as much or more than the victim. And I can't argue scripture and verse for this, I just believe it in my core, and would fight or die to defend my belief in freedom from slavery and the conviction that Spirit has an agenda we can fight but we can't outrun.



Not bad for an Atheist. For my rational mind says there is no God as mere puny HUMANS understand God. However there is intelligence and an embodiment of love beyond the mere physical and beyond the bounds of Space and Time which I just cannot ignore and cannot deny. But this is true for me and may not be true for anybody else. I can't even put it into words and can't even give it/him/her a name. But God has become very real to me. I guess I'll have to update my labels and say I'm an Agnostic Theist. And paradox, ambiguity, grey areas and adopting many different models for reality at once are all also ok with me now. So sue me, or better yet, stick nasty yellow sticky notes on my tombstone. I don't plan on being there for awhile so save them up and make them creative, make them count. Write poems of cursing and posthumous slander. I won't care then, but will get a chuckle from watching some Scotch or Irish drinker relieve self in any way upon my grave.

I am ok with all that. It feels right and it nurtures me. One thing I'd like to say to Ex-JWs out there that if you endured reading to this point in my statement, you have won the victory. The victory is for "freedom of thought" in a world that would conspire to make us cookie-cutter robots with no soul. And if you hate my words, rebel at them, decide they are evil, relish in their mystery, or enjoy a good science-fiction novel--you've WON and the forces of Mind Control and Coercive Persuasion have lost your soul.

NOTE: If you would like to contribute an article 1-3 pages in length for consideration on any topic for this newsletter, or if you have an opinion to express, please contact Brenda Lee through her website [Out of the Cocoon](#).

FUNNY STUFF

[http://www.zazzle.co.uk/the smiling jehovahs witness at your door may tshirt-235089054919878312](http://www.zazzle.co.uk/the_smiling_jehovahs_witness_at_your_door_may_tshirt-235089054919878312)

[http://www.zazzle.co.uk/jesus was an apostate customized tshirt-235883954379586621](http://www.zazzle.co.uk/jesus_was_an_apostate_customized_tshirt-235883954379586621)

[http://rlv.zcache.com/the smiling jehovahs witness at your door may tshirt-p235089054919878312uye8_400.jpg](http://rlv.zcache.com/the_smiling_jehovahs_witness_at_your_door_may_tshirt-p235089054919878312uye8_400.jpg)

"Stand Firm Against the Devil's Crafty Acts" (The Latest in the Watchtower's Fear Tactics)

The following mp3 of lectures can be downloaded or streamed from the Internet Archive at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/StandFirmAgainstDevilsCraftyActs>

"Stand Firm Against the Devil's Crafty Acts," is a symposium of lectures delivered Saturday, April 11, 2009 as part of a Circuit Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses. It was recorded at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth, Minnesota. The symposium: Have You Identified Satan's Crafty Acts? (From Beginning until 11:09), In the Field of Technology (starting at 11:09), In the Field of Entertainment and Recreation (starting at 28:05), In the Field of Education (starting at 41:34). The program is directed by the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses and sponsored by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York. Very strongly discourages the pursuit of higher education by young Jehovah's Witnesses. Young Witnesses are encouraged to devote their time to full-time door-to-door preaching instead of going to college or university. Other "Satanic crafty acts" involve technology, entertainment and recreation which might draw one away from spiritual pursuits. (Thanks to Dave B for providing this.)



POETIC TRUTH

In response to the latest Watchtower Circuit Assembly, Travis wrote these wonderful poems:

Keep on the watch

Keep on the watch, the end is near
The world outside the Watchtower has much to fear
If to our message they do not hark
And join with us in Jehovah's ark

For once this summer convention is past
We really believe it could be our last
Armageddon now has to be so close
So the world has little time to lose

Although we've said all this before
Over the last 100 years or more
And we've often stated as a fact
The year we think our god should act

We've been so sure of every date
And warned the world of its impending fate
We know Armageddon's coming, but just can't quite
Seem to get the year exactly right

And as the world survives another year
Unbelievers always laugh and jeer
We can't convince them however hard we try
Of the truth, which they say is a lie

But we know that they are wrong
And despite disappointments our faith is strong
That all the Watchtower's claims are true
And when Armageddon comes only we will get through

So even if the system doesn't end
And next year brings a convention to attend
We'll keep believing, and never doubt
That the Watchtower's prophecies will come about

If we keep on the watch and look ahead
To the time when all our mockers lie dead
We're assured of winning the ultimate prize
A place in the Watchtower's promised paradise

Keep on the watch—Part 2

Keep on the watch the elders are about
So no one dare express any doubt
As yet another convention makes the claim
That the end is near, it's always the same

There's so many places we'd rather be
And many people we'd rather not see
As they help serve up this spiritual slop
Another failed doctrine, another flip flop

They give us a book, but it's nothing new
Same old ideas, a slightly changed view
Of worn out old doctrines that we all know so well
This spiritual heaven is really three days of hell

They say this convention could well be the last
Because Armageddon is approaching so fast
We've heard that so often it's beyond belief
But if there's no more conventions it would be a relief

Our leaders would surely express their alarm
That the watch we most look at is the one on our arm
And the moment for which most of us long
Is when we finish singing the very last song

As three days of boredom draw to a close
Whatever they're saying everyone knows
That Armageddon isn't really at the door
And this time next year we'll be back here once more

(When I visited my dad two summers ago, he suggested that the Watchtower should just record the talks and play them over from year to year because nothing has changed. Even *he* noted that the same rhetoric is regurgitated today that was spewed in 1971. He thought it was such a money waster for my mother to drive to another state with gas at \$4/gallon to attend these. This, from a man married to a JW for over 35 years! Makes you wonder how many JWs feel the same every time they step foot into an assembly. I too remember the redundancy.)



JW Children Volunteered Into Slavery: The Baptismal Contract

A while back, someone emailed: “One of the few JWs who still speaks to me told me that at the Circuit Assembly he went to recently that of the four who were baptised, the oldest was 12 and the youngest 8.” He shared this poem about the WT’s abuse of individuals, especially children, and asked me to publish it:

Problems in the Watchtower (WT)

We have a policy, the Watchtower say
That protects our children every day
Yet the cries of thousands of children are heard
From the abuse they’ve suffered in the WT world
The situation may cause one to reflect
Just who the WT’s policy is designed to protect
For what seems to take precedent in any situation
Is protecting the Watchtower’s reputation
This, it seems, is more worthwhile
Than the safety of an innocent child

We are no part of the world, the Watchtower said
The political rulers will soon be dead
Those who support them will have to pay
With their lives when Jehovah brings his day
Even the UN, with all its mighty power
Will be destroyed in Armageddon’s hour
Yet the Watchtower aligned itself with the UN
As an NGO, like the ones they condemn
Their association they kept concealed
And resigned when their secret was finally revealed

Come to Bethel, the Watchtower says
Work for Jehovah the rest of your days
We pay very little, but you will never regret
Coming here, as your needs will be met
So many young people heeded the call

And whatever the task, they gave it their all
They didn’t worry, for they never once thought
That their time at Bethel would ever be cut short
Now many are gone, cut off without a care
And probably wishing that they’d never gone there

Show zeal for the ministry is the Watchtower’s call
Serve Jehovah forever, give him your all
Don’t go to college, for Armageddon is so near
Make pioneering your only career
Many responded to the Society’s plea
And willingly gave of themselves for free
But as the years have passed, and Jah’s promised day
Has seemed to get further and further away
Although the Watchtower still makes its demands
Many of its followers now ignore its commands

What prevents you from getting baptised?
It’s an adult decision though, only you can decide
You may be young, but don’t leave it too late
If we teach you from birth, by the time you are eight
We’ll start to pressure you this step to take
As the Watchtower’s truth your own you make
But once baptised you must never sway
You must serve Jehovah until your dying day
For if you ever begin to show any doubt
From your friends and family we’ll cast you out

The Watchtower STILL baptizes *children*. If you missed the story in my last newsletter, click [here](#) for the story of a 9-year-old who is now a minister. Wow, if you can be a Jehovah Witness *minister* at age 9, what’s that saying about the credibility of the Watchtower’s ‘religion’ and their ministers?

**Coming Soon:
Watch for a NEW
You Tube Video from Brenda Lee**



Question: I'm sure you get thousands of emails asking for help about this fanatical cult. I have a very dear friend that has been disfellowshipped for around 20 years. I have know(sic) Robyn for the last 8 years and have gone through the ups and downs of her life walking beside her and trying to encourage her. In the time I've know Robyn, she has always BELIEVED in what was taught to her while being a JW. She recently started going back to meetings twice a week. I purchased *Crisis of Conscience* more than 12 months ago, she tells me she has read parts of it but couldn't bring herself to read it as she knows that the 'Church' agree to her reading it - didn't matter she was smoking, drinking and screwing around at the time. She has made lots of improvements in her life - she no longer drinks to get drunk or has sex and she is trying to give up smoking so that she can be accepted back into the folds. I feel so sad that our friendship is going to be lost and I have no one to ask advise(sic) on what I should do? Is there ANYTHING I can do to stop this from happening?

Answer: I do receive lots of emails like yours, but I am always happy to help people. Thanks for writing! It's good you want to help your friend and the best way you can do that is to maintain open communication and try to show her some specific points--**a little at a time** so that she doesn't feel you are attacking her or her church. I must clarify though that the Watchtower is not just a religion, it's a cult that has killed thousands of people, sexually abused tens of thousands of children and has been responsible for dividing millions of families through their shunning policies. My family hasn't spoken to me for 29 years simply because I didn't want to remain a JW. I lost my own mother to this divisive group. Those are the things most Jehovah's Witnesses don't want to see-- until they are out and free to read whatever they want. Whatever you do, though, **don't call her group a cult**. That will scare her away. And although I say share a little at a time with her, you also need to move quickly and have frequent communication with her because they quickly indoctrinate (BRAINWASH) people and the stronger their hold on her, the more likely she is to stop talking to you. They will tell her that Satan is working through you to keep her from "the truth." Tell your friend that while her changes in behavior are commendable and in your opinion and perhaps more healthy for her in the long run, she is, in your opinion, being led by a group of men that is very dangerous and could ultimately hurt her (based on things you've read about them)-- Google "Jehovah's Witness" on the internet and read all you can. Tell her you think Jehovah's Witnesses are for the most part very sincere and good people but it's the LEADERSHIP you are concerned about (like Jim Jones). Read her the quote (attached) by Deborah Layton, a Jonestown survivor, and ask her if that sounds at all like her group.

Does she ever want to be a mother? If so, encourage her to read my story of emotional and physical abuse and ask her if she would ever want to raise a child that way, or if she would condone children being sexually abused by her religious leaders. Then ask her to check out [Silent Lambs](#). Refer her to the site (in time) called [How Cults Work](#). The description on this site fits the Watchtower organization so well. Ask her why she is going back. Is it mainly because she misses the friendships and sense of community? Ask her if the friendships are true to her like you have been or would they cast her aside if she ever left the religion entirely (like they did me). Then ask her why the leaders lie about shunning people. Share the attached information with her ("shunning disassociated") and inquire: "Why does a bonafide religion have to lie to the general public and its members?" Ask her, "Wasn't lying the original sin in the Garden of Eden?"

I would be interested in learning if you are able to reach your friend. Please keep me posted and if you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



WHERE'S THE Pepto Bismol?

The Latest in the July 2009 AWAKE, p. 28-29

No one should be forced to worship in a way that he finds unacceptable or be made to choose between his beliefs and his family.

Someone in the Bethel headquarters writing department needs to increase his medication. How they can they write something so blatantly hypocritical? Talk about a warped sense of reality! Folks, I guess this is what happens to you when you spend a lifetime in the catacombs of the Watchtower headquarters and never see daylight but only artificial "new light." Reality check. HELLO?? Anyone home? Time to stop using the dimmer switch.

It's almost unbelievable isn't it? Someone pinch me! I sent this article out and people were, of course, dismayed, sickened and angered. Here's what others had to say about the Watchtower's article "Is It Wrong to Change Your Religion?"

- As I expected, your quotation of the July 2009 Awake! was right in context. I will be able to use it, and show that this should not only apply to those becoming JW's but those holding any belief system. It's the Society's own words. I think the reaction will be "You have a good point there, but WE STILL HAVE THE TRUTH". That's the usual JW unconscious response that they verbalize.
- I'd love a scan of that article--I should probably print at least a dozen copies, because it'll probably make me so mad I'll rip up at least half a dozen...
- I think they are...trying to be more "user friendly" or something. Maybe they are tired of all the flack, or maybe they see a need to tone things down in order to attract more recruits. Whatever their reasoning, I am seeing this trend begin to snowball.
- I was so p.o.'d after reading those things that I wrote to my JW sister whom I rarely hear from. She replied: *My guess would be that going as close to the source of information rather than reading information that is biased one way or another might be a better way to get the facts of a matter.* I just wrote back again and re-cited the source of the quotation and re-emphasized that, yes indeed they are primary source documents. I think she is so brainwashed, after 65 years in the JW's, that she is actually unable to process that information.
- I tried reading the article in order to find the passage in question but as I read these magazines. I became so ANGRY, ENRAGED, F**KING PISSED. I still have too much hatred to read garbage like the Awake! magazine, even if it's for research. I commend you for having the strength to be able to do so.

[Editor's Note: I think a lot of people felt similarly when they read this article and that's why I included the comments here. The thing that has helped my anger dissipate over the years is to realize that our loved ones minds are being held hostage inside a cult, one that forces them to regress to a childlike state. Getting angry



with them is like scorning an infant that just bit her own hand while teething. And at least the infant has a chance to learn and grow intellectually. Can we say the same of our loved ones right now?]

Trevor felt moved enough after reading the Awake! quote to summarize his feelings in this great poem:

Losing your Religion?

If your belief in a church is lost
Then you shouldn't have to count the cost
Of losing family and friends
Because the time has come to an end
That you want to follow a creed
That no longer fulfils your spiritual need

The Watchtower claims to support this view
It's followers may even believe it's true
But though tolerance is what they seem to teach
They rarely practice what they preach
It's power and control that they hold dear
So they rule their flock by threats and fear

For any who dare to break their rules
The treatment is always harsh and cruel
They order friends and family
To shun the one who's broken free
They say leaving the Watchtower is suicide
So they're to be treated as if they've died

So while the Watchtower may say that they agree
That the whole of mankind should be free
To worship in their chosen way
They don't really mean a word they say
For as all who've escaped their cult realise
These brand new claims are just the same old lies



Happy Fourth of July!

I hope you enjoy this holiday with your family and friends. "Freedom" isn't just a word to those of us who fought for our right to leave the Watchtower with our sanity intact, is it? We live and breathe it every day!

Every time I pick up the phone to call a "worldly" friend who would otherwise be off limits if I were a Jehovah Witness, listen to my son play Jimi Hendrix on his guitar* (without feeling the need to "counsel" him about his choice in "unwholesome music"), or watch a scary movie without critiquing it ("oh, it has a vampire and I shouldn't be watching this"), I feel blessed to have the right to do what so many in this world have taken for granted their entire lives. Yep, every time I pop some Lucky Charms cereal into my mouth, I feel, well...lucky. And I'm lucky to be able to use the word "lucky." It's magically delicious! Celebrate *your freedom* this month.

For another interesting photo, check out this human Statue of Liberty at: SNOPES.

*Side note: My son, a music major (classical guitar), just got accepted into Colorado University at Boulder, one of the most prestigious music departments in the country. I'm so proud of him! Go, Derek! He'll be moving there in August, and I pray he will fly successfully out of the (teen) cocoon into a marvelous adulthood.