



THE MEMORIAL'S HEAVEN-BOUND WHY DO THE NUMBERS SEESAW?

First, a short lesson for those who aren't familiar with Jehovah's Witnesses. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that only 144,000 of Jehovah's faithful servants will go to heaven. The rest of the Jehovah Witness population (those who are lucky enough to be spared at Armageddon) will remain on an earthly paradise when 99% of the rest of the evil, unworthy population are destroyed. Every year Jehovah's Witnesses celebrate Christ's death (but obviously not his birth at Christmas) during their Memorial service in May. At this special meeting, those who are of the 144,000 elite partake of the emblems (wine and unleavened bread) to illustrate that they will meet Jehovah God in heaven someday. The elders in each congregation record the number of partakers and send this information to Watchtower headquarters. Watchtower then reports this information each year in their yearly report.

According to the Watchtower Society's 2006 Service Year Report, the 2005 memorial figures showed 8,524 partaking vs 8,758 in 2006. **That's an increase in 2006 over 2005!!** How is that possible? As I'm about to illustrate, wasn't the door closed in 1935? If the door closed in 1935, wouldn't the number of 144,000 left on earth, through simple mathematical attrition (death), *decrease* every year?

In their 1967, 1988, 1995, 2000, and 2001 Watchtower literature, the leaders proclaimed that 1931-1935 marked the end of the gathering in of the anointed—144,000. What I find interesting is that in 1967 they said ALL fish had been caught by 1935, then in 1988 they said the choosing was “about” complete in 1935; then in 1995 they emphatically stated that the general gathering of these blessed ones “ended” in 1935. Do you see the discrepancies:

1967	ALL FISH HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BY 1935	(i.e., done)
1988	(GATHERING OF FISH) ABOUT COMPLETE	(i.e., still ongoing)
1995	(GATHERING OF FISH) ENDED IN 1935	(i.e., done)

The certainty in 1967 stating “ALL,” the 1988 uncertainty stating “ABOUT,” then jumping back to certainty with “ended” in 1995? Sounds like those fish are getting pretty slippery!

Then let's not forget Fred Franz's statement that there are no more additions to the anointed remnant of 144,000. According to the 1999 *Watchtower*, at a Gilead graduation in 1970, Frederick Franz, VP of the Watch Tower Society, asked the students whether there still was a call for gathering in more of the remnant, to which Franz replied: "No, no more additions! That call ended way back there in 1931-35! There are no more additions..." – *Watchtower* 1999, Feb. 1, p. 19, “Our Treasure in Earthen Vessels”

Ah, but here comes the catch (no pun intended). How do you explain to the general membership of Jehovah's Witnesses that there is sometimes an *increase* in partakers of the emblems at the Memorial after spending so many years telling people that the door closed in 1935?

Never fear. New light is at hand. According to the 1999 Watchtower” “Who, then, are the few newly associated ones who are partaking of the Memorial emblems? If they are of the remnant, they are replacements! They are, not additions to the ranks of the anointed, but replacements for those who may have fallen away.” – Watchtower 1999, Feb. 1, p. 19, “Our Treasure in Earthen Vessels”

If Jehovah's Witnesses believe that enrollment ended into the elite 144,000 ended in the mid-thirties as Franz stated emphatically, and that replacements are occurring for those who may have fallen away, then: Why would all knowing, all powerful Jehovah God chose heavenly members who couldn't make the cut to be of the ELITE in the first place?



Wouldn't it be interesting to learn the total number of partakers throughout the history of this organization? I suspect there were far more than 144,000 over the last century! How would they explain a cumulative increase over the years of , say, 200,000? Would they explain this away saying that 56,000 people got ousted from the heaven-bound? Wouldn't the Governing Body be keeping track of these statistics overall, **and why have they never published them?** How will they explain things in 75 years to their members if their numbers don't substantially decrease to just a handful?

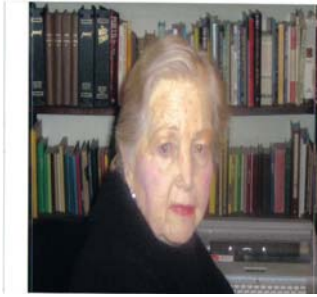
Helen Ortega is formerly one of the Watchtower's 144,000. She has provided her story herein, and I think you'll find it fascinating.

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MY LIFE AS ONE OF THE ANOINTED – 144,000

By Helen Ortega



My Grandmother studied with a Jehovah Witness lady in the late 1940's. Even though I was a church member I joined those studies. When Grandma died, I continued to study with them for years. Eventually I resigned my church membership and was baptized in June of 1950. Having two girls with asthma made it difficult to do what was required by the organization. The specialists asked us to try to visit Arizona, to see if it would help our youngest breathe. I was not able to bring all of my literature with me so I relied on the Bible alone. Many times I had questions about their teachings, but the organization said "no independent thinking." One thought stood out

clearly and it said "Anyone could come to Jesus and not to the organization for salvation." The WT taught that only 144,000 JWs could come to Jesus as their personal savior and lord. However, this number had been filled years ago. Only if someone lost his crown could there be an addition.

One night Becky, my youngest, was struggling for breath. She asked, "Mamma, what happens when you die?" I said, "You know, darling, you just sleep until Jehova wakes you up." "I know Mamma," she replied, "but how will I find you?" She paused and said, "I know, I will take a taxi!" I cried the rest of the night.

We moved to California, right in the middle of the Mojave desert. One evening while the girls were sleeping, I went to bed and dosed off. I dreamed I saw a path leading up to a large white building. There were twelve pillars in front of this building. The path was made of white gold and the house was beautiful! I immediately started to walk up the path. As I continued to walk I knew I was going to have to leave my beloved family. I awoke with a start and went into the den to tell my husband Joe about my dream. As I was talking my oldest daughter Debbie came running into the room crying saying. "No Mamma, don't leave us!" I knew God had called me and I had to respond.

I went to the elder and told him I would be partaking of the emblems to signify I was part of the 144,000. At memorial only those who claimed to be of this class can participate of the bread and wine. The news spread through out the congregation, causing one of the older ladies to gasp and say "Someone has lost his crown!" Memorial came and went, the emblems were passed and I partook. This proclaimed I was one of 144,000 called to be with Jesus in the kingdom of God. The congregation was kind and appeared to accept me as "claimed." However, from then on I noticed most people expected me to know the answers to all of their questions. But I was joyful and in awe to be called by God to be part of his chosen people.

Sometime later I was told of other members of the 144,000 who had left the organization. I was hurt and alarmed. So I decided to visit them and restore them back into the organization. When I arrived I found them to be joyful and happy. They were involved in deep study. In talking with them they also expressed the same questions that I had had while studying in Arizona. They expressed their thoughts openly and with great freedom. I went back more determined then ever to prove the organization true. I found the opposite. The WT teachings were false and they were not the way that leads to life. Both my husband and my daughters were JWs. Debbie had married an elder. They would feel shame. This was counting the cost, but I knew I could never conduct another study or teach what I knew was false.

It was at this time we moved to Bishop, California. Becky loved this town and it was her second year in high school. She made new friends and we let her participate in school activities. We were all trying to make our way without WT instructions. I needed to talk to someone I could trust. I turned to Florence, the lady Grandma and I studied with so many years ago. In my letter I explained my actions and the scriptural teachings that I disagreed with. She immediately sent my letter to WT HQ and several months later I received a phone call from an elder



in the Bishop congregation. He said he had a note on his desk telling him to call me and disfellowship me. This was June 1970. Twenty years of devotion later.

It was the 17th of March that Becky died of asthma on her 17th Birthday. There were no cards, no flowers and no funeral. Only her high school friends showed love and concern. We moved to El Cajon, California, and I started to attend a little community Church. It was there I was asked to give my testimony and to speak in various churches and groups. Debbie and her husband Ken were disfellowshipped for visiting me, and as a result we spoke together as a family in many places.

In 1975 we all moved to Georgia. Debbie and I wrote a book "Mom and Me--Twenty Years Jehova's Wittnesses." We were asked to appear on "The John Ankerburg Show". We became regular guests. We also appeared on numerous televised talk shows. One evening we were speaking at a Baptist Church when the sound man came out of his booth to tell us "You should have a ministry and name it New Light." Eventually we started a newsletter and we held monthly support meetings at our house for people who had left the organization.

I am 84 years old and I am still involved with New Light Ministries. We have a web site, www.newlightministries.com. This has proven to be a very useful tool. My real joy is conducting a weekly Bible study in my home.

The Bible is perfectly clear that the 144,000 are literal Jews chosen by God who will do a powerful preaching work during the great tribulation. Yet many JWs today still believe that they are a part of the 144,000. This is in direct conflict with their teachings, because that number had been filled many years ago.

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