



# PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH

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EDITOR: KEITH A. MORSE

## newsletter

# IS THE TRINITY A PAGAN IDEA?

by John P. Juedes

Without exception, the cults and pseudo-Christian religions today attempt to replace saving Christian belief with concepts of God. One Christian teaching that cults often pervert regards God's identity. In order to be saved a person must trust in the same Triune God that Christianity has known since its beginning. The cults typically try to redefine the Trinity so that their God is really not the same, or they reject any belief that even hints at trinitarianism, labeling the Trinity as "paganism." For instance, the Jehovah's Witnesses declare that:

"The origin of the trinity doctrine is traced back to the ancient Babylonians and Egyptians and other ancient mythologists... It follows, then, that God was not author of this doctrine. (**Let God Be True**, 1952 Ed., pg. 101)

Cults commonly say the Trinity is not an original Christian doctrine, but was added by pagans centuries after the apostles died. Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the World Wide Church of God, repeats this error:

"But the theologians and 'Higher Critics' have blindly accepted the heretical and false doctrine introduced by **pagan** false prophets who crept in, that the Holy Spirit is a third person — the heresy of the 'trinity.' This **limits** God to 'Three Persons.' (**Just What Do You Mean - Born Again?** pg. 19)

Armstrong seems confused about just **how** paganism crept in, though. On page 2 of a May 18, 1981 letter to **Plain Truth** subscribers, he gives a different story from the above:

"In the early centuries there were no Christian schools...all texts were pagan. Children in schools imbibed much pagan teaching and philosophy. Gradually, pagan religious teaching found its way into traditional Christianity."

Usually when the cults deny the Trinity, they also reject the divinity of Jesus Christ. Victor Paul Wierwille of The Way International even wrote a book entitled, **Jesus Christ is Not God**. The first chapter of this book dubs the Trinity as pagan:

"...the idea of a Christian trinity was not a part of the first century Church. The twelve apostles never subscribed to it or received revelation about it. So how then did a Trinitarian doctrine come about? It gradually evolved and gained momentum in the late first, second and third centuries as pagans, who had converted to Christianity, brought to Christianity some of their pagan beliefs and practices. (pg. 25)

These groups are quick to note that the word "Trinity" cannot be found in Scripture. Since the word cannot be found, they conclude that the doctrine of the Triune God cannot be found in Scripture either. Are the Trinity and the divinity of Christ really pagan ideas? How can a Christian respond to the anti-Trinitarian attacks by the cultist?

### What to Say to a Cultist About the Trinity

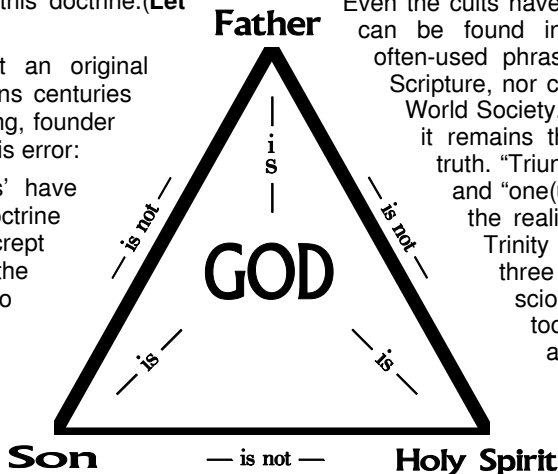
Here are some suggestions on what to say to a cultist when the topic of the Trinity arises. First, talk about the word "Trinity." Admit that the word is not in Scripture. However, must the **word** be there in order for the idea to be biblical truth? Even the cults have to admit that not all of their terminology can be found in Scripture. For instance, The Way's often-used phrase "law of believing" cannot be found in Scripture, nor can the Witness' term "Theocracy" or "New World Society." While the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible, it remains the best word to describe this revealed truth. "Triune" simply means "three (**tri**, as in tri-cycle) and "one (**une**, as in un-ity) which sufficiently states the reality that God is three in one. Stress that Trinity does not mean three gods, but rather three persons (or three centers of self-consciousness) within the one God. Remember, too, that Jesus Christ is not God-only. He is also completely man as well as fully God. It is as wrong to say that He is not fully man as it is to say that He is not fully God. We must not mislead cultists into believing that Jesus has no human nature.

### Theology is Not Doctrine!

It is extremely important to explain to a member of a pseudo-Christian group the difference between theology and doctrine. Theology sorts scriptural teaching into topics and expounds on the Bible in order to teach Christianity in an organized, thorough and understandable manner. Whenever a person writes a book or article on a biblical topic, he is writing theology. "Theologians label broader scriptural teachings in order to identify them. One such label is "Trinity."

Do not be afraid to admit that the theology on the Trinity developed slowly and accumulated over a few centuries. Doctrine, on the other hand, is the basic elements of the faith, some of which are only sketched in Scripture. For instance, all Christian bodies baptize with water, though the manner of baptizing has been debated. Scripture likewise sketches

(continued on page 4)



# NEWS UPDATE

## Penetrating Mormonism in New Zealand

A significant breakthrough to Mormons in New Zealand has recently come about through the conversion of Ronald and Roberta Rees. The couple had been Mormons for some 17 years and are in their early thirties. Nine years ago, they established the first privately owned bookshop catering to supplying Mormons in New Zealand with the church's book requirements. Their operation covered a block in size and included two stores, known as Beehive Books.

Because they carried older as well as more recent Latter-Day Saints books and took time to read many of the older publications, they became aware that teachings of the past were different from those of present-day Mormonism. In 1980, a non-Mormon customer drew their attention to the Tanners' work, **Mormonism: Shadow or Reality**, which they ordered from the states. Before that volume arrived they learned of the Tanners' **Changing World of Mormonism**, which Moody Press had published, and were able to obtain a copy of it from a local dealer in Christian books.

After reading **Changing World**, they decided to leave the church, finding Christ as their Savior in the process. They were excommunicated in March of this year. They loaned the Tanners' book to seven of their friends and all decided to withdraw from the LDS Church. Since then they have ordered a huge amount of the Tanners' books. As a result of their efforts, nearly 70 people have left the Mormon Church, most of whom have become Christians. Those who have been reached included a Bishop, five return missionaries, and two stake High Counselmen.

An Ex-Mormons to Jesus group has been organized and mailings have been sent telling of their reasons for leaving the LDS Church to the entire bookstore Mormon mailing list. Every day, letters and phone calls are received bringing new inquiries.

They are disposing of their LDS books and converting their large operation to a Christian Bookstore ministry. Prayers are requested that this good work will be forwarded by the Lord. One return LDS missionary, after being shown the contradictions in Mormonism, said with tears in his eyes, "I've wasted two years of my life and all that money for a lie. Two days later, he accepted the Lord. He is now on the verge of converting his relatives who were third-generation Mormons.

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## The Way International Turns 40

The Way International will celebrate its 40th Anniversary from October 3, 1981 through October 3, 1982. The founder Victor Paul Wierwille claims that in 1942, he heard God's call to teach The Word as it had not been known since the first.

The most significant event of the anniversary will be Wierwille's retirement from the presidency of The Way on October 3, 1982. L. Craig Martindale will be installed as the second president on that date. Martindale was chosen over Wierwille's son, Donald E., now vice president; Howard Allen, secretary-treasurer, and Walter Cummins, assistant to the president. Martindale first took the **Power for Abundant Living** course class in 1971 and claims to have worked in the past with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Campus Crusade for Christ. Since entering the second Way Corps in 1971, he has held more than a half-dozen leadership positions in The Way.

Wierwille will maintain control over The Way International as one of the group's three trustees and as the revered "Teacher."

The celebration will offer several special activities to Way followers. Each of the eight regions of The Way of U.S.A. will offer an anniversary weekend, featuring a banquet and a teaching by Wierwille. The Way will also offer a new class, "Living Victoriously, at the New Knoxville Headquarters June 19-July 5, 1982. Open to graduates of PFAL, it is described as "an advanced, advanced class. No fees for the class have yet been published, but they will likely be similar to those demanded at the 1977 filming of PFAL held at Ball State, which netted The Way about \$500,000.

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## Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus Convention

The Third International Convention of Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus will be held at Blue Mountain Christian Retreat, in New Ringgold, Pennsylvania. The theme of this year's convention is "Life Jesus Higher and will be held October 23, 24 and 25, (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Featured will be teachings on how to witness to Jehovah's Witnesses, also ex-Witnesses will share their testimonies of conversion to Christianity.

William (Bill) I. Cetnar, a former high-ranking Jehovah's Witness, of 22 years, is the convention chairman. Noteworthy speakers include Prof. James Bjornstad, Director of Institute of Contemporary Christianity, Oakland, New Jersey; David Henke, Director of Watchman Fellowship, Columbus, Georgia; Duane Magnani, Director of Witness, Inc., Clayton, California; Lorri MacGregor, of MacGregor Ministries, Vancouver, B.C.; Bill Warner, Director of Christian Apologetics Project, Absecon, New Jersey; and Conrad and Joan Krapf from Tasmania, Australia, who will be in charge of the music at the convention. Chris and Norma Sanchez, former Jehovah's Witnesses who worked at Bethel in the Spanish translating Department until 1980, will also be guest speakers. In addition, both Wesley Walters and Kurt Goedelman, Directors of Personal Freedom Outreach, will be lecturing.

During previous convention, the Holy Spirit has been able to minister as life-changing commitments to our Lord Jesus Christ were made at the retreat as well as through the effective witnessing techniques taught.

Additional information concerning speakers, retreat accommodations and meals may be obtained by writing to William I. Cetnar, Route 3, Box 127, Kunkletown, PA 18058.

The next issue of our newsletter will feature photos and highlights of this year's convention, but don't wait for our newsletter, make plans to attend!

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## Supreme Court Allows Limits to Fund-Raising by Religious Groups

States may limit soliciting and literature distribution by religious groups, the Supreme Court has ruled.

Such limits are constitutional when a "significant governmental interest in the "safety and convenience of people in a public forum is shown, the court ruled.

The specific case involved members of the International

# NEWS UPDATE

Society of Krishna Consciousness and a challenge to a Minnesota law preventing members of the sect from roaming the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, distributing literature and seeking contributions.

The Krishna group said the law was a violation of their rights to freely exercise their religion, specifically the practice of "sankirtan, a ritual requiring members to distribute literature and seek contributions.

While the ruling applied directly only to state fairs, it presumably will allow limits in other places, such as airports. Those limits, whether on fairgrounds or elsewhere, include confining such solicitors to a booth or similar fixed area.

The ruling leaves the Krishnas and other religious groups free to roam about and speak to whoever will listen. Only when they try to sell literature or seek contributions must they remain confined.

The ruling does not restrict such soliciting on city streets. The ruling made a distinction between practicing "sankirtan on the streets and in an area where "the flow of the crowd and demands of safety are more pressing."

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Justices Potter Stewart, Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist joined in White's opinion.

Justices William J. Brennan, Thurgood Marshall, John Paul Stevens and Harry A. Blackmun voted to strike down that portion of the Minnesota law restricting the distribution of free literature.

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## Way Course Now Taught in German

The Way International announced in **The Way Magazine**, May-June 1981, that Wolfgang Schneider completed the first recording of the **Power for Abundant Living Class** (and the Intermediate Class) in the German language in late March. The class is now available in German, French, Spanish and English. Gary Curtis taught the first Advanced class in Spanish to 66 students in Chile, January 24-February 5, 1981. This was the first time the advanced class was taught in a language other than English. The Way expects to teach the Spanish Advanced Class again in Venezuela to 70 people. This emphasizes the need for Spanish language literature that addresses the cults from the Christian view. A large selection of material has been produced on the cults in English, but foreign language material is difficult to find.

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## New Phase of the Moon

The Unification Church, known as the Moonies, has lost its libel suit against a British newspaper — a real setback for the followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. On the American scene, the news media are now reporting that Moon stands to lose his right to remain in the U.S.A. By virtue of his marriage to a woman who has been granted temporary privileges for residency in the U.S., Moon reportedly has been permitted to remain in the country but that privilege is now under review. If further extension is not granted, both Moon and his wife will face deportation.

## Faithful Scholar Gains His Reward

Dr. Julius R. Mantey, 91, a member of Personal Freedom Outreach's board of reference, died Aug. 12, 1981, in Port Richey, Fla.

Mantey, along with H.E. Dana, wrote **A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament**, which is a widely accepted textbook on Biblical Greek.

He also was professor of the New Testament Interpretation at Northern Baptist theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill., and served on the board of translators of the **New International Version** of the Bible.

We praise God for his service to the Lord, the lives he has touched and for his recent work in the pseudo-Christianity field. His help and encouragement to our ministry was greatly appreciated and he will be deeply missed.

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## New Witnessing Materials

**The Way International: The Christian View** — A survey tract outlining The Way probing into their history, doctrines, scholarship, suggestions for witnessing, etc. This tract, as in the case of the similar tracts on the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, parallels the slide presentation of the same title. (Cost \$5.50 per 100 - Tract #WT 114 WAY)

### —SPANISH MATERIAL—

Two Jehovah's Witness tracts have been translated into Spanish and are currently available. They are: *No Esta Aqui...Ha Resucitado Como Dijo* (He Is Not Here... He Has Risen, As He Said #WT-104) and *¿A Quien Puede Usted Confiarse?* (Whom Can You Trust? #WT-111). The *Ha Resucitado* is an exposé of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Gospel of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The *¿A Quien Puede Usted Confiarse?* tract is an examination in quiz form of the false prophecies of the Watchtower Society. (Cost \$5.00 per 100).

### —JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES—

Two new tracts, dealing with Jehovah's Witnesses have been published by Personal Freedom Outreach. They are: **The Strawmen of the Watchtower Society** and **Is The President of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Truth?** The Strawmen tract deals with questions and answers of six favorite proof texts used by Jehovah's Witnesses on the subject of the deity of Christ (such as Col. 1:15, John 1:18, Rev. 3:14). The President tract examines the claims of Frederick Franz, current Watchtower President, as to his alleged scholarly abilities and then proves false these claims, through documented material. The cost of both these tracts are \$4.00 per 100 copies and can be ordered with the following item numbers WT-115 — **The Strawmen of the Watchtower Society** WT-116 — **Is the President of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Truth?** Samples of the above mentioned tracts can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope (18¢) to Personal Freedom Outreach, P.O.Box 26062 - St. Louis, MO 63136. Be sure to make mention of the material you are requesting. For bulk orders, please add 15% shipping costs.

### —WALTERS ON MORMONISM—

**Discovering Mormon Documents** (CT-101) — A lecture by Reverend Wesley P. Walters narrating how he became interested in Mormon research and what led to his discovery of no revival in 1820 and the 1826 trial bills. 90 minute cassette \$2.00.

Trinitarianism, though it does not elaborate and reflect upon the doctrine as Christian theology did later. Christians in all centuries have accepted the kernel of Trinitarianism, while Christian theology came to understand better and expound Trinity more fully as time went on.

### Early Church Fathers and the Trinity

The cults sometimes state that the early Church did not teach the Trinity or the deity of Christ. Be ready to show the cultist many examples of early Christian writers who mention the Trinity and the deity of Christ. For example, a writing of about 80 A.D. called the **Didache** echoes Jesus' command to baptize in the name (singular) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (section 7). Many writers in the first three centuries repeat this and other phrases which describe the Trinity.

Many early Christian writers also speak of the divinity of the Son. Some clear and frequent statements can be found in the letters of Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, written about 110 A.D. Acknowledge that some early writers seem to demote the Son from his proper position, seem to say contradictory things, or write other things which seem off the track to us today. We must remember that the Church then, as now, had good, mediocre, and poor theologians. Their aptness to teach was affected by the degree of their understanding, a lack of organized theology, and at times even a lack of a few books of Scripture, since the makeup of the New Testament was not fully settled until the second or third centuries and books were hard to come by.

### Is the Trinity a Pagan Idea?

Many of the cults reason this way: a) Some pagan religions follow "trinitities which were taught before the Christian era; b) traditional Christianity follows a trinity; c) therefore, Christianity's trinity must be pagan and not truly Christian at all; d) we do not teach a pagan trinity, therefore we must be the true Christian Church on earth today. How can a Christian answer this argument?

First, point out that pagan "trinitities are not trinitities at all — they are **triads** — and a triad is different from a trinity. A triad is like the Three Musketeers or the Three Stooges. They are three different people who sometimes work together, often trip over each other and sometimes war against each other. For instance, the Greek triad of Zeus, Athena and Apollo were seldom in agreement and usually fighting. The Hindu triad of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are also at odds, as are their respective followers, who competitively promote their god as superior to the other gods. By contrast, the Christian Trinity is in harmony. In fact, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one even in substance.

Second, point out that just because pagan religions have an idea does not necessarily mean it is completely wrong. For instance, ancient pagan writings such as the Sumerian King-List, the Semetic Old-Babylon Epic of Atrakhasis and the Sumerian Flood-Story all describe Creation and the Great Flood (though differently than Genesis does). Does this mean that supernatural creation and the great flood are pagan ideas and therefore cannot be Christian in any form? Of course not. Likewise, pagan "trinitities (triads) may well have an element of truth to them, and are not proof that the Christian Triune God is nothing but warmed-over paganism.

Third, investigate the sources the cults quote as authorities. Often cults will snatch a small part of a Christian book to make it say what they want it to say rather than what the author intended. For instance, **The Two Babylons** by Alexander Hislop is quoted by the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Way International (see **Make Sure of All Things**, pg. 386 and **Jesus Christ is Not God**, pg. 11 against Trinitarianism, when in fact Hislop supports the Trinity as a fully Christian teaching!

## The Trinity Throughout Scripture

Finally, when a Christian talks with a cultist about the Trinity, he should show how the Triune God is revealed as such in Scripture. Show how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are each spoken of as being God. (II Peter 1:17, John 1:1, Acts 5:3,4) What are we to do with these verses and others like them? Shall we falsely translate John 1:1 as the Witnesses and The Way International do, so the verses "fit together better? No, we accept them all, putting Scripture above our reason. There may seem to be a paradox, hard to understand, but they are true. Show, too, how each of these is said to have the same characteristics, such as eternal, omniscience, etc. What may be said about one of the three may also be said of the other two since collectively and individually the three are really only one God. Of course, the clearest statement of the Trinity continues to be Matthew 28:19, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Every Greek manuscript of Matthew that has come down to us has this verse, showing it is authentic. While "name is singular, showing there is only one name, that one name is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There are other similar Trinitarian formulas when the three are spoken of on the same level, such as II Corinthians 13:14. It would be impossible for inspired writers to speak of a threeness like God the Father, the inferior son and an impersonal holy force on the same level; rather, the Triune Deity is spoken of in these places as of equal status. Emphasize and demonstrate that Scripture speaks of the divinity of Jesus Christ and the Trinity of God not just once, twice, or only four times as Wierwille asserts. (**Jesus Christ is Not God**, pg. 30) Rather the Bible elucidates these truths repeatedly.

The steps above should help you respond to a follower of a pseudo-Christian religion when he condemns belief in the Triune God. Much more could be said about the distinction between theology and doctrine, of the views of the early Church and the rich scriptural revelation about God. Make the effort to "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. (II Timothy 2:15)

### For further study:

For exact references to many of the passages from early Christian writers which speak of the Trinity and the deity of Jesus Christ, and for a closer examination of Victor Paul Wierwille's misuse of Church history, see **The Journal of Pastoral Practice**, Vol. 5, No. 2. For help on Scripture passages which show the Trinity and deity of Christ, write to **Personal Freedom Outreach** for the tracts, **A True Christian Presentation** and **The Deity of Christ According to the Scriptures**. (Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.) Most books that deal with Arian cults such as the Jehovah's Witnesses and The Way International discuss Scripture regarding the Trinity, such as F.W. Thomas' **Masters of Deception**.

## CULT AWARENESS PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE ON FILMSTRIP

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: THE CHRISTIAN VIEW** (FS-101) — This filmstrip deals with the Jehovah's Witnesses, examining their History, Material Published by Their Organization, Doctrines, Indoctrinating Process, False Prophecies and Suggestions for Christian Witnessing. 103 Frames. 42 Minute cassette narration tape.

**MORMONISM: THE CHRISTIAN VIEW** (FS-102) — This filmstrip deals with the Mormons (Latter-Day Saints), examining their History, Doctrines, Claim to Authority, Changes in Doctrines, False Prophecies, Missionary Methods and Suggestions for Christian Witnessing. 112 Frames. 48 Minute cassette narration tape.

*Christianity Today* magazine recently recommended the filmstrips, saying, "They make an impressive new approach to dealing with the cults. These filmstrips are available directly from our ministry for \$19.95 each, plus \$1.25 postage.

# QUOTES and MISQUOTES of the WATCHTOWER SOCIETY

## IS THE PRESIDENT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES "IN THE TRUTH?"

by M. Kurt Goedelman

Frederick William Franz is the president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, a 2.2 million member sect popularly known as Jehovah's Witnesses. This organization throughout its history has always sought to appear scholarly not only by quoting non-Witness scholars but also by attributing to its own leaders distinguished titles. The founding president Charles Taze Russell, for example, was given the title of "Pastor" although he had NO theological training. Joseph Franklin Rutherford, the second president, acquired the title of the "Judge" although he never officially was elected to such a prestigious office. Herbert H. Stroup, in his book **The Jehovah's Witnesses**, observed that "the conferring of these titles seems evidence of an intense desire to elevate the leader in prestige and the organization to a status of openly authoritarian management and spirit.(pp. 15, 16) Mr. Franz has likewise been the recipient of such exalted claims.

The Watchtower endorsed publication **Faith On The March** written by the long-standing Jehovah's Witness A.H. Macmillan sets forth Franz's alleged scholastic abilities. It boasts, (pg. 181) "A scholar from his youth, Franz is a keen student of the Bible. Born in Covington, Kentucky, in 1893. **he carried away the honors of the University of Cincinnati and was offered the privilege of going to Oxford or Cambridge in England under the Rhodes Plan.** Instead, in 1914, he entered the full-time ministry.(emphasis added) Such credentials, if true, appear most impressive. However, first of all, it is not possible to attend Cambridge University on the Rhodes Scholarship. Further examination reveals that the other claims are false.

The assertion that Franz was elected to a scholarship under the Rhodes Plan, is contradicted by the factual data itself. First, the Rhodes Scholarship Trust (the organization responsible for the scholarships) after carefully checking their records have stated that they "**do not find that Frederick William Franz was elected to a Rhodes Scholarship.**Based on their own accurate records they advise, "**You may conclude that his claim to have been a Rhodes Scholar is incorrect.**Furthermore, the assertion that Franz "carried away the honors of the University of Cincinnati is also proven false in the light of a court trial which took place in Scotland in November, 1954. The following quotations are found on page 91 of the court transcript and are taken from the cross-examination of Mr. Franz.

Q. At what age did you go to Cincinnati University?

A. I entered the University in 1913 after graduating from Woodward High School and I continued there until April 1914.

Q. When did you go to the University?

A. In 1911 and I continued there until April 1914.

Q. Did you graduate?

A. No, I did not. I left the University in 1914. (emphasis added)

Thus the claim that Mr. Franz "carried away the honors demonstrated to be fraudulent in the light of his own statements made in Scotland, under oath when he admitted that he did not even graduate from the University of Cincinnati!

In the same vein, the **Faith On The March** publication proclaims of Franz that "He is also a scholar of Hebrew and Greek as well as of Syriac and Latin, all of which contribute to making him a thoroughly reliable mainstay on Knorr's editorial staff.(pg. 182) Franz's linguistic abilities also came under consideration in the same Scottish court trial. When asked if he

had made himself familiar with Hebrew, he gave an affirmative reply. (pg. 7) However, upon further questioning it became evident that he could not read, speak nor translate the Hebrew language (pp. 102, 103) — an extremely poor showing for one alleged to be a "scholar of Hebrew."

We may conclude that Frederick Franz, who has been hailed as the Jehovah's Witnesses' chief teacher and spiritual timekeeper, has allowed his followers to be misled into believing him to be a reputable and knowledgeable scholar. In reality he is neither. Further, if Franz is indeed the "thoroughly reliable mainstay" the Society wishes us to believe he is, then the reliability of other teachings and qualification too should be examined and challenged. The scholarly abilities claimed for Franz are nothing more than blatant lies, which Mr. Franz has never bothered to repudiate. Could this be because the doctrinal views of the Watchtower Society do not consider lying in certain cases to be spiritually or morally wrong? A quick look at **Aid To Bible Understanding** (pg. 1060) reveals the Society's definition of the word "lie" as "saying something false to a person who **is entitled** to know the truth.(emphasis added) (Also see **Watchtower**, June 1, 1960, pg. 352.) It would appear that President Franz feels the public, including faithful Jehovah's Witnesses, do not deserve to know the truth concerning his educational endeavors and has allowed such false claims to be published unchallenged. The Watchtower has defined truth as "that which is firm, trustworthy, stable, faithful, true or established fact.(**Aid To Bible Understanding**, pg. 1618) In the light of such a definition, one can only conclude that the Watchtower has promoted falsehood about their present president by attributing to him as "established fact" what is manifestly not so.

This promotion of falsehood is entirely in line with Watchtower policy. An article in the July 13, 1955 (pg. 819) issue of **Christian Century** magazine notes that Franz, then vice-president of the organization, interpreted "certain Old Testament passages as proving that when it meant preservation of his own, Jehovah approved lying to one's enemies; hence such lying is not to be condemned so long as it is addressed to outsiders."



# BOOKS IN REVIEW

## THE FAKERS

Satan is alive and will on Planet Earth — it's just that he's not as showy as some people think, say Danny Korem and Paul Meier, M.D., authors of **The Fakers - Exploding the Myths of the Supernatural**.

Korem, a magician and Meier, a practicing psychiatrist, combine their expertise in the study of sleight-of-hand and sleight-of-mind, respectively, to debunk the idea that such things as Ouija boards, dowsing rods, Tarot cards, psychic surgery, table-tilting and other practices put one in direct contact with demonic forces.

It's not that the authors believe these practices are harmless. Both are Christians and both understand the danger of placing one's trust in anything other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God; Satan, they contend, needn't stoop to any spectacular displays of power when people are gullible enough to believe in this stuff.

Their Satan is the Satan of C.S. Lewis' **The Screwtape Letters**, not of **The Exorcist**.

After an introductory chapter, Korem proceeds to analyze 10 phenomena often considered occultic. From the standpoint of a magician — one well-schooled in the art of legerdemain — he asks "What kind of physical movement, psychological principles, mathematical principles, laws of physics and other factors come into play?"

By the end of the chapter, Korem has moved a practice from the realm of the mystical back into the mundane.

Meier concludes each chapter with a comment based on his experiences with psychiatric patients. Among the surprising statements is one that he has never seen a single case of demon possession. (pg. 160)

The final two chapters discuss the perfect track record of Biblical prophecy, cited as an example of true supernatural intervention, and offer a brief introduction to the subject of angels and demons. Closing out the book is the story of **The Miraculous Flight of Eldon Hill**, which Korem believes is an instance of angelic intervention.

**The Fakers** is a refreshing book. Amid the crush of sensationalistic books on the occult written by well-meaning but misguided Christians, it is a welcome change. Its hard-nosed approach brings the reader back to reality.

Korem isn't afraid to take on the work of Dr. Kurt Koch, a widely read researcher into occult phenomena. On several occasions, Korem refutes Koch's work and makes a convincing argument for the idea that Koch's work left much to be desired.

However, Korem seems a bit overzealous in his chapter on the story of Saul and the witch at Endor. (I Samuel 28:1-14) Those who have read Raphael Gasson's **The Challenging Counterfeit** may think Korem has overlooked an important detail, and has come to the wrong conclusion.

Further, the book's view of tribulation prophecy is dogmatic to the point that, if events don't conform to the Korem's view, we will only be able to assume that, in Korem's view, the Bible must be wrong.

The book also disappoints in its silence on such compelling cases as Edgar Cayce, Eileen Garrett and Jayne Roberts (of **Seth Speaks** fame). What might Korem and Meier have to say of these people? Perhaps they will collaborate again and we'll find out.

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## NEWSLETTER