



PERSONAL
FREEDOM
OUTREACH

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newsletter

A Faithful Witness Will Not Lie; But A False Witness Uttereth Lies.

Keith A. Morse and M. Kurt Goedelman

Proverbs 14:6

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society has always sought the approval and support of scholars for its peculiar theology. The trouble is, the Society has faced an almost impossible task in finding such support.

At times, therefore, the Society has had to resort to devious techniques in order to appear to have the scholarly support they so greatly desire. Ellipses (...) have become a favorite among the writers of Watchtower material, enabling them to alter the meaning of a quotation so it appears to endorse their teachings.

Further dishonest techniques include misquotations, misrepresentations and the use of half-truths.

For example, the Society's inaccurate *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* renders John 1:1:

"In [the] beginning, the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god."

Stripping Christ of His deity has been a lifelong practice of the Watchtower. Distorted translation of clear Biblical texts as well as isolated Scripture passages are used to endorse their position.

Their unsupported rendering of John 1:1 contradicts all known rules of New Testament Greek grammar, and, in order to present the appearance of scholarly backing for their translation of that verse, the Society has misquoted Dr. Julius R. Mantey and H.E. Dana's *Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*.

Both Dana and Mantey firmly held to the Christian belief in the Triune God as is evident throughout their *Grammar*. In fact, the late Dr. Mantey had on several occasions issued statements concerning the misquotation of his statements by the Witnesses, and directed a letter of request to the Watchtower headquarters in Brooklyn demanding references and quotes from his book be removed from their publications. His request was ignored!

The practice of wrenching a quote from its context is common in many of the Watchtower's publications, mainly because it is the only way the Society can present even a veneer of scholarly respectability for their theology. That the source they quote disagrees with their theology is secondary, so long as the source says **something** that they can use.

The Society will also misrepresent a source if that person says something that they agree with.

The *Watchtower* magazine (Dec. 1, 1980) for example, cites an article in *U.S. Catholic* magazine (April 1980) in which a United Methodist clergyman expresses his doubts about the existence of hell as it is taught by Orthodox Christianity. The Watchtower

Society, which itself denies the existence of hell, naturally appealed to this apparent agreement with their theology by a mainline Protestant minister.

What the Society failed to mention is that the Rev. Robert Short, the author of the article, is a universalist. Rev. Mr. Short believes that all people are going through hell right here on earth and that God, being a loving God, will save us all and let us all go to heaven, regardless of our beliefs and deeds in this life. It would be tough to find a doctrine further from the Society's position on this matter. The Society holds the view that there is **no** hell at all and that anyone who does not please Jehovah God by being one with them will not be saved, but will be annihilated.

Not only has the Society misrepresented Rev. Mr. Short's views in order to support their own position, but their use of a universalist, regardless of his clerical credentials, as a representative of the Protestant clergy, is misleading.

Recent research has uncovered a more startling example of misrepresentation in the Society's use of the works of Johannes Greber. The Society cites him in three currently used publications as lending support to their doctrines.

Certainly, Greber should be a favorite among the Jehovah's Witnesses today. His stand on many of their major doctrines is identical. For example, in his writings, Greber has said: "There is no union of three persons and no Trinity in the sense in which you (Christians) teach. God is an individual person. Only the Father is God." Further he says, "Christ Himself was not God, but only the first of God's sons."

Because of a need to support his heretical doctrines, Greber published his own translation of the New Testament. He says that he was told by the spirit world that there were places in the New Testament, in modern Bibles, in which a word has been changed to the extent of altering the sense of the text. When he inquired and asked for a reference, he was given John 20:28. The spirit announced that Thomas did not proclaim Jesus as his Lord and God, but rather as his Lord and Master. Greber then, because of further announced discrepancies, proceeded to translate his New Testament "without restriction to the dogma of any church."¹

In line with this thinking, the most striking comparison with Watchtower interpretation is Greber's rendering of John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God; and the Word was a god."

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NEWS UPDATE

CHANGED AGAIN!

Every so often Mormonism changes either its theology or its scriptures. *The Book of Mormon* alone between 1830 and 1920 received some 4,000 changes in the text. The most recent alteration of Mormon scriptures has occurred in the publication of the new "Triple Combination." The "Triple Combination" is a collection into one volume of *The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants*, and *The Pearl of Great Price*. The 1981 edition has introduced changes into the text of these Mormon writings that has become a topic of conversation for the last few months in Salt Lake City. The alterations have not been marked and hours of painstaking comparison would be needed to catch all the changes made.

In regard to *The Book of Mormon*, no guiding principle seems to have directed the process of alteration. In a good number of instances the reading of the original manuscripts was restored, including some readings that have never appeared in any printed edition (e.g. the comment that watching a seed sprout will strengthen one's faith, Alma 32:30).

At other times the wording of the manuscript was rejected in favor of the wording of the 1840 printed edition. Such was the course followed in 2 Nephi 30:6. The manuscript from which *The Book of Mormon* was type-set predicted that the Nephites (Indians) would some day become a "white and delightsome" people when converted to the Mormon faith. The 1830 and 1837 editions followed this reading and Joseph Smith even claimed to receive a revelation in 1831 based on this understanding. The revelation urged his church leaders to take wives from among Indian women so that the Indian's skin would be lightened in color through this racial mixture and thus bring about the fulfillment that the Indians would become a "white and delightsome" people. By 1840, Joseph had possibly become convinced that the change in skin color would not occur. What ever the reason, the wording was changed to "pure and delightsome." Editors after Smith's death retained "white", however, until the new "Triple Combination" returned to the 1840 wording of "pure," thus relieving the Indians of the necessity of altering their skin color after becoming Mormons.

One might think that the editors of the "Triple Combination" followed the original manuscripts except where their prophet made alterations in the 1837 or 1840 editions which were printed during his lifetime and under his supervision. Not so, however, for the reading of Alma 29:4 has been restored although deleted in the 1837 and 1840 editions. The original manuscript, the printer's copy and the first edition (1830) all contained the wording that God "decreeth unto them [men] decrees which are unalterable." The 1837 and 1840 editions (as well as all editions prior to 1981) deleted these words. They have now been restored in the new "Triple Combination."

It would almost seem that the alterations were made on some sort of subjective basis, such as a burning in the bosom, rather than upon some rational basis or in the light of the original manuscripts. Whatever the guiding force, Mormons will now have to accept still another alteration to their scriptures, for the changes were made and published under the copyright of the President and in the name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

THINGS LOOKING UP AT BETHEL

Inflation has once again made its way into the pages of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Current issues show an increase of 5¢ from the 10¢ price per issue to 15¢. The 10¢

magazines remained with us less than four years as they were increased from 5¢ to 10¢ in the beginning of 1978.

This augmentation will show the Society an increase of \$1,670,000.00 per month (or over \$20 million a year).

The average printing of each magazine issue is also up slightly after a successive 3-year decline which saw the *Watchtower* magazine go from 10.4 million copies per issue in 1977 to 8.75 million in 1980. The current average printing is stated to be 9,200,000, up 400,000 from the previous year. The *Awake!* magazine is up the same amount from 7,800,000 to 8,200,000 average printing per issue.

Other *Watchtower* material has also felt the inflation bug, such as the Society's *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. Where and when will this rampant price increase stop? Maybe after Armageddon ... when we might be able to return to a good 5¢ heretical magazine.

AWAKE! 1988 IS APPROACHING

Inside sources from Bethel have recently disclosed that current president Fred W. Franz has been suggesting (or hinting) that 1988 could be it!! It is said that Franz is basing this on a 40-year generation from the time that Israel became a nation. The Witnesses, rebounding from the 1975 failure, are beginning an upsurge in membership after a decline over the past few years. The January 1, 1982 *Watchtower* magazine shows a 1981 worldwide increase of 3.3%. If the Society decides to fully endorse Franz's chronology, this, as in the years before 1975, could bring great increases in membership. All will be anxiously awaiting word on the prophecy in upcoming *Watchtower* publications. Since Franz's previous record has been nothing less than dismal... Good Luck Fred!!

NEW WITNESSING MATERIAL

Two new tracts published by Personal Freedom Outreach are **Divine Truths In The Book Of Mormon** and **The Deity Of Jesus Christ According To The Scriptures**. The **Divine Truths** tract deals with six points made in the Book of Mormon which are in reality contradicted by current Mormon theology. An examination of these contradictions are documented from five of their major publications. These changes and contradictions leave no doubt as to the human man-made origin of Mormonism. The **Deity** tract cites Scripture references to support 12 major Biblical factors regarding the deity of Christ. This handy tract is useful in witnessing to many of today's cults. The cost of both these tracts are \$4.00 per 100 copies and can be ordered with the following item numbers: WT-117 **Divine Truths In The Book Of Mormon** and WT-118 **The Deity of Jesus Christ According To The Scriptures**.

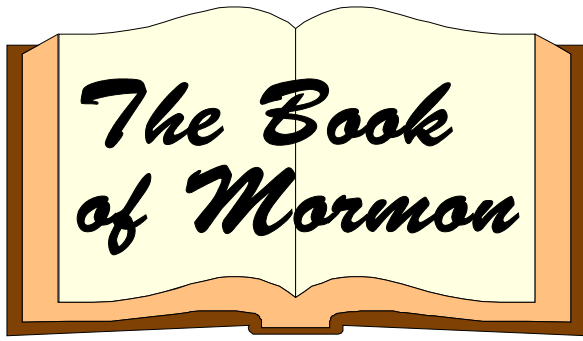
CETNAR ON JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

How To Witness To A Jehovah's Witness (CT-102). A lecture by William Cetnar, a former high ranking Jehovah's Witness, which deals with helpful suggestions on deprophetizing this false prophet group. (90 minute cassette) \$2.00

WALTERS ON THE CULTS

Patterns In The Cults (CT-103). Rev. Wesley Walters' message given this year at the Ex-Jehovah's Witness Convention. This lecture will give you insight into many similarities between the modern day cults in perspective to Orthodox Christianity. (60 minute cassette) \$2.00

DIVINE TRUTHS IN



Anyone visited by a Mormon Missionary has heard the Elder's testimony concerning his Book of Mormon that he knows this book is the Word of God and that the founder of the Mormon Church, Joseph Smith, translated it by the gift and power of God. Further, the prospect is encouraged to sincerely study *The Book of Mormon* and "the divine truths it contains."

The Book of Mormon indeed does contain some divine truths, some of which are:

- 1) **God is Spirit** — Alma 18:28 (pg. 242) — "Believest, thou that this Great Spirit, who is God, created all things which are in heaven and in the earth?...²"
- 2) **Trinitarian View of God** — 3 Nephi 11:27 (pg. 422) — "Verily I say unto you, that the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost are one."
- In addition, three close associates of Joseph Smith who gave testimony of the authenticity of *The Book of Mormon*, close with the words: "And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son and the Holy Ghost, **which is one God. Amen**" (emphasis added). This endorsement is found in the front of every *Book of Mormon* and further documents the *Book of Mormon's* acknowledgement of the triune nature of God.
- 3) **God is Unchangeable**—Moroni 8:18 (pg. 517)—"For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but He is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity."
- 4) **No Salvation After Death** — Mosiah 3:25 (pg. 141) — "And if they are evil they are consigned to an awful view of their own guilt and abominations, which doth cause them to shrink from the presence of the Lord into a state of misery and endless torment, from whence they can no more return; therefore they have drunk damnation to their own souls."
- 5) **Only Two Destinations After Death** — Mosiah 16:11 (pg. 166) — "If they be good, to the resurrection of endless life and happiness; and if they be evil, to the resurrection of endless damnation."
- 6) **Salvation by Christ's Work Not Man's** — Helaman 5:9 (pg. 369) — "...remember that there is no other way nor means whereby man can be saved, only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, who shall come, yea, remember that he cometh to redeem the world."

Also, *The Book of Mormon* emphasizes the need for spiritual rebirth as it is proclaimed in Alma 5:14, "And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts?"

Much of the major theology announced in *The Book of Mormon* is indeed in harmony with historical Christianity. However, many who are visited by the LDS Missionaries are unaware that the presently proclaimed theology is very different from their own *Book of Mormon*. Further, not only are today's major doctrines different, they are in total opposition with this "claimed" inspired work of Joseph Smith, Jr.

Mormon theology is not contained in, but rather contradicted by *The Book of Mormon*. The members of this sect now turn to

newer publications for their beliefs. A brief examination of some of these will document the contradictions.

- 1) Mormonism today teaches "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (*Doctrine & Covenants*, 130:22).
- 2) Joseph Smith taught regarding the Trinity, "Many men say there is one God — the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God! I say that is a strange God anyhow — three in one, and one in three!" He further concludes that Father, Son and Holy Ghost are three Gods (*History of the Church*, Vol. 6, pp. 474, 476).
- 3) The LDS Church no longer adheres to the unchangeable nature of God, but rather states: "God Himself was once as we are now and is an exalted man ... We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pg. 345).
- 4) Bruce R. McConkie announced on page 73 of his work *Mormon Doctrine*, "The Lord has ordained baptism for the dead. as the means whereby all his worthy children of all ages can become heirs of salvation in his kingdom."
- 5) Mormonism today informs its members that all mankind will occupy one of three kingdoms. The highest is the Celestial Kingdom (which itself contains three heavens). This kingdom is reserved for all faithful Mormons and could lead to Godhood to the male members there. The middle Kingdom, the Terrestrial Kingdom, is for those who did not accept the gospel according to Mormonism, but who lived life honorably. The lowest or Telesstial Kingdom will contain murderers, adulterers, liars and thieves (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Section 76). Hell in Mormonism is located in the Telesstial Kingdom and is only a temporary state of suffering which can be terminated through self-atonement. In summary, all will be resurrected and receive some degree of glory according to Mormonism.
- 6) Mormons believe not in the infinite atonement of Christ but rather, "redemption from personal sins can only be obtained through obedience to the requirements of the Gospel, **and a life of good works** (James Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, pp. 478, 479, emphasis added).

These changes and contradictions contained within these easily available LDS Scriptures leave no doubt as to the human, man made origin and substitution of Mormonism.

Mormons regard the Bible as the Word of God, however, the Bible is actually placed lower and superseded by their other Scriptures, which in addition to *The Book of Mormon* includes *Doctrine and Covenants* and *The Pearl of Great Price*. This devaluation of the Bible is found within the LDS Articles of Faith in *The Pearl of Great Price* where it is stated that Mormons "believe the Bible in so far as it is correctly translated."

God's Word, the Bible, has definitely stood the test of time, whereas the short existence of *The Book of Mormon* has not. The Bible has been used by and proven by archeology, *The Book of Mormon* has not. The Bible has, through recent ancient manuscript finds, proven to be transcribed accurately, whereas *The Book of Mormon* contains nearly 4000 textual changes from the first edition in 1830 to the present editions used today.

The containment of "Divine Truths" within *The Book of Mormon* are merely a result of Joseph Smith incorporating much of the Bible into his work. (See *The Use of the Bible in the Book of Mormon* by H. Michael Marquardt.) His book can be regarded as merely a fictional work and not as inspired Scripture.

Changes within Mormonism and *The Book of Mormon* emphatically make it clear that Mormonism is not of God. God's Word changes not. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. This Jesus Christ who shed his blood on Calvary's cross to save you is not the Jesus of Mormonism. Jesus offers and wishes for all to experience a spiritual rebirth and to receive free the gift of eternal life.

Third International Ex-Jehovah's Wi

JOHN J.



Chris and Norma Sanchez explain how they started to doubt the doctrines of the Watchtower and how it led to Chris' removal from the Spanish translating department at Bethel. They were part of the 1980 disfellowshipping the Society has attempted to suppress.



Convention Chairman Bill Cetnar welcomes those in attendance and calls to order the 3rd International Convention of Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus.



Angela Goedelman and Joan Cetnar check the convention program for the line-up of speakers.



Bob Morey, author of *How To Witness To Jehovah's Witnesses*, and Duane Magnani, of *Witness, Inc.*, tell how to witness to Jehovah's Witnesses using the false prophecies of the Society.

The Third International Convention of Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus was held at the Blue Mountain Christian Retreat in New Ringgold, Pennsylvania on October 23-25. People came from Australia, Canada as well as throughout the entire United States to attend. Several shared their testimonies of how they left the Watchtower Society and received Christ as their Savior. Other speakers spoke on witnessing techniques to Jehovah's Witnesses emphasizing basic Christian doctrine which is contrary to the Watchtower.

The organizer and chairman of the Convention was Bill Cetnar, who himself was a high ranking Jehovah's Witness. Bill and his wife, Joan, left the Society in 1962 as a question about the Witnesses' ban on blood transfusions arose. Other than this, a more important question arose at the time: "Was the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society truly God's Organization?" After research both at the headquarters in Brooklyn and at his local kingdom Hall, Bill's findings were that the Watchtower's claim was only presumption. Since that time he has found numerous inconsistencies and errors in both their teachings as well as their claim to authority.

Through their search for real truth, Bill and Joan found a lasting peace in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Although nothing can replace their love for Jesus and the joy He has given them, they have been saddened since their families are forbidden to speak to them. As a unified body of believers, we should remember to pray for Bill and Joan's family members that one day they will come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

Two speakers whose testimonies were a special blessing were Chris and Norma Sanchez, who were disfellowshipped from the Society. Chris, a Witness for nearly 12 years, served as a Spanish translator at the Brooklyn headquarters. Their presence at this year's convention was an answer to prayer. People at the 1980 XJW Convention prayed for them and in the year that followed, they came to a living relationship with the Savior.

One evening, Chris related in his testimony, that after studying about the 144,000 that the Society says will be in heaven, he came across John 14:2-4.



John Pagano, of Personal Freedom Outreach, assists with camera duties for the video recording of convention speakers.

al Convention Of tnesses For Jesus

PAGANO

In this passage Jesus says: "In my Father's House are many mansions. Chris became very sad because he realized that this promise was not for him; it was only for the 144,000. He told his mother what he had read and they both tried to console each other. Further, Chris came across John 5:22-23 which speaks about honoring the Son and felt that he had not been doing this. He said he believed that all the things he had been doing measured up to nothing. After questioning many passages, Chris went to some of his friends and started asking them questions. Before too long, he was being brought in front of a committee of several witness leaders at Bethel.

Chris' persistence in asking them questions led one Witness leader to say I am not here to answer your questions. Chris said that he could feel the "harshness and hatred coming out of their eyes. Seven men were throwing questions at him right and left. Chris had become scared. He said, "If they had the power to torture me or put me to a stake, I believe I would not be here today. Even after all the hatred shown him, Chris still loves them, but not what they stand for. After a few more committee meetings, Chris, Norma and his mother were all disfellowshipped. Chris and Norma had nowhere to go, but fortunately they were able to move in with his parents.

Life outside the Society was difficult at first. Norma said she had difficulty finding a job. While filling out one job application, she realized she had no character references. The Society had prevented her from making friends and associations outside their organization. Since then the Sanchez's have made many friends in the Lord's family, many of whom were met at the convention.

This year's convention theme was "Lift Jesus Higher." As the weekend progressed with teachings, songs and prayer, having Jesus as the center of our gathering, the union of fellowship in Christ was evident.

Make plans now to attend the Fourth International Convention of Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus, October 22-24, 1982. Call Blue Mountain Christian Retreat to make reservations (717) 386-2154 or for more information contact Bill Cetnar, Route #3 Weir Lake Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058.



Toni Jean Meneses, of Kent, Wash., delightfully displays the shirt which got her escorted from the Jehovah's Witnesses' District Convention recently held in Seattle.



Co-director of Personal Freedom Outreach, Wesley P. Walters lectures on the similarities between many present-day cults.



Grant Lindsey, of Houston, Texas, takes a few moments during a break to share his experiences of leaving the Watchtower Society with Convention Chairman Bill Cetnar.



David Henke, of Watchman Fellowship, and Keith MacGregor, of MacGregor Ministries, pause from their important discussion to pose for a picture by our roving photographer.



SPORTS REVIEW: PFO GOES DOWN TO DEFEAT!

In the annual XJW basketball game between Personal Freedom Outreach and Watchman Fellowship, PFO went down to defeat 20-16. This marks the second year in a row that PFO has suffered a setback at the hands of the Watchman Fellowship. Watchman Fellowship leads the series 2 games to 1. Kurt Goedelman of PFO said the loss came about through inadequate preparation, but mostly through the fact that the Watchman Fellowship played without their handicap. When asked what that handicap was, Goedelman replied, "David Henke."

FALSE WITNESS

(from page 1)

His translation of this verse is currently quoted in two Society publications, *Make Sure of All Things, Hold Fast to What is Fine* (pg. 489) and *The Word, Who is He According to John* (pg. 5).² The Greber citation is used as an example of a modern translation that also used "a god," thus agreeing with the *New World Translation*.

But would the Society be so eager to cite Greber if they knew of his background or, if they know of his background, are they eager to make known to their rank-and-file members what Johannes Greber did, how he came to some of his theological conclusions and the method he used in translating the New Testament?

Little is known about the origins of the *New World Translation*. The Society would like the same to be true about Greber's *New Testament* translation. However, information provided by the Johannes Greber Memorial Foundation (the organization currently selling his books) proves even more devastating to the Society's already-damaged credibility.

Greber was a Roman Catholic priest who lived in Germany during the early 20th century. In 1923, a series of experiences led him to become interested in spiritism, or communication with spirit beings. He recounts these experiences in an autobiographical section of another of his books, *Communication with the Spirit World of God*. The spirit beings he was communicating with told Greber that much of what he believed about Christianity was false. They announced that the reason Christendom was so full of false beliefs and misunderstood doctrines was that the Bible was full of inaccuracies and mistranslations. So, inspired by these spirits, Greber set out to do his own New Testament translation.

In the words of the Johannes Greber Memorial Foundation, here is how Greber went about his work:

"The New Testament, as interpreted by the scholarly Pastor Johannes Greber, has as its source the oldest manuscripts in the world, made available to Pastor Greber for study and translation through the courtesy and cooperation of theolog-

cal experts and museums the world over. This is an absolutely independent translation, without restriction to the dogma of any Church.

The task was not simple. Many contradictions between what appears in the ancient scrolls and the New Testament as we have grown to know it, arose and were the subject of his constant prayers for guidance — prayers that were answered and the discrepancies clarified to him by God's Spirit World.

At times, he was given the correct answers in large illuminated letters and words passing before his eyes. Other times, he was given the correct answers during prayer meetings. His wife, a medium of God's Spirit World, was often instrumental in conveying the correct answers from God's Messenger's to Pastor Greber."

The Bible is clear in forbidding all contact with occult spirits professing to bring messages from the spirit world. Saul lost his life for seeking to contact the spirit of Samuel through the medium at Endor (1 Samuel 28). The Watchtower Society has on several occasions rightly warned their followers to stay away from such spiritism. One notable reference is found in the 1965 edition of *Make Sure of All Things, Hold Fast to What is Fine* (pg. 470). Here the Society emphasizes the need to stay away from and to **"destroy objects related to spiritistic practices."** However, the Society is desperate for support for their denial of Christ's deity. Thus, they ignore the Bible and their own standards by using a translation inspired by the spirit world to endorse their theology. Further, they attempt to hide the demonic nature of this support from their followers. Not a hint is given that Greber's translation was made with the aid of spirits and the mediumship of his wife.

Moreover, the view adopted by the Jehovah's Witnesses in reality makes them polytheists. Christians hold to and affirm the one true God (John 17:3). However, the Witnesses say that this one true God is only the Father (Jehovah) and that in addition Jesus is "a god." This then leads to the conclusion that either Jesus is a false god or that there are two true Gods, both of which are false doctrines and contradicted by God's word.

The idea that Jesus is not God is a lie, and like all lies, is inspired by the Father of lies, Satan (John 8:44). Satan will use

FIGURE 1

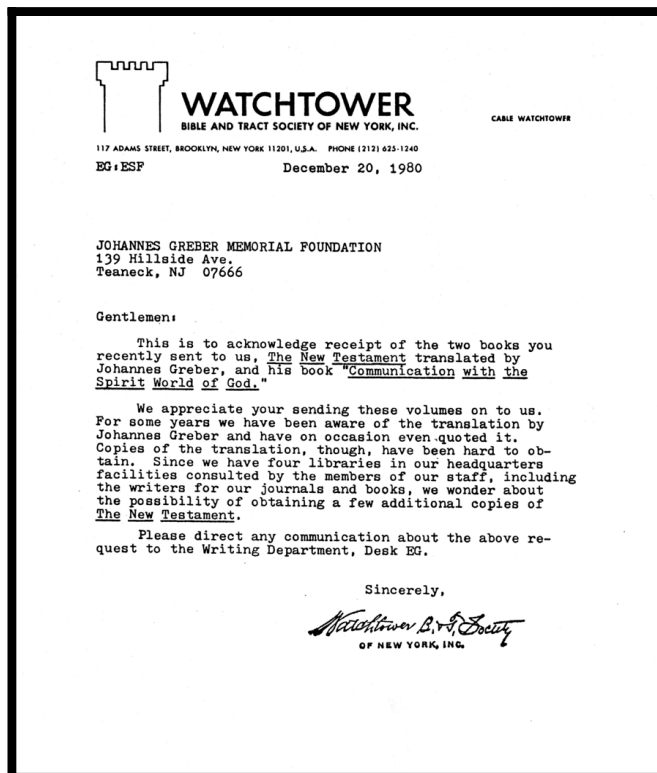
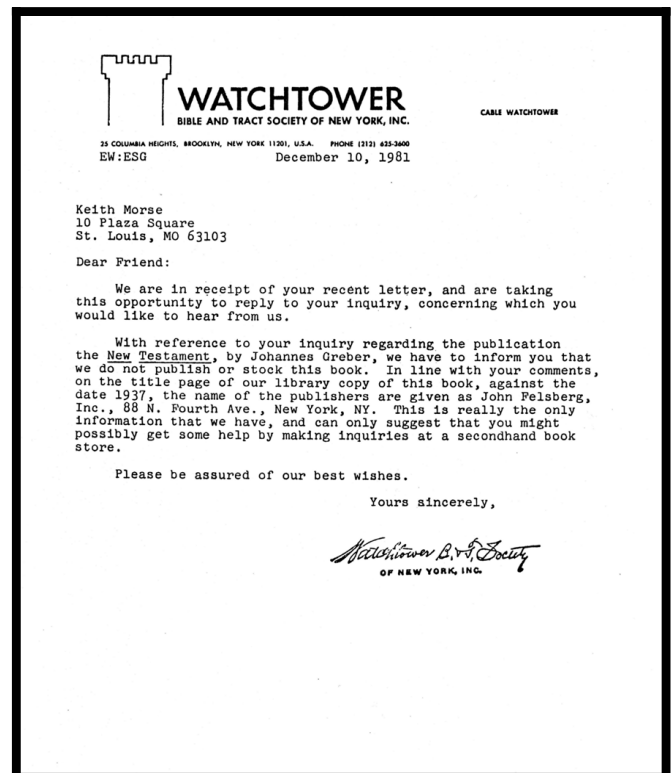


FIGURE 2



any means he can in an attempt to keep us from believing the truth that Jesus is Yahweh, even to the extent of inspiring corrupted versions of the Bible, such as Greber's New Testament (and the Society's *New World Translation*) which strip Jesus of His Deity. Satan and his demons know that unless a person believes that Jesus is the Eternal God (John 8:24 — *ego eimi* = I AM) that person will die in his sins. The Society wants people not to believe that Jesus is God, but that He is the archangel Michael.

The Society, in drawing upon Greber, has ignored and disobeyed God's Word. (Lev. 20:6, 27; Isaiah 8:19). Further, because of these quotes and their origin, the Society must **lie** to both of their followers and the public. During the past two years, the Society has secured copies of Greber's *New Testament* and *Communication with the Spirit World of God* from the current publisher and distributor, known as the Johannes Greber Memorial Foundation in Teaneck, N.J. (see Fig. 1). The Society on Dec. 20, 1980 acknowledged the receipt of books ordered by them and sent to them by this foundation. However, when a letter of inquiry dated Nov. 25, 1981 was sent to the Society in Brooklyn, N.Y., asking where the Greber translation could be obtained, the Society replied that they could not furnish an up-to-date listing. In fact, the address that the Society gave as the publisher's was that of a building demolished several decades ago (see Fig. 2).

The Society, time and again, has tried to cover up Christ's deity by any method they could use. Further, the Society's attempt to hide Greber's occult source of information has led them to mislead inquirers seeking copies of Greber's works. This should

cause all Jehovah's Witnesses who **love the truth** seriously to examine and consider the facts presented here and the deceitful nature of the Watchtower organization.

The Jehovah's Witnesses claim to be "an open and honest people, not suspiciously secretive" (*Kingdom Ministry*, July 1975). Their conduct regarding the Greber New Testament translation does not follow that pattern. The Society, knowing that spiritism is forbidden by the Bible, and realizing the spiritistic origin of Greber's translation, has withheld these facts from both their members and the public.

In their passion to justify their rendering of John 1:1, the Society has fulfilled Paul's statement in II Thessalonians 2:10-11. The Society has refused to love the truth and for this cause, God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false.

Endnotes:

1. The Watchtower Society claims to do the same. In their book *All Scripture Is Inspired and Beneficial*, the Watchtower says (on pg. 323) when speaking of all the many Bible translations: "all these translations, even down to the very latest, have their defects. There are inconsistencies or unsatisfactory renderings, infected with sectarian traditions or worldly philosophies, and hence not in full harmony with the sacred truths that Jehovah has recorded in his Word." The Society claims to fill the need for an accurate version with their *New World Translation*.
2. The Society also cites Greber a third time. This quotation is found in *Aid To Bible Understanding* (pg. 1134). Here the Watchtower uses Greber's interpretation of Matthew 27:52, 53 to make it appear that the resurrection of the saints at Christ's death was not a raising from the dead, but merely the earth exhuming the dead bodies due to the earthquake.

John 1:1 ...

THOSE "a god" TRANSLATIONS

1) New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures.

A translation written by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and used to endorse their beliefs. The five men who make up the "translation committee" are self-appointed scholars lacking adequate schooling or background to function as Biblical translators. Their purpose was not to translate a modern version of the Bible, but to justify their theology.

2) The Emphatic Diaglott.

This 1864 Greek interlinear translation was produced by Benjamin Wilson. Wilson was self-educated and by no means a scholar. He was a Christadelphian (a sect which also denies basic Christian doctrine) and used this translation to justify his beliefs. In 1902, the Watchtower Society bought the plates used to print the Diaglott. The Society currently prints and sells this translation. Careful examination has revealed that the Society has tampered with the Greek text in the Diaglott.

3) The New Testament (A New Translation based on the Oldest Manuscripts) by Johannes Greber.

This translation was published in 1937, and claims to be free of the dogmatic restrictions of any church. Greber, who was at one time a Catholic priest, says he was aided by spirits who clarified certain passages of the Bible and cleared up what he called doctrinal errors of Christianity. His wife, a spirit medium also was instrumental in making this translation. Greber published a companion text for his New Testament translation, entitled *Communication with the Spirit World of God*. This book recounts the events that led him to become interested in spiritism and outlines his doctrines on how the spirit world works and how God and spirits relate to and communicate with man.

4) The New Testament in an Improved Version.

This translation was based on Archbishop Newcome's New Translation of the New Testament. However, the edition cited by the Watchtower Society was not released until several years after Archbishop William Newcome's death in the early 19th century. The original volume text of John 1:1 did not read "a god." That verse was altered after the archbishop's death. The edition quoted by the Watchtower published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and the Practice of Virtue, by the Distribution of Books — Unitarian.

NEW WORLD TRANSLATION REVIEW

Throughout the 20-30 year existence of the New World Translation little has been written by Christian authors and scholars concerning this version. A new publication released by Baker Book House entitled *The English Bible From KJV To NIV* devotes an 8-page chapter on the Jehovah's Witnesses' Bible. This work joins the small ranks of other books *So Many Versions?, Perversions And Prejudices Of The New World Translation* and *Apostles of Denial* which help present us with the much needed analysis of the NWT. *The English Bible from KJV To NIV* written by Jack P. Lewis is available from Personal Freedom Outreach for \$16.95 postpaid. In addition to the chapter on the NWT this book deals with 11 other versions of the Bible including many modern translations.

For a more in depth critique of the New World Translation we

recommend our 35mm Slide Presentation **Evaluating The New World Translation**. This program, written by Steve Cannon and Wesley P. Walters, utilizes Watchtower standards and claims for justifying their translation and then proceeds to document their failure in these claims. The program comes complete with 80 slides, Kodak carousel slide tray and 35-minute cassette narration tape. Price \$40.00 postpaid.

PASS IT ALONG

If you have a friend who would like to have a copy of this newsletter, simply pass along to him yours. If you will then send us your name, and address, your friend's name and address and a 20¢ stamp we will gladly replace your issue via First Class mail. Your friend will be placed on our mailing list so he (she) will receive all future issues of our Newsletters.



BOOKS IN REVIEW

someone loved them enough to take the time to witness to them.

This book would be a fine addition to anyone's bookshelf. The beginner and the person actively involved in the cult ministry could benefit from the concise, clear run-down on these major cults.

ANSWERS TO THE CULTIST AT YOUR DOOR

With over 2,000 religious movements in existence throughout the U.S. and with so many of them going door-to-door to solicit contributions or recruit members, it pays to have some answers for these people when they come a-knocking.

In *Answers to the Cultist at Your Door*, Robert and Gretchen Passantino of Christian Apologetics Research and Information Service (CARIS) have put together a handy little volume with answers to some of the heresies of the major religious cults in America today.

The Passantinos quickly outline the beliefs of members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, the Unification Church (Moonies), the Hare Krishnas and The Way International.

Fortunately, the Passantinos don't neglect the idea that Christians must love the cultists to whom they are witnessing. To further emphasize this idea, each chapter on a cult concludes with the story of someone who was rescued from a cult because

TRAPS: A PROBE OF THOSE STRANGE NEW CULTS

A book that has been on the market for about four years, but has tragically escaped the notice of many is Harris Langford's *Traps: A Probe of Those Strange New Cults*.

Langford's book comes in a loose-leaf format, complete with study questions, scripture references and plenty of light-hearted illustrations that brighten up a gloomy subject without treating it lightly.

After an introduction *Traps* covers the Unification Church, The Children of God, The Way International, Scientology, Transcendental Meditation, Hare Krishna, astrology, the occult and, in an unusual treatment of a familiar topic, pornography.

Langford concludes the book with suggestions on what churches can do and what their members can do in order to help the fight against the cults in their communities.

With its question-and-answer format, *Traps* would be an ideal book for use in church study groups or Sunday School classes. Langford also includes a list of sources that constitutes a "must-read" list for anyone interested in the cults.

HELPING US HELP YOU

If you'd like to help support Personal Freedom Outreach and pick up a couple of handy witnessing tools, read on!

For every donation of \$50 or more, we will send a copy of *Walter Martin's Cults Reference Bible* and a copy of Bob and Gretchen Passantino's *Answers to the Cultist at Your Door*.

The Cults Reference Bible contains the King James text with footnotes relating to specific verses and how the cults interpret them and how they view Christian doctrines built upon those verses. The footnotes also give appropriate responses to the cults.

The Cults Reference Bible also contains sections outlining the beliefs of specific cults, comparisons of the cults, and articles on Biblical translation, interpretation, and chronology.

The Passantinos' book is reviewed above in Books in Review.

The two books have a combined retail value of about \$40. And, of course, the donation is tax-deductible. We urge you to help us financially and to help yourself in becoming more educated about the cults and how to witness to their members.

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