

Jehovah's Witnesses: Who?

The Founder, Charles Taze Russell

The Jehovah's Witnesses was founded by wealthy American, Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916). He went through a number of religions before starting his own, publishing the first issue of what is now known as "The Watchtower" in 1879. He falsely claimed to be an ordained minister well versed in Latin and Greek. Russell worked a scam selling "miracle wheat" for \$60 a bushel when wheat was retailing at \$1. He unsuccessfully sued the Brooklyn Daily Eagle when they exposed his scam. Russell also claimed to have invented a cancer cure. Russell was a Mason and a Rosicrucian; he thought there were messages from Jehovah in the Great Pyramid in Giza and that the tomb was decorated with Masonic symbols. In 1906, Russell's wife, Maria, sued him for mental cruelty and improper conduct with other women. She won a settlement of \$6036. Russell wrongly predicted the world would end in 1914 - one of many failed prophecies by Jehovah's Witnesses.

Charles Taze Russell's successor

After Russell's death the leadership of the Watchtower Society was seized by Joseph Franklin Rutherford (1869-1942), a lawyer. Although only briefly a judge in Missouri, he continued to use the title. He used underhand tactics including having the police remove his opponents from the headquarters and accusing one of them of religious mania to take over the sect, which he renamed "Jehovah's Witnesses". This split the faith with many of the members leaving. Rutherford taught that the Old Testament patriarchs would be resurrected in 1925 (they weren't) and to accommodate them he built a sumptuous house, with a Cadillac in the garage, using donated funds. He lived in it himself.

Repeated failed prophecies

Russell predicted the world would end in 1914. It didn't and he lived until 1916. Rutherford postponed the end until 1925 and it was postponed again by Natham Korr to 1975. The current position is the end will take place before the last person alive in 1914 dies. Such people are already approaching 100 years of age, if indeed there are any left at all. Another failed prophecy looms, but no doubt there will be another to take its place.

Exploiting the vulnerable

Witnesses are masters of psychologically exploiting the vulnerable. From the bereaved, to the impoverished, to those suffering marriage problems or racial discrimination, the Witnesses offer friendship and the false hope of an earthly paradise, the date for the advent of which has been postponed again and again. The appeal of the Witnesses is not to the affluent and the well-educated (Witnesses are discouraged from Higher Education), but to the frustrated, the hard pressed and under-privileged. Witnesses do nothing to change the world for the better. They do not vote or join political parties or trade unions. They wait, sticking to the tyrannical rules and absurd dogma, blindly following the elders. Today, the Jehovah's Witnesses are run by a clique of elderly men whose names and faces are not known to most members.

Misery for children

The Witnesses argue that Christmas and birthdays are pagan festivals. Children do not get presents and are not allowed to have or go to parties. Teenagers are forbidden to go to clubs, pubs or parties. Children of school age are not allowed to have boyfriends or girlfriends. Young adults are not allowed to be alone together. Physical intimacy, even kissing, can result in disciplinary action.

Blood transfusions

It was only in 1945 that the doctrine on blood transfusions was introduced. This was based on the Biblical ban on the eating of blood (Genesis 9.3-6, Acts 15.29). In 2007, Emma Gough died after giving birth when she refused a transfusion. In 2010, teenager Joshua McAuley died after a car crash because he too refused a transfusion. Until 1980, Witnesses were even forbidden to store their own blood for use in case of emergency. There is no rational reason why the lethal ban on blood transfusions can't be lifted, instead of adhering to ancient scriptures written at a time when there was little understanding of science or medicine.

Sexual abuse and domestic violence

Jehovah's Witness doctrine allows and encourages followers to be homophobes and anti-feminists. Yet victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence allege that when reporting such offences, they were ordered to keep silent in order to avoid embarrassment to both the accused and the organization.

Apostates

Numerous ex-Witnesses have testified that this organization denies its members any freedom or the right to make lifestyle choices of their own. Apostates are ostracized, verbally abused and threatened with violence; families are broken up. Anyone leaving or considering leaving the Jehovah's Witnesses can seek free help, advice and support from this web site: www.exjw-reunited.co.uk

Withdrawal from responsibility

Jehovah's Witnesses have effectively withdrawn from today's world. They don't vote or join political campaigns. They believe humanity can achieve nothing by its own efforts and has to wait for divine intervention. Another failed prophesy and an endlessly long wait!

End

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