

Awake!

AUGUST 2010

A man in a blue sweater is seen from the side, looking out a window. He is holding a green mug. Outside the window, a man and a woman are walking on a sidewalk. The woman is wearing a green coat and a green scarf, and the man is wearing a brown suit. They are both smiling. The background shows a brick building and a small tree in a planter.

Jehovah's
Witnesses
WHO ARE THEY?

Awake!

AVERAGE PRINTING **38,451,000**
PUBLISHED IN **83** LANGUAGES

- 3 What Do You Know About Jehovah's Witnesses?
- 4 What Others Have Said
- 6 Frequently Asked Questions
- 8 What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?
- 10 A Lawyer Examines Jehovah's Witnesses
- 20 The Bible's Viewpoint Who Are the Demons?
- 22 I Can't Wait to Tell Them, "We're All Here!"
- 24 The Gentle yet Strong Shetland Pony
- 25 Was It Designed? The Wing of the Dragonfly
- 26 Young People Ask How Can I Get Along With My Siblings?
- 30 Watching the World
- 31 For Family Review
- 32 How Do Jehovah's Witnesses Teach the Bible?



12

Hepatitis B —A Silent Killer

Nearly a third of the world's population has been infected with this potentially fatal disease. Learn how to protect yourself.

© Sebastian Kaulitzki/Alamy



16

Come and Meet the Batak

One of the largest indigenous groups in Indonesia, the Batak live in a beautiful part of that tropical land. Join us as we expand our cultural horizons.



Jehovah's Witnesses WHO ARE THEY? 3-11

What have you been told about Jehovah's Witnesses? Is what you heard accurate? We hope that these articles clear away any misconceptions.

What Do You Know About Jehovah's Witnesses?

"I read a lot about Jehovah's Witnesses on the Internet, I heard some rumors, and I listened to a great deal of prejudiced talk," wrote a trainee reporter in Denmark. "As a result, I formed a very negative view of Jehovah's Witnesses"

THAT reporter then interviewed a family who are Witnesses. The result? "My view of them changed from the moment I entered their home!" she wrote. "Maybe people don't know them well enough, or maybe we are all simply too quick to judge. I know I was. And I found out I was wrong."—Cecilie Feyling, for *Jydske Vestkysten*.

On the basis of his dealings with Jehovah's Witnesses on a professional level, a human resources consultant for a chain store in Europe found them to be honest workers. As a result, he sought to hire Witnesses.

Of course, Jehovah's Witnesses are primarily known for their public ministry. They find that some people prefer not to discuss the Bible, while others enjoy a discussion. In fact, more than seven million people, in virtually every country, have a regular Bible study with the Witnesses, and some of these students later become Bible teachers themselves. In the United States, for example, a National Council of Churches report notes that of the 25 largest religions, Jehovah's Witnesses are 1 of only 4 that have shown an increase.

Why are millions of people studying the Bible with the Witnesses? How are these studies conducted? Are students expected to become Witnesses themselves? At the very least, you are entitled to truthful answers. So do not listen to prejudicial hearsay, or rumor, but search for the facts. Says the Bible at Proverbs 14:15: "A simple man believes every word he hears; a clever man understands the need for proof."—*The New English Bible*.

May this issue of *Awake!* help you to understand Jehovah's Witnesses more fully and accurately. Indeed, the very fact that you are reading this magazine suggests that you have an open and fair mind. So why not do this: As you read the next four articles and the accompanying boxes, look up the cited scriptures in your own Bible.* Doing so is both wise and, as the Bible says, "noble-minded."—Acts 17:11.

* If you do not have a Bible but have access to the Internet, you can check the scriptures electronically at www.watchtower.org. There you will see the box "Read the Bible Online." Additionally, the Web site contains Bible literature in more than 380 languages.



What Others Have Said

“Jehovah’s
Witnesses teach
their children
moral qualities
. . . and to be law
abiding citizens”



France “Jehovah’s Witnesses are citizens who respect the laws of the Republic. . . . They are no threat to public order. They work, pay taxes, participate in the economic development of our country and make gifts to charities. The blend of these people from all different races and origins, meeting together in peace, is a pleasure to see. . . . If everyone were one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, we policemen would be out of work.”
—Spokesman for a French police union.

Ukraine “Jehovah’s Witnesses inculcate in their children high moral principles. They teach their children to avoid behavior, actions and even attitudes that, [while] considered in today’s world as normal, can be harmful to the children themselves and others. Therefore they warn their children about the dangers of using drugs, smoking and the abuse of alcohol. They recognize the importance of honesty and hard work. . . . Jehovah’s Witnesses teach their children moral qualities, to respect the authorities, other individuals and their property and to be law abiding citizens.”—*The History of Religion in Ukraine*, edited by Professor Petro Yarotskyi.

Italy “Thirty thousand at the Olympic Stadium in silence . . . No litter, no noise, no shouting. That was the scene in the Olympic Stadium yesterday . . . No unseemly gesturing, not a cigarette, not a [beverage] can. Only open Bibles, people taking notes, and children sitting quietly.”—*L’Unità*, reporting on a convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Rome.

Britain “The Archdeacon of Cheltenham said [the Church of England] needed bands of dedicated people going around like the Jehovah’s Witnesses.”—*The Gazette*, Gloucester Diocese.

Awake!®

THIS JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED for the enlightenment of the entire family. It shows how to cope with today’s problems. It reports the news, tells about people in many lands, examines religion and science. But it does more. It probes beneath the surface and points to the real meaning behind current events, yet it always stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another. Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator’s promise of a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things.

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* —With References.

Awake! (ISSN 0005-237X) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; M. H. Larson, President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Awake!*, 1000 Red Mills Road, **Wallkill, NY 12589-3299**. © 2010 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.



“... People from all different races and origins, meeting together in peace ...”

The Netherlands The neighbors near the Kingdom Hall in the city of Leeuwarden presented the Witnesses there with a letter that stated: “We would like to compliment you on your excellent influence on the appearance of the Noorderweg [Noorder Road]. Your members are always well dressed, and they have very good manners. The children are well behaved, the adults never park their cars illegally, they throw no litter in the street, and the land around the Kingdom Hall is always clean and neat. We hope that you will continue to be our neighbors for a long time, for we are very happy to have you.”

Mexico Elio Masferrer, professor and researcher at the National School of Anthropology and History, said that the Witnesses helped people who had “suffered severe family crises, such as rape, family abuse, alcoholism, and drug addiction.” The teachings of the Witnesses, he said, “give dignity to people who have had feelings of low self-worth” and make it possible for them to “live without major problems by doing things that please God.”—*Excelsior* newspaper.

Brazil A newspaper reported: “Jehovah’s Witnesses’ organization is really impressive. The places where they gather are always clean. Everything is very well organized . . . When their events finish, the venue is cleaner than they found it. During the talks, there is absolute silence. Nobody pushes or bumps against others. Good manners prevail. . . . It is indeed an orderly religion. They know what worshipping God means.”—*Comércio da Franca*.

Jehovah’s Witnesses firmly believe that the Creator knows better than anyone else the principles that his human creation should live by. (Isaiah 48:17, 18) Hence, the Witnesses give him the credit when their conduct elicits positive remarks from others. Jesus said: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your fine works and give glory to your Father who is in the heavens.”—Matthew 5:16.

Languages: Afrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bislama, Bulgarian, Cebuano, Chichewa, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional)°, (audio Mandarin only), Chitonga, Cibemba, Croatian, Czech,° Danish,° Dutch,° English,° Estonian, Ewe, Fijian, Finnish,° French,°° Georgian, German,°° Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hiligaynon, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Igbo, Iloko, Indonesian, Italian,°° Japanese,°° Kannada, Kirghiz, Kirundi, Korean,°° Latvian, Lingala, Lithuanian, Luvale, Macedonian, Malagasy, Malayalam, Maltese, Myanmar, Norwegian,°° Polish,°° Portuguese,°°° Punjabi, Rarotongan, Romanian, Russian,°° Samoan, Sepedi, Serbian, Sesotho, Shona, Silozi, Sinhala, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish,°° Swahili, Swedish,° Tagalog, Tamil, Thai, Tok Pisin, Tongan, Tsonga, Tswana, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Xhosa, Yoruba, Zulu

+ CD also available.

° MP3 CD-ROM also available.

° Audio recordings also available at www.jw.org.

Would you welcome more information or a free home Bible study? Please send your request to Jehovah’s Witnesses, using one of the addresses below. For a complete list of addresses, see www.watchtower.org/address. **America, United States of:** 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. **Australia:** PO Box 280, Ingleburn, NSW 1890. **Bahamas:** PO Box N-1247, Nassau, NP. **Britain:** The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN. **Canada:** PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. **Germany:** Am Steinfels, 65618 Selters. **Guam:** 143 Jehovah St, Barrigada, GU 96913. **Guyana:** 352-360 Tyrell St, Republic Park Phase 2 EBD. **Hawaii:** 2055 Kamehameha IV Road, Honolulu, HI 96819-2619. **Jamaica:** PO Box 103, Old Harbour, St. Catherine. **Japan:** 4-7-1 Nakashinden, Ebina City, Kanagawa-Pref, 243-0496. **Puerto Rico:** PO Box 3980, Guaynabo, PR 00970. **South Africa:** Private Bag X2067, Krugersdorp, 1740. **Trinidad and Tobago:** Lower Rapsey Street & Laxmi Lane, Curepe.

Frequently Asked Questions



Why do some people speak against Jehovah's Witnesses?

Many people are simply misinformed. Others may not appreciate the Witnesses' evangelizing work. The fact is, however, that the Witnesses do this work out of love for neighbor, knowing that "everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved."—Romans 10:13.

Are Jehovah's Witnesses Protestants, Fundamentalists, or a sect?

Jehovah's Witnesses are Christians, but they are not Protestants for the same reason that they are not Catholics—they recognize certain teachings of those religions as unscriptural. For example, the Bible does not teach that God—the very personification of love—tortures people forever in a fiery hell. Nor does it teach that humans have an immortal soul or that Christians should meddle in politics.—Ezekiel 18:4; John 15:19; 17:14; Romans 6:23.*

"Fundamentalism is a broad movement within Protestantism in the United States," says *The World Book Encyclopedia*. Some Fundamentalist organizations "have adopted social and political positions based on a literal use of Biblical texts." That definition does not fit Jehovah's Witnesses. As mentioned, they abstain from politics and do not impose their views on others by political or any other means. Rather, they converse with people, usually one-on-one, using reason and convincing evidence, in imitation of the early Christians.—Acts 19:8.

A sect is a dissenting group within a religious community or one that breaks away to form a new religion. Jehovah's Witnesses have not broken away from any church. They are not a sect.

What happens at Witness meetings?

Their meetings, which are open to the public, are essentially Bible studies, often allowing for audience participation. One of their weekly meetings, the Theocratic Ministry School, helps congregation members develop teaching, reading, and research skills. Another is a 30-minute Bible discourse on a topic that may be of special interest to non-Witnesses. It is normally followed by a study of the Bible by means of the *Watchtower*

* The Biblical view of these and many other important topics can be found in the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* published by Jehovah's Witnesses.



magazine. Meetings begin and end with song and prayer, and there is no solicitation of funds or passing of a collection plate. —2 Corinthians 8:12.

How are Jehovah's Witnesses financed?

Their work is financed by voluntary contributions. The Witnesses do not charge for performing baptisms, weddings, funerals, or any other religious service. Nor do they tithe. Anyone who wants to make a donation can do so by placing it in a discreetly located contribution box in the Kingdom Hall. Jehovah's Witnesses produce the Bible literature they use, which keeps costs down, and their modest Kingdom Halls and branch facilities are mostly constructed by volunteers.

Do Jehovah's Witnesses accept medical treatment?

Yes. In fact, they seek the best possible care for themselves and their loved ones. Moreover, many Witnesses work in the medical field as nurses, paramedics, doctors, and surgeons. However, Jehovah's Witnesses refuse blood transfusions. 'Abstain from blood,' the Bible states. (Acts 15:28, 29) Interestingly, a growing number of physicians view nonblood medical care as the "gold standard," for through it the many health risks associated with the use of blood products are avoided.

WHERE TOLERANCE PREVAILS

The town of Bejucal de Ocampo in southern Mexico is a little out of the ordinary. "The majority of the inhabitants are Jehovah's Witnesses," says a report in the newspaper *Excelsior*, adding: "An environment of religious and governmental tolerance prevails. . . . The inhabitants have traded drunken bouts and cigarettes for songs and Bible reading. They also respect the authorities."

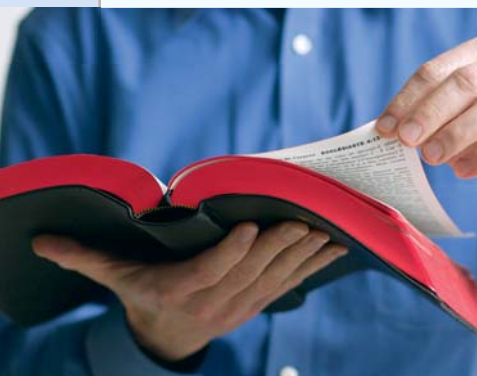
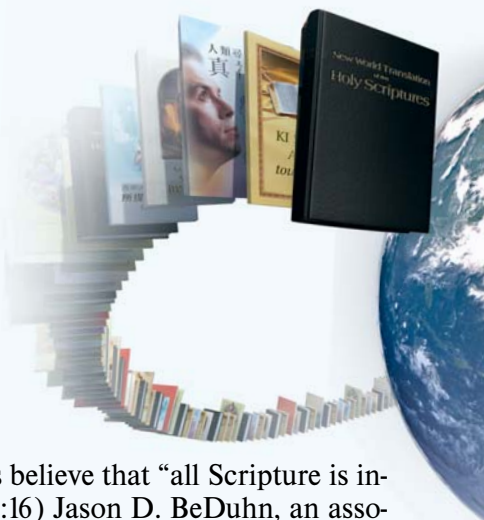
Despite the presence of different religions in the town, "religious conflicts or arguments have not arisen,"

states the report. It also says: "Hostility has no place, and religious diversity does not prevent neighbors from greeting one another . . . Each family freely professes its religion, and this does not prevent their integration as a society. It does not seem strange to anyone that Jehovah's Witnesses have an enormous presence in Bejucal." What is more, their children 'dress modestly, make good grades, and are well behaved in class,' noted a high-school teacher there, who is not a Witness.



What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?

The beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses are no secret, for their literature is readily available in hundreds of languages. Below is a synopsis of some of their main tenets.



“The Father
is greater
than I am.”
—John 14:28

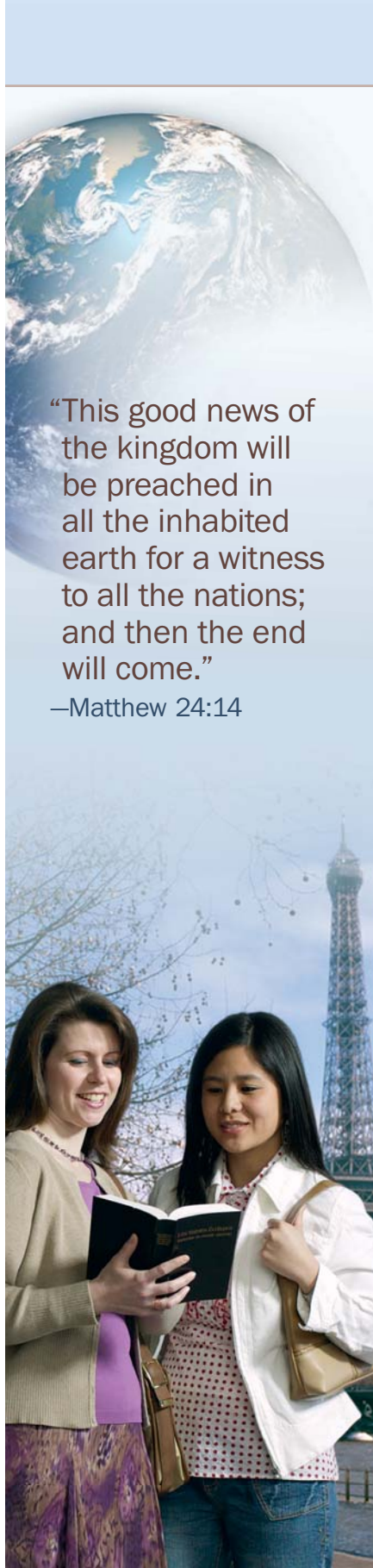


1. The Bible The Witnesses believe that “all Scripture is inspired of God.” (2 Timothy 3:16) Jason D. BeDuhn, an associate professor of religious studies, wrote: “[Jehovah’s Witnesses built] their system of belief and practice from the raw material of the Bible without predetermining what was to be found there.” They align their beliefs with the Bible; they do not interpret it to suit themselves. At the same time, they recognize that not everything in the Bible is to be taken literally. The seven days of creation, for example, are symbolic, referring to extended periods of time.—Genesis 1:31; 2:4.

2. The Creator The true God has given himself a personal name—Jehovah (or Yahweh, as used in the Roman Catholic *Jerusalem Bible* and preferred by some modern-day scholars)—that distinguishes him from false gods.* (Psalm 83:18) The Hebrew form of the divine name appears some 7,000 times in the original text of the Scriptures. Stressing the importance of that name, Jesus said in his model prayer: “Hallowed be thy name.” (Matthew 6:9, *King James Version*) God rightly demands exclusive devotion. Hence, the Witnesses use no icons or images in their worship.—1 John 5:21.

3. Jesus Christ He is the Savior, “the Son of God,” and “the firstborn of all creation.” (John 1:34; Colossians 1:15; Acts 5:31) As a created being, he is not part of a Trinity. “The Father is greater than I am,” said Jesus. (John 14:28) Jesus lived in heaven before coming to earth, and after his sacrificial death and resurrection, he returned to heaven. “No one comes to the Father except through [him].”—John 14:6.

* Jehovah’s Witnesses did not coin the name “Jehovah.” Many centuries ago, God’s name was rendered “Jehovah” in a number of non-Biblical languages, including English and German. Sadly, some modern-day Bible translators have replaced the divine name with titles, such as “God” and “Lord,” thus showing gross disrespect for the Author of the Bible.



“This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.”

—Matthew 24:14

4. God’s Kingdom This is an actual heavenly government with a King—Jesus Christ—and 144,000 corulers, who are “bought from the earth.” (Revelation 5:9, 10; 14:1, 3, 4; Daniel 2:44; 7:13, 14) They will rule over the earth, which will be cleansed of all wickedness and will be inhabited by many millions of God-fearing humans.—Proverbs 2:21, 22.

5. The earth Ecclesiastes 1:4 states: “The earth endures for ever.” (*The New English Bible*) After the destruction of the wicked, the earth will be made into a paradise and populated forever by righteous humans. (Psalm 37:10, 11, 29) Jesus’ words in prayer “thy will be done in earth” will thus be fulfilled.—Matthew 6:10, *King James Version*.

6. Bible prophecy “God . . . cannot lie.” (Titus 1:2) Hence, what he foretells always comes true, including the Bible prophecies concerning the end of the present world. (Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 24:3-14) Who will survive the coming destruction? “He that does the will of God remains forever,” says 1 John 2:17.

7. Secular authorities “Pay back Caesar’s things to Caesar, but God’s things to God,” said Jesus. (Mark 12:17) Accordingly, Jehovah’s Witnesses obey the laws of the land when these do not conflict with God’s laws.—Acts 5:29; Romans 13:1-3.

8. Preaching Jesus foretold: “This good news of the kingdom” will be proclaimed earth wide before the end of the present world. (Matthew 24:14) Jehovah’s Witnesses consider it an honor to share in that lifesaving work. Of course, whether people listen or not is their own choice. The Bible says: “Let anyone *that wishes* take life’s water free.”—Revelation 22:17.

9. Baptism Jehovah’s Witnesses baptize only those who, on the basis of a thorough study of the Bible, want to serve God as one of his Witnesses. (Hebrews 12:1) These symbolize their personal dedication to God by water immersion.—Matthew 3:13, 16; 28:19.

10. The clergy-laity distinction “All you are brothers,” said Jesus to his followers. (Matthew 23:8) The early Christians, including the Bible writers, had no clergy class. This Biblical pattern is the one that Jehovah’s Witnesses follow.



A Lawyer Examines Jehovah's Witnesses

“MY KNOWLEDGE of Jehovah’s Witnesses was very limited,” says Les Civin, an attorney and a director of a law firm in South Africa. Why did he look into the beliefs of the Witnesses? What did he conclude about those beliefs? Here is what he told *Awake!*

What was your religious background?

I am from a Jewish background, but in the early 1970’s, I married Carol, who was Anglican. She had no interest in religion, and religion had no effect on our lives at the time. However, when our son, Andrew, was eight years old, Carol felt that we should do something to give him some form of religion. A rabbi told me that if Carol converted to Judaism, Andrew would automatically become Jewish and could have a Bar Mitzvah when he turned 13. So we started attending weekly conversion classes at the synagogue.

How did you come into contact with Jehovah’s Witnesses?

When the Witnesses came to our door, I always cut them short. “I am Jewish and do not believe in the New Testament,” I would say. Then Carol told me that one of her friends

was a Witness and that she knew the Bible very well. Carol suggested that we learn a little more about the Bible. So I reluctantly agreed to study with the Witnesses.

How did you respond to the Bible study?

I was very condescending. I had rediscovered my Jewish spiritual values and felt that I was of the chosen race. ‘What can these people teach me?’ I thought. During our first discussion, I told the Witness who came to our home: “I was born a Jew. I have found my religion, and I will die a Jew. Nothing you can say will make me change.” He kindly acknowledged my stance. So, on Friday and Monday nights, we attended Jewish conversion classes and on Sunday mornings (if I could not get out of it) we studied with the Witnesses. Their study, incidentally, was free of charge, unlike the classes at the synagogue.

I used my Jewish Bible because I thought that the Witnesses used a translation that suited their views. However, I was surprised at how much the two Bibles harmonized. This made me even more determined to prove that the Witnesses did not know what they were talking about.

After attending a few of the rabbi's studies, Carol told me that in her opinion the rabbi did not know his Bible well enough. She informed me that she was going to stop attending the classes and that she would not renounce Christ. Devastated, I thought about ending our marriage. When the shock wore off, however, I decided on a different strategy—I would use my legal background to prove to Carol that this 'crackpot sect' was wrong.

Did you succeed?

A rabbi gave me a book that was written to refute Messianic prophecies. For 18 months Carol and I studied that book together. We also continued our weekly study with the Witnesses. However, as we examined each prophecy discussed in the rabbi's book, my

I was . . . amazed at how accurate Bible prophecies are and how well they knit together

uneasiness grew. Contrary to the argumentation in the book, the Messianic prophecies in the Bible consistently pointed to just one person—Jesus Christ. The matter finally came to a head when we studied the prophecy found at Daniel 9:24-27, which foretold that the Messiah would appear in the year 29 C.E.* The Witness produced an interlinear Hebrew Bible with the literal English translation under each word. I checked the wording, did my own calculation of the chronology, and said: "OK, the prophecy points to 29 C.E. So what?"

"That was the year Jesus was baptized," said the Witness.

I was stunned! I was also amazed at how accurate Bible prophecies are and how well they knit together.

* C.E. means "Common Era." For a discussion of Daniel's prophecy about the Messiah, see page 197 of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

How did your friends react to your change in views?

Some were deeply concerned and promised to introduce my wife and me to people who could show us that we were being brainwashed. But our convictions were based on thorough research and logical reasoning—the very opposite of brainwashing.

What made you decide to become a Witness?

At first, I began to attend a few meetings at the Kingdom Hall with my wife, who by then had become a Witness.* I was impressed by the friendliness of the Witnesses and their love for one another, regardless of race. I had not seen this in my own faith. So after about three years of further study, I was baptized.

How do you feel about your decision to become a Witness?

It is an honor to be able to say, "I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses." But when I reflect on how I fought the truth, I feel that I do not deserve the spiritual treasures Jehovah has given me. My decision is one that I shall never regret.

What blessings have you enjoyed?

Many. For one thing, I cherish the privilege of serving as an elder, or spiritual shepherd and teacher, in our local congregation. Also, I have been able to assist the Legal Department at the South Africa branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses. But the greatest blessing is, without a doubt, knowing Jehovah and his Son and understanding the real significance of our times and the momentous events rocking the world.

* Carol died in 1994, and Les Civil has since remarried.

1. James and John. 2. Peter and Andrew. 3. John the Baptist. 4. His brother Peter, and he became a disciple of Jesus.



Hepatitis B

A SILENT KILLER

“I was 27 years old, recently married, and I looked and felt healthy. I was holding down a high-pressure job while caring for many responsibilities in the local congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses. I was unaware that hepatitis B had begun to destroy my liver.”—Dukk Yun.



© Sebastian Kaulitzki/Alamy

THE liver filters poisons from the blood and performs at least 500 other important functions. That is why hepatitis—inflammation of the liver—can devastate a person’s health. Hepatitis may result from excessive alcohol consumption or exposure to toxins.

Most often, though, viruses are the culprit. Scientists have identified five such viruses and believe that there are at least three more. —See the box below.

Just one of the five—hepatitis B virus (HBV)—kills at least 600,000 people a year,

WHAT TYPE OF HEPATITIS IS IT?

Five viruses are known to cause hepatitis, the three most common being designated A, B, and C. Other viruses are also suspected. The symptoms of all forms of hepatitis can be flulike and may or may not include jaundice. Many people, particularly children, have no symptoms. With hepatitis B and hepatitis C, the liver may already be severely damaged by the time symptoms appear.

HEPATITIS A VIRUS (HAV)

HAV is present in the feces of an infected person. The virus can survive in salt or fresh water and in ice cubes. A person can come in contact with HAV by

- Eating uncooked seafood from water contaminated with human waste or ingesting contaminated water
- Having close physical

contact with an infected person or sharing food, drink, or eating utensils with him

- Not washing hands thoroughly after using the toilet or changing an infected baby or before preparing food

HAV causes acute but usually not chronic illness. In almost all cases, the body clears itself of the virus within weeks or months. There is

no specific standard treatment besides rest and adequate nutrition. Alcohol, as well as drugs that burden the liver, such as acetaminophen, should be avoided until a doctor determines that the liver is completely healed. A person who has had HAV will probably not get it again but can get other types of hepatitis. Vaccination can prevent hepatitis A.

comparable to the toll taken by malaria. More than two billion people—nearly a third of the world's population—have been infected with HBV, and most recovered within months. For about 350 million, however, the disease became chronic. For the rest of their lives, whether they have symptoms or not, they will have the potential to infect others.*

Proper medical care, started early, can help some with chronic HBV to ward off serious liver damage. But most are unaware that they have been infected, as only a specific

Early medical care can help ward off damage

blood test can detect HBV. Even routine liver function tests may come back normal. Thus, HBV can be a silent killer, striking without warning. Obvious symptoms may not appear until decades after infection. By then, either cirrhosis or cancer of the liver may have de-

* The disease is considered chronic if the immune system has not eliminated the virus within six months.

veloped. These diseases take the life of 1 in 4 HBV carriers.

“How Did I Get HBV?”

“My symptoms first occurred at age 30,” says Dukk Yun. “I had diarrhea, so I went to a doctor of Western medicine, but he treated only the symptoms. I then saw a traditional Asian doctor, who gave me medicine for my intestines and stomach. Neither doctor checked for hepatitis. Because the diarrhea persisted, I returned to the Western doctor.* He gently tapped the right side of my abdomen, which caused me pain. A blood test confirmed his suspicion—I was carrying the hepatitis B virus. I was shocked! I had never had a blood transfusion, nor had I been sexually promiscuous.”

After Dukk Yun learned that he had HBV, his wife, parents, and siblings had their blood tested, and all had antibodies to HBV. In their case, however, their immune systems had cleared the virus from their bodies. Had Dukk Yun acquired HBV from one of them? Had they all been exposed to a common

* *Awake!* does not endorse any particular form of medical treatment.

HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV)

HBV is present in the blood, semen, and vaginal fluids of infected people. The virus spreads when these fluids enter the body of someone who is not immune. The virus can be transmitted by

- Birth (from an infected mother to her baby)
- Medical, dental, tattooing, or body-piercing instruments that have not been properly sterilized
- Shared hypodermic needles, razors, nail files or

clippers, toothbrushes, or anything else that can transfer even a tiny amount of blood through any break in the skin

● Sexual activity

Health authorities believe that HBV is not spread by insects, or by coughing, holding hands, hugging, kissing on the cheek, breast-feeding, or sharing food, drink, chopsticks, or other eating utensils. Most adults recover from acute HBV and will then be immune to it. Small children are at high risk of developing chronic infec-

tion. Untreated, chronic hepatitis B can lead to liver failure and death. Vaccination can prevent hepatitis B.

HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV)

HCV is transmitted in much the same way as HBV but most commonly by the injection of drugs with contaminated needles. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.*

* The World Health Organization provides further information on hepatitis in several languages at www.who.int.

source? No one can be sure. Indeed, in about 35 percent of cases, the cause remains a mystery. What is known, though, is that hepatitis B is not hereditary and is virtually never acquired through casual contact or the sharing of food. Rather, HBV is spread when blood or other body fluids, such as semen, vaginal secretions, or saliva from an infected person, enter another's bloodstream through broken skin or mucous membranes.

Transfusions of contaminated blood continue to infect many, especially in countries where screening for HBV is limited or nonexistent. HBV is 100 times more infectious than HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Even a tiny amount of infected blood, such as may be found on a razor, can pass on HBV, and a dried bloodstain can remain infectious for a week or more.*

* Blood from an infected person should be cleaned up promptly and thoroughly using protective gloves and a freshly made solution of 1 part household bleach to 10 parts water.

BREAKING THE HBV CYCLE

Although HBV affects people worldwide, about 78 percent of those with chronic hepatitis B live in Asia and the Pacific islands. In much of that region, 1 person in 10 is a carrier. Most sufferers there acquire the virus at birth from their mother or early in childhood from contact with the infected blood of other children. An effective vaccine for newborns and others who are at risk is helping to break this cycle.* Where vaccination has been implemented, prevalence of the disease has plummeted.

* Hepatitis vaccine may be prepared from blood fractions. Concerned readers are invited to consider "Questions From Readers" in the June 15, 2000, issue of *The Watchtower* and the October 1, 1994, issue. Information can also be found on page 215 of the book *"Keep Yourselves in God's Love,"* published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

The Need for Understanding

"When my company learned I had HBV, they put me in a small office away from most of my colleagues," recalls Dukk Yun. Such treatment is not uncommon and may spring from a misunderstanding of how the virus

Fear of discrimination keeps many from getting tested or revealing that they have HBV

spreads. Even otherwise well-informed people may confuse hepatitis B with hepatitis A, which is highly contagious but less life threatening. Further, since HBV can be transmitted sexually, even morally upright sufferers are sometimes viewed with suspicion.

Misunderstandings and suspicion can create serious problems. For example, in many places people needlessly ostracize HBV carriers, young and old. Neighbors do not allow their children to play with them, schools do not admit them, and employers avoid hiring them. Fear of discrimination, in turn, keeps people from getting tested for HBV or revealing that they have the disease. Some even risk their own future health and that of family members rather than disclose the truth. Thus, the deadly cycle of the disease can continue for generations.

The Need for Rest

"Although my doctor prescribed complete rest, after two months I returned to work," relates Dukk Yun. "Blood tests and CT scans showed no sign of cirrhosis, so I thought I was fine." Three years later, his company transferred Dukk Yun to a big city, where his life became more stressful. With bills to pay and a family to support, he kept working.

Within months, the virus count in Dukk Yun's blood shot up and he began to feel exhausted. "I had to quit my job," he said, "and I now regret that I worked so hard. If

I had slowed down sooner, I might not have become so sick, further damaging my liver.” Dukk Yun learned a vital lesson. From then on, he cut back his work and his expenses. Moreover, his whole family cooperated, his wife even taking on a small job to help make ends meet.

Living With Hepatitis B

Dukk Yun’s health stabilized, but his liver increasingly resisted the blood flowing through it, elevating his blood pressure. After 11 years, a vein in his esophagus burst and blood gushed from his throat, sending him to the hospital for a week. Four years later, he experienced mental confusion. Ammonia had built up in his brain because his liver could no longer filter it all out. Medical treatment, however, corrected the problem in a few days.

Dukk Yun is now 54. If his condition wors-

ens, his options are limited. Antiviral treatments cannot clear the virus entirely and may have serious side effects. The last option is a liver transplant, but the waiting list is longer than the donor list. “I’m a ticking time bomb,” says Dukk Yun. “But it does no good to brood about it. I still have life, a place to sleep, and a fine family. In fact, in some ways, my condition has turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I have more time to spend with my family and more time to study the Bible. This calms my fear of untimely death and helps me to look forward to life without illness.”*

Thanks in part to Dukk Yun’s positive outlook, his family enjoys a happy life and he, his wife, and their three children all share in the full-time Christian ministry.

* Concerning the Biblical hope of a time when sickness will cease, see Revelation 21:3, 4 and the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

Dukk Yun with his wife and three children

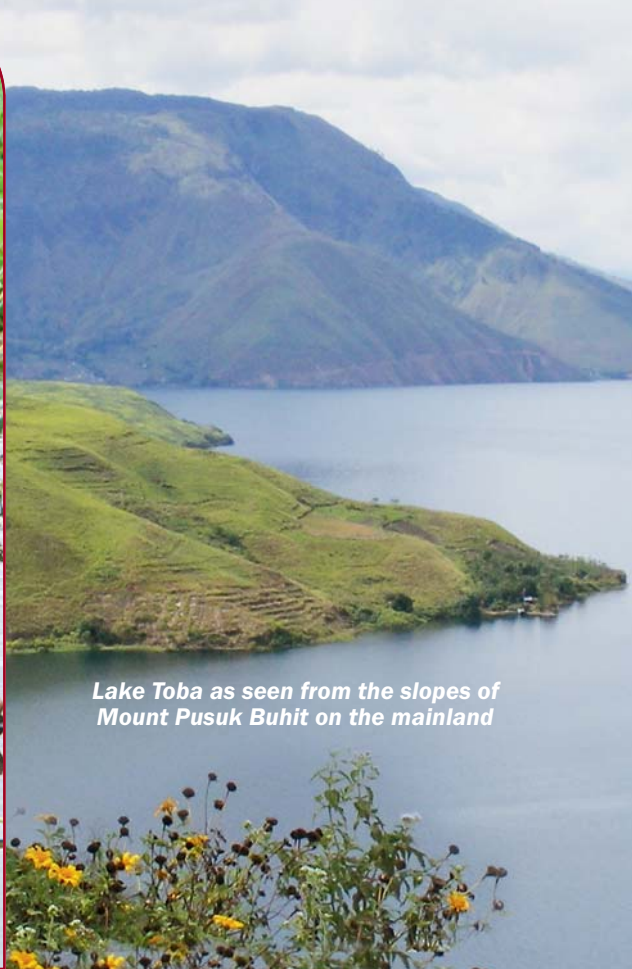




Based on NASA/Visible Earth imagery

Come and Meet THE BATAK

When 13th-century Italian explorer Marco Polo visited the island of Sumatra, in Indonesia, he described a certain “hill-people” who, he said, “live . . . like beasts . . . and eat human flesh.” It is believed that the people he spoke of were the Batak. My wife and I, though, have a completely different view of them. Meet the people we have come to know and love.



*Lake Toba as seen from the slopes of
Mount Pusuk Buhit on the mainland*

“HORAS!” With this hearty greeting, our new Batak friends welcomed us to North Sumatra, Indonesia, when we arrived at our new missionary assignment near Lake Toba. One of Sumatra’s most spectacular natural landmarks and the largest volcanic lake in the world, Lake Toba marks the heartland of the Batak people.—See the box below.

The Batak are one of Indonesia’s largest indigenous groups. Numbering an estimated eight million people, they comprise perhaps six independent, but closely-related, ethnic groups—the Toba, the Simalungun, the Karo, the Dairi, the Angkola, and the Mandailing. Each group is made up of large family clans. When Batak meet one another, their first question usually is, “Which clan do you belong to?” They then quickly work out just how closely they are related.

Rules for Marriage

Traditional Batak marriages generally unite not only two people but also two clans. Maternal cousins are considered an ideal match. But marrying a paternal cousin, or someone from the same clan, is strictly taboo.

Otherwise, traditional marriages follow the rule: Men from clan A take wives from clan B, men from clan B take wives from clan C, and men from clan C take wives from clan A. These circular alliances greatly reinforce Batak bonds of kinship and link newlyweds to a vast network of relatives.

Even if Batak couples are legally married and have children, their union is not recognized by their clans until a traditional clan wedding is held. These elaborate ceremonies can involve hundreds of relatives and can last several hours.

At Karo weddings, for example, the bride-price and the dowry are carefully counted and distributed among specific groups in each clan. Only then can the proceedings continue. Clan members deliver long speeches on married life. The groom and his bride listen respectfully. Feasting and dancing complete the festivities.

A Farmer’s Paradise

In the past many Batak families lived in large, communal longhouses with distinctive twin-peaked roofs resembling buffalo horns.

A COOL LAKE WITH A FIERY PAST

Lake Toba is 54 miles long and 17 miles wide, and it is easily the world’s largest crater lake. It holds enough fresh water to cover the entire United Kingdom to a depth of about three feet. Set in the midst of green volcanic peaks that form part of the Barisan Mountains, this spectacular body of water is, from any angle, a photographer’s dream.

The lake was born in one or more massive volcanic eruptions, which scientists believe may have been among the most violent in earth’s history. In time, the gigantic caldera filled with water, creating what is now known as Lake Toba. Subsequent upheavals in the lake bottom formed beautiful Samosir Island, which has an area of 250 square miles, about as big as the Republic of Singapore.

Sipisopiso waterfall, located at the north end of Lake Toba, drops 360 feet



A TEMPERATE PARADISE

Lake Toba is about 180 miles from the equator, yet its climate is surprisingly cool. This is because the lake is situated 3,000 feet above sea level. Palm trees and pine trees flourish side by side in this temperate paradise.

The lake marks an ecological dividing line for a number of animals. For example, orangutans, white-handed gibbons, and Thomas' leaf monkeys are found north of the lake, while tapirs, tarsiers, and banded leaf monkeys are found to the south.

Some of these ornate buildings—made of wood, bamboo, and sugar-palm fiber—were built on stilts, and some were large enough for 12 families. No nails were used. A number of 300-year-old structures are still occupied. Underneath the elevated floor of the houses are the domestic animals—cattle, chickens, dogs, pigs, and water buffalo.

The local economy is based largely on farming, fishing, and the raising of livestock, as well as tourism. Indeed, the vast natural amphitheater around Lake Toba is a farmer's paradise. Terraces of emerald-green rice paddies rise high above the lake. Coffee, fruit, and spices thrive alongside lush vegetable gardens growing in the rich, dark volcanic soil. Fishermen in their wooden canoes harvest their bounty from the cool, clear waters of the lake.

At day's end, happy children splash and swim in the lake, men mingle in the cafés, and music echoes through the cool night air. Indeed, the Batak are well-known locally for their powerful and emotive singing. They also love to dance—men and women apart—gracefully moving their arms and hands.

A Checkered Past

From the time of Marco Polo until the 19th century, reports indicated that the Batak were fierce cannibals who ritually ate enemy warriors and criminals. However, certain “lurid details of cannibalistic practices may have been provided by the Batak themselves in an effort to prevent outsiders from penetrating into their lands,” says Leonard Y. Andaya, a professor of history. Whatever the case, “in the 19th century the Dutch colonial government banned cannibalism in the regions under their control,” states the book *The Batak—Peoples of the Island of Sumatra*.

The Batak were animists and embraced a number of gods and spirits. They also practiced sacrificial rituals, séances, divina-

tion, and sorcery. Occult spells, divination tables, and healing formulas were recorded on bark strips up to 50 feet long and folded accordion-style, resulting in a book of sorts. And ornate sacred cloths were woven to ward off evil and to divine the future.

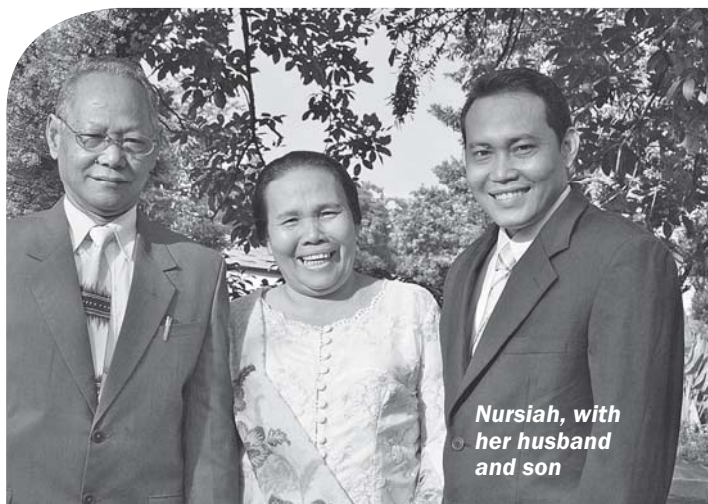
Records indicate that the first Western missionaries to the Batak were Baptists R. Burton and N. Ward, who arrived in 1824. Ten years later, while the Dutch military were trying to occupy parts of the land, two other missionaries, Americans H. Lyman and S. Munson, ventured into Batak territory but were soon killed. Two Catholic missionaries, who disregarded warnings to stay away from potentially dangerous areas, may have met the same fate.

However, German missionary Ludwig Nommensen, who began working among the Batak in 1862, survived and enjoyed considerable success. In fact, he is still held in honor by many of the local people. Today most Batak are professed Christians, the remainder being mostly Muslims or animists. Nevertheless, many still cling to aspects of their traditional beliefs.

Genuine Good News Arrives

About the year 1936, Jehovah's Witnesses arrived in the Batak homelands, bearing the good news of God's Kingdom, which Jesus foretold would be preached "in all the inhabited earth." (Matthew 24:14) Many Batak responded to the Bible-based message and abandoned their superstitious ways. As a result, the region now has about 30 congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses.—See the accompanying box.

As my wife and I share the good news with people in the area, we often meet tourists who marvel at Lake Toba's spectacular scenery and idyllic climate. We heartily agree with them. But we add that the real beauty here is the people—the warm and friendly Batak.



*Nursiah, with
her husband
and son*

FROM SPIRIT MEDIUM TO TRUE CHRISTIAN

Nursiah was a Batak *dukun*, or witch doctor. She used magical arts to cure ailments, expel evil spirits, and communicate with the "dead."* She had a thriving business and—despite her occult activities—was a respected member of her local Protestant church.

When Nursiah met Jehovah's Witnesses, she was surprised to learn that God's name is Jehovah. (Psalm 83:18) Later she read in the Bible that many who had become believers in the first century abandoned their magical arts and burned their spiritistic books in order to serve God acceptably. (Acts 19:18, 19) Despite strong opposition, she decided to do the same, having full confidence in Jesus' words: "The truth will set you free."—John 8:32.

Today, Nursiah and her son, Besli, are baptized Witnesses, and her husband, Nengku, regularly attends Christian meetings. "Now that I am serving Jehovah," she says, "my life is so much better! When I was a *dukun*, I yearned to know the truth. Now I am truly satisfied."

* See the article "The Bible's Viewpoint: Who Are the Demons," on page 20.

Who Are the Demons?

GHOSTS, ghouls, goblins, genies, demons are spirit entities that people of various religions believe in and view as malevolent, benevolent, or both. Other people dismiss belief in spirits as just a superstition or as a figment of the imagination. What does the Bible say?

The Bible teaches that the Creator himself is a Spirit and that his first creations were spirits. (John 4:24; Hebrews 1:13, 14) Further, the Bible mentions wicked spirits, sometimes referring to them as demons. (1 Corinthians 10:20, 21; James 2:19) But it does not teach that God created demons. Who, then, are they, and how did they come to exist?

“Angels That Sinned”

When God created spirit creatures, he made them free moral agents, able to choose for themselves whether to do good or bad. Sadly, after the creation of humankind, an undisclosed number of angels chose to do bad by rebelling against God.

The first and most infamous spirit to rebel became Satan. “He did not stand fast in the truth,” said Jesus Christ. (John 8:44) What moved Satan to turn against God? He began to covet the worship that belongs exclusively to the Creator, and then he acted on that desire by setting himself up as a rival god. In this way *he made himself* “Satan,” a word that means “resister.” Centuries later, prior to the Flood of Noah’s day, other angels joined Satan, forsaking their heavenly position to materialize in human form and dwell on earth. (Genesis 6:1-4; James 1:13-15) When the Flood occurred, the material-

ized “angels that sinned” apparently returned to the spirit realm. (2 Peter 2:4; Genesis 7:17-24) In time, they came to be called demons. —Deuteronomy 32:17; Mark 1:34.

The disobedient angels now found themselves in a very different situation from the one they had enjoyed before rebelling. Jude 6 reads: “The angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place [God] has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day.” Yes, God did not allow the demons to enjoy their former privileges in heaven but consigned them to figurative “pits of dense darkness,” cut off from all spiritual enlightenment.

“Misleading the Entire Inhabited Earth”

Though evidently prevented from again materializing as humans, the demons still have great power and influence over the minds and lives of people. In fact, Satan, together with his demon hordes, is “misleading the entire inhabited earth.” (Revelation 12:9; 16:14) How? To a large extent, by means of the “teachings of demons.” (1 Timothy 4:1) These false teachings, often religious in nature, have blinded the minds of millions to the truth about God. (2 Corinthians 4:4) Consider some examples.

● **The teaching that the dead are still alive.** By means of apparitions, voices, and crafty actions, the demons deceive people into believing that the living can communicate with the dead. Moreover, this clever deception tends to give credence to the lie that a soul survives the death of the body. However,



Demons try to influence people in many ways

who views all forms of spiritism—including astrology and appeals to occult powers—as detestable.—Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

Protect Yourself Against the Demons

How can you protect yourself against wicked spirits?

the Bible plainly states: “The dead are conscious of nothing at all.” (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6) Having ‘gone down into silence,’ they are unable even to praise God.—Psalm 115:17.*

● **Anything-goes morality.** “The whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one,” says 1 John 5:19. Satan and his demons exploit their power by using the media and other means to promote the evil notion that humans should give free reign to base fleshly desires. (Ephesians 2:1-3) Hence, immorality of every kind, including sexual perversions, is rife today. Such behavior is even considered normal, whereas Bible standards are often viewed as old-fashioned or narrow-minded.

● **The promotion of spiritism.** The apostle Paul encountered a servant girl possessed by “a demon of divination,” which enabled her “to furnish her masters with much gain by practicing the art of prediction.” (Acts 16:16) Aware of the source of her supernatural abilities, Paul refused to listen to the girl. Additionally, he did not want to offend God,

The Bible answers: “Subject yourselves . . . to God; but oppose the Devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) We heed that injunction when we live by the teachings found in the Bible, the only sacred book that fully exposes Satan, the demons, and their “crafty acts.” (Ephesians 6:11, footnote; 2 Corinthians 2:11) The Bible also tells us that the wicked spirits, along with all who oppose God, will not be around forever. (Romans 16:20) “The upright are the ones that will reside in the earth, and the blameless are the ones that will be left over in it,” says Proverbs 2:21.

HAVE YOU WONDERED?

- **Did God create the demons?**
—2 Peter 2:4.
- **Can you speak to the dead?**
—Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.
- **How can you protect yourself against the demons?**—James 4:7.

* Concerning the true state of the dead and the Biblical hope of the resurrection, please see chapters 6 and 7 of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

I Can't Wait to Tell Them, “We’re All Here!”



▲ AS TOLD BY
ABIGAIL AUSTIN

I was nine years old. It was a beautiful April day in 1995, and a group of us from the local congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses decided to spend the day out in the English countryside. We set off in car groups. My older sister Sarah, our family friend Deborah, and I were traveling with my father and mother. Suddenly, a car came speeding toward us on the wrong side of the road and crashed into us. I was the only survivor.

I AWOKES in the hospital two weeks later. My skull had been shattered, and the doctors had inserted several plates in it to hold it together. Yet, I recovered quickly. My relatives finally told me what had happened, but I didn't believe them. I kept thinking that my parents and my sister had visited me while I was asleep, and I had missed them. It was only when I returned home that reality set in. I was devastated.

What helped me to cope with this terrible tragedy?

My Spiritual Heritage

I was the youngest of five children. At the time of the accident, Sarah was 22, Shane 20, Jessica 17, and Luke 15. We had wonderful, caring parents. My father, Steve, served as an elder in the West Yorkshire Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in Shipley and was known affectionately for always taking the time to listen to and help others. My mother, Carol, was also well-loved, caring like a daughter for the older ones in the congregation. She arranged get-togethers for us youngsters and helped us find good friends. All were welcome in our house. Our parents taught us to be kind and considerate to our neighbors too.

Every Wednesday evening we studied the Bible together as a family. Sometimes we acted out Bible dramas and dressed up for the parts. Mum and Dad involved us from an early age in learning how to prepare for our congregation meetings and how to present the Bible's message to people at their homes. Although they had their hands full with five children, our parents spent time with us and helped us become spiritually strong.

When Sarah, Shane, and Jessica left school, they became pioneers, full-time Christian ministers, as did our friend Deborah. Sarah and I were particularly close. She was like a second mother to me, and during my school vacation, we spent our time together helping others to learn about the Bible. I loved those days. I could see how happy all the pioneers were, and I enjoyed being with them. My goal was to pioneer along with Sarah after I left school.

On holidays, our family and others in the congregation often spent time together. Young and old grew close in friendship and love. Little did I realize how these good friends would help and comfort me in the days to come!

After the Accident

When I left the hospital, I returned to our family home. Holding down part-time jobs and sharing in the full-time ministry, Shane and Jessica worked hard to provide and care for all of us.

Many fellow Witnesses in our local congregation also came to our aid. They did so much for us! They provided meals, cleaned, shopped, and washed our clothes, until we got on our feet. We were really grateful. Countless presents and cards of support came from Witnesses far and wide, revealing the depth of love within Jehovah's organization.

After about a year, my brothers and sister decided that I needed a stable family life. Some kind families in the congregation had offered help, so my own family sat down and considered what Mum and Dad would think was best for me and my spiritual future. One family stood out. Billy, an elder, and his wife, Dawn, had been particularly close friends of our family, and they had a five-year-old daughter, Lois. They welcomed me into their home and ever since have lovingly looked after me like their own daughter. Although Lois had to share her parents with me, she has never felt jealous, and today we're as close as two real sisters.

How I Coped With the Tragedy

At first, I wondered why this terrible tragedy had happened to our family, especially when my parents, as well as Sarah and Deborah, had shown such love for Jehovah and for other people. But then I recalled the Bible account of Job, who kept his faith in God despite losing his children. (Job 1:19, 22) I thought, 'Yes, Satan brought suffering and death into the world in the first place, and he'd be happy if this disaster stopped us from serving God.' (Genesis 3:1-6; Revelation 12:9) I remembered, too, that Jehovah has lovingly given us the wonderful hope of the resurrection. (John 5:28, 29) We're going to see our family and Deborah again, this time

in a paradise earth! In fact, my love for Jehovah grew stronger.

When I meet people who have also gone through tragedies, I feel so sad if they haven't heard of the Bible's precious resurrection promise. It makes me want to share our hope with them, for I'm sure it's only because of Jehovah and his organization that we've come through this dark time as well as we have, knowing that there's light at the end of the tunnel.

Perhaps our experience has helped in another way too, causing some parents to wonder, 'Have we given our children a spiritual foundation that is strong enough that if something happened to us, they would continue to serve Jehovah without us?'

I've tried to live my life as if Mum and Dad were still here. I know they would have wanted me to work hard in helping others, just as they had. I have been pioneering since I left school, and now Lois is serving alongside me as a pioneer. My brothers and my sister are married and are happily serving Jehovah in their respective congregations.

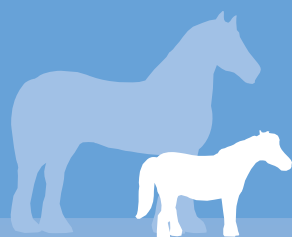
I'm so looking forward to God's new world and the resurrection! Then there will be no more pain or death. (Revelation 21:3, 4) Knowing that we'll all be together again helps me to keep going. I can't wait to give Mum, Dad, Sarah, and Deborah a big hug and tell them, "We're all here!"

Abigail (second from left) with her adoptive family today



The Gentle yet Strong SHETLAND PONY

● If you have ever been to a country fair, you may have seen—or even ridden on—a Shetland pony. As their name suggests, Shetland ponies originally came from the Shetland Islands, northeast of Scotland. In fact, archaeologists working there have unearthed the bones of small ponies dating back thousands of years.



*For their size,
Shetland ponies
are the strongest
of all horse breeds*

sure equal to four inches. Their maximum official height is 42 inches, with the exception of American Shetlands, which cannot exceed 46 inches.

Although small in stature, Shetland ponies are strong. In fact, for their size they are the strongest of all horse breeds. For this reason, the ponies were historically used to haul peat, plow fields, and work in coal mines, where only small animals could negotiate the tunnels. Indeed, many spent their entire life in the mines, never seeing the light of day.

When properly trained, Shetlands are gentle and docile, making them ideal for children. Their good temperament may account for the positive results obtained when this breed has been used in therapeutic programs for the disabled.

Because of their charming traits and their ability to adapt to very different environments, Shetland ponies have been exported all over the world and numerous clubs and breed registries have been established. But the animal's name still links it with its original island home, where the Shetland breed continues to remain remarkably healthy and genetically pure.

Shetland ponies are easily identified by their short legs, long mane and tail, and thick winter coat, which serves as a protection against the inclement weather of their original habitat. The ponies are normally between 28 and 42 inches high and are commonly black or dark brown. Unlike other horses, Shetlands are measured in inches not hands, a unit of mea-

▼ © S Sailer/A Sailer/age fotostock

WAS IT DESIGNED?

The Wing of the Dragonfly



● Certain dragonflies can glide for 30 seconds without any significant loss in altitude. Their secret? An aerodynamic wing that is unlike any manufactured by the aircraft industry!

Consider: The microthin wing of the dragonfly is corrugated, with pleats that prevent it from bending. Scientists have found that the pleats also give the dragonfly greater lift while gliding. "This is because air circulates in the cavities between pleats, creating areas of very low drag that aid the lift-generating air-flow across the wing," says *New Scientist* magazine.

After studying the wing of the dragonfly, aerospace engineer Abel Vargas and his colleagues concluded that "biologically inspired wings are very relevant in the design of micro-aerial vehicles." Armed with a camera or other equipment, such palm-size flying robots have a number of practical uses, from obtaining information from disaster locations to monitoring pollution levels.

What do you think? Did the microthin, pleated wing of the dragonfly come about by chance? Or was it designed?

◀ **The dragonfly microdrone (microaerial vehicle) weighs 120 milligrams (.004 ounce), is six centimeters (2.4 inches) wide, and has wafer-thin silicon wings that flap when powered by electricity**

© Philippe Psaila/Photo Researchers, Inc.



YOUNG PEOPLE ASK

How can I get along with my siblings?



SOME siblings are very close. For example, Felicia, 19, says, “My 16-year-old sister, Irena, is one of my best friends.”* And Carly, 17, says of her 20-year-old brother, Eric: “We get along super well. We never fight.”

On the other hand, many have a relationship like that of Lauren and Marla. “We fight about everything.” Says Lauren, “It doesn’t matter how trivial the subject.” Or maybe you can relate to what Alice, 12, says about her 14-year-old brother, Dennis: “He gets on my nerves! He barges into my room and ‘borrows’ things without asking. Dennis is such a child!”

Do you have a sibling who gets on your nerves? Your parents, of course, have the responsibility to maintain order in the household. However, sooner or later you will need

* Some names have been changed.

How would you rate your relationship with each of your siblings?

- ___ Best of friends
- ___ Get along OK most of the time
- ___ Tolerate each other
- ___ Fight all the time

to learn to get along with others. You can learn that while at home.

Think about the conflicts you’ve had with your brother or sister. What do you fight about most? Look at the list below, and put a ✓ in the boxes that apply, or write about the type of incident that makes you steam!

- ☐ **Possessions.** My sibling “borrows” items without asking.
- ☐ **Personality clashes.** My sibling acts selfishly or thoughtlessly or tries to run my life.
- ☐ **Privacy.** My sibling enters my room without knocking or reads my e-mails or text messages without asking permission.
- ☐ **Other.**

If your sibling constantly annoys you—bossing you around or invading your space—it might be hard not to let resentment build. But a Bible proverb says: “The squeezing of the nose is what brings forth blood, and the squeezing out of anger is what brings forth quarreling.” (Proverbs 30:33) If you hold a grudge, it may well result in an angry outburst, just as squeezing your nose may cause blood to flow. Then the problem will only get worse. (Proverbs 26:21) How can you prevent an irritation from bursting into a raging argument? A first step is to identify the *real* issue.

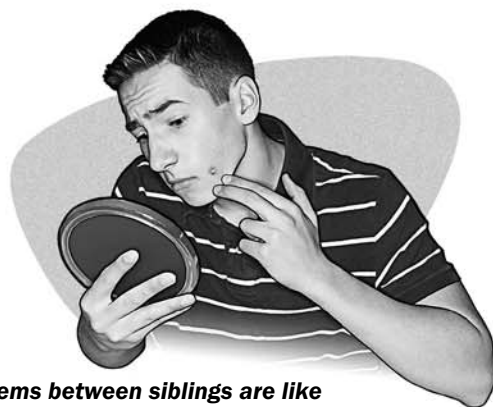
Incident or Issue?

Problems between siblings are like pimples. The surface evidence of a pimple is an unsightly sore, but the cause is an underlying infection. Similarly, an ugly clash between siblings is often just the surface evidence of an underlying issue.

You could treat a pimple by squeezing it. However, that would only be dealing with the symptom, and you may leave a scar or aggravate the infection. A better approach is to deal with the infection and thus prevent further outbreaks. It's the same when it comes to problems with siblings. Learn to identify the underlying issue, and you'll get past the incident and right to the root of the problem. You'll also be able to apply the advice of wise King Solomon, who wrote: "The insight of a man certainly slows down his anger."—Proverbs 19:11.

For example, Alice, quoted earlier, said about her brother Dennis, "He barges into my room and 'borrows' things without asking." That's the incident. Yet, what do you think is the real issue? Likely, it's related to respect.*

* For further help, see the box below.



Problems between siblings are like pimples—to fix them you need to treat the underlying cause, not just attack the symptom

Alice could deal with the problem by telling Dennis *never* to come into her room or use her things. But that solution treats only the symptom and would likely lead to further conflict. However, if Alice could convince Dennis to respect her privacy and her property, their relationship would no doubt improve.

Learn to Resolve or Avoid Conflicts

Of course, identifying the underlying issues you have with a sibling is only part of the solution. What can you do to resolve an issue and avoid a future confrontation? Try taking the following six steps.

IDENTIFY THE REAL ISSUE

Want to hone your skills at identifying underlying issues between siblings? If so, read Jesus' parable of the son who left home and wasted his inheritance.—Luke 15:11-32.

Look closely at the way the older brother reacted when his younger brother returned home. Then answer the following questions.

What was the incident that sparked the older brother's reaction?

What do you think was the underlying issue?

How did the father try to resolve the issue?

What did the older brother need to do to resolve the issue?

Now think of a recent argument you've had with a sibling. Then write your answers next to the questions.

What sparked the incident?

What do you think might be the underlying issue?

What ground rules could you agree to that would address this issue and prevent further clashes?

WHAT YOUR PEERS SAY

“I want to be friends with my sisters for the rest of my life, so I might as well start on this lifelong project now.”

Tia



Bianca

“We do things together as a family, and that helps unite us. We don’t seem to argue as much as we used to.”

1. Agree to some ground rules. “There is a frustrating of plans where there is no confidential talk,” wrote King Solomon. (Proverbs 15:22) To help avoid frustration, look back at what you indicated caused conflict between you and your sibling. See if together you can work out some rules that you both agree on and that address the underlying issue. For example, if you clash over possessions, Rule 1 could be: “Always ask before taking an item that belongs to someone else.” Rule 2 could be: “Respect a sibling’s right to say, ‘No, you can’t use that item.’” When making these rules, think of Jesus’ command: “All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must likewise do to them.” (Matthew 7:12) That way you will make rules that both you and your sibling can live by. Then check with your parents to make sure that they approve of your agreement.—Ephesians 6:1.

2. Abide by the rules yourself. The apostle Paul wrote: “Do you, however, the one teaching someone else, not teach yourself? You, the one preaching ‘Do not steal,’ do you steal?” (Romans 2:21) How can you apply that principle? If you want your sibling to respect your privacy, for instance, then you like-

wise need to knock before entering your sibling’s room or ask before reading his or her e-mails or text messages.

3. Don’t be quick to take offense. Why is that good advice? Because, as a Bible proverb states, “only fools get angry quickly and hold a grudge.” (Ecclesiastes 7:9, *Contemporary English Version*) If you are easily offended, your life will be miserable. Yes, your sibling will do or say things that upset you. But ask yourself, ‘Have I done something like that to him or her in the past?’ (Matthew 7:1-5) “When I was 13,” says Jenny, “I thought that my opinion was the most important and *must* be heard. My little sister is now going through a similar stage. So I try not to get upset over the things she says.”

4. Forgive and forget. Serious problems need to be discussed and resolved. But must you call your sibling to account for every mistake he or she makes? Jehovah God appreciates it when you are willing to “pass over transgression.” (Proverbs 19:11) Alison, 19, says: “My sister Rachel and I are usually able to resolve our differences. Both of us are quick to say that we are sorry and then explain what we think was the cause of the clash. Sometimes I’ll sleep on it before bring-

“In some ways we’re as different as night and day. Still, my sister is one of a kind. I wouldn’t trade her for anything!”

Samantha



Marilyn

“Without my siblings, all my fondest memories would vanish into thin air. To those who have siblings, I would say, ‘Don’t take them for granted!’”

ing up a problem. Often, the next morning it’s as if the slate is wiped clean, and I don’t even have to talk about it.”

5. Involve your parents as arbitrators. If you and your sibling can’t resolve an important issue, your parents can help you make peace. (Romans 14:19) Remember, though, that the ability to resolve conflict without appealing to your parents is like a mile marker—it’s a measure of genuine maturity.

6. Appreciate your siblings’ good qualities. Your siblings likely have qualities that you admire. Write down one thing that you appreciate about each of your siblings.

Name	What I appreciate
.....
.....
.....

Rather than obsess about your siblings’ faults, why not find an opportunity to tell them what it is that you admire about them? —Psalm 130:3; Proverbs 15:23.

Fact of life: When you leave home, you will at times be surrounded by people who irritate you—workmates and others who are rude, insensitive, and selfish. Home is the place to learn to deal peaceably with such challenges.

If you have a brother or a sister who is difficult to get along with, take a positive view. That sibling is helping you to develop valuable life skills!

The Bible acknowledges that a brother or a sister might not always be the closest companion you will have. (Proverbs 18:24) But you can strengthen your friendship with your siblings if you “continue putting up with one another,” even when they give you valid “cause for complaint.” (Colossians 3:13) If you do so, your siblings are likely to become less irritating to you. And *you* may even annoy *them* less!

More articles from the “Young People Ask” series can be found at the Web site www.watchtower.org/ype

TO THINK ABOUT

- Why is it important to see the difference between an incident and the underlying issue?
- Which of the above six steps do you need to work on most?

Do Guns Protect?

Does a gun protect the person carrying it in the event of an assault? A study by the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, U.S.A., concluded that, on average, it does not. After excluding situations involving the police, self-inflicted shootings, and unintentional shootings, researchers found that an individual carrying a gun is “4.5 times more likely to be shot in an assault than those not possessing a gun.” The study acknowledged that some gun owners successfully defend themselves with their own weapons, but the chances of doing so are low. The perception that gun possession is “a defense against a dangerous environment should be discussed and thoughtfully reconsidered,” said the report.

Monks Wearing Lipstick

New monks in Thailand have been “sully-ing the reputation of the conservative Buddhist faith” by wearing lipstick, overly tightening their robes, “walking with an exaggerated swing of the hips and carrying handbags,” says a news report from Bangkok. Concern over the behavior of homosexual novices has

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has raised the classification of ultraviolet light tanning devices from “probably carcinogenic to humans” to “carcinogenic to humans.”

—THE LANCET ONCOLOGY, BRITAIN.

In Argentina, 9 out of every 10 pregnant women did not want to become pregnant.—CLARÍN, ARGENTINA.

“The scientific discovery of new species is quite routine. Biologists are identifying them at a rate of about 50 a day. Nearly 17,000 new plants and animals were described in 2006 alone—some 1% of the 1.8 million species that have been named.”—TIME, U.S.A.

moved religious authorities to propose training monks in matters of decorum. A leading Buddhist preacher explained that homosexuality in itself is not banned among monks, “otherwise more than half of them would be defrocked.”



Trains for Women Only

For years women who traveled on India's overcrowded commuter trains have had to deal with being insulted, groped, pinched, stared at, and generally harassed by male passengers. In response to rising complaints, the government has decided in some cases to remove men altogether, reports the Calcutta newspaper *The Telegraph*. As a result, in India's four largest cities—New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Calcutta—a limited number of “Ladies' Specials” are reserved exclusively for women. Passengers are said to be very pleased.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE APOSTLE ANDREW?

3. Before following Jesus, Andrew was a disciple of whom? CLUE: Read Mark 1:4; John 1:35-40.

.....

.....

4. Whom did Andrew talk to about Jesus, and with what result? CLUE: Read John 1:40-42.

.....

.....

FOR DISCUSSION:

Why is it a good idea to tell your relatives the things you know about Jesus? How, though, might some relatives react? CLUE: Read Matthew 10:32-37.

● Answers on page 11

Who Had This Job?

1. Which two fishermen were sons of Zebedee and apostles of Jesus? Write your answers on the line below. CLUE: Read Matthew 4:21, 22.

.....

2. What are the names of two other apostles who were fishermen? CLUE: Read Matthew 4:18.

.....

FOR DISCUSSION:

Why did Jesus say that his disciples would become “fishers of men”? (Matthew 4:19) What do you think are the similarities and the differences between literal fishing and fishing for men?



CHILDREN'S PICTURE SEARCH

Can you find these pictures in this issue? In your own words, describe what is happening in each picture.

FROM THIS ISSUE

Answer these questions, and provide the missing Bible verse(s).

PAGE 3 What does a clever, or shrewd, man understand? Proverbs 14:_____

PAGE 8 What personal name did God give himself? Psalm 83:_____

PAGE 20 What has happened to the angels who sinned? Jude:_____

PAGE 26 What will “the squeezing out of anger” bring? Proverbs 30:_____



How do Jehovah's Witnesses teach the Bible?

They teach by subject, usually by means of the study aid *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Its 19 chapters include the following:

“What Is the Truth About God?”

“Who Is Jesus Christ?”

“Where Are the Dead?”

“Are We Living in ‘the Last Days’?”

“Why Does God Allow Suffering?”

“How to Make Your Family Life Happy”

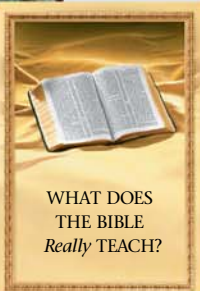
Students are invited to ask questions and to see the answers for themselves in the Bible. Later, on the basis of their study of the Bible, they can decide for themselves which religion to follow.

You may request a personal Bible study, as well as a copy of the book, by filling in the accompanying coupon and mailing it to the address provided or to an appropriate address on page 5 of this magazine.

☐ Without obligation, I request a copy of the book shown here.

Indicate which language.

☐ Please contact me concerning a free home Bible study.



Name

Address

.....

City State ZIP Code

Jehovah's Witnesses, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483