DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Y & Z

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YAP
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Yap (a Pacific island east of the Philippines) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	8	877		
1975	29	271		
1980	40	197	197	40
1985	48	194	185	50
1990	22	432	120	79
1995	33	316	158	66
2000	29	393	160	71
2005	25	450	158	71
2010	25	487	129	93
2013	33	345	144	79
2015	30	379	136	84
2016	29	392	145	78
2018	30	379	124	92
	Ave.			
2019	34	324	142	77
2020	30	400	93	129
2021	31	355	142	78
2022	31	387	132	91
2023	31	355	134	82
2024	31	355	161	68
2025	34	353	145	83

YARBENET, GREG (1947-)
A JW school teacher in Lake City (Pennsylvania) who taught science for 32 years, was suspended from work in 2002, and imprisoned in 2003 for sexual contact with two girl students each for over a two-year period.

www.postgazette.com/frontpage/2004/05/03/Teachers-convicted-of-sex-crimes-against-students-may-lose-pensions/stories/200405030121

YEAR
For purposes of statistics the WTS's year in Rutherford's time was November to October; changed in 1944 to October-September; and is currently September to August.

YEAR OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE
Besides claiming that JWs predicted 1914 will be a "marked year", WTS publications also state they predicted 1914 as a year "of great significance":

> From Bible chronology, Jehovah's witnesses as far back as 1877 pointed to the year 1914 as one of great significance. *The Watchtower* as of March 1880 said: "'The Times of the Gentiles' extend to 1914, and the heavenly kingdom [of God] will not have full sway till then." While they were not yet clear on just what the details would be, in the nearly four decades preceding 1914 they sounded the warning that the future for this present system would not be one of peace, security and prosperity for mankind, but that in 1914 the world would come to the greatest time of trouble ever. In 1897 the book *The Battle of Armageddon,* (at first entitled "The Day of Vengeance") published by Jehovah's witnesses, said that this trouble would be "more general and widespread, and more destructive, as the machinery of modern warfare signally suggests. Instead of being confined to one nation or province, its sweep will be over the whole world, especially the civilized world, Christendom."
>
> [6] The momentous year of 1914 came, and with it World War I, the most widespread upheaval in history up to that time. It brought unprecedented slaughter, famine, pestilence and overthrow of governments. The world did not expect such horrible events as took place. But Jehovah's witnesses did expect such things, and others acknowledged that they did. On August 30, 1914, the New York *World* said: "The terrific war outbreak in Europe has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy. For a quarter of a century past, through preachers and through press, the 'International Bible Students' … have been proclaiming to the world that the Day of Wrath prophesied in the Bible would dawn in 1914. 'Look out for 1914!' has been the cry of the … evangelists."
>
> [7] How could Jehovah's witnesses have known so far in advance what world leaders themselves did not know? Only by God's holy spirit making such prophetic truths known to them. True, some today claim that those events were not that hard to predict, since mankind has long known various troubles. But if those events were not hard to predict, then why were not all the politicians, religious leaders and economic experts doing so? Why were they telling the people the opposite? And why did they

> persecute Jehovah's witnesses for telling things that were later seen to be the truth? (w1971 8/1 468)

What the Russellites actually predicted was 40 years of trouble that would end in 1914/1915 when the "time of the end" finishes and the heavenly kingdom of 1878 rules Earth in peace through Bible heroes or "worthies" resurrected out of death such as Abraham, Moses and Daniel!

The real "great significance" is that almost nothing predicted by Russell came true and JWs leaders have been lying about it and deceiving their followers about it ever since.

(See: *GENTILE TIMES; 1914*)

YEARBOOKS

The *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* was issued annually from 1927 until 2017, initially just in English but by 2000 CE in 31 languages. (Yearbook 2001, 17) It was hardcover until 1997, thereafter paperback.

Yearbooks replaced the "Annual Report" that was previously published in the December 15 *Watch Tower*, the purpose of which was:

> …encouragement to all who love the Lord and who delight to know the prosperity of the truth. (wr1910 2/15 4563)

From 1948 the yearbooks included a world chart of statistics listing JWs numbers in all countries, and until the early 1960s a list of names of so-called "Ordained Ministers" of JWs.

Indoctrination by repetition

Until 1971 the yearbooks contained brief reports or anecdotes from every country in which JWs are active. From 1972 the yearbooks presented histories of JWs in particular countries under the general heading "Acts of Jehovah's Witnesses".

This approach allowed for regular repetitions stating that Russellism taught "God's revealed truths" (e.g. Yearbook 1984, 44), "Christian truth", "light of truth", and preached "the real kingdom", and that opposers of Rutherford were the "evil slave class".

Here is a page from the history of JWs in Poland from *Yearbook* 1994:

> The Light of Truth Reaches Emigrants
>
> As Poland came under the domination of other countries, conditions were at times very hard for the people. Many Poles, either willingly or unwillingly, moved abroad—some to the United States. The religion of their parents, the one that had been inculcated in them at home and in church, was Roman Catholicism. A considerable number of them sought to preserve a national identity by practicing that faith. Hence the common notion that "a Pole is a Catholic."
>
> However, with their traditional environment left behind, some began to change their way of thinking. As an example, in a letter to the Watch Tower Society in 1891, C. Antoszewski (then living in Chicago, U.S.A.) explained that though he grew up in the Russian sector of partitioned Poland and was reared by Catholic parents, he had been searching for the truth. When he came into possession of some of the Watch Tower literature, he became convinced that he had found what he was seeking. Almost every evening, he translated information from the books for another man from Poland who had also been hungering for spiritual truth. As Jesus advised, they did not 'hide this spiritual light under a basket.' Together they began to visit other Polish families to share the good news with them.—Matt. 5:3, 14-16.
>
> Among the Polish immigrants were those who not only accepted precious Bible truths readily but also shared these with their family and friends in the Old Country. Some of them returned to the land of their birth in order to publicize the news of Christ's presence. Under the heading "Progress of the Work Abroad," *Zion's Watch Tower* of June 15, 1895, reported: "Brother Oleszynski, a Polander who received the truth into a good and honest heart some three years ago, has gone to his native land to search out consecrated ones to preach to them the grand gospel of ransom, restitution and the high calling."
>
> At first they had to use whatever literature was available in English and German. But the work of sharing Bible truth with fellow Poles was greatly helped in 1909 when the Watch Tower Society published Polish tracts for free distribution. A condensed Polish edition of material from *Studies in the Scriptures* also appeared that year. And by 1915, *The Watch Tower* was being printed regularly in Polish each month.
>
> Seeds of Truth Begin to Sprout

> In the fall of 1905, the management of a Warsaw lace factory was taken over by a new director from Switzerland, a Bible Student named Mr. Bente. Despite having to communicate with his workers through an interpreter, he won their confidence, and his home became a meeting place for people who wanted to learn about genuine Christian brotherhood. Soon they were holding regular discussions, considering current events in the light of God's Word and with the help of Bible literature...
>
> Yet, the light of Bible truth scarcely penetrated the darkness and went largely unnoticed except by close relatives and acquaintances of people already interested in the Bible. Nonetheless, the light did seep out beyond Warsaw

Who would recognize from such repeated "light of truth" statements that thousands of teachings and interpretations, including predictions for 1910, 1914, 1915, 1918, 1920, 1921 and 1925 were wrong and progressively either discarded or revised? No one. JWs readers and new converts would assume that Russellism was the "light of God's Word" and suffer horror if they **study** the old publications, especially *The Finished Mystery* (1917).

With the yearbooks the leaders indoctrinated JWs afresh into believing that Russell's Bible interpretations and prophecies were accurate and Christian churches reprehensible for rejecting them. Among JWs such lies are convincing because reading the old publications is strongly discouraged and surviving copies concealed, and consulting Christian or sceptical sources that examine them is condemned and therefore most JWs remain ignorant.

Daily Texts and Editor

Until 1985 the yearbooks included Daily Texts which recapitulated points previously published in *The Watchtower*. After 1985 the Daily Texts were published as a separate book, in 114 languages in 2000 CE, titled *Examining the Scriptures Daily*. (Yearbook 2001, 17)

The WBTS president, Rutherford until 1941 followed by Nathan Knorr until the early 1970s, edited the yearbooks.

When yearbook-production stopped after 2017 a yearly chart of country by country statistics — listing the number of active JWs, % increase, and the number of baptisms, pioneers, congregations and Bible studies, and the Memorial attendance — continued to be published on the official jw.org website.

YEAR TEXT

The Year Text is a Bible verse selected by the Governing Body to be displayed in Kingdom Halls for a year.

YMCA

If a JW becomes a member of the Young Men's Christian Association other JWs would regard him as an apostate because the YMCA, they believe, is Trinitarian, linked to the established churches, and promotes "interfaith". (w1979 1/1 30-31) JWs regard joining it to be contrary to, "get out from among them and separate yourselves." (II Corinthians 6:14-17)

YOU CAN LIVE FOREVER IN PARADISE ON EARTH (1982; 1989)

An official WTS book for private study by JWs and to use when conducting "home Bible studies".

The book presents current doctrines; affirms JWs as the only true religion; and presents salvation as requiring submission to the Governing Body and WTS. True religion, the books says, is proved by its ethical requirements, preaching, organization, and correct doctrine.

The book's pictures portray a lush, garden-like world where JWs will live in peace and perfect health. The book cites unnamed scientists who say that humans should, under the right conditions, live for ever. (p.7) But to actually live forever, the book says, requires "accurate knowledge" (p.15) available only from JWs and their publications. Paradise on earth when JWs live forever is promised to occur before the people alive in 1914 die out. Page 154 warns:

> Those persons yet remaining of that generation are now very old… Shortly now there will be a sudden end to all wickedness and wicked people at Armageddon.

Those "very old people" of ""that generation" are now in the 2020s all dead — the prediction was false.

Previous books *(e.g. From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained* 1958; *Survival Into A New Earth* 1984) mentioned the birds and animals

gorging themselves on billions of dead human bodies covering planet Earth but *You Can Live Forever…* omits this.

Pages 146-147 discuss Christ's alleged return in 1914 and consider Revelation 1:7 "Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him." The interpretation given is:

> Here the Bible speaks of seeing, not with physical eyes, but in the sense of *discerning* or *perceiving*. Thus, when a person comprehends or understands a matter, he may say, 'I see it.'

Until 1930 the official doctrine was that Christ returned invisibly in 1874. Therefore in 1914 not even the Russellites "perceived" a return of Christ in 1914. The Bible's prediction "every eye will see" is therefore false even if sight is metaphorical since not even the Russellites saw Christ come metaphorically in 1914 — they saw that for 1874.

You Can Live Forever…, like most JWs books, does not admit to containing revisions in doctrine. A letter published in *Investigator Magazine* (#123) tells of a "home Bible study" using *You Can Live Forever…* during which the JW instructor explained that people executed at Sodom and Gomorrah will not be resurrected. The student's copy of the book, however, said the opposite! It turned out that the student was using the older (1982) edition. The 1989 edition, used by the instructor, had three paragraphs on page 179 revised without calling attention to the change!

This is ominous in view of the book's criteria (Chapter 22) for identifying the "True Religion". The criteria include "respect for God's word":

> Another way in which those who are practicing true religion can be identified is by their … respect for God's Word. (p.187)

The JWs leaders have made thousands of changes to what they taught as "God's Word" and "true Christianity". A lot of WTS-JWs teaching was therefore not "God's Word" at all but falsely so-called. This demonstrates instituted **dis**respect for God's Word by the WTS for the past 150 years and not respect.

YOU MAY SURVIVE ARMAGEDDON INTO GOD'S NEW WORLD (1955)

An official WTS book studied for a year at the weekly JWs book-study meetings. The book:

> …considers the fulfillment of forty-two types and prophecies concerning the earthly heirs of God's new system of things." (Qualified To Be Ministers 1967, 160)

42 Prophetic dramas or types

The 42 "types", which are listed on pages 367-368, instruct people who, in "this generation", will be protected through Armageddon:

> The same inspired Word that unerringly foretold many centuries ago the very situation that we face up to **in this generation** also drew many pictures, staged many prophetic dramas and presented many direct prophecies of the ones to be protected all through the war of Armageddon...
>
> It sharpens our interest to consider that unavoidable war from the standpoint of those who will live through it into the grandeurs of God's new world. In fact, it becomes an absorbing, delightsome, thrilling consideration for us. To share this delight with our readers, we hope in following pages to look into at least forty-two of these typical pictures, prophetic life-dramas and direct prophecies regarding the Armageddon survivors... For our part, we are thankful thus to carry forward the proclamation of the good news, in the hope that you, our reader, may be one of Armageddon's survivors, to enjoy forever God's new world afterward. (p.17)

The "types" that help the readers survive Armageddon include:

- Queen of Sheba (p.269)
- The sheep & goats (164ff)
- Jonathan, friend of David (246-248)
- Supporters of Mordecai/Esther (257-259)
- Jonadab who supported Jehu (Israel's designated king) (64-67)
- Joseph, Benjamin and their brothers,

and many more.

Centre of modern history

The number of repetitions of certain words and dates in the text reveal additional themes:

- 1914 is mentioned 52 times;
- 1918 35 times;
- 1919 46 times;
- Christendom 136 times;
- generation 47 times;
- Armageddon hundreds of times.

Generation refers to "this generation since AD 1914". Also: "Armageddon is so near at hand it will strike the generation now living." (p.11) A false prediction!

The book portrays the JWs "remnant" as the centre of modern history. They are the antitype or fulfilment of the 42 "types", with whom the great crowd has to cooperate to survive Armageddon.

Christendom's destruction deserved

The book repetitiously castigates "Christendom" and blames it for most of the world's evil — similar to anti-Semitists and racists who speak of "the Jew" and "the black man" as if every individual bears the guilt for the entire group:

> Christendom, has likewise proved to be a shameless "nation" before Jehovah God and his Christ, and to this day she has not repented of her hypocritical, selfish, unchristian course that has resulted in two world wars since 1914 and now threatens a third one. (p.59)

Page 109-110 says:

> The correct timing of the start of the "time of the end" was proved by the raging of World War I in 1914, followed by all kinds of distress worldwide...
>
> It was during this "beginning of pangs of distress" that the nations, particularly those of Christendom, **brought great trouble** upon the remnant of the temple class in an attempt to destroy the "spiritual house" of God. Because of such an attempt Christendom made her own coming destruction all the **more deserved**... (p.110)

The book makes no mention of the WTS's numerous failed predictions, thousands of revised interpretations, non-existent kingdoms of 1878 and 1925, and obscene doctrines like the pyramid being the "inspired" equivalent of the Bible.

The claim "brought great trouble upon the remnant in an attempt to destroy the house of God" fails to explain how any organization that promotes thousands of errors can be the "house of God" or how any searcher for truth or God can identify it as such. JWs themselves bring "great trouble" via excommunication on members who disagree with only one or two points, let alone thousands!

The "great trouble" in 1917 was also not brought by all of Christendom but by America's Espionage Act which put eight Russellites in prison.

The claim that all of Christendom deserved "destruction all the more" is a rationalization by propagandists refusing to accept responsibility for their false predictions and wanting to divert attention from them!

Erroneous claims and themes

Many claims in *You May Survive...* have failed and been revised, including:

- The great tribulation being cut short in 1918 (pp 111; 162)
- "Armageddon is so near at hand it will strike the generation now living." (p.11)
- The sheep and goats are separated by Jesus since WWI, and judged by how they react to the JWs preaching. (pp 190; 269)

The alleged modern fulfillments of the 42 types probably need revision because in 2012 the Governing Body expelled the "remnant" from their position as the "faithful and discrete slave class". The 42 modern parallels (i.e. the great crowd) now have to cooperate with the Governing Body instead of the "remnant" to get saved through Armageddon and other details also may need changing.

Sovereignty

The book condemns the nations for not accepting the 1914 kingdom immediately:

> It was really against this kingdom that the nations became wrathful at its establishment in the heavens in 1914, not ceasing then from World War I nor peacefully handing over their sovereignty to it. (p.333)

JWs have never explained how the nations were supposed to "hand over their sovereignty" when no one knew about the alleged 1914 kingdom (not even the WTS until the 1920s), and no one was ready to take over all functions of all governments!

"The time of the end is fast running out... " (p.270) is false because in 1955 the alleged "time of the end" was 41 years old, but another 70 years have since passed. Therefore the "time" in 1955 was still just starting, not fast running out!

Space limitations prevent a thorough analysis of *You May Survive...* but enough is said to

show it was not "Bible study" but a sectarian waste of time! Even JWs now don't study it!

YOUNG PEOPLE ASK
A regular feature in *The Watchtower* starting 1/1982 and continued in *Awake!* where it has covered issues such as peer pressure, morals, swearing, relationships, school-studies, etc, giving "young" JWs the Governing Body's perspective.

"Young People Ask" includes quotes from JWs teenagers and supports them with quotes from the Bible. The "Young People Ask" articles have input from people who have studied psychology and include multi-choice question/answer sections.

YOUNG PEOPLE ASK (1989)
A 22-chapter WTS book for young people about their problems and anxieties, and how they should dress and behave.

In 2008 the WTS released the 9-chapter book *Questions young people ask — answers that work Volume 2* with more instructions about what young JWs should believe and how they should behave. The book's style and content suggest it was not written solely by Governing Body members but that they consulted assistants with backgrounds in counselling and psychology.

YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH (1958)
This book presented the official WTS interpretation of the Bible book of *Daniel*.



Your Will Be Done On Earth interprets Daniel 11:40-45 about the "king of the north" as the Soviet Union. This disagreed with *The New World* (1942) which identified the "king of the north" as Nazism/Fascism. *Your Will* reaffirms the kingdom of 1914; calls JWs doctrine "truth"; criticizes Christian denominations; emphasizes that Armageddon is imminent; and predicted that Communism and Capitalism would both last until Armageddon and then perish together.

The collapse of Communism in 1990 rendered Daniel's supposed predictions about the "Communist king of the north" false.

Your Will was superseded by an updated book in 1999 in which the identity of the "king of the north" is left open. There was no apology for the failed prophecy because the JWs leaders never apologize; they just publish new books with revised "Bible truth".

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FOOT (1967)
The "Lamp book" outlines various features of the Organization and deals with meetings, ministry, congregations, and essential points of doctrine. It was an instruction book of essential doctrine that baptism candidates had to know and accept. The book includes a set of questions for a verbal test that presiding overseers conducted with baptism candidates.

YOUR YOUTH GETTING THE BEST OUT OF IT (1976)
An instruction book for youth, advising young people to follow biblical ethics.

YUGOSLAVIA
Peak publishers and Memorial attendance in Yugoslavia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio	Memorial	Ratio
1990	9,998	3,388	13,846	2,446
1995	3,130	3,321	7,994	1,300
2000	4,031	2,662	8,878	1,209

The reduction in peak publishers between 1990 and 1995 was because Yugoslavia was splitting into separate countries resulting in "publisher" statistics being split accordingly.

Yugoslavia as a nation came into existence in December 1918 (initially named "Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes" and renamed "Yugoslavia" in 1929). After the fall of Communism the country broke up into states which declared their independence as follows:

- Bosnia & Herzegovina March 1992
- Croatia June 1991
- Kosovo February 2008
- Macedonia September 1991
- Montenegro May 2006
- Serbia May 2006
- Slovenia June 1991

Z

ZAHN, GORDON C. (1918-)
American Catholic conscientious objector who did alternative service during WWII and believed that the teachings of Jesus support pacifism and not any distinction between just war and unjust war.

After getting his PhD in sociology Zahn authored:

- *German Catholics and Hitler's Wars: A Study in Social Control* (Sheed and Ward, 1962), and
- *In Solitary Witness: The Life and Death of Franz Jägerstätter* (Holt, Reinhart and Winston, 1964).

Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian Catholic executed in 1943 for refusing army service, may have been influenced by relatives who were JWs. Jägerstätter is sometimes compared to Engleitner, a JW who refused war service.

(See also: *JÄGERSTÄTTER; ENGLEITNER*)

ZALKIN LAW FIRM
A California law firm founded by Irwin Zalkin which specializes in child sex abuse committed in religious organizations.

The Firm has tackled many Catholic cases and then moved on to JWs. For example, a report by Kristina Davis stated:

> SAN DIEGO — A San Diego judge has found that the governing body of the Jehovah's Witness church covered up years of sexual abuse by a local church leader and continued to put children in danger of being molested…
>
> The church's hierarchal body, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, was ordered Wednesday to pay Jose Lopez $13.5 million in damages for the abuse he suffered in 1986 at the age of 7 as part of the church's Linda Vista Spanish congregation.
>
> Twenty other lawsuits are pending in California, Ohio, New Mexico, Connecticut and Vermont, according to the San Diego-based Zalkin Law Firm. And on Thursday, six adults filed a lawsuit claiming molestation in North Texas by church elders in the 1990s…
>
> "These guys [JWs] will deny and deny, they are belligerent, they are arrogant, they treat victims as adversaries," Zalkin said. "This is not an organization that is ready to accept the reality of what they have been doing."
>
> (www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/oct/31/jehovahs-witness-sex-abuse-judgment-lopez/)

ZAMBIA
African country formerly named Northern Rhodesia and the country in which JWs influence has been most massive.

By 1970 about 1/4 of the adult population had at some time been either a "publisher" or sympathizer. Many parts of Zambia were "worked" five times a week by JWs pubishers. In 1984 1/16th of the population attended the Memorial but then growth slowed down. A previous, drastic, slowdown had occurred after 1975.

In 1912 Elliot Kamwana's Watch Tower movement centered in Nyasaland (now Malawi) began to split apart. (See: *BOOTH, J*) By 1917 his followers of whom many were migrant workers from surrounding countries, dispersed (or returned home) to Rhodesia, Tanganyika (now Tanzania) and the Congo.

Watch Tower preachers converted whole villages and got hundreds or even thousands of followers. Such preachers had no contact with the American WTS and accepted Russellism superficially. Most taught that Blacks would get salvation and Whites would perish. Some tribes welcomed Watch Tower preachers to help combat witchcraft, rival chiefs and European authority. One Watch Tower preacher who called himself Mwana Lesa (Son of God) tried to wipe out witchcraft by drowning witches and was hanged in 1926.

By the early 1930s the native Watch Tower movement was established in many towns where converts included literate Africans such as clerks, foremen and store workers.

In 1936 two white JWs from South Africa moved to Lusaka (Zambia). Hundreds, and later thousands, from the African Watch Tower movements became JWs "publishers".

JWs refused to sing the Zambia national anthem, or vote or salute the flag. During the 1968 election campaign and the 1969 referendum the main political party (UNIP) clashed with JWs and there was widespread violence. (Roberts 1976 pp 198-200, 250-251)

The JWs branch office for Zambia was established in Kitwe, the main city in Zambia's "Copperbelt" or mining region, in 1962. New branch facilities including a printery were completed in 1984.

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Zambia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1940	c.1,500			
1950	15,800			
1960	28,700	82		
1965	30,300	115	100,000	35
1970	50,700	89	157,000	29
1975	57,700	81		
1980	53,500	109	336,000	17
1985	58,250	111	311,000	21
1990	73,700	110	327,000	25
1995	84,600	107	371,000	24
2000	117,700	91	475,000	23
2005	127,200	90	570,000	21
2010	159,000	83	710,000	19
2015	177,700	85	810,000	19
2018	204,200	83	931,426	18
	Ave.			
2019	206,400	87	979,000	18
2020	200,100	89	711,000	25
2021	182,499	101	779,000	24
2022	191,400	99	864,000	22
2023	211,000	95	969,000	21
2024	228,300	93	1,086,000	20
2025	253,200	84	1,046,900	20

The entry *GOAL OF WORLD DOMINATION* in this *Dictionary* presents evidence that "Judge" Rutherford's goal was to replace all religions and governments with a WTS-ruled world religion. Statistics for Zambia (and Curacao and Saint Helena) may indicate to what extent this aim is achievable through preaching. The limit seems to be a proportion of JWs publishers to population of about 1/70, and Memorial attendance 1/15.

To achieve world rule the WTS would, when or if its support in most countries approaches Zambia's level, need to become relevant to people's daily life by taking over some functions of secular government. It would have to reveal itself as a political movement.

ZAUG, ERNEST

Zaug was in charge of the Berne (Switzerland) office under Binkele's supervision from 1919. He was a pillar in the French work and sided with Rutherford against various defectors. (Yearbook 1980, 51-63) He was replaced in 1926, ceased full time activity for the WTS, and drifted away.

ZECHARIAH

An Old Testament prophet who supposedly foreshadowed the "remnant" of the 144,000.

ZIEMAN, BONNIE

Author of:

- *Exiting the JW Cult: A Healing Handbook For Current & Former Jehovah's Witnesses* (2015)
- *Shunned: A Survival Guide* (2018).

Zieman was born and raised as a JW, left after 30 years, acquired a higher education, and established a professional life as a psychotherapist.

ZIGZAG COURSE

JWs leaders claim they are not on a "zigzag course" but instead know where they are heading:

> Paul went on to say: "Therefore, the way I am running is not uncertainly..." (1 Corinthians 9:26) ...Hence, to run "not uncertainly" means that to every observer it should be very evident where the runner is heading. The *Anchor Bible* renders it "not on a zigzag course." If you saw a set of footprints that meanders up and down the beach, circles around now and then, and even goes backwards at times, you would hardly think the person was running at all, let alone that he had any idea where he was heading. But if you saw a set of footprints that form a long, straight line, each footprint ahead of the previous one and all evenly spaced, you would conclude that the footprints belong to one who knows exactly where he is going. (w1992 8/1 17)

In 1981, however, the JWs leaders compared their progress in understanding the Bible to a sailboat "tacking into the wind". The diagram accompanying the article shows a zigzag course! (w1981 12/1 27)

Critics sometimes list JWs doctrinal revisions that went back and forth three or more times, proving that the doctrines not only "zigzag" but also go backwards. Some examples are:

- The starting date for Armageddon;
- Interpretation of the 1260 days of Daniel;
- Whether all JWs are ministers or not;
- Identity of the "superior authorities" of Romans 13;
- Whether or not the people of Sodom and Gomorrah will be resurrected;

- Whether or not it is O.K. to greet disfellowshipped persons;
- Whether or not Adam and Eve were created in the same year;
- Whether or not the Scriptures endorse marriage before Armageddon;
- Whether Paul or Matthias was the twelfth Apostle.

ZIMBABWE

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	11,598	447		
1975	12,710	488		
1980	10,844	679	23,070	319
1985	12,247	562	36,900	186
1990	18,382	505	50,200	185
1995	24,461	451	65,800	168
2000	30,300	418	71,000	178
2005	32,000	374	76,500	157
2010	38,000	328	94,400	132
2013	41,100	318	104,100	126
2015	45,100	346	114,500	136
2018	48,300	350	122,100	138
	Ave.			
2019	48,000	305	122,800	119
2020	44,900	332	118,000	126
2021	41,900	360	126,200	119
2022	42,800	355	105,800	143
2023	46,800	324	120,700	126
2024	50,000	314	131,488	119
2025	53,700	296	128,486	124

ZION'S WATCH TOWER AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE

The name of the WTS's magazine from 1879 to 1908 often shortened to *Zion's Watch Tower.*

In January 1909 it became *The Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*.

ZION'S WATCH TOWER TRACT SOCIETY

Name of the Pennsylvania Corporation until 1896. The new name, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, came into use in 1892 and was legalized in 1896. (wr1896 12/15 2077)

ZIONISM

Since 1931 JWs have regard Zionism as a mistaken political movement that wrongly views modern Israel as fulfilment of biblical restoration prophecies. JWs interpret those same prophecies as fulfilled in the "remnant" of the 144,000 and the WTS since 1919.

Russell in contrast regarded Zionism as a movement that was fulfilling Bible prophecy. Russell was himself regarded as an "early American Zionist" and predicted that Israel would be restored by 1915 as an earthly kingdom ruling the world under the guidance of the heavenly kingdom of 1878.

Rutherford, until 1930, predicted Israel's imminent restoration but in 1931 dismissed efforts to recreate Israel as irrelevant. In his *Vindication* volumes he interpreted the Bible predictions of Israel's restoration as fulfilled in his Organization and the "remnant".

The Watchtower in 1958 explained *Why Zionism Must Fail*:

> Zionism must fail because Jehovah is having nothing to do with it and "unless Jehovah himself builds the house, it is to no avail that its builders have laboured on it." …
>
> There are therefore no facts to support the belief held by many that God will perform some miracle causing the Israeli Jews to accept Jesus as their Messiah. Nor do the Scriptures support such a position…
>
> What, then, someone may ask, about all the prophecies that speak of Zion's and Israel's restoration and prosperity?
>
> …many of them had a fulfillment on small scale when the Jews returned from their captivity in Babylon in 537 B.C…
>
> But these prophecies have a far more striking fulfilment in our day upon spiritual Israel and Zion, identified at Revelation 7 and 14 as the footstep followers of Christ who will gain the heavenly reward and who are limited to just 144,000. These began to be selected at Pentecost and of their number only a few, a "remnant," remain till the present time. It is to this remnant, which belongs to heavenly Zion and spiritual Israel, that these restoration prophecies apply. The facts show that particularly since the 1870's members of the "remnant" began to be brought together…
>
> There is no Scriptural support for political Zionism, it is doomed to failure. It is the work of men and will come to nothing…
>
> Learn how you can now enjoy the blessings and prosperity of the spiritual restoration and have a sure hope of endless life in happiness in God's

paradise earth in **the near future**. (w1958 3/1 135-136)

"The near future" in 1958 meant the generation of 1914 and within the 20th century. The JWs alternative restoration of Israel failed in the 20th century because, in their words, "there were no facts to support the belief" and "unless Jehovah himself builds the house, it is to no avail that its builders have laboured on it…" The JWs goal of Armageddon followed by global paradise in the 20th century was "the work of men" and came to nothing.

(See also: *COMFORT FOR THE JEWS*)

ZONE

In Rutherford's time an area comprising ten to twenty congregations. In 1946 Zones were renamed "Circuits". But the word "Zone" was retained to refer to ten regions into which the WTS divided the planet for the purpose of administering the JWs religion and preaching.

ZONE SERVANT

Zone servants, from October 1, 1938 to November 30, 1941, were travelling WTS representatives who each supervised about 20 congregations. They spent a week with each congregation to boost morale and proselytising efforts, organize public demonstrations (sometimes leading to riots), and reprimand slack JWs. The policy of organizing public demonstrations ceased in the early 1940s.

Renamed "servants to the brethren" 10/1942; renamed again "circuit servants"; and renamed yet again "circuit overseers" in 1972.

ZONE THERAPY

The WTS promoted "zone therapy" (Reflexology) until the 1950s.

The feet and toes, according to this practice, influence other areas or "zones" of the body which can therefore be relieved of pain and illness by applying pressure to points on the feet and massaging with the thumb and forefinger. This stimulates the entire zone including the organs and muscles that correspond to the points on the foot.

Zone therapy was one of many quack notions the WTS endorsed during its decades-long attack on medical science.

(See also: *MEDICAL QUACKERY*)

ZYDEC, FREDRICK

Author of *Charles Taze Russell: His Life and Times, the Millennium and the Message* (2009).

This 24-chapter biography of Russell is written chronologically in the present tense. The book has a number of photos, includes many little-known facts such as Russell's heart attack in 1913, and shows how Russell applied business principles learned in the haberdashery to evangelism. Zydek mentions points favorable to Russell in his divorce and in his conflicts with other religions.

Zydek taught theology at the College of Saint Mary for 20 years and authored numerous articles in magazines of religion such as *Catholic Digest*, *The Presbyterian Record*, *Christianity Today*, and *Sojourners* besides nine volumes of poetry. He retired to a farm in Nebraska and continued to write.

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