

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On February 7, 2014, we received the following inquiry:

“After more than 7 months I am compelled to write to you today. Please know that I check your website for updates everyday and I deeply appreciate the spiritually uplifting effect of your articles. Thank you so much for all the time and effort you put into them. I hope and pray that more, in fact all, Jehovah's Witnesses are awakened to the plain, open and authentic teachings of Jesus. I hope it is a sign of spiritual growth that my reaction to your John 6:53-56 quote today was "this is so obvious...how did I not see this in times gone by!"

“However, having spent many weeks and months working up the courage to partake at the forthcoming Memorial (and I'm not saying that I have all the courage I need yet), I can't pretend that I wasn't a little disappointed at the suggestion to not take a stand in front of other Witnesses on April 14th. Of course, I agree with you that our current celebration bears little resemblance to the one Jesus instituted but it seemed to me that this was the one thing that might precipitate change in an organization that I believe has tremendous potential for good.

“Surely the Governing Body would not continue to ignore an increase in partakers that called the current understanding into serious doubt? If that is so, would it not be better for Sons of God that are still in 'good standing' to express their conviction in larger numbers so we expose this error for what it is? Rest assured, I do not seek the limelight... in fact I've been thinking about how best slip under the radar but still be counted.

“I anticipate your response might be that they have already ignored a significant increase, but was it truly large enough for them not to take notice? If we could get 1% of the baptized publishers to partake I suspect a change (of some kind) would be unavoidable... don't you think?”

To the author, thank you for your email. We are very glad that you are turning to the Christ and the true Christian hope. We have full confidence that you will garner the courage to step up and do what you know to be right.

And we certainly understand your arguments in support of participating in the 2014 Memorial with the Watchtower organization, and we agree that the organization has tremendous potential for good. However, the Governing Body is squandering this ‘talent’ given them, and there is currently no sign that they will properly ‘do business’ with that talent. (*Matthew 25:14-30*) While we have given up our direct communications with them, we believe the recent call to commemorate the Memorial Supper at private gatherings will provide another opportunity and a wake up call to the Governing Body that might inspire them to make needed changes. Let us explain.

You suggested: Surely the Governing Body would not continue to ignore an increase in partakers that called the current understanding into serious doubt? If that is so, would it not be better for Sons of God that are still in 'good standing' to express their conviction in larger numbers so we expose this error for what it is? . . . I anticipate your response might be that they have already ignored a significant increase, but was it truly large enough for them not to take notice? If we could get 1% of the baptized publishers to partake I suspect a change (of some kind) would be unavoidable... don't you think?”

Dear brother, we believe a large enough number did partake at the 2013 Memorials hosted by the Watchtower organization. Although they reported only 600 new partakers in the 2014 Yearbook, our reports indicate the number of **new, first time** partakers reported by the congregations worldwide was almost 20 times that amount. Surely, that is enough new partakers to get their attention. Instead, of publicly acknowledging these developments, the Governing Body hid this information and scrambled to do ‘damage control.’

They sent letters to certain congregations where there was a significant increase in partakers, and they even sent out emissaries to some congregations to speak with these new partakers first hand with the intent to discourage them and convince them that they could not be anointed. This latter tactic backfired, as we explained in the article **Defending Our Living Hope**. Instead of discouraging these new ones, the emissaries themselves were profoundly affected. We understand that at least 3 of the brothers who were sent out on these missions were so impressed by the new partakers that they no longer serve at Bethel. Their experience was similar to what occurred when the chief priests and Pharisees sent out officers to entrap and arrest Jesus:

“The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things about him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees dispatched officers to get hold of him. . . . Therefore the officers went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, and the latter said to them: ‘Why is it you did not bring him in?’ The officers replied: ‘Never has [another] man spoken like this.’” – *John 7:32, 45-46*

It may appear to many that the Governing Body is worried that an increase in the number of partakers challenges their teaching that the number would decrease as a sign of the end. However, their biggest concern is that the growing number of partakers casts a shadow on their “new light” as to the meaning of ‘this generation’ as explained in the January 15, 2014 *Watchtower*, page 31, paragraphs 15-16:

“¹⁵ In his detailed prophecy about the conclusion of this system of things, Jesus said: “This generation will by no means pass away until all these things happen.” (Read Matthew 24:33-35.) We understand that in mentioning “**this generation**,” Jesus was referring to **two groups** of anointed Christians. The first group was on hand in 1914, and they readily discerned the sign of Christ’s presence in that year. Those who made up this group were not merely alive in 1914, but they were spirit-anointed as sons of God in or before that year. —Rom. 8:14-17.

“¹⁶ The second group included in “this generation” are anointed contemporaries of the first group. They were not simply alive during the lifetime of those in the first group, but they were anointed with holy spirit during the time that those of the first group were still on earth. **Thus, not every anointed person today is included in “this generation” of whom Jesus spoke.** Today, those in **this second group are themselves advancing in years.** Yet, Jesus’ words at Matthew 24:34 give us confidence that at least some of “this generation will by no means pass away” before

seeing the start of the great tribulation. **This should add to our conviction that little time remains before the King of God's Kingdom acts to destroy the wicked and usher in a righteous new world.—2 Pet. 3:13.**"

This blatant perversion of the plain and simple word "this" has created a whole new doctrine for them. So as a guise and a ruse for achieving their intent to not report the actual number of partakers, they advised certain bodies of elders where the number of partakes was unusually high to exclude from their reports those who could not have been a part of the so-called 'second group of anointed' based on their convoluted explanation of 'this generation.' This automatically excluded the teenagers, the young adults, and all the adults under a certain age, perhaps under 50. And they can play this game every year so that no matter how many brothers step up and partake, they will not be counted.

So we thought of another way to get their attention. The Governing Body is clearly not interested in reporting the true number of partakers, but they are certainly concerned about reporting a high number of attendees. Thus, if the number of attendees drops significantly, they will surely take note.

Based on their proclamations that a sign of 'Babylon the Great' is the drying up of her waters – meaning a drop in the number of people attending their churches – they will surely be shamed if their own 'waters' dry up. For that reason, we believe, or at least hope, that if the number of Memorial **attendees** drops from 19 million to even 18 million, they will take note. Though we strongly hope the number drops significantly more than that. And of course, with a drop in the number of attendees, that will result in a corresponding drop in contributions. That will get their notice!

But do not misconstrue our words as an attack on the Governing Body or Jehovah's Witnesses. Our goal is not just to move the Governing Body to action. Our primary goal is to honor the Christ and currently that cannot be done at the Memorials hosted by the Watchtower organization. Moving the Governing Body to act is an additional benefit, motivated by brotherly love, that, if successful, can result in the salvation of nearly 20 million people.

We hope our brothers and sisters have the love and the courage to turn away from the Watchtower Memorials for the good of their sleeping brothers and sisters, the Governing Body, and the entire Christian community that takes note. And we hope that they choose to commemorate a true Memorial Supper among their true brothers in Christ in private gatherings.

At this late date, only Jehovah's Witnesses can save Jehovah's Witnesses. Any outside influence or pressure will be ignored or labeled as persecution. But what can the Governing Body say when its adherents simply turn to serving Christ and shake the dust off their feet? The most painful act that can be inflicted on a narcissist is for the public to simply ignore them. This may be the last opportunity for the narcissist body of men who lead Jehovah's Witnesses to be moved to change.

If you, or any of our visitors have comments about this matter, please do not hesitate to write us.

"Elaia Luchnia"