

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On January 9, 2014, we received the following inquiry:

“I have a question. The Yearbook 2014 has been published. What do you think about the numbers of Memorial partakers? It is real? ”

To the author, thank you for your email. You asked if the number is real. We believe you are asking whether the number is accurate. Our answer is NO.

First, we want to make it clear that the number is supposed to reflect those who partook of the Memorial emblems at the gatherings of Jehovah’s Witnesses around the world on March 26, 2013. It is not a report of the total number of persons who have accepted the invitation to be anointed as faith sons of God who were living on earth at that time. Nevertheless, the Governing Body and its operatives have chosen to distort the number to suit their own agenda of promoting a false hope of everlasting life on earth. They are fearful of the growing number of the children of God and they believe that by distorting this number, they will somehow discourage them. A steady growth in the number of Memorial partakers is a threat to their central doctrines.

The number of partakers in 2012, as published in the 2013 Yearbook, was 12,604. The number of partakers in 2013, as published in the 2014 Yearbook, is 13,204 – an increase of exactly 600. That fact in itself raises questions about its accuracy. And we know firsthand and through personal emails that more than 600 new sons of the Kingdom partook with Jehovah’s Witnesses on that night.

According to the report we received, the 2014 Yearbook was delayed because the Governing Body and its operatives were distressed at the large number of partakers that were reported by the congregations. So they sent inquiries out to selected congregations where more partook than was expected, asking the body of elders to recheck their figures. They gave them certain criteria to use to decide which partakers were **legitimate in their opinion** and they were to only report those **who the elders believed** were genuinely ‘anointed.’ (Our article **Defending Our Living Hope** gives an account of how one congregation was targeted due to the large number of partakers.) As a result, the reports came in late which delayed the publication of the 2014 Yearbook, and the numbers were significantly reduced. So there was never an intent to truly report the number of partakers, let alone the number of anointed faith sons of God.

What is interesting is that they reported every single attendee, whether they were Christians or not, whether they were ‘mentally unstable’ or not, and whether they even understood the proceedings or not. They also counted those who were coerced to attend by family members, and those who have been disfellowshipped and disassociated, even though they will not allow anyone to speak to them! We wonder if they counted the infants being held in their parents’ arms. Yet, they make it a point to severely scrutinize any who dare to openly confess union with the Christ (***Matthew 10:32-33***) on the one night we are **commanded** to do so! (***Luke 22:19***) We even have reports that in some congregations, the servants refused to pass the emblems to some whom the elders believed wanted to partake! What a travesty! What an abomination to all that is righteous!

However, the most embarrassing thing is that the Governing Body is admitting that of the over 19 million who attended, only 13,204 of their number have a real relationship with the Father. This is nothing to boast over. It is a sad reflection of their impotence and their inability to build a true Christian congregation. (*Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:24*)

We will have more to say about this matter in our upcoming Memorial articles. This is an important year for Jehovah's Witnesses, but not necessarily in a favorable way, as will soon be seen. It does mark 100 years from their assumption that Christ did not begin ruling as king until 1914. But that is an insignificant milestone and a very small matter. The more important issue is that this is the 'Father's Acceptable Year' (*Luke 4:18-21*) and the 'time of their being inspected.' (*Luke 19:41-44*) So far, they are not discerning this, and it does not look good. But we shall see.

In the meantime, do not be discouraged by their stubborn and rebellious ways. The faithful sons of God are growing exponentially around the world. They are no longer looking to 'this mountain' or 'that mountain.' (*John 4:21*) They are not misled into believing the cries that 'here is the Christ' or 'there is the Christ.' (*Matthew 24:23*) They are serving with spirit and truth "for the Father is looking for ones like these to worship him." (*John 4:23*) In truth, the actual 'body of Christ,' the Christian congregation of those who have accepted their sonship and are actively and knowingly pursuing the heavenly hope worldwide, far exceeds the **total number** of baptized publishers in the whole Watchtower organization!

Brothers, this is a great time to be alive and to confess union with Christ Jesus. And it is a special privilege to have a share in the authentic ministry Jesus started. We encourage all to stay close to the Father and to Christ Jesus and to expect the unexpected!

"Elaia Luchnia"
