

Introduction & Editorial Note

This book is the first of a series of books under the theme, Masters and Slaves and the additional topics to be covered and currently being researched by our dedicated team will be released in the near future. Additional themes presently being investigated and published in the near future are: Masters and Slaves of Modern Marriage[®] and Masters and Slaves of the Corporate World[®]. Additional subjects will be added in due course as they become relevant to assisting our many readers in finding answers related to these current important issues on a global level.

This narrative is related to modern religion and is published as a contribution to the need for openness, truth and honesty regarding religious cults and the dangers associated with mind control and how these cults operate. Many of these events and descriptions contained in this book have been reproduced, confirmed and acknowledged using information freely provided from the reliable non-profit organization *Wikipedia*, which we have extensively used, plus other numerous external sources. Our team of researchers have independently checked and verified as far as humanly possible all these details for accuracy and authenticity. Much of the information in this report was gleaned from the archives of the sources acknowledged, most of which is available to the general public; other sources are only available by special permission. Material related to the religions and cults covered, is also available in the public domain, but in all cases we have acknowledged the sources wherever possible.

We are grateful to The Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi (CVMA) of Great Britain, plus the Kings College of London and the British Academy. The JANET Network and JISC, plus the National Education & Research Network (NREN). We especially thank our friends, associates and students of the History Department of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, USA, who wish to remain nameless but who volunteered

and provided much of their time, plus the valuable material related to the background history of the various religions analyzed. We express appreciation to Marci Hamilton and Cambridge University Press and their brilliant reference work, *God vs. The Gavel: Religion and the Rule of Law*. We also acknowledge the excellent material and feedback submitted by forensic scientists and fellow researchers at Cambridge University in England. Without the help and cooperation of the above list of sources, this book could not have been published. We are certain that we have missed listing many other individuals and sources that have provided valuable material to support our research in various ways and if not named, we wish to apologize. To those who requested, they remain anonymous but also provided material and help in our research in many ways, our sincere thanks.

We also gratefully acknowledge the over 39 inspired writers of the 66 books of God's Word the Holy Scriptures. These men, who of course are no longer alive on earth today, consisted of scribes, prophets, priests and truthful co-writers of God's Word, were all Hebrews and accordingly members of the group identified in the Bible, "For in the first place the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God." (Romans 3:2) Eight of these men were Christian Jews who personally knew Jesus Christ or knew of his words through his faithful apostles. Without the assistance and support of these men through their writings, this narrative could not have been published.

Most of the images and diagrams used in this narrative are in the public domain. Many of the photos used were taken by the editor or associates and these also are now in the public domain, a few other photos have been used after a request was made for permission from the copyright owners and these have been acknowledged accordingly. We also thank Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, created and edited by volunteers around the world and hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation and especially their ShareAlike 4.0 International and Creative Commons (CC By-SA 4.0) service. Additional images have been provided by courtesy of the Library of Congress.

All quotations from the Holy Bible are from *The New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV), which is an English translation of the Bible published

in 1989 by the National Council of Churches. It is a revision of the Revised Standard Version, which was itself an update of the *American Standard Version*. This is our favorite and preferred translation of the Holy Scriptures above all others.

We are grateful to the voluntary staff of the non-profit charity, the MTC International Foundation, who read and commented on the various drafts. Their painstaking efforts eliminated many grammatical mistakes, improved exposition and also added important insights. All other errors in the text are mine alone as the editor. All references, quotations, opinions and views expressed in this narrative based on our research, are not necessarily those of the individual members of our research team or the editor. The personal names of many of our sources of information have been withheld at the contributor's request. Plus, our editorial staff has decided regarding the contributors who are now deceased to also withhold their names out of respect for their families with a few requested exceptions.

Most of the individuals we interviewed during our research are still active in modern day religions either for personal or family reasons, some of which we cover in our book, especially those connected to the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. To our surprise many also expressed the opinion that they did not necessarily believe that their chosen religion was the only true religion on earth and many courageously displayed open-mindedness and a genuine tolerance for other religious groups and organizations. Many also openly acknowledged that they believe that there are genuine, sincere Christians in other religions of Christendom besides the one they profess, but they all had one common thread and that their desire was for their spiritual leaders and shepherds to always speak the truth.

Also, many of the individuals interviewed by our reporters and research team were not always bitter screwed-up ex-members of one of these religious cults with a chip on their shoulders; holding a personal grudge or grievance, but some were in fact still active members as they claimed they still loved and personally benefitted from belonging to their particular religion. Their hope was that by remaining an integral member and part of the group that they could perhaps help somehow

in bringing about necessary improvements, changes and corrections of any misleading, negative or misguided beliefs, but doing so from within. Therefore, many of the comments brought together by the editor are genuine sincere opinions expressed by these serious-minded individuals, so whether you agree with this philosophy and tactic or not we must respect the decision of these sincere individuals. The editor has also made additional comments, where necessary, to expand on the related facts recorded. It must also be pointed out that the primary role and duty of the editor was to comb through the 1,000s of pages of information that came across his desk related to the subject of cults and religions. His duty and responsibility was to decide along with his team of able assistants what to include in this book and what best represents to our readers, facts and details related to modern-day religions, sects and cults, plus some of the dangers associated thereto.

Chapter Three of our book is about the Watchtower Society. As the longest chapter and the most candid in this narrative it is particularly important, as our research team gleaned information primarily from friends and associates who are or have been prominent members of this religion. These reliable facts and details about the Watchtower Society, also known as Jehovah's Witnesses, have previously never been exposed but many individuals expressed their desire to lay bare this information as a contribution to the real truth and of benefit to their fellow men and women. This religion, its past leaders and current Governing Body has also been identified as the most destructive cult in existence today and one that must be exposed and identified at all costs.

For example, we have the recent case that personifies the feelings of many as expressed in the recent book *My Beloved Religion – And The Governing Body* by Rolf Furuli of Larvik, Norway. The first words of the introduction of his book are:

This book is not an attack on Jehovah's Witnesses. On the contrary! My beloved religion is the religion of Jehovah's Witnesses. And I have invested my whole soul in this religion for 59 years. However, the book represents a strong correction of those who have been members of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses in the 21st century.

Of interest to our readers, this sincere, genuine member of Jehovah's Witnesses has subsequently been expelled from his beloved religion but he still attends their public meetings whenever possible, but like many others is now strictly limited due to the current COVID-19 virus restrictions. From a report by an associate of Rolf's he stoically sits on an isolated seat at the rear of the Kingdom Hall and he is completely ignored by his many long-standing friends and associates as they have to obey the rules of the Governing Body of this religion and they treat him like a leper. Rolf is now identified as an apostate¹ despite all of his sincere attempts to offer meaningful, constructive suggestions on how the current misguided Governing Body and his beloved religion could be improved.

By not being open and truthful, many of these religious leaders walk into the trap of being deceitful, and they should remind themselves of this quotation by Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) the Scottish poet and writer, "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." Most individuals we interviewed also stressed that their leaders should be completely open about the so-called doctrines and historical facts that are claimed to exist and that are frequently used to try and prove that their religion is the only true religion on the planet. They all agreed with the words and sentiment expressed in the Bible, "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him: If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

In a recent group discussion by our research team the question was raised, Is there such a thing as religious slavery, especially in the 21st century? As a result of this discussion an in-depth analysis was prepared as a series of reports, press releases and articles. We are pleased to announce that this information is now correlated and published as a complete volume for all genuine enquirers to read about this vital and important subject.

¹ Apostasy in Christianity is the rejection of Christianity by someone who formerly was a Christian or who wishes to administratively be removed from a formal registry of church members. It can also mean a defection or revolt against God and Jesus Christ. The term apostasy comes from the Greek word *apostasia* (ἀποστασία) meaning defection, departure, revolt or rebellion.