

January 2003 Guestbook

January 5th 2003

Sent: Monday, January 06, 2003 12:22 AM

Bill does have a lot of courage!!! And he probably was amazed too at how many silentlambs there really are. Absolutely, God is blessing the goodness of Bill's mission. It would help the silentlambs greatly if you would post your story in the Abused Lambs area of the site.

So sorry you were subjected to being betrayed in a Kingdom Hall by the CO praising the man who sexually abused you. There are no secrets among friends. They call themselves the "friends" but as you said yourself once the truth was out, you were abandoned. Thank you for posting here. There is story after story, all have the same "plot" and you are not alone. God is with you, Bill and anyone who has been betrayed, exploited, oppressed and abandoned.

Sent: Monday, January 06, 2003 1:49 PM

I was up all night last night, same dream, same faces, same questions that have haunted me for over 20 years. I was a child of JW family, I never was a JW. I make that clear, because my participation was forced and my subservience was acquired through punishment and intimidation. I was molested for a period of about 5 years by a ministerial servant, who also happened to be my step-grandfather. My step-father unfortunately fell right into his father's footsteps. My life as a child was akin to a POW camp, beatings, humiliation, ostracism and isolation, brainwashing. and that was only the beginning. All my life I have asked the same questions, never to be answered. . . . WHY WHY WHY? I prayed and read my bible and prepared for every single meeting, please Jehovah, protect me, make it stop. I made deals with God, if you make it stop, I'll dedicate my life to you. But it didn't stop. I told so many within the congregation, so did my little sister. No one helped, no one saved us. We would hold hands and pray, but instead of our prayers being answered, things got worse. We had a big meeting at our house, all the elders and my mom and step-dad and us children. We were told to stop wearing t-shirts and sweaters and blue jeans. We were tempting him, it was our fault. My mother was told to lose weight so that my step-father would be attracted to her sexually. It was everyone's fault but his. He showed no remorse or repentance, and they left us there to pay. Pay for telling, pay for reaching out for help. My mother hated us, we were now competition. My step fathers beatings got worse, he got away with it and now he had no reason to fear. The congregation shunned us, we weren't welcome in our peers homes, people whispered about us. We had no association in the "world" we had nothing and nobody but each other. We all escaped eventually, my brother ran away at 15, my sister at 14 and I left at 16. We all had problems with drug and alcohol abuse. Bad marriages, and psychiatric treatments, both in and outpatient. Neither my sister nor I can go into any church, even though its been 20 years. Its like every time you eat at a restaurant and you get food poisoning, you can't even look at a restaurant without getting sick to your stomach. I can't look at a Kingdom Hall, or any church for that matter without my knees shaking and an undeniable urge to run. I have made peace with my past, my Mother who never protected me, my grandfather who loved me, yet molested me for 5 years and even my step father whose sadism made our lives worse than any hell the bible could describe. I forgive them, they were sick. But all the brothers and sisters in our congregation who turned their eyes away from our suffering, them who could have eased our pain, hunger and torment, for them I can find no forgiveness. They say it is their duty as Christians to be persecuted for their faith, I say the persecution heaped upon us as children makes their persecution nothing. May each and every one of them suffer half the torment my sisters and brothers did for half the time we suffered, and may God have mercy on their souls. Thank you silentlambs for giving me a voice and soothing my shame.

Sent: Monday, January 06, 2003 8:01 PM

Hello, I am so, so sorry about what you, your brother and sister went through. It is horrible beyond belief!! I am so, so sorry for all the pain - - emotional, mental, spiritual, physical that you have suffered in your life. I hope in time you can purge that poison in your system, all the toxins flowing through your soul. I am so sorry. I hope you and your brother and sister are getting counseling. I hope you are all learning as much as you can about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, how to live with it, and how to get help for it. Please, please know that there are many people who care deeply about you, who are rooting for you, and are here for you through silentlambs. Please don't feel shame. None of it was your fault. You are not the one who should feel any shame.

Sent: Monday, January 06, 2003 10:42 PM

this is an awesome site. its very touching. i would love to help

Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2003 3:12 PM

Sex Abuse Victims and Advocates to Deliver Stuffed Animal and Service Bulletin to Local Church -----

Further Lawsuits Filed against Church -----

WHAT: Victims of sexual abuse in Jehovah's Witness congregations will deliver a stuffed lamb as a symbol of abuse awareness, also request to post a service announcement on the bulletin board of a local Kingdom Hall and make statements about their abuse as Jehovah's Witness children. They will also announce the filing of a lawsuit in the Second District Court at Las Vegas , Nevada on behalf of children sexually molested in a Yerington, Nevada congregation by Dan Fitzwater, now jailed in the Nevada State Penitentiary. -----

WHEN: Thursday, January 9, 2003 ; 10:30 a. m. -----

WHO: Former Jehovah's Witness elder William H. Bowen who started "silentlambs," (www.silentlambs.org) a support group for victims of child abuse who were molested as Jehovah's Witnesses, spoke out on 5-28-02 NBC's Dateline program about how children are being harmed by Watchtower policy. Abuse survivors and child advocates from the Las Vegas area will attend. -----

WHERE: Jehovah's Witness "Kingdom Hall," 1335 S. Mojave Street , Las Vegas , NV , on sidewalk outside front door. -----

DETAILS: Four (4) plaintiffs are filing a lawsuit against the Watchtower Society, the policy-making authority for Jehovah's Witness congregations, and ministerial personnel in the Yerington congregation where Dan Fitzwater served as a Lay Minister. A document created by the Jehovah's Witness hierarchy admits seventeen (17) girls complained of being sexually molested by Fitzwater. William H. Bowen of silentlambs states, "It appears this person used his relationship to the church to draw young girls to molest." ² -----

Notwithstanding these complaints from seventeen (17) separate children, Dan Fitzwater was allowed by church officials to retain his position of authority within the church, allowing him access to other children. At present, Fitzwater remains a Jehovah's Witness in good standing, while serving time in a criminal facility for child molestation. -----

Contact: www.silentlambs.org, William H. Bowen:

Comment from 1/97 elder letter:

³ There are 17 girls that have accused Dan Fitzwater of child molesting. Five are from Yerington, the rest from other states. ²

Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2003 7:23 PM

I feel grief. . just pure grief for what you have had to endure. I don't have any words to express to you my sorrow for what you have had to experience and then the hard work of working thru it all to find yourself.

When I was late 30's I wanted God in my life and it took me until I was 51 until I could accept that God was there even when I was a child unprotected, being abused, slaughter. What I came to find is that I have a love for righteousness, and a love for what is good and only God could have put it there after what I have been thru. Now don't get me wrong - I have done terrible things when I was in my 30's and early 40's. . . things I am learning not to hate myself for. I use to ask God why would I need you NOW? Where were you when I was little? Took me until 51 to realize I hate what is bad and I love what is good and that is the love of God. At least, that is how my process worked and what I came to believe.

God cannot be contained in a Church or building, yet he can be in our little hearts. A religious building is a trigger for you - it represents betrayal, being exploited. I would imagine it makes your adrenalin run to the tune of panic attacks. . . would me!

You are not alone here. I wish that I could take all your pain away. . . I would gladly take it from you if I could, carry it for you if I could. I use to wish I could hang myself out on the clothesline and let the wind blow all the yuck out of me, and I could start clean & fresh. You know how good clothes smell dried on the line.

Please come back. If you want you can email me, let me know and I will make certain you get my email address. You are a gift to us.

*****Claudine****

Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2003 6:39 PM

This would be a good time for Dateline to do a follow-up story. Since the airing of this episode, many silentlambs came forward and now lawsuits are being filed left and right.

Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2003 9:09 PM

Does anyone know of a quote from the Watchtower Society stating that family members will not be punished for testifying in court against another witness?

My Father is being asked to resign as an elder because he testified in court to help me get a Protection From Abuse Order against my ex-husband (who is an ex-elder). Does anyone know how we can fight this? HELP !!!

Sent: Saturday, January 11, 2003 5:53 PM

hi mole, jesika, john, SLC, claudine, lin, jay and any others i forgot to mention. just come back to see how things are going.

mole, i absolutely agree with you when you said in a previous post the the WTS use Gods name and forget Christ.

Bill, keep up the good work! we're all still behind you 100%. hope you can get back over to good old Blighty again.

John, have you learned to control your temper yet? ;-)

Jes & Lin, lots of hugs and kisses to you two.

RICH

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2003 2:31 PM

****the mole**** it seems the old saying nothing stays the same is so very true. my interview with the c/o in my area made no results or drew out any apologies of any sort. A stiff neck people they are and closed minds they have trained themselves to be. They pray over a meal to thank god for all they have been blessed with, in the same breath they will ask for dooms day when all they have thanked god for will be gone. Just imagine a theocratic government ruled by men like these, Christendom beware because what we have seen from the ancient days is nothing to what these men in charge may do people in our future if their government does take power, so why stop at disfellowshipping when torture can change the minds of the doubters and unbelievers. Here's a quote for the governing body . . . " thine loves the same world that mine hates, thy heaven doors are my hells gates. . " William Blake

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2003 5:08 PM

Subject: Washington Lambs, please read!

Hello!

I am writing to inform you that Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson's bill, HB 1054 adding clergy to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse will be heard in the House Children and Family Services Committee next Thursday, January 23rd. The hearing will be in House Hearing Room C, John L. O'Brien building (the House Building). The Committee begins at 1:30, though the bill is not the first item on the agenda.

Rep. Dickerson would like interested people to come and provide testimony at the hearing. She is especially concerned that victims offer their testimony in support of the bill. Please let me know whether you would be interested in attending or know of others who might be.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, and I hope to hear
> From you.

Best,
Joanna Arlow, J. D.
Legislative Assistant
Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson
36th District
(360) 786-7860

Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2003 9:23 PM

Subject: THANK YOU

For so many years I thought that I was crazy. I had so much pain and I didn't know where it came from. I have memory lapses and I suffer from anxiety and low self-esteem. I am much better at 33 than I was when I was younger. I was continually molested by my only family members and by persons within the Jehovah's Witness organization. I have no proof and no witnesses. All I have is a lifelong fear and sense of self-hatred. I have tried to come to terms with what happened to me and make some sense of it. What I have concluded is that the organization of Jehovah's Witnesses is sinister and criminally allows the molestation and rape of children. It chills me to the bone to realize that I was once at the mercy of people who I now believe to be demonically controlled.

Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2003 11:18 PM
To: GUESTBOOK@SILENTLAMBS.ORG
Subject: Reply to Current Posts

I was trying to figure out how Monica was able to get such a colorful post. . . red and bold. Very fancy!

Every time I read another story my heart breaks.

Welcome sister who wrote she had been sexually abused by many members of her family and is out - (thank God) from the WTS and to Monica who is so bold she posts in red who is out also. . . in more ways than one!!!! LOL. . . couldn't resist.

God loves you both and don't ever, ever forget that! I ask you both to read your bible and especially concentrate on how Jesus died for us and the friendship, love or promises He offers which are not false or trite. Know that He is kind, and just. Maybe not today, but someday when you are lonely, scared or depressed when everyone in the world has let you down you will find that Jesus has nothing to do with the WTS.

We are here for you always. Please come back.

Hi Rich. . . . where have you been?????

And To the ***Mole*** I know you are in a tight spot but once you decide who your Master is you will be free. AS john from the bronx says so eloquently. . . Freedom in Christ. Now, that is the Truth.

Love, Claudine

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2003 8:31 PM

Subject: thank you

Hi, I my name is Melissa and I wrote the anonymous story on Jan 6th. Just wanted to say thanks for all the support everyone offered. I think being able to tell the children of my family's story was more therapy than all the years of counseling I received. No one who isn't familiar with JW organization can even begin to understand the isolation and humiliation that we went through. I am now a functioning, loving mother of 2, and its even harder for me now to understand why anyone would hurt a child. But even more disturbing than the perpetrators actions, were the inactions of probably 200 adult members of that congregation that chose to look the other way. Choosing instead to protect their organization.

Sent: Saturday, January 11, 2003 11:37 AM

Subject: CHILD ABUSE

SAW MENTION OF CHILD ABUSE IN MORNING PAPER. WENT ONLINE AND FOUND YOUR SITE. WHY HAS THE NEWS MEDIA IGNORED THIS PROBLEM? A MENTION OF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT ENOUGH. PS I HAD JUST DOWNLOADED YOUR SITE WHEN TWO MEN KNOCKED ON THE DOOR. I ASKED THEM TO NEVER COME BACK. WHEN I MENTIONED CHILD ABUSE I WAS ASKED IF I HAD READ ANY OF THEIR ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT. FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN ON THE SILENT LAMB SITE I WILL NEVER NEED TO READ THEM. GOD BLESS

Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2003 11:51 AM

Subject: website on silent lambs

I am so happy to see that so many people have the courage to fight the fine fight to bring the perpetrators of this terrible crime to justice and to bring to justice those who refuse to take responsibility. Keep up the good work! I am happy to say I am no longer associated with this organization.

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2003 11:19 PM

Subject: dear 'help' from tuesday Jan. 7th

Hi, I hope this helps, I found it in the press section of this site, their may be more helpful press releases too! :-)

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2003 11:01 PM

Subject: Hi everyone?

Hi, been off a bit. . when I came in, sight I was surprised yet pleased it was back to the original. . . Always thinking of all silentlambs! fursie

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2003 7:53 PM

Subject: hi all

rich i read and posted to you on jwd , and i like a lot that you say. . . i left little hints who i was. . . . and yes i'm calm at TIMES. . . . BUT NOT WITH ZOMBIES. THAT HOW IT IS i hate lairs. . . who use god's name in vain. . . . so i see

you are doing good . . . bless you and mole is doing good i see . . . and soapbox. . . etc. . . it is all the same when you see the light the wt is full of s**H . . . I HAVE A tough way in exposing the wt . . . but someone has too show that side. . . as i've seen you do , some need to go right for the throat!!!! freedom in christ . . . johnny cip

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2003 9:01 PM

Subject: Shocked

I just finished watching the fifth estate. I am appalled by how this CULT can put their prestige and ignorance before there children!!!!!!!!!!!!!! GOD WILL GET YOU FOR HURTING HIS CHILDREN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2003 10:41 PM

Subject: Supporting silentlambs

I am hoping you will post this message of support even though I am not a JW. I was also sexually abused and I know the pain it causes and still feel like I am an outcast because I disclosed. However, I am not writing to get into all of my issues. I am writing to let the silentlambs know that I have heard them and I will support them by distributing pamphlets in my community. Although, I also have another way in which I would support them. . . JW's often come to my workplace to distribute their magazine "Watchtower", many people will ignore them, but I believing that all religions deserve equal respect will listen and accept their magazines. I will not do this anymore and I will tell them why. Until they can live up to their sacred words and to their children, until I see change and proof, I will not accept their presence in my workplace. I will also spread the word to those that I know will take action. I would also like to make a suggestion to have a section on this website where people can view letters of support from people across the world.

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2003 2:35 PM

Subject: My thoughts

I've read many of the victims testimony's and it has left me somewhat confused. I was raised as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Two members of my family were sexually molested by our uncle, that was also a baptized Witness. The subject never surfaced until 25 yrs after the fact. My Uncle had already been disfellowshipped (for other reasons) and the whole family had left the "Truth" on their own accord. Charges were brought against him and the fight is still pretty much alive. The point I would like to make is, being a witness or not, people can still bring in the authorities. Why keep it among themselves???

I do believe it is the best place for any criminal to hide because the authorities are excluded by everyone, even the victims parents will keep it hush hush from the outside world. Witnesses are Not above any law that I know of. I think this really should be brought more out into the open like the Catholic victims did. Everyone should yell out loud so EVERYONE can hear. God will love them even more.

LH

Sent: Friday, January 31, 2003 12:04 PM

Subject: Former Jw

I saw the program on CBC last night and my heart went out to all that have been victimized as children growing up as Jaw's. Everything that I heard was true. Yes I believe a lot is known about different abusers in the congregations around the world and these people should be accountable for their actions. Yes there probably is a record of these people at the different Bethels and these records should be given to the proper authorities and these people on these records should be punished as anyone who has done this type of damage to children be punished. Growing up as a Witness I was sexually fondled by my Grandfather who was an elder and I told my Mother about it and it was my fault for being a to close a person for showing affection. I know that talking to my sisters and cousins that he had to fondled them and no shame was brought up against him as I know of. Years later there was about 8 of the elders in that congregation that were told to step down and my Grandfather lost his eldership and I don't know the circumstances to that but I wouldn't be surprised if some sort of abuse had been found out and dealt with by their

standards and not by the letter of the law. My Grandfather is dead now and I hated what he did to me and the ones that I know that he abused and I will not take that hatred beyond that. Still I hope that the cases in Canada and the USA goes through and anyone with information of abuse be reported and dealt with and children who are isolated as witness children are are not forgotten or neglected again. Arlis.

Sent: Friday, January 31, 2003 5:09 PM

Subject: Checking in

Hi everyone this is Penny. I am back in school full force working on my Bachelors Degree in Counseling. I am very busy so will not get here as much as i use to. I am praying for each one and thinking of you and i will try to write at least once a week but don't hold me to it. Keep up the good work on exposing the lies of the JW'S

I am behind you 100 percent even though i am not here all the time But i need to get this degree KIDS need people that understand there pain and i understand

Love

Penny

February 2003 Guestbook

Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2003 3:18 PM

Subject: guest book

I love this website. Thank you Bill for giving us a forum to share. I hope that I can help others with their situation. If anything when we all come together and make our voices strong-- they will have to hear us and make necessary changes.

A D

Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2003 1:44 PM

Subject: Thank God the silence has been broken. . .

I have just spent a few hours on this site after seeing most of the story on "The Fifth Estate. " I have a long time friend who is/was raised a JW and still. I think the story and this site now explains why she doesn't contact me any longer. I know there was tremendous emotional abuse from her father all of her life and even in his death (he blamed her for his stroke when she finally yelled at him after hearing all of her life what a stupid cow her mother was.) both of us are 42 and I met her when we were 11. It's sad that I have lost her but I will pray for more now. I am survivor of child sexual assault and have successfully charged my abusers. She knows of all I have gone thru and it pushes buttons in her and what she has to heal from. She became an alcoholic at age 11 -- her sister shunned me all the time and said Jehovah would help my friend heal from the alcoholism and it was not my business. The mother, father and one brother did not ever shun me but the elder siblings did. My friend was baptized a few years ago and ever since then she has completely withdrawn from me. This situation has helped me to realize that I am not crazy and that there is nothing wrong with and I didn't do anything wrong to cause her not to have anything to do with me. I have always respected her beliefs even though I do not believe them and can not be converted. It is so sad as she is a talented artist and poet but of course now I understand why she didn't ever pursue any of it -- she has risen to the ranks of head maid at a downtown hotel in Toronto but faithfully goes to all her meetings. What a waste of God given gifts. I use to see her mother throwing out her art work and then tell my friend that she ought to be doing things like me: crocheting and knitting. The true talent was in the art her amazing daughter was creating not me following a pattern. My friend has suffered great with the lack of self-worth, self-esteem and I can see now where she thinks she is just a servant. Thank you for this site and finally coming forward and doing the story with the Fifth Estate. The people who

were on the program to tell their stories and the ones on this site are all very strong, brave people and need to praise themselves for helping the rest of the world.

Thank You

MP

Sent: Monday, February 03, 2003 2:53 PM

Subject: Wanting to say Hi to everyone

Hi everyone. Jesika here. I haven't been here in a while, but wanted to say hi to the new ones here.

I saw the CBC show and I think they did a wonderful job.

I really hope they will eventually see they NEED to change the policy of the "two eye witnesses", which is just insane!!!!!!!!!!

Melissa, thank you for sharing, and I am glad it was healing for you to write.

Hi to you too Rich!!!

Hey Johnny, still going for the throat I see.

Penny, hope you do well in school!!

Welcome to all the New ones!!!!!!!!!!

Love,

Jesika Thoman, Dallas-Tx

Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2003 7:31 AM

I am an ex-JW. I left for my own reasons that had nothing to do with molestation. But two of my younger siblings were molested. One by an elder, close friend of the family, and the other by the son of a ministerial servant. The elder had molested many young girls in a 25+ year span. He was sent to jail, but the torment these young children went through is irreprehensible. After the court case, my mother (who had 'fallen away from the truth') was visited by an elder. His words of encouragement and strength included the phrase that 'finally Jehovah's time had come to clean up the organization'. He was chased away: Jehovah can't be that cruel to the little children to know and allow this kind of action. One of these girls apparently ended in a mental institution. Twenty-five years of abusing 4- and 5-year old little girls because the timing wasn't right to expose it, is quite a cop out. My sister had repressed the memory, and it came back to her almost 20 years later. When told about it, I went to an elder in my congregation. My family had fallen away, and I was told it would look like my family, as worldly people, were just being vindictive against the organization. Other girls came forward and he was charged.

My heart goes out to all victims within the organization, not only of the sexual abuse, but also the mental and physical abuse women and children suffer at the hands of the head of their households. My family

was abused by my father for many years. It was kept silent. My husband was abusive. I left against the exhortation of elders and the circuit overseer that my responsibility was to be a better Christian wife.

There is life after disfellowshipping. I have remarried a wonderful man and together we are building a happy family life accepting all of our children (regardless of religious belief) into our home and enjoying grandchildren. We have a large extended family, and we enjoy them all.

Thank you, for making public that the things we went through were not isolated instances. There is nothing wrong with us, the problem lies else where.

Keep up the good work!

JoD

Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2003 11:20 AM

Subject: Just Hello!

Just want to say hello to everyone. Good to see many new people posting. However, sad to know there are so many that have been hurt or harmed, but good to know they are thinking for themselves.

The reading of God's word is the best protection against becoming a victim of any Counterfeit Christianity. Just imagine if we did not have God's word to guide us!

In Him

Claudine

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2003 9:08 AM

Subject: smclean810@aol. com

i am glad that you are all finally standing up to them my mom became a witness when she got sick with cancer and i blame them for taking her life she was told not to go for the treatments that could have saved her life all of u stay strong and good luck s from ontario

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2003 4:57 PM

Subject: Dream of young lady posted on 1/6 at 1:49 pm

Dear One,

What a pitiful story. It breaks my heart. I wish there was something I could do. but PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE. Look up the lawyers in Texas that are doing the class action suit. Please add your names. And, if there is no statute of limitations, sue the ass off the WT society and the Elders where this happened. It is terrible that is the only way they will learn, but I'm convinced it is. When there are liens on their homes and property and they have to sell their cars, and fancy things. they owe you for the counseling you need.

I just want to put my arms around you and make it all go away, I know that won't work, but there are those of us out here who care what happens to you. If you feel like it, my name is Dani and you can reach me at Danipugh@aol. com I will listen, I will be there to just listen and pray that one day your heart will mend.

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2003 1:06 AM

Subject: Ex-JW Book recommended by Psychology Today

I thought you may be interested to know that my book, AWAKENING OF A JEHOVAH'S WITNESS: Escape From the Watchtower Society (Prometheus Books: 2002), received recognition and recommendation by the respected magazine, PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, in the December 2002 issue.

No one is immune to influence from the persuasive, seductive cult-like religious group known as Jehovah's Witnesses under leadership of the Watchtower Society. My book alerts the public to the lures that this group uses to ensnare innocent people. Many have fallen victim to the deceptions of this Organization; the nightmare that these millions of people entered could have been avoided if they had been aware of the deceitful, entrapping, manipulative ways of the Watchtower Society.

This book is not a doctrinal treatise about Jehovah's Witnesses; instead, it is an issues-oriented human interest story that reveals the inside story of twenty-five years of my adult life in this religion. It spells out my vulnerability to the enticements that the Witnesses use, the many abuses I suffered while I was in the group, the horrendous psychological struggles I experienced while trying to escape their mind-control methods and induced phobias, and how a psychologist helped me to finally succeed in breaking free from their grasp.

See www.dianewilson.net for Reviews, Author Bio, Photos, Excerpts, and Events.

Diane Wilson

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2003 12:21 PM

Subject: From Denmark

What Bill has done for child abuse victims, are just so great. When you go to the elders, and tell about what had happen to you. They just say you are one in a million, and they don't believe you. But when Bill started the campaign, you could see that you are not alone with the memories, of child abuse and the way you got treated by the elders.

Nordic

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2003 2:14 PM

Subject: thank you

Thank you for bringing all of this to light. There are too many children suffering at the hands of their families today. In other religions people are encouraged to speak up, people support them for doing it. Only as a witness are you punished for speaking out. I was not a small child when a brother in the "the Faith" chose to show me what the congregation thought of me. I was 16 with a worldly boyfriend, so he felt I was a whore.

When he tried to force me to have sex, I ran. I was so scared to let anyone know because I would be the one in trouble. A sister thinking she would help, told my would be rapist that I had gone to the elders. He in turn went to them telling them that I was a whore because of my worldly associations and that I seduced him. When my elders meeting came (which was 3 males against a 16 year old girl) I was informed that I had caused him to fail in the faith and that I should be repentant.

I was accused & judged before my meeting had been going two minutes. Then I was asked if I was repentant! How can I be sorry for something that I didn't do? I told them no, and so I was disfellowshipped. My parents told me to move out within 2 weeks, because my father was an elder. If I did not move out they feared he would have to step down. When you aren't allowed to have worldly friends and then you have only support taken away that you know, life sucks. It was my worldly friends who saved me, it was my worldly friends who helped me and it is my worldly husband who has showed me how to trust again. I still can't be alone with some men, It gives me panic attacks.

They can change your life in an instant. Yet the Watchtower Society teaches us to blindly follow them. In this male dominant faith, I can see why so many children are abused. They teach them early on that children and wives must OBEY them in all things. Children are taught to respect the elders above all else. Neither of these are helpful for children or wives. I guarantee there are millions more out there abused by the very faith they think will save them. I have been disfellowshipped since 1989 and still don't believe that I could have brought my would be rapist to justice. Who would have supported my story? My Elders didn't, my family didn't, and my so-called brothers and sisters didn't. JK

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2003 4:48 PM

Subject:

I am a former Jw. . My heart goes out to all of you who have been abused! What saddens me the most is the stranglehold the organization has on those within, and the hopelessness those feel who realize something is not right and leave. So many ask, what is the truth, I would like to say, that Jesus Christ is the truth, as well as the way and the life. It is not about a religion but a relationship with him! He accepts us as we are, and he wants all of you to know him! Not take in accurate knowledge of him, but know him! The truth will set you free! I would love to talk to anyone about my experiences with this organization, as well as talk about the one who can truly set us free! e-mail me at chamberlainshe@yahoo.com Laura

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2003 6:50 PM

Subject: the mole

hello everyone. just an update of the current meeting. my congregation is going on like business as usual, they announced that the numbers have increased in this last Kingdom Ministry article in which we had to read verbatim. One article which made me laugh was they announced "who is listening?" let me quote it to all of you of how they capture the weak minded. "In territories where it seems that few people listen to our message, we need to concentrate on developing whatever interest we do find, whether we place literature or not. When we sow seed, we do not know where it will have success. . . we may be able to reach the person's heart. . . the kingdom message, cultivation is needed, that takes time, exertion, a caring attitude, and determination not to give up. More than a third of a million people in whom seed had taken root were baptized. " Even with all the facts, pictures, and real life stories told they can still beat their drum to those who sit in the kingdom halls like drones bragging and ignoring the harm done to all those we know of. the mole

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2003 10:47 AM

Subject: In support of silentlambs

Dear Bill,

When I first saw the silentlambs website, I knew that I had found someone or ones who cared. I was being tormented by some very cruel personalities inside the JW religion. The reasons why I contacted you had nothing to do with child molestation. You rescued me in my distress and saved my sanity and possibly my life. I've been so absorbed in the current incidents dealing with JW's; I forgot that I'm actually a silentlamb myself. My father tried to rape me when I was nine years old. Even though I fought him off and got away from him that day. I was torn from deep within. Later I found out that my dad had been molesting my older sister for many years. My mother met with the elders. I testified in behalf of myself. They spoke with my sister. Yet, after the meeting was over. My mother complained that the elders did not believe us. Silentlamb org. is so needed. God bless you always Bill.

M

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2003 5:40 AM

Subject: Congratulation!!

It was more than only necessary to do "something". I can remember my school-friend and that I was really astonished that she tried a suicide with only 14 or 15 years. Now I can see clearly. I knew her family belongs to this religion and I met her father and a completely devoted mother. Maybe she is one of the lambs. . .

I try to make this web-site more popular in Germany and I hope it will have "effect" to all sides - to the abused children and to the criminal adults including these who try to "cover" all with religious aspects.

Please go on with your work and I wish you all the best.

Once more CONGRATULATION!!

Ute (Germany)

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2003 2:48 PM

Subject: Guestbook entry

I am a former JW who has a page of advice at <http://www.virushead.net/exjw.html> , and recommended reading, a web ring for former witnesses, and awards for sites which offer compassionate healing and religious truths insight.

Silentlambs was mentioned by two people who have charged a JW in my original congregation with child molestation and rape. I am carrying the story at <http://www.virushead.net/jwnews.html>.

If you have contact information for them, please give them my best and tell them to have courage and hang in there. I am with them in spirit. I have not been sexually molested, but I can well understand the dynamic for someone who has. My love to both of them (and perhaps K might even remember me). You may feel free to pass on my contact information - I will not ask for theirs.

All best - love and light,

Heidi

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2003 9:48 PM

Subject: Spewing more hatred

WT '74 7/15 "do you know how to hate? These very strong words are an expression of godly hate, and you too much have this quality to be pleasing to God. Hate causes a feeling of disgust to well up inside you. You loathe, abhor, despise the object of your hatred. The D/F are to be hated in the sense of avoiding them as we would poison or a poisonous snake"

Does this make you puke? I was bapt. in 74. . . . I was never taught this. I was never lead to believe that if I wanted out of this 'religion' I could not just walk away.

I can't imagine the sorrow in Brother Bowen's life, and many others out there. I only have one daughter who totally rejects me now. But I ruined her life. . . . how do you deal with that? I can live with the wasted 28 years of my life, but how do I live with ruining her life? Any advise?

D. from Spokane

Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2003 1:26 PM

Subject: Thank you

Dear Brother Bowen:

I am writing you as one who was raised in the Jehovah's Witness faith. Several members of my family currently

practice, and throughout various periods in my life, I attended many meetings, circulated many brochures, etc. However, being raised in a house where my mother no longer practiced, I was always torn between honoring her and honoring Jehovah. She wanted me to pursue an education, while the elders preferred that I go into the full-time ministry. The former won out, and I went to university (which I am still in the midst of completing). That environment was a whole new world to me, and it began a long process of self-examination and discovery within myself, as I tried to figure out what was it that I wanted for myself. I knew deep within my heart that I would no longer be effective as a member of any congregation if I did not willingly want to commit to serving Jehovah. So I quietly left without telling anyone, as I pursued my studies. A year and a half later, I received a phone call from the sister who conducted my personal study when I was a teenager. It was great hearing from her, but I sensed a vaguely Stepford-like tone as she extolled the values of serving Jehovah and ministry. That was the moment when I knew I made the right decision for myself, and I've never looked back.

There are many things I still believe and practice, as I do believe that those particular things are for the benefit for *all* mankind. I say this because the main problem I have with the organization is its refusal to accept that we do live in this world, whether we like it or not. We are taught not to get involved in "worldly affairs," that Jehovah will take provide for us, but it is such a narrow, one-sided view to live by! I honestly believe that since God provided us with intellect, ration, and reason, it is our responsibility to fix our own problems, right our own wrongs, rather than expect divine intervention. Maybe my heart is naive, but, as Anne Frank once wrote, I still believe that despite all the evil around us, there is still goodness in ourselves and that we must use it to our full advantage. It saddens me that those elders, Bethelites, pioneers who claim to be doing good are using it to manipulate and betray innocent people, then turn their backs on those people when they need support and assistance! It should not be tolerated by anyone who really believes what the Bible (any version) says, but the fact that so many people are brainwashed into this systematic shunning shows that they are not closely examining and applying the Scriptures into their own lives, as they claim to do, at the expense of many suffering people. It angers me so much that a lot of this boorish behavior has been conducted right under my nose.

I really did not expect to write this much, but I wanted to end this letter by thanking you so much for getting the word out, that Jehovah's Witnesses are not the "chosen people" they claim to be. And for those who manage to escape - I have nothing but the utmost respect for you. Keep on sharing your stories with anyone who will listen! Let every detail be known! It will be an uphill battle for the rest of your life, but it will be worth the closure and peace of mind.

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2003 8:08 PM

Subject: Diane Wilson's book

A couple of days ago I finished reading Diane Wilson's book, *Awakening Of A Jehovah's Witness*, and I would like to highly recommend it to everyone! It is a very eye opening, mind blowing book! As a former Witness with some family who are in that religion, it meant a lot to me to read Diane's book. It's an excellent book, very well written! My father, who has never been a Witness, is also reading it, and other people he and I have told about this book want to read it, as well. My personal impression of the Watchtower and Bible Tract Society is that it seems like one big, glorified pyramid company that hooks people in and keeps them hooked through various subtle and sometimes not so subtle manipulative means. The book clearly shows how ridiculous so many of the ever changing doctrines are. When people are right in the middle of the religion they can't always see the sheer goofiness of some things. The book sure brings it out well! I really appreciate this book and hope it becomes a very widely read one!

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2003 11:56 AM

Subject: i was raped by my father a former elder

Hi my name is N.

I just found this website because a local news-channel just did a investigative report on JW's hiding pedophiles. I found it ironic because the JW that abused me used to work for that same tv station. . .

I've been seeing a counselor since last fall and when I started going I had no memory of the abuse. I was born into that religion, raised an elder's daughter, was horribly depressed and didn't know why. I went to the hospital once on a suicide attempt that almost killed me. Two elders visited me in intensive care and told me "if ever needed someone to talk to. . .".

They never tried to find out why I would do something like that. I was in an elder's meeting about me smoking and went in there with a Nicoderm patch to show them that

I had quit for good. And by the way, here's entire box of disks with my dad's child porn/bondage collection and my mom pulled off his computer. They refused to look. Changing the subject they told me to pray and get rid of my one worldly friend who was the influence that got me to smoke.

When I went back for the follow up meeting, I was honest and told them I had only made an effort to pray once because I felt uncomfortable to approach Jehovah in prayer. And by the way I want to tell you that my dad gave me a massage, took my clothes off down to my underwear and complimented my butt.

At that one of the three elders turned on me in a complete rage and asked me how my clothes got off, implying that I had teased him and stripped. They then went in the other room to pray and came back to announce that they had decided to disfellowship me.

What did I get disfellowshipped for? Smoking? No, I had quit. Wordly association? Not a disfellowshipping offense, just looked down upon. Now after 4 years of being "out", my father is still there. He was put on "private reproof", and somehow still allowed to say prayers and go in field service. I now remember what happened after he took my clothes off, he forced oral sex on me and raped me. I wish I had remembered that to tell the elders at the time, but I had blocked all of the abuse out.

I now have reason to believe that his father also abused me. (also still in the religion in another state) But how the hell do I PROVE any of it?!? I want my father behind bars so bad - but how do you prove what you didn't remember to tell someone about?
Thank you for this website and the knowledge that I was not an isolated incident of abuse in that religion.

And I definitely agree with the one woman about the Witnesses being under a demonic influence. I could write a lot more about when I was at Bethel and what went on there. Maybe when I have more time. Thank you to anyone who took the time to read this, I feel a little better. I love all my "silentlamb" brothers and sisters. We don't need those assholes to make us be quiet anymore!

Sincerely, N. G.

What a wonderful, truthful site this is. Finally! All the girl children in my family were molested by our maternal grand monster (father) from very early on. We found out one by one of each other's abuse. When my sister called CPS at the age of thirteen and was taken from the home, she had told of her molestation but was too fearful to say who it was. She was then disassociated and labeled on the podium at a Thursday night meeting, an apostate. The entire JW community shunned her as well as our entire family, she had no one! Now she is dead! She lived a traumatic life, having no trust in anyone. She got drunk 5 1/2 years ago and ran into a tree. No one, other than myself, ever had anything to do with her.

One year after my sister was removed from the house, still keeping my silence at that point out of sheer fear, I watched as the monster looked at my little 8 year old sister with those predator eyes, and I knew it had to end. I told my mother that day, and instantly she believed me! Now I understand that when she was also molested as a young girl by him, her father.

There was a pow wow called that included my mother, my stepfather, and the child molester's wife, my grandmother. My grandmother wanted me to tell her to her face my story of abuse. So I did. Her only response was "Don't tell your uncle, he will kill him!" At that point I was dismissed. I had assumed that now that the truth was out in this God-fearing ~ serving ~ Truthful family, that my sister would come home, and the molester would go away. Not so.

A week later, after total silence on the subject, I was told that we were going to a Brother and Sister's house for lunch, and that the molester would be there, but that he would stay away from me, and I could just avoid him. At that very moment I could have died! He had already told my grandmother that I was a liar just like my sister, and I assume she took that as absolute truth. At this moment I knew that it would be swept under the carpet and hopefully I would forget it. Remember, "Forgive and Forget!" That was now the knew mantra in the family.

Since I grew up in a fanatical JW family, with the grandmother as the matriarch and everyone else under her, I was taught total fear and guilt for everything. SO when nothing was done I just played the game I was expected to play.

Unfortunately my telling the truth did not stop the abuse. Remember my grandmother telling me "Don't tell you uncle he will kill him!?" Well my uncle did find out, not because I told him, but because his own daughter, my cousin, told him about the abuse she was suffering from this sick monster. Did my uncle kill the molester (his father)? No, he chose the family way of sweeping it under the carpet.

To this day it is not mentioned. I have tried to air it out, ask why no one helped us, but they say that I need to quit dwelling on it and move on. That would be fine to move on, but since this has never been addressed, I still seek answers from those responsible. I now have a handful of abusers to blame and dwell on. My mother, stepfather, grandmother, and uncle, because they felt bound by their faith in some sick way and never protected the children in the family. I do not know if the elders were aware, but they probably are. I left that brainwashing years ago

and have been very successful in leaving the fear of the elders and the guilt of the congregation and my family behind, it took awhile to de-program, but I did it.

The Molester died a year after my sister of complications from Alzheimer's disease in peace, at home, next to his devoted wife. Makes me sick! I didn't go the funeral, didn't send a card. That alone was a huge fight with the family who thought I should support my grandmother in her grieving. It was liberating to say "NO!" I will not support or celebrate the life of a man who stole the light out of children's eyes, or the family who supported him, in the name of faith and love of the Almighty Jehovah.

For all of you who have suffered, my thoughts of love and healing go out to you. We must make a stand, and this is a great forum!

Blessed Be

DR

Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 9:43 PM

Subject: In Dedication To All Of You

To everyone who has ever been the victim at the hand of a selfish person. To everyone who's voice has been silent. To every single man, woman and child who have been forced to remain quiet, I want to share this gentle reminder. Along with those who perpetrate these senseless vicious crimes, God knows that they did this.

God is all Sovereign and is aware of every single activity in this universe. What someone does in darkness will be brought to light. For all of you who have suffered at the hands of wickedness. Know that as we draw our last breath on Earth and leave our earthly tents (our bodies) we all will stand before God at some time and receive judgment.

There will not be one idle thought of evil done that will escape Gods eyes of Justice. I offer this thought up to you. Forgive the sin done against you and then it is left in Gods hands to deal with and and you can go on to heal from this. Rely on the wisdom of God and Prayer along with your counseling for healing.

I pray that you all heal from this and Trust in the God of Abraham to hold you close to him. Satan wants to destroy the greatest institution ever created "the Family Unit". Let's remain strong in the Lord and never give into the evils of Satan.

wb

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 9:17 AM

Subject:

i studied with the JW's for 7 months. 7 months isn't a very long time but it was long enough for me to be contemplating suicide. i fell in love with a JW woman and for a year i was kept a secret from the the brothers and sisters of her fellowship. it made me feel like the smallest person on earth. i kept asking myself how can this be showing gods love? i would ask my girlfriend questions that she could not answer. and the only way to get answers is to go and study so i could better understand. so that's what i did. i believe i was manipulated and lied to. nothing made sense. i would ask questions about certain beliefs and i was talked in circles until i was speechless. i was told just hand in there it will make sense, " its like a puzzle, you finish the outside then fill it in from there". the jws were giving me no foundation to there beliefs. i kept studying and going to the kingdom hall because i was deeply in love with my JW girlfriend. i believe that she too was molested as a child and is still keeping all that pain inside. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world unfortunately the jw's beliefs have taken the light of the world and made it somewhat dark. i will pray for all the people who have been abused sexually, emotionally, spiritually and mentally. i can be reached at willtt@comcast.net

March 2003 Guestbook

[Current Guest book](#)

Sent: Saturday, March 01, 2003 9:56 AM

Subject: Molestation

I was so happy to find this website. I am now 56 years old and have lived through hell. I was sexually molested by my stepfather when I was very young. I was brought up a JW and he was supposedly an upstanding minister in this religion. Until I was out of the house, I kept this very dark secret. No one was told. Through the years I kept this secret and had a horrible life because of it. About 15 years ago I finally "told" what had happened to me. The elders of this organization were told about this man and did NOTHING! NOTHING was done to this pedophile who professed to be a father and minister!!! I am still on medication for depression because of all the years, 10 years old until I was 18!!!!!!!, of molestation by this monster. He is still a JW!!! Good grief, my life has been pure hell and that man still goes on with life.

Of course as a teen I did many things I am ashamed of, but when you are molested at a young age and don't tell anyone because you are so scared, you do things because your mind has blocked out abuse. I have never been able to have a happy relationship with anyone because of the terrible nightmare of my young growing up years. This nightmare cannot be erased. I still wake up in the night so petrified and the nightmares will never end.

When I see a JW come to my door, the anger is so real. I cannot talk to them and I know it is not them but him. But I can't face them as they did not punish him for what he did to me. Some of you can't understand this, but most of you silent lambs can. I hope that any of you young people out there who are being molested or abused will step forward and fight so that you can have a happy life, not like mine-terror, pain, nightmares, depression, anger, insomnia, physical illness, mood swings and the list goes on and on, all because of one horrible man. I will think of all of you and hope that you will not be a silent lamb but an outspoken lion!

Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2003 6:01 PM

Subject: Molestation

Hello, you have come to the right place to tell about your personal experience - - many, many people here can relate to your pain and trauma. People do understand here, so please keep coming back! I hope the support and compassion you receive here will help you with your healing. It took courage and strength to tell the elders what happened to you at the hands of your stepfather! Keep speaking up. Maybe you could even take this information about your abuse to someone in the legal field. Of course, that would be something to check out with Bill Bowen, as he is the one who is dealing with the pedophilia situation. I hope, though, that there are some options available for you, so that something can and will be done about the person who basically ruined your life. Please hang in there, and the more power to all of you victims and to Bill Bowen, who has such courage to give so much of his time and energy to this issue. You all have courage. It can't be an easy thing to do, to face elders and others and put

yourselves on the line, hoping they will listen, believe you, and give you all the support and encouragement you all need so much. Never give up. You are all doing the right thing. Believe in yourselves, all of you, and take good care.

Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2003 12:46 PM

Subject: Guestbook entry

I am a former JW. I was born and raised in the congregation and many, many of my family members continue to be actively involved with the Witnesses. I have never been able to have a meaningful relationship in my life and have always felt isolated, alone, and shameful. I was abused, both sexually and emotionally, for many years, and though my parents were aware of the abuse, they did nothing for fear of reprisal from the WT. The anger that I carry and sense of betrayal is enormous. When I bring up the abuse that takes place in the Kingdom Hall with family members, their answers are all the same, as though the Watchtower has told them exactly how to respond to such questions: "Yes, I heard of such stories, but they are not true. The Watchtower does not condone abuse and will actively investigate and see to the prosecution of anyone who abuses a child." I now realize that these members no longer have the ability to think for themselves and must look to the WT to be told what to think and what to believe. Maybe someday I will be able to tell my story, not yet, but maybe someday. Thank you for giving us a forum for our thoughts and feelings.

Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2003 11:11 PM

Subject: Molestation

I am glad you found this site. It was a very healing thing for me to find out I wasn't alone. I have read around this board when I first started coming here, and it was very healing for me. I don't know if it would be for you, but just know you are very brave for going to the elders. They don't make it easy, and they aren't very kind when you do.

Just know this, to do things in your childhood that you regret is just a way of acting out. I have been to therapy because of my molesting uncle. I hope you find a source to get things out, it helps. I hope you find this a good place to talk and share as well. I will be looking in to see if you are ok.

Love,

Jesika Thoman, Dallas-Tx

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2003 6:14 PM

Subject: Molestation

I too was raised a JW and I was molested by my father from the time I was 4 to about 9 years old. Sadly, I never told anyone until I was 23 year old. I was in active in the organization at the time but I went to the elders for help. I was an emotional mess. I went to my sister and told her my dark secret and she directed me to the Elders. The elders treated me with kindness and showed mercy on my soul. I was not DF'd only privately reprovod for my immoral behavior. I was involved with a couple of worldly boys and I confessed all. What upset me was the fact that they made it very clear to my father that he was not being DF'd for molesting me but it was for his excessive drinking. My father is an alcoholic and has been one ever since I can remember. I tried to continue going to meetings but the thought that it is okay for a person to molest children but it is not okay for them to get drunk at home every night. The excuse for! not DF'ng him for molestation was that it was so long ago. What is that! Craziness! My father even admitted it to the Elders! And still they did nothing on that matter!

I am so glad people are speaking out. There is so much abuse that happens to children every day and the JW organization is clearly not free of it. Keep up your good work! I believe in my heart you truly are pleasing our creator (if there is one. . . . I struggle with doubts) by protecting innocent children and helping victims that are now adults to heal there minds and hearts.

Love,

melancholyblue

Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2003 5:09 PM

Subject: the mole

the mole. and elder has stepped down in Sacramento. . . . not anything new but here is the situation. . . the elder in our local area was caught trying to date a young sister, when found out by the young girls friends many began to ask what was going on. . the elder had lied and said it was only friendship. . after these last two weeks of rumors floating around it came to my attention that he was sleeping with the young girl aged 17. . this brother is 34 years old and just separated with his wife. . the girl and this brother had been seeing each other almost two years and none of us knew of it. . I the mole inquired if this man was to be jailed for statutory rape or fined being that she was under age. . the parents where told it is a judicial matter for the congregation alone and not a police matter. . . here is another example of the kingdom halls taking civil issues into their own hand. . . the brothers are trying to cover it up by giving talks in their hall about gossip. . . all of you who come to this site should know there are many forms of abuse especially those who take the lead in the church and use that power to sway young minds. . .
the mole

Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2003 2:30 AM

Subject: Send from Denmark

I have been reading this site since 21 December 2001. The site is a healing place.

My wife has been raped by her father from 4 years and to her 12 year, It ended with she got pregnant, and her father killed the little girl when it was born. The raping my wife has repressed, and so have our son, my wife sister and her daughter, The elder try to frighten us from going to the police, the P. O. said, well I don't think you wanna go to the police because if you do the reports will come like a swarm. My wife did called the police, and they spend a half year, but couldn't find the baby, they dug on the farm 30 men in 3 days, and on a church yard, but they couldn't find the body. And the incest was to old by law. Then the elders look on the matter, and they say that my wife's father is an innocent man and that he is fine man. And that my wife and sister are liars.

HT

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 10:48 PM

Subject:

This site is amazingly tasteful. I have been out of the organization for 5 or 6 years now and I despise the mud slinging, vindictive and woe is me that dominates most sites. You stick to the point and focus on the topic relevant to your cause. I refuse to exchange one form of fanaticism for another. I admire your ability to do the same. You are better at it than I would be. Thank-you for providing this site for people without fanning the flames of their already scorching pain. I was abused as a witness too. I never looked up any sites because I was afraid of the melodrama. Too bad I didn't know about this one. TS

Hans

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 10:10 AM

The new look

I have just seen the new look on the site, and I think its great. Nordic.

silentlambs

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:03 PM

guestbook fixed

We have had some problems with the guestbook since opening the new website and it has been repaired. If you posted any information since last Thursday it was lost. If you repost we will be glad to put it up. Thank you for your patience as we get the bugs worked out of the new site. silentlambs

Will

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:08 PM

i studied with the JW's for 7 months. 7 months isn't a very long time but it was long enough for me to be contemplating suicide. i fell in love with a JW woman and for a year i was kept a secret from the the brothers and sisters of her fellowship. it made me feel like the smallest person on earth. i kept asking myself how can this be showing gods love? i would ask my girlfriend questions that she could not answer. and the only way to get answers is to go and study so i could better understand. so that's what i did. i believe i was manipulated and lied to. nothing made sense. i would ask questions about certain beliefs and i was talked in circles until i was speechless. i was told just hand in there it will make sense, " its like a puzzle, you finish the outside then fill it in from there". the jws were giving me no foundation to there beliefs. i kept studying and going to the kingdom hall because i was deeply in love with my JW girlfriend. i believe that she too was molested as a child and is still keeping all that pain inside. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world unfortunately the JW's beliefs have taken the light of the world and made it somewhat dark. i will pray for all the people who have been abused sexually, emotionally, spiritually and mentally.

Lee

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:12 PM

molestation

I was so happy to find this website. I am now 56 years old and have lived through hell. I was sexually molested by my stepfather when I was very young. I was brought up a JW and he was supposedly an upstanding minister in this religion. Until I was out of the house, I kept this very dark secret. No one was told. Through the years I kept this secret and had a horrible life because of it. About 15 years ago I finally "told" what had happened to me. The elders of this organization were told about this man and did NOTHING! NOTHING was done to this pedophile who professed to be a father and minister!!! I am still on medication for depression because of all the years, 10 years old until I was 18!!!!!!!, of molestation by this monster. He is still a JW!!! Good grief, my life has been pure hell and that man still goes on with life. Of course as a teen I did many things I am ashamed of, but when you are molested at a young age and don't tell anyone because you are so scared, you do things because your mind has blocked out abuse. I have never been able to have a happy relationship with anyone because of the terrible nightmare of my young growing up years. This nightmare cannot be erased. I still wake up in the night so petrified and the nightmares will never end. When I see a JW come to my door, the anger is so real. I cannot talk to them and I know it is not them but him. But I can't face them as they did not punish him for what he did to me. Some of you can't understand this, but most of you silent lambs can. I hope that any of you young people out there who are being molested or abused will step forward and fight so that you can have a happy life, not like mine-terror, pain, nightmares, depression, anger, insomnia, physical illness, mood swings and the list goes on and on, all because of one horrible man. I will think of all of you and hope that you will not be a silent lamb but an outspoken lion!

Carl

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:14 PM

molestation

Hello, you have come to the right place to tell about your personal experience - - many, many people here can relate to your pain and trauma. People do understand here, so please keep coming back! I hope the support and compassion you receive here will help you with your healing. It took courage and strength to tell the elders what happened to you at the hands of your stepfather! Keep speaking up. Maybe you could even take this information about your abuse to someone in the legal field. Of course, that would be something to check out with Bill Bowen, as he is the one who is dealing with the pedophilia situation. I hope, though, that there are some options available for you, so that something can and will be done about the person who basically ruined your life. Please hang in there, and the more power to all of you victims and to Bill Bowen, who has such courage to give so much of his time and energy to this issue. You all have courage. It can't be an easy thing to do, to face elders and others and put yourselves on the line, hoping they will listen, believe you, and give you all the support and encouragement you all need so much. Never give up. You are all doing the right thing. Believe in yourselves, all of you, and take good care.

JM

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:16 PM

Guestbook entry

I am a former JW. I was born and raised in the congregation and many, many of my family members continue to be actively involved with the Witnesses. I have never been able to have a meaningful relationship in my life and have always felt isolated, alone, and shameful. I was abused, both sexually and emotionally, for many years, and though my parents were aware of the abuse, they did nothing for fear of reprisal from the WT. The anger that I carry and sense of betrayal is enormous. When I bring up the abuse that takes place in the Kingdom Hall with family

members, their answers are all the same, as though the Watchtower has told them exactly how to respond to such questions: "Yes, I heard of such stories, but they are not true. The Watchtower does not condone abuse and will actively investigate and see to the prosecution of anyone who abuses a child. " I now realize that these members no longer have the ability to think for themselves and must look to the WT to be told what to think and what to believe. Maybe someday I will be able to tell my story, not yet, but maybe someday. Thank you for giving us a forum for our thoughts and feelings.

JT

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:17 PM

Molestation

I am glad you found this site. It was a very healing thing for me to find out I wasn't alone. I have read around this board when I first started coming here, and it was very healing for me. I don't know if it would be for you, but just know you are very brave for going to the elders. They don't make it easy, and they aren't very kind when you do. Just know this, to do things in your childhood that you regret is just a way of acting out. I have been to therapy because of my molesting uncle. I hope you find a source to get things out, it helps. I hope you find this a good place to talk and share as well. I will be looking in to see if you are ok. Love, Jesika

Melancholyblue

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:19 PM

molestation

I too was raised a JW and I was molested by my father from the time I was 4 to about 9 years old. Sadly, I never told anyone until I was 23 year old. I was in active in the organization at the time but I went to the elders for help. I was an emotional mess. I went to my sister and told her my dark secret and she directed me to the Elders. The elders treated me with kindness and showed mercy on my soul. I was not DF'd only privately reproved for my immoral behavior. I was involved with a couple of worldly boys and I confessed all. What upset me was the fact that they made it very clear to my father that he was not being DF'd for molesting me but it was for his excessive drinking. My father is an alcoholic and has been one ever since I can remember. I tried to continue going to meetings but the thought that it is okay for a person to molest children but it is not okay for them to get drunk at home every night. The excuse for! not DF'ng him for molestation was that it was so long ago. What is that! Craziness! My father even admitted it to the Elders! And still they did nothing on that matter! I am so glad people are speaking out. There is so much abuse that happens to children every day and the JW organization is clearly not free of it. Keep up your good work! I believe in my heart you truly are pleasing our creator (if there is one. . . . I struggle with doubts) by protecting innocent children and helping victims that are now adults to heal there minds and hearts. Love, melancholyblue

the mole

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:20 PM

the mole

the mole. and elder has stepped down in sacramento. . . . not anything new but here is the situation. . . the elder in our local area was caught trying to date a young sister, when found out by the young girls friends many began to ask what was going on. . the elder had lied and said it was only friendship. . after these last two weeks of rumors floating around it came to my attention that he was sleeping with the young girl aged 17. . this brother is 34 years old and just separated with his wife. . the girl and this brother had been seeing each other almost two years and none of us knew of it. . . I the mole inquired if this man was to be jailed for statutory rape or fined being that she was under age. . the parents where told it is a judicial matter for the congregation alone and not a police matter. . . here is another example of the kingdom halls taking civil issues into their own hand. . . the brothers are trying to cover it up by giving talks in their hall about gossip. . . all of you who come to this site should know there are many forms of abuse especially those who take the lead in the church and use that power to sway young minds. . . ***the mole***

Hans

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:21 PM

Molestation

I have been reading this site since 21 December 2001. The site is a healing place. My wife has been raped by her father from 4 years and to her 12 year, It ended with she got pregnant, and her father killed the little girl when it was born. The raping my wife has repressed, and so have our son, my wife sister and her daughter, The elder try to frighten us from going to the police, the po said, well i don't think you want to go to the police because if you do the reporters will come like a swarm. My wife did called the police, and they spend a half year, but couldn't find the baby,

they dig on the farm 30 men i 3 days, and on a church yard, but they couldn't find the body. And the incest was to old by law. Then the elders look on the matter, and they say that my wife's father is an innocent man and that he is fine man. And that my wife and sister are liars.

Tabithah

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:22 PM

Your website

This site is amazingly tasteful. I have been out of the organization for 5 or 6 years now and I despise the mud slinging, vindictive and woe is me that dominates most sites. You stick to the point and focus on the topic relevant to your cause. I refuse to exchange one form of fanaticism for another. I admire your ability to do the same. You are better at it than I would be. Thank-you for providing this site for people without fanning the flames of their already scorching pain. I was abused as a witness too. I never looked up any sites because I was afraid of the melodrama. Too bad I didn't know about this one. Tabithah

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:23 PM

Just signing the guestbook

Susan K. Weidenbach

Cheri

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:24 PM

Your website

Thank you so much for this site. There are so many cases of abuse in my extended family. My niece was treated the same way by elders of a Toledo Oregon Congregation and a lot of the young people here. It was just heinous. My sisters are mentally ill due to the molestation and rape of their young bodies at the tender ages of 4 and 5. Another niece was molested in West Virginia by a Presiding Overseer. Please tell me what I can do to help you. Thank you, Cheri

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:25 PM

Your efforts

I am the Domestic Violence and Disabilities Educator for Pierce County Washington, and I think your website is a real step in the right direction of mutual support, self- advocacy, and life change for those who have been victims of sexual abuse. I have personally been a victim of sexual abuse. You may be interested to know that statistics show that between 75 and 99% of individuals with disabilities have experienced sexual abuse in their lives. I had the benefit of three years in a self-help facilitated support group which was part of the program of the Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County. There, I was able to work through the emotions which stopped me from experiencing normal sexuality. I admire self-help organizations. My other had is as Program Manager of the Mental Health Resource Center of the Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities. We do not address sexual abuse directly because no one on our staff is certified as a therapist or facilitator in this area. However, we do address this problem in our Bipolar Support Groups, our Hope for Depression Group, our Anxiety Support Group, and our Schizophrenia Support Group. It has been my experience with Jehovah's Witnesses that many JW's are people who live with disabilities of one sort or another. I applaud your efforts.

Carl

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 8:40 PM

I agree about some of the former Witness sites seeming melodramatic. I think that just works against us. It's easy to understand the feelings, but depending on how they are expressed, they can either help or hinder the purpose of these sites. Coming across like some tabloid magazine will only make former Witnesses sound bitter and vengeful, which will defeat what these sites are all about, supporting other ex-Witnesses and assisting current Jehovah's Witnesses, who are floundering and drifting. Keeping the sites more low key, yet straightforward seems far more effective than the sites that excite a sort of 'mob mentality'. They are more of a "turn off" in the long run. Anyway, that's my two cents worth. I think this is a tasteful site, too.

SLC

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
@ 11:54 PM

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

. . . to silentlambs & org on this new great website! It has a nice clean layout, easy to navigate, well organized, good looking and functional, too! not to mention all the informative/educational info contained on the many pages! Keep up the good work! And greetings to all the former lambs, the current lambs and all the future lambs who will visit here in the future. Everyone take care and see ya 'round the lamb-fests, the lamb-marches, etc. ! /SLC

MPH

Wednesday, March 19, 2003
@ 8:28 AM

Congratulations!

Congratulations on the new site!

tk

Wednesday, March 19, 2003
@ 12:43 PM

Thanks to all

The New Silentlambs site is gorgeous! Sooooo much easier for me. . . . but I'm computer challenged. I'm also a victim of decades of violent child abuse - my father & his friends. I became a JW and made friends with a Ministerial Servant with 5 kids & good wife. I did check out their family before allowing my child to visit at their house. We had known them for a while. I was a mother of 3 kids with df'd husband - I wanted "good christian" association for my kids. My child went to their house and was sexually abused by this Ministerial Servant. Years later, my child told me. I called the elders (I had moved from that state) - they told me that the elders were trying to meet with this man because his own daughter had just written them details of years of rape by her father. I called back within a month to PO. He said they never talked with the brother. Why? The WT Society said "drop it. " They did. My child never saw the man rape his daughter - nor did his daughter claim to see him molest my child. Thus, no "two witnesses to the same act" - which was WT Law at that time. Maria, his daughter, as of 10 yrs. ago. , had been df'd two times. My child once. The rapist/molester of these children had complete freedom within the KH to hurt other kids. He finally died. . . . still "in good standing. " I reported him to the police - if nothing else, please report all abuse even if not proven. A "paper trail" is started with a name. Perhaps some other parent/child will do the same - and the trail gets easier to follow. Best wishes to all fellow victims/survivors.

waiting (forum name)

Wednesday, March 19, 2003
@ 1:08 PM

Great site

Been looking through this new site - awesome! I'm not good with a computer. and this is so much easier to maneuver around through. Thanks! Will be back. waiting

CP

Wednesday, March 19, 2003
@ 4:51 PM

Ted Jaracz - Why His Silence?

Why doesn't he answer Pat Garza's public statement to the press that he (the Worldwide Governing Body member nicknamed "the Boss" at Brooklyn Bethel) molested her and others when he was District Overseer of Jehovah's Witnesses in Los Angeles? If it's false he should say so. If true then it's no wonder he is such a coward. The Watchtower Society should remove him instead of letting him stay on and direct local elders fire at those who speak out again the cover ups of pedophilia, the liaison with the U. N. while it was and is preached against, and the like!

CP

Wednesday, March 19, 2003
@ 4:54 PM

Add This

Let me add this. I think you should ask those who want to help to give you addresses of those who are still JW's, and then Silentlambs can send them an informative letter, encouraging them in turn to also report abuses.

smokeybear from Louisiana

Wednesday, March 19, 2003
@ 8:47 PM

First time visit

I enjoyed the website, and there is information to learn from this site. I just wanted to know why doesn't the witnesses have a T. v program for themselves, like others. Jehovah said at the end of time that the world would know his name. People in this world needs to know more facts and information on the witnesses, and I think this would be a great opportunity to have people view the real views on what the witnesses believe in and why by the

way of proof in the bible. Anyone who can answer this information please feel free to give me answers and can be forwarded to smokeybear49@juno. com. I am proud to be a witness and I want the World to know that we are the true religion and what we speak about is all facts.

Claudine

Thursday, March 20, 2003
@ 10:52 AM

Great Looking Web Site

Wow! What a surprise! The website looks very very nice. Great image, extremely professional looking. Beautiful! Got myself exhausted, so I have had to go into hiding, doing as little as possible. I hope everyone is well and hanging in there. I am going to go and take a look around now. . . see you later. Love, Claudine

Charles

Thursday, March 20, 2003
@ 10:58 AM

Washington State Laws

Would like everyone to know that, a mandatory reporting law is in the works in Washington State, it has passed the House, and is now going to the Senate, where it is expected to pass. The only drawback is that, they don't have to report a confession, hopefully we can get that hole patched. Also as a side note, last June, 2002, another law took affect, that is, it is now a misdemeanor to leave a child in the care of a known sex offender. So I'm wondering if an Elder, or Elders knew a man had been convicted in they're congregation, and they failed to tell anyone, and they knew a child was being taken care of by this person, if they would be in violation of this law. Guess this would be a question for Kim. :) - Charlie

Dawn

Thursday, March 20, 2003
@ 4:27 PM

Jehovah's Witnesses are morally upstanding people!!!

I am totally disgusted by this website and all its false information. I am a female 30 yr disfellowshipped JW. I was born and raised as a JW in Massachusetts. I have NOTHING but good things to say about my upbringing as a JW and the people I grew up with. There is No WAY any such behavior would be tolerated by the JW's. Anyone who would do such a thing would be ex communicated or "Disfellowshipped" from the congregation immediately. JW's don't even believe in sex before marriage let alone sex with a minor or any kind of abuse to anyone!!! They are kind people with the HIGHEST of morals of anyone you may encounter. I was 15 when I took it upon myself to have sex with my boyfriend (who was 17 and NOT a JW but a boy I met in school). I hid this relationship from everyone and then finally admitted it to my mother and then to the elders of the congregation. At the time I did not see the importance abstaining from premarital sex and just wanted to "fit in" with all my friends at school. JW's did nothing but try to help me and guide me morally in the right direction. I was rebellious at the time and wanted to stay with my bf (which the relationship only lasted 6 months after). I told the elders of the congregation that I was NOT sorry for my actions and that I wanted to keep seeing my bf. They gave me the option of repenting, leaving my bf, and staying a JW or not repenting and being ex-communicated from the congregation (disfellowshipped). I chose to leave and be disfellowshipped. The only JW's that were still allowed to associate with me was my family but of course. My mother is STILL a JW and I have a wonderful relationship with her to this day. I totally respect the JW's and their strict beliefs and morals. They are kind, upstanding, wonderful people with high morals and giving hearts. They would NOT tolerate any such behavior as child abuse of any kind. I find these accusations against JW's absurd and sickening. After personally speaking to William Bowen I am even more disgusted by his views with me on the phone. I found myself stooping to his level by the end of the conversation with my own words and was beginning to make myself look as bad as him. I decided to end the conversation before I said anything I regretted and tried to regain my dignity. The point being here is that YES, there are some BAD people in this world. And I can't say that the JW religion is not without some of them considering how many JW's there are in the world. Look at Jesus for example: his apostles were not all good either. . . JUDAS fooled everyone and betrayed JESUS in the end. We are all going to encounter bad things and bad people. . . but this is NOT the fault or teachings of the JW's. They are not to blame and do not tolerate this behavior what so ever when it is uncovered. Lets look at the individuals involved here and not blame the JW's. (I spoke to this person on the phone in an attempt to reason with them about this subject. After explaining from my own personal experience as an elder for many years as well as the over 1,000 stories posted on this website that the problem must exist, Dawn chose to say it was all lies and amounted to a form of racism against JW's. At this point I stated she appeared to be a stupid person with reasoning like that. In my opinion anyone who can read 1,000 stories of abuse in the JW community and say it is nothing but racism and a lie is a stupid person. On the other hand since this person has been out of the organization for 14 years I went on trying and in a kind way explain how wt policy worked. I offered to let her talk to an abuse survivor with a recent court case in her area, she refused. I even explained where she could go on the WT website to find where the policy is written. When I asked her to read it carefully to understand how policy orchestrated by home office might put children in danger, she asked

to put me on hold and then never came back. I gladly put up comments like this and kindly took her last name off the top. It helps the public to see the small mindedness of misguided people and someday if Dawn will educate herself about this topic she may find her comments quite funny.)silentlambs

Cynthia

Thursday, March 20, 2003
@ 6:04 PM

This site is looking great!

Well Bill, I think you have outdone yourself this time. The website is fabulous and looks great. Well done!

Yehhidah

Thursday, March 20, 2003
@ 8:00 PM

Fabulous!

Bill, I love the new look! Great job. God bless all your hard work.

Andrew

Thursday, March 20, 2003
@ 8:35 PM

Wake up Dawn!

Not too many years ago I would have sympathized with Dawn's comments about this website containing false information. However, having come face-to-face with the ugly realities of a horrendous child abuse issue with my JW father against all his children and all his grandchildren while being a publisher, ministerial servant and elder, and enjoying the protection of the Watchtower policies and the "yes-men" elders and COs, I now have a totally different opinion. So many of the abuse victims on this site have related strikingly similar experiences with the perps and perp-supporting elders, that I can only totally believe them. Their stories have the anguished ring of authenticity. And now I am aware of many other cases of hushing up the in-congregation abuse issues. I think as JWs we are trained to be stupid in this way, and we often don't think for ourselves because of the conformist mentality that is continually harangued at the meetings. We tend to block out even reasonable arguments if they don't totally align with present WT doctrine. Pompous and dogmatic WT doctrine is another story. Anyway, I appreciate this website and the ones who are brave enough to speak the truth about this issue. And if Dawn thinks it is false information, then she is in effect calling me a liar. I don't appreciate that. But then that is the party line that we have so often heard, right?

John

Thursday, March 20, 2003
@ 11:09 PM

REFRESHING SITE

Greetings to all God's people. I have created this site [www. Charts4Christ. com](http://www.Charts4Christ.com) for your use and enjoyment. Please visit and sign my guest book. John

L. B.

Thursday, March 20, 2003
@ 11:38 PM

Helping JW's

Someone suggested giving addresses of Jehovah's Witnesses, so that informative letters about the child abuse issue could be sent to them. I think that's a great idea. So many of us couldn't get past the first few words before getting angrily cut off, but if someone else did "the dirty work" :-), maybe then these people could be helped. Maybe then they will listen, will pay attention. Please let us know if we can start doing this. Thank you!

Mag

Friday, March 21, 2003
@ 7:26 PM

Nice Job

Love the look of this important site. Keep up the sword of truth. The evil will not be the victor.

Dan

Friday, March 21, 2003
@ 8:13 PM

Great New Site

I think you are doing some great work and the new site especially looks great. I was a witness for 8 years from the

age of 15. At the age of 32 I still have nightmares and I was never sexually abused. I can only imagine the pain "silent lambs" are going through. Good Luck to you in all your endeavors.

Cheri

Sunday, March 23, 2003
@ 1:47 PM

An arrogant and ignorant person

Dawn you are just that: an arrogant and ignorant person. How can you, in good conscience, say that because YOUR childhood was great, (which is truly a blessing) and that because in YOUR experience with the JW's there was none of the same types of incidents, that all of the thousands of stories here are lies? Do you really feel that your ONE measly story and experience can possibly overshadow the thousands here? Do you really feel comfortable being so extremely arrogant that you could honestly say that ALL of these stories are perpetrated by liars? And that since YOUR one story is true that all the rest are false? In examining these cases with an open mind and heart, can you honestly say that you do not feel the pain, shame, tears, anger and sadness coming from all of these survivors? I am ashamed of you!! How old are you? I would venture to say that you are too old to be acting and sounding so very adolescent. I have to say to you young lady, I am one of those survivors! I have 3 siblings and EVERY ONE OF US were victims of sexual abuse and physical abuse at the hands of an elder, (family friend) a ministerial servant, (step-father) a publisher, (my father) another publisher, (our mother). In each case, we children were hushed up. I am the youngest and the stubbornness and at 14 when I went to the local police, in Lake Tahoe, California, about the abuse that I was suffering, I was disfellowshipped for "bringing reproach upon the name of Jehovah". I'll have you know that one of my sisters is so mentally ill that she is beyond human help. She is a diagnosed multiple personality, and paranoid schizo, (direct result of her extreme sexual abuse as a 4 year old child) and my other sister is somewhat mentally ill, (but succeeding in helping herself) and my brother has withdrawn so far into himself that no one can reach him. I, thank god, have found this wonderful site and am finding healing and some help through this. So Dawn, please do not be so arrogant and ignorant as to say that you, the one, are the only honest person to have written to this site as opposed to the great many here. It really makes you a stupid person and makes you laughable. Grow up.

L. B.

Monday, March 24, 2003
@ 12:41 AM

Compassion

Hello everyone - - um, I think that all human beings sometimes say or do 'stupid' things, but that doesn't make the person stupid. And emotions can be so strong and overpowering that they can block a person's ability to be really rational and logical. I don't think Dawn is 'stupid'. I think that she is just so steeped in the JW's teachings, so caught up in the organization's mind games and so on, that it is almost impossible for her to not to see things in the black and white world of that religion. Witnesses are being told that former Witnesses are just lying, and unfortunately, because of the way people have been indoctrinated, conditioned, and manipulated by the Watchtower Society, they can't imagine that there could be flaws in their religion. I think it is so important to be patient, tolerant, and even painstakingly gentle and kind with these people. It is hard to undo all the damage done to people's ability to reason for themselves. Taking things in little baby steps with compassion and understanding, with empathy, can be feel very agonizingly frustrating and exasperating at times, but it's important to treat Witnesses with kid gloves. It's not their fault, really, that they can't truly perceive what seems so clear to others. They need tender, loving help to gain the correct perspective. I personally think this 'religion' is really more or less some kind of pyramid company. I also have a sneaking suspicion that at the bottom of everything lays a devious, intimidating scam. I think that it is possible that the so called 'leaders' of this organization don't really care that much about their people at all. It is very sad the way people have been taken in, that when they become Witnesses somehow the way they think, the way they perceive things, the way they even feel somehow gets altered. It's kind of weird. Please, let's all be patient with each other. Everyone feels this need to vent, and wherever people are at in their thinking and emotions, it is a wonderful thing to have freedom of speech. But when we use this precious gift to speak out, it's not a good thing to resort to name calling, unkindness, or any kind of mental and/or mental abuse. That doesn't help. It just adds fuel to the fire. Please, let's not step on anyone's toes. It's so hurtful and demeaning, and demoralizing. And so many people have been demeaned so much, anyway. Their self-esteem needs nurturing. You are all precious people, valid human beings, regardless of your point of view. And all of you please take good care.

Sheri

Monday, March 24, 2003
@ 1:16 PM

Thank you

Thank you for your help. I saw a television program regarding this website. The program also profiled a friend of mind as a child who was sexually abused that I was not aware of. I thought I was the only one along with a few friends of mine, but I always suspected that there were more. As a child, I had a dream that someday I would get of

the world I was in. It was hell on earth!!! They destroyed my whole family. To this day my mother is mentally ill. They laugh at mentally ill people. I know it's not their fault, but this must be stopped! I saw a lot of people in pain and no where to turn because there whole family is in this. Who can they trust? My father has indicated he feels like a bad weed, my brother is still in it and I have gone through two years of therapy. I am very happy. I found myself a good husband and I have discovered I'm like flower in the earth. I spent most of my life reading self help books and graduated with honors in the medical field. I feel strong. . . Help the people. . . I still have a DREAM. . My dream is not complete.

J. J.

Tuesday, March 25, 2003
@ 3:29 AM

Jehovah's Witnesses encourage abuse of all kinds

When I was recently attending the kingdom ministry school of Jehovah's Witnesses one Thursday evening. There was a part by an elder who was interviewing a witness that had only been baptized for a little over a year. The newer witness was a full-time father, full-time worker for an employer, and an auxiliary pioneer for multiple months in a row. The witness was considered an exemplary example to the congregation. The elder encouraged everybody to follow the same course of action. Yes spend as much time out in field service as possible, any damage of neglect to children or family will be undone in the coming new system. As I sat listening, I couldn't help but feel sad for the kids of this witness. I am sure every body who works full-time and has kids knows the difficulty of spending quality time with them and there interests. How much more so if you spent an additional 50 or so hours a month in the field ministry. This brought back painful memories of my emotionally abusive and neglectful childhood. You see my father was that witness spending every available minute in some sort of service to the watchtower organization. I was left alone with the wt and awake magazines and Jehovah to draw close to, but most of the time without my father. But as a Jehovah's Witnesses I was taught that the preaching work is the most important thing, more important than quality time with your children. And yes I realize that this may not be as severe as sexual abuse, but it has brought many painful feelings and unhappiness in my own life. So yes what Jehovah's Witnesses portray in there publications about family life and what actually happens, and maybe not in all families, is two different things. My dad knows the watchtower bible and tract society by heart to the point of dying, but he has yet to know real love.

L. B.

Tuesday, March 25, 2003
@ 1:27 PM

Self-help books

Hi, I'd like to recommend a couple of really good books to everyone. One of them is 'Please Stop Laughing at. . . One Woman's Inspirational Story', by Jodee Blanco. Ms. Blanco is very successful in her career, but she had a miserable childhood, due to bullying from classmates from elementary school through high school. It seems like it would be a really good book for people who were abused in any way in the Jehovah's Witness religion. The other book is 'Surrendering To Yourself. . . You Are Your Own Soul Mate', by Iris Krasnow. On the back cover of the book it says, "Once you come to know who you really are, you are ready for anything". This is a good book for everyone! It's an inspiring book for people of all ages, no matter who they are, etc. I hope you all check them out! Amazon. com could give you more information on them. Take care and hang in there.

L. B.

Tuesday, March 25, 2003
@ 2:44 PM

Whoops!

I just sent in a post a while ago about a couple of books. It looks like I better proof read before I send out e-mails! The book by Jodee Blanco is, 'Please Stop Laughing at Me. . . One Woman's Inspirational Story'. The other book is 'Surrendering To Yourself. . . You Are Your Own Soul Mate', by Iris Krasnow. Again, I highly recommend these inspiring self-help books!

Tuesday, March 25, 2003
@ 6:20 PM

Getting the word out

I have a niece who is a Jehovah's Witness. Her husband is not a Witness and doesn't seem to be very open to the religion - - at least, so far. I have been 'forbidden' to say anything to him that might be encouraging his wariness and reluctance to get involved in the Jehovah's Witnesses. My niece is hoping that he will eventually come around, and I am not "allowed" to contact him. I'm thinking that if he knew about silentlambs, if he knew more about the facts about the religion, he might be able to help her! Maybe if he had more information on which to base his stand, he could help her to get a more clear view. As much as she wants him to not be swayed by former Witnesses, I

want him to not be swayed by the Witnesses! That doesn't feel right to me. I am pretty much in a stuck place and feel helpless and frustrated. Is it possible someone could write to him and other people who can't be contacted, because of any repercussions that might occur if family members or friends, who are former Witnesses, were to contact them. I feel a little at my wit's end sometimes over this situation. Help!

LM

Tuesday, March 25, 2003
@ 9:21 PM

USED CAR

Imagine I am a salesman at a car lot. Your niece's husband comes to my car lot. I tell him these awesome things about my used cars and history and about a particular car I want to sell him. When he says he wants to think it over and check out other used lots. I immediately tell him not to. I think of every reason in the book why he needs to immediately buy a car from my lot. You'll lose a great deal and be disappointed in the long run. Don't waste your time they will just say something negative about my car lot. Now, if anyone buys a car from me, without checking in to my history the bad and the good, is that person not an idiot? You see, truth never changes, no matter what I say or you say or anyone says. The truth is the truth. Now in all probability, if I really had the confidence that my cars were the best for the best deals in town, I would encourage you to go out and find a better deal. I would be proud when you came back after failed attempts. But if I didn't have the confidence in my deals, I would do everything possible to persuade you from hearing or thinking anything contrary or negative to what I say and immediately get you committed to a deal. In actuality that may or may not be the best deal for your niece's husband. But the important point is to make informed decision's, the only way you can do that is to hear the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Wednesday, March 26, 2003
@ 6:22 PM

Used Car

Wow, you're good! :-) Thank you. I agree, that the truth is the truth, no matter what. If someone is so sure, so confident that what they have is the truth, they wouldn't have any problem with someone checking out other options and choices. I think my niece's husband is very wise to be so careful. Thank you again for such a great response!

LM

Wednesday, March 26, 2003
@ 11:03 PM

There is comfort in knowing I am not alone, thank you

I too, was abused by someone in the "organization". I remember going to an assembly at the age of 13 where they talked about being an accomplice if you knew that someone had done something wrong and had kept it a secret. I was baptized when I was 12, so I felt a huge "moral" obligation to tell the elders what had happened to me. The person who abused me was my uncle so I expected that my speaking out would cause a huge rift in my family but I also expected to be protected. Much to my surprise the one who was protected was him. I have no words to describe how humiliated and ashamed I was made to feel. I sought counseling and filed a police report and the perpetrator was arrested as a result, only to be bailed out by the very elder I had trusted the most, the one I had the courage to confide in. As in any trauma you don't get over it, you just learn to live with it. Although this happened 20 years ago it truly is more difficult to deal with than the abuse itself.

Ian

Thursday, March 27, 2003
@ 10:08 AM

Admiration

It takes real courage to do what you have done, Bill. It takes even greater courage for the abused to come forward and tell their stories. My family and I are fortunate, we have never experienced such abuse. My wife and I were JW's for 15 years. We brought our four children up in the teachings. Six weeks ago, after having amassed so much evidence of deceit, lies and false prophesying, my wife, two sons and I left the organization. Our two daughters, however, have stayed. The older is married and the younger one left home because of our stance. Incredibly and heartbreakingly, both now shun us and not one of our "friends" has been in touch! The Watchtower is an evil organization that destroys families. My own family, previously so strong and loving, has been torn apart. I admire and applaud what is being achieved here - and elsewhere - to expose the organization for what it truly is. I live in England, but the love we exJW's have permeates the globe. And you know what, it's REAL love. God bless you all. United, we SHALL be victorious.

Nik

Thursday, March 27, 2003
@ 7:26 PM

There's no recovery for ex-JWs

I have heard stories like the ones of Silent Lambs before, not even on message boards but from real JW's. I've heard of people being molested and the JW's not reporting it, and I've even heard of a girl who was raped at a JW party but it was kept from the police & never went to court. For Dawn- for all the "Dawns" out there, I cannot believe that someone could be so brainwashed, so completely controlled to not see the evil that can be produced from certain organizations. I do not intend to be labeled an "apostate," for I love God very much, I would never intentionally work against Him. However, these people automatically label one as such when any questioning comes into play. When I became a teenager, shortly after I left the "truth" I fell into drug abuse, dangerous sex, and many other horrible truly worldly things. I prayed that God would find me (though I didn't think he even existed for many years) and help me out of the hole I had put myself in. Last summer I found God again and my heart was washed clean, however, I felt the Witness's weren't correct and didn't go back. To this day, though I cannot fully remember, I believe that I was molested by someone in this organization. I've tried desperately to recall who did this, I have faint memories, but apparently it's been blocked out of my mind. The fact that I was abused- I could eventually deal with that. What I cannot deal with, is the idea that my family and everyone who I thought was a friend hates me because I don't believe in these teachings which are proving to be so faulty. I will never be accepted by my mother, not only that but all the years spent growing up as a JW has left me emotionally scarred and dead inside. If it wasn't for my father who isn't a JW, my wonderful fiancée $\frac{1}{2}$, and the fact that God came into my life and gave me back my faith in Him, I surely would have already put a gun to my head. I am now dealing with the scars of being a JW, scars I didn't even realize existed until I left, and am currently trying to find friends and a new church to attend with REAL Christians. Regardless of how I feel and my personal pain, I want to tell every single member of the silentlambs and otherwise that my heart goes out to them. I believe that more and more everyday, holes are being punched through the doctrine of the JW's and their facade is growing thin. Hopefully, one day all will be exposed to everyone in the organization and everyone can be put on the path to a healthy recovery and a new found correct faith in God. Again, I do not mean to steer anyone away from their beliefs- I am NOT an anti-Christ, I am not "Apostate," I simply want the truth. I want God in my life, and not false hope and empty propaganda. I pray for everyone- I pray for myself. Thank you for this site, it has helped to open my eyes.

Claudine

Thursday, March 27, 2003
@ 10:00 PM

Absolutely beautiful web site! I got the Germany transcript today and thought that I would give it to the elders, so that they can see how to not get caught in this trap of two witnesses or a REPENTANT child molester-yeah right! I think someone else suggested it also, so I don't claim it to be an original idea. Maybe, one of them will see the light and protect a child! The congregation is Upper Lake, California and I know that there is a history of child molestation, unreported, ignored and the molester died without ever being disfellowshipped. It has ruined lives. My love and God's Blessings to each and every one of you! Love, Claudine

P. C. Ireland

Saturday, March 29, 2003
@ 5:36 PM

Thank You

Just a note to say "thank you". Your courage is great and you are doing a great service to people who could not speak up for themselves, because they have been destroyed by this treacherous organization ! How dare they claim to represent God on this earth!! What does Jehovah think of their policy on paedophiles ? Would he want dirt swept under the carpet in order to keep his organization 'CLEAN'? Why would Jehovah need that? What would Jesus have done about paedophiles ? I do know that he loved children . We must continue to protect the innocence and vulnerability of our precious children . How dare they suggest that there should be two witnesses to a child rape!! And that this is one of Jehovah's rulings!! Isn't everything witnessed by God himself?? Is He not regarded as a witness??? Do these people who run this organization think we are all stupid ?? As you can probably see , they make my blood BOIL!! I consider myself very fortunate to have escaped from their grasp. I console myself with the teachings of Jesus Christ with two of his teachings in particular, when he said of his true followers "by their fruit you will know them" ; and also my real reassurance; "you will come to know the truth and the truth will set you free". . . . and it did! Thank you, Yours Sincerely,P. C. Ireland

Paul

Saturday, March 29, 2003
@ 10:10 PM

The JW's offered me a young girl!

When 19 years old a JW elder tried to entice me into the congregation with the promise to marry a young JW girl.

The elder pointed to a 13 year old girl standing by her mother. The mother of the girl smiled and said,"he sure looks handsome. Don't you think so Becky?" The poor little girl just blushed and agreed with her stupid mother. I called the elder and mother "pimps. " I find that most religions are for the weak, either in mind and/or body. They use the religions as a crutch,or hide behind it as they wear a mask preventing people to see them for what they really are, monsters. I've friends that commit sins all the time and then ask for forgiveness from god after, just so they can commit the same sin again. . . DON'T EVER ANYONE OF YOU BE A COWERED! BE DILIGENT IN ASSERTIVNESS, AND REPORT ALL PERVERTS.

C. T.

Monday, March 31, 2003
@ 1:33 AM

Anyone else from Rosemont congregation Alexandria, VA around 1967 to 1971?

I have spent my adult life trying to deal with the effects of my JW elder father's abuse. There has been tremendous healing in my life and tremendous difficulty. I am 40 and have been out of touch with my parents for years (my parents who initially shunned me after I left the J. W. 's at 16 and started sleeping w/ my boyfriend at 17--and who now say nothing ever happened.) I thought I was hallucinating when I started having flashbacks at age 30, although they clarified the reasons for my repeated struggles with depression and suicidal/ self injuring impulses. What I want to ask is, is there anyone else visiting this site who experienced abuse by J. W. 's involved in the Rosemont congregation (no longer extant)in Alexandria, VA during the late 60's to early 70's, or the Manassas, VA congregation in the 1970's, or for that matter, in the Longwood or Altamonte Springs, FL congregations in the 1980's? I have been able to verify some details tied to some of my flashbacks, but other troubling flashbacks involving other JW's seem too farfetched to be believed.

Monday, March 31, 2003
@ 11:11 PM

Good lord :|

You guys don't know anything about the witnesses so stop thinking you do. You are all stupid. :|

April 2003 Guestbook

[Current Guest book](#)

BB

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 1:51 PM

TV program in sweden

It was a most interesting program, and I wonder what kind of world we are living in where the men of church - catholic or JW are the most ugly sinners. BB, MD

Tomas

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 1:54 PM

It's a brave, new world!

As I come from Sweden, I've seen the documentary you mentioned above - and I must say: Thank you! Our world need brave outspoken people with equally big hearts and mouths!

Louise

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 1:54 PM

Hi. I'm looking at the swedish program about Jehovah's Witnesses. My opinion is that these people who protect pedophiles are very, very, very, very sick people!!! Thank You.

HF

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 1:56 PM

Terrible sect

Never join this sect. . . It's brainwashing.

Anders

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:02 PM

Good job!

I just saw the swedish program "Assignment-Investigate" about what you do and I just wanted to say good job! I also like the site design. Anders /Stockholm Sweden

Nina

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:09 PM

Swedish TV

Hi, I just watched the programme about child molesters and JW that was broadcast on Swedish television and was referred to your website. I was outraged by what the programme revealed, it really breaks my heart. Just wanted to let you know that I think you are doing a great job at silentlambs. org. I hope that we can put an end to this. /Nina

Rainer Keemss Sweden

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:09 PM

I just saw the program about the Pedophiles in Swedish Television. You must see it in one way or the other. Very interesting. Heja Janne, du är en hjärte som tar det upp i dagsljuset.

Lisa

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:11 PM

Swedish TV Program

I've just seen the Swedish TV program, and I must say I admire all of you who shows civil courage! I support you with all my heart. I myself have a half sister who is a member of Jehovah's Witnesses here in Sweden, and I feel I want to save here in some way. But she is grown up, and what can I do?? Keep on fighting against this scaring congregation!!! Regards from Sweden

Per S

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:12 PM

Child Abuses

I have just seen a documentary on swedish television about child abuses in the Jehovah's Witnesses. That's how I heard about silent lambs. THANK YOU for your job.

maria (sweden)

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:14 PM

oh my god!

Dear visitors, I've just watched a program on swedish television about the sexual abuse of children that goes on inside the Jehovah's witness, and it shocked me! I couldn't believe my eyes when I watched the program how terrible children all over the world was treated by the "elderly brothers" (sorry I don't know the expression in english) and the rest of the assembly! I really hope you can keep up the work that you are doing against these horrible people, your job is worth everything even if only one child is saved! my best wishes / Maria from Sweden

Goran

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:14 PM

TV-program in Swedish TV

Hello! Have just seen the very interesting TV-program about the issue "Silent Lambs". You are doing a wonderful job. Are there any contact person over here?

Micke

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:16 PM

Sweden

I saw the program/documentary about the JW that the swedish guy did. . . . I was close to be a member to the JW but now when I saw this. . . I'm not going to support abuse of children.

Carolina S, Sweden

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:20 PM

Thank you!

To the founder of this site, who was excluded from JW: I admire you so much! You are brave and closer to God than any one in the Watch Tower. Thanks to you the day of Armageddon doesn't have to come to bring paradise to earth, because people like you have already got it in your hearts. Your work is invaluable!

L1

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:24 PM

I am a former JW. I was molested by my big brother when i was six years old, and he tried again when I was 13. I have never told anyone. This is the first time I even write it down. I have been afraid of doing it, like if how people should react. He is still a JW. I was so happy when i found this site, with other people in my situation. Even if i don't believe in what JW says, every time there is thunder i am afraid that it is Armageddon. A big hug from me to you all who feel what i feel.

Nica

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:24 PM

I have seen a program with you and Jehovah's Witnesses . . . And I think that it SUCKS with all the child abuse that goes on in this. . . and don't now what I should call this people!!!! And they say that they believe in a paradise!!!! What paradise. . . with abuse or What??? I didn't know that it was like this. . . I'm shocked!!!!!!! I have a daughter and her grandmother is a Jehovahs. . . and me and her doesn't get along very much!!!! I don't live with my daughters father anymore. . . I refused to be a Jehovah Witness. . . I am impressed of you. . . and keep on your god work. . . I help you in any way I Can!!!!!! With love Veronica in Sweden

Martin

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:27 PM

Swedish documentary

I have just watched the documentary on Swedish TV. Had it been presented by a lesser journalist I would have seriously questioned it, but the team at Uppdraggranskning are known to be thorough and pretty non-bias. The way the Elder-brothers of each separate church tried to worm out of answering straight questions as to why they had not, in a total of at least 40 cases, involving 10 perverts, not made any reports to the police was outstanding. Even when shown a copy of their own internal papers telling them not to go public they denied all knowledge. Countless times these "elder brothers" have been given full admissions of guilt from these men (one actually confessed on tape, only to say that all are human and make mistakes) and yet none had been reported to the police, and these men call themselves Christian? When a faith or group believes itself to be above the laws of a democratic country it must be said that there is something wrong with it, Period! I wish you good luck in your cause, Bill. And as my dear old now departed uncle would say when things got tough, whatever they threw at you, don't let the bastards get you down! stand your ground for what is right, child molestation can never be right!

Magnus

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:28 PM

Swedish Documentary

I have just seen the swedish documentary about child abuse in the Jehovah's Witnesses and i must say that it was one of the most shocking documentaries I have seen in a long time and the fact that people are threatening Bill Bowen because of his struggle against this act of lunacy among the leaders in the organization. I just wanted to say that I hold a great respect to a man like Bill who are fighting something that he once considered the ultimate truth. Respect! I am not religious and I am only 18 years old so i guess I can't say that i know that much about real life. I have lived long enough though not imagine or understand but feel compassion for those

men,women and children which have had to endure such terrible things. Once again i must say that a man like Bill Bowen is a role model to us all. I only hope nothing ever changes his way of thinking.

Anna,Sweden

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:42 PM

I've just watched the Swedish program that was mentioned here at this homepage. I don't know so very much about JW,but I sure became very upset. It's necessary and very good that these things are coming out to the people outside JW. I think you're doing a very great job!!!

Anita

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:47 PM

Great tv-program in Sweden

Hi, I'm sitting in Sweden and I've just watched a very good program - Assignment - Investigation - about child abuse in JW. A very professional Bill Bowen :-) as well as several former members and elders from Sweden were in the show. My admiration especially to a couple of people who were still members as the program started to take form, but who are very unlikely to be welcome in the congregation today. They were themselves victims of child molestation. A present elder is also likely to have a hard time in front of him. He was having obvious "problems with his personal responsibility" in front of the camera - i. e he actually started talking to the journalist, and found it extremely hard to defend JW's behaviour when it came to child molestation. Neither did he just shut up which was the case with the most of the elders. "Ordinary members" who started talking to the journalist was taken care of and told to be quiet by other members. The program wouldn't have been as good without the work stemming from this site:-) THANKS from Sweden!

sonny

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 2:51 PM

1984

Am i the only one that sees a resemblance between the JW and the totalitarianism in George Orwell's book 1984? ps: I think God prefers it more if you actually did something on the planet and i don't mean praising him all the time, i think he had enough of that.

MJN

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 3:02 PM

Thanks for existing! I hope you'll remain and that your/this organization will be able to help more victims and also help change the way the congregations "deals" with this huge problem! I wish you all the good luck in the world! MJN, Sweden

[*DRM*]sgt. toke[le]

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 3:11 PM

this is a good thing!

Thank you all for doing this site! i watched the swedish tv-show about jehovas. it is as i always have said since i was little! best place for evil to hide is in the church!!!! SHAME on you jehovas for covering up for pedophiles and child molesters and rapists and other scum! I am shaken! even if just half of it was true this is OUTREAGEOUS! what can i do. . . I'm eager to help! good thing this site an all its affiliates try to put light upon these CRIMINALS and their actions. keep up the good work! all you! [*DRM*]sgt. toke[le]

Margit, Stockholm, Sweden

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 3:23 PM

Courage

I have grown up with JW. I am also married to a JW. But myself cannot find that it is the truth. I admire your courage to stand up for these children when no one else seems to care. May our Father be with you in this important work. He sees the good you are doing to the smallest of his creation. The children are our future. God bless you.

mag

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 4:02 PM

-

I saw you featured in the SVT documentary and I just wanted to drop a few lines in support of your work. I have a friend who was abused by her own parents within the congregation. The madness must stop, and I believe that you guys are doing a great job.

Peter

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 4:04 PM

My two cents

Got this url from a documentary airing on tv in Sweden and just wanted to give my support. Keep up the good work!

MO

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 6:24 PM

Shocking. . .

My girlfriend just called me up and told me about today's issue on the swedish tv program 'uppdrag granskning'. This evening they dealt with what this organization is all about. Thank god you exist. I have always been skeptical about the JW but this was worse than I could ever imagine. It all makes me very sad and fills me up with rage. There are JW's in my workplace, are they aware of this??? Is this what religion is about? No. A few minutes ago I read an article about child abuse in the Watchtower publication. There is not a single drop of justice or common sense anywhere. Shame on you. SHAME ON YOU. I can not imagine a worse and more unjust society than the kingdom of Jehova that every so called witness is waiting for.

Rich

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 6:27 PM

Richest religions in the US

someone asked where i got info on the WTBS being the second richest religion in the US, and someone asked who the first is. the richest religion is the mormons, and this info was on the BBC panorama programme, about JW child abuse.

allan

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 8:17 PM

LUST or FORCE !

I just saw the report on JW on the Swedish television and got your web address Thank you for caring! And searching for the truth! I have all my life got bruises for pushing the walls a bit further and some things seems to be universal all over the world - even in Sweden. Nobody does anything if they don't have LUST! Except if they are forced to do it! What we have to do is to create lust! But NOT this way ! By using children to "redeem" ourselves! Lust is a positive interactive caring thing. A curiosity for learning and sharing - maybe therefore it is so easy to manipulate it to oneself's needs instead of others! Truth is not for free! It has a price! And that price is TIME, WORK and/or MONEY! No wonder its so hard to use it the right way! No one LIKES to behave in a "bad way"! It's a "force" that governs you AGAINST your "better judgment"! Whether it is Dr Phil or your conscience that supplies you with that judgment. The problem is to "channel" this force or lust to the right judgment! BUT HOW? There is so little debate of this! If it exists, it is often symptomatic instead of basic! Even batteries are more "cared for" than people! In those there is a great DIFFERENCE between positive and negative - which creates a FORCE! This we have learned to put in to use! But with PEOPLE there's the other way around! We want them to be the same all over! No difference! (like in jw !) (or INdifference!)Here we LACK "instruments" to "channel" (redirect) the force that this creates! Martin Luther King said that the problem is not the bad people alone, as much as all the others that are silent and do not cry out for the injustice they witness! WHO are YOU? Do you have the solution, or are you "part of the problem"?

Amber

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 8:57 PM

ring of abuse

My grandfather is an elder in Louisiana. He is still an elder. My father has written repeated letters to the society regarding the abuse that James is guilty of, however, nothing is getting done. I feel that nothing will ever get done, as long as the members of the governing body maintain their sense of apathy, denial, hypocrisy and even

guilt. My grandfather and grandmother, and numerous others high up in the "hierarchy" were involved in a child sex trading ring. I personally know at least ten to fifteen victims and have seen their suffering through their healing processes, myself, my sisters and my dad included. Their crimes include not only the sexual exploitation of children, but satanic sacrifices, torture and the abortion of babies from little girls barely past puberty. The victims of these men and women still find hope in the society for some reason, and still remain with the religion. Their minds have been beaten for too many years to get out. I only hope that they will find the mental freedom that I have, and will escape to life. So, congregations all over, watch out, but congregations in Louisiana watch out for the names Tooke, McPherson, and Dauzat. Ignorance is not bliss, it creates a whole subconscious hell to flash back to. Amber email me at info@silentlambs.org I would like to give you some information. bill

cs

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
@ 10:48 PM

the child molester

paul nunemaker is a child molester. and guess what he is one of jehovah's witnesses. he was arrested in 1996, and nothing was done to him by his elders of his congregation, typical. he got after my daughter on two different occasions. once when she was 6 years old and then again at 11. in which he was arrested but charges were dropped due to lack of evidence. this man has mental problems suffers from clinical depression blames his problems on his parents they are witnesses also. says it was his upbringing. go figure.

Bill

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 1:42 AM

My in laws are J. W. s I have never seen a worse bunch of parents. I feel that the kids who leave the Organization have a lot of problems because of the mean spirited teachings of the Organization. They seem "lost" and have a lot of emotional and chemical problems. This Organized Religion feeds upon mankind, it's religious "Crack" for the gullible

fite02

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 4:18 AM

Swedish TV

They are sick in their heads. Doesn't a child have anything to say. The little one who look up to their parents and adults. All kind of sects are only using people for their best. But the most horrifying thing is that the church says that the crime is not a crime. I couldn't sleep last night after the TV program. I hope this program will start something and not vanish out in the sand.

Ness.

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 5:14 AM

Thank You!!!!

Hi. I'm glad that someone are doing all they can too help these children, who are abused. I know that JW's always cower up EVERYTHING that happens in their congregation. I know because I've been there, I've friends who have been there too. . I hope you keep up the good work you're doing! When I saw the program on swedish tv last night. . i thought that if JW claims that they are doing the right thing, they should NOT be hiding behind doors!!! like SOME DID!!!! That gives the world the impression that they are guilty. I know that if there now is a god he would not let these things or any thing happen to our children. . Thank you again Bill!

Bella, Sweden

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 5:39 AM

Horrible acting against children!!!

Dear all, I am happy that i saw the programme yesterday, this channel do a really good job!! Bill - you are brave like the rest, i shed a tear when i saw the 1 hour programme yesterday! The channel can bee seen in both Norway and Denmark, so hopefully the word gets spread. My heart goes out to you all - continue to save the children! A big hug from litle me!

Hjälkan

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 6:29 AM

Thank You

My family is all J. W I was fighting myself out there for 32 years ago I was 13 then and that is the best thing I have made in my life. Even if my life is a mess for the moment I'm glad that I had the courage to do that in my young age. I'm not surprised for the news about J. W and how it working inside.

NC

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 7:27 AM

Swedish Docu

Bill Bowen made a very serious and professional appearance on the show but the main character was the young man Anders, who with his sweet honesty broke our hearts and gave a face to all those suppressed victims. Respect to this very young person for his courage and faith, such a difference to the coward elders who all but one ran into hiding every time a camera got near them!! SHAME on those people.

Hq

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 8:09 AM

SVT's

Hello I live in Finland and saw the report on SVT Europa (Swedish Television's international satellite channel which can be seen in many parts of Europe) yesterday. I have heard about these kinds of things before, but not on a large scale such as this thing. Awful, just awful. How can anybody do things like that to young children - and get away with it? I can't even find words for it. Anyway, keep up the good work! An organization as strong as the Watchtower needs a counter force (Also, the whole programme seems to be available as Real Video at <http://www.svt.se/granskning/reportage.asp?S=2992&A=2992> so you may want to update this link somewhere on your pages.)

Lasse from Sweden

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 1:51 PM

TV show

Just want to say thank you for standing up for the victims, those innocent children. I guess and hope that you will be rewarded well! Your fight is important! I had not a clue that the Watchtower was built to protect child molesters. I do not have words for all may feelings. Just wanted to say something. to try to express my feelings.

Anders

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 2:59 PM

Keep up your good work!

Dear Mr. Bill Bowen, I'm a Swedish man, 54 years old, non believer (but not atheist) who watched a program on Swedish television, "Mission Scrutiny" (or whatever it would be could in English), yesterday, about JW and child molestation. I was very upset, how, this in a enlightened society year 2003 can occur! I think you are a brave, warm and loving person taking this "fight" and I just want to encourage you to keep up with your wonderful work. Children are our future and the future is a result of the upbringing we give our children. Sincerely Yours Anders, Göteborg, Sweden

Y. F. Norway

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 3:22 PM

Swedish documentary

I happened to watch the program on swedish television last night about abuse of children inside the JW. organization. I was really shocked by the fact that the organization is more occupied with upholding the facade than practicing what really should be the issue in a christian organization - to protect those who can not protect themselves. Many thanks to "silentlamb" and Janne at SVT for great and admirable courage

Ingvar

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 4:37 PM

Warning !!

If someone from Jehovahs knocking on your door Hide the children immediately !! They are not interested of the parents, the leaders only send there people to you house to find more children to abuse. The leaders seems to be big cowards they don't want to talk to the press.

Dennis

Wednesday, April 9,
2003
@ 4:38 PM

From Sweden

Mr Bowen, I want to thank you for your courageous work! Being a true Christian is not only about saying the right things but also DOING the right things. You are a very brave man and so are also all the 'lambs' that have broken their silence and told about their experiences, despite knowing that they would be punished and probably not be able to have contact with their loved ones. I wish you all the best!

Natanael

Thursday, April 10, 2003
@ 9:18 AM

Sick.

Hi. I'm from Sweden Saw the show and it made me cry. Why ain't the police doing anything??? They raid outlaws like H. A. all the time. Why cant they raid J. W??? Thanx for the bravery from you in S. L. !!!

Mag

Thursday, April 10, 2003
@ 10:04 AM

Watchtower will not listen to others.

The child abuse situation in the Jehovah's Witness religion is horrid. This cannot be underestimated. Other than this is the Watchtower a safe trustworthy place for people to give up their option of choice? Hardly. <http://www.jwifoline.com/Page/audio.htm> Best wishes to those who are recovering.

Mats, Sweden

Thursday, April 10, 2003
@ 6:46 PM

Give 'em hell!

I let the Jehova door-knockers in once when I was 18 years old, hung-over and bored. I received a book, and never heard from them again. After seeing the Swedish program "Assignment-Investigate", I sure hope they will knock on my door once more. I'll give em hell! Keep up the good work!!

Elena

Thursday, April 10, 2003
@ 6:55 PM

Thank you! I hope there will be many more people from JW that will open their eyes and see thing clearly now. It's a deadly sin to silent a child who is in need of help. Keep up with you good work. Fight for our children - our future!!

G. H.

Thursday, April 10, 2003
@ 6:59 PM

As most people here I saw the Swedish documentary about JW and it was truly a superb, straight-to-the-point and factual. My highest respect and goes to that reporter. I have always harbored a deep resentment towards that organization and I have always suspected that child molestation and sexual abuse has been going on in JW circles for quite some time. After all, JW is even more closed off to "non-desirables" than the Catholic Church where child molestation and sexual abuse has apparently been going on for quite some time. When you repress your natural urges in that way they are bound to come bursting out in a perverted manner sooner or later, making the self- proclaimed holy men the most vile sinners of them all. Jehovah's Witnesses are simply hypocrisy incarnate, there's not room for everyone in their little paradise. Great site.

JM

Thursday, April 10, 2003
@ 7:04 PM

Be strong

Strike hard, strike swift and furious against the child abusers. I'm on your side all the way. You fight for the right cause and I honestly believe that you're, or shall I say we, will win this fight against evil. Because to abuse children is the ultimate proof that evil do exist. I fight against that evil besides you and I'm not afraid. We will stand tall. Yours sincerely JM (from Sweden btw)

Lagge

Thursday, April 10, 2003
@ 7:19 PM

I just saw the swedish program "Assignment-Investigate", about JW and child abuse, i have been suspecting this because of their, silent way to handle problems in the sect. Keep on the good work. . .

Peter, Gullmarsplan, Stockholm

Thursday, April 10, 2003
@ 7:34 PM

Mr Bowen, You are my hero

I'm just another World Citizen, i have a belief, but it's not connected to any religion, i believe in; L-O-V-E, Friendship & A. I. K. . It's truly pathetic to see the way these powerful witnesses covering up pedophilia matters. It saddened me to see how some of these people can be so stupid, egoistic & indirectly evil, yet pretending to be so righteous, they ought to be ashamed of themselves. No god can allow this kind of behaviour! They will be carrying a VERY heavy burden of guilt in their hearts forever, even after Armageddon if it will occur. Mr Bowen, It takes a lot of strength out of an individual, to break the ties with of a lifelong relation with your whole community. You saw that something was very wrong and you took action. Congratulations! That is the difference between a good, and a sad human being. My thoughts go out to you too, i'dre Brother, Karlsson. Det var heroiskt av Dig att bekä nna Era misstag. Jag hoppas att Du blir en ledare fi r Dina fi rsamlingsmedlemmar, och fi r ihop en kommitt e som bevakar oskyldiga barns intressen & integritet. Janne, hi ll med om att mitt i all "Pandoras Box-i ppning", si kunde Du varit lite mera i ddmjuk mot i dre Brodern som kri p till korset. Till Er medverkande offer: Ni i r hj i tar som bryter denna onda cirkel, Ni i r ddar fi rhoppningsvis livet pi m i nga barn. i ven fast Era liv pi ett drastiskt liv blivit i ndrade p. g. a. i vergreppen, si hoppas jag att Ni fortfarande kan se gli djen i livet, och li ta solen skina in genom fi rstret, fi r alla mentalt kapabla vi sen ki nner otroligt starkt med Er. Ett stort Lycka Till i framtiden. Soccer & Love, FOREVER! Love A. I. K. AMEN.

Swedish pastor

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 5:45 AM

Meeting molested kids

It is extremely painful; I've met them more than once as a pastor, though not from any form of congregation. I also know that more than Jehovas' puts the lid on to keep all quiet and nice; but that is to fool yourself at least double. Your clothes are not clean only because you don't admit that they have stains. And congregations want to be clean, men and women of good reputation are to remain so; and behind is the little child, with no confidence left to the adult world. Keep up the good work!

The Tornberg Family

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 5:54 AM

Thanks Bill Bowen. . .

and all the other brave people who can fight for all the abused children. We saw the program on Swedish tv about pedophiles in JW and we are all disgusted how people can be so cruel and stupid and try to hide it all in the name of God, both the predators and the people who know, hide or do nothing about it. Where is their humanity? Keep on fighting, Mr Bowen!

Jessica

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 6:05 AM

swedish tv

I am also one of the people in Sweden who has been watching the investigative report about child molesters inside of Jehovas witnesses, and it was something I had never heard of before. I think you are very brave and I

applaud you for making this site! I hope that we can put a stop to the crimes committed by people within these sects and that they're protecting each other, maybe through legislation?

Daniel M

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 6:05 AM

Keep up the good work!

I am just watching the program on swedish tv. Just want to encourage you guys in the good work you do!

Lulle

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 6:14 AM

Hi I'm from sweden and i just wont to tell all Jehovahs worldwide to go F#\$% them self & not the children.
ps. burn in hell. Armageddon will never come

Anita

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 6:19 AM

Swedish television program

Good Luck with Your brave work! Anita, Sweden.

Hilde

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 6:20 AM

Thank you!!!

Thank you for taking children seriously. They need human beings like you to protect them. The hardest thing is to know that this is going on all over the world. . . The swedish tv-program was great even though I am really touched and angry!!! I believe in a loving and caring God!!! Good luck from Norway!!! Lve Hilde

Ulrika

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 6:32 AM

I think you are the greatest and I just want to say thank you.

Anna

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 7:18 AM

I watched the swedish documentary about JW and I was really glad to hear about your work. My older sister and I were sexually abused from the age of 5. My sister became a JW to "repent" and learned from the elders not to talk about it or actually not to talk to anyone outside the congregation. Now she and her four children are free from the sect after 20 years. I go to group therapy for incest survivors- it isn't going away without professional help and I hope my sister and I can talk about what happened some day.

Anna , Sweden

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 7:42 AM

Thank you Mr Bill Bowen and Co!!

I have just seen the re-run of the Swedish TV-program that right now, most of the comments on this site are about. And I just want to say to Mr Bowen and his co-workers, Thank you so much for your courageous work! Knowing that "Silentlambs" exists, makes me believe that there is still some hope for mankind! So stay strong!

Carro

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 8:08 AM

I can't understand why all people don't like Jehovahs witnesses!!They are wonderful! I'm not a member but I have many friends who are members. They are like all of us. Just normal people, with a religion!!

Annelie Sweden

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 8:36 AM

I just want to say that all you who dare to stand up for these sexually abused children are heroes. How can it be more important to protect grown men to keep an organization clean than protect children who are abused????? The organization should stand up for them.

Guy

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 9:53 AM

Silent witnesses?

I am so happy being swedish these days, when our SVT 1- channel has published its report about Jehovahs Witnesses. And being a newly initiated catholic I feel an urge to get all kinds of churches and congregations cleansed up from this kind of evil. Blessed be our pope John Paul II for condemning such acts, and damned be the bishops and priests in my catholic beloved church, who has tried to hide and protect the molesters.

Dennis

Friday, April 11, 2003
@ 1:12 PM

From Sweden

Keep up your courageous work! God loves those who love the truth!

Ingrid

Saturday, April 12, 2003
@ 6:43 AM

Brave Bill

I just want to send a message to Bill Bowen (?). I saw you on Swedish TV and I think you do a great job, I admire you. Hugs from Sweden

RG

Saturday, April 12, 2003
@ 8:57 AM

Swedish program

Superior program in the swedish television! I applaud the focus of the question, I would like to know how many child abuse cases are based on two or more witnesses? Does Jehovahs Witnesses prefer their policy instead of the swedish law?

silentlambs

Saturday, April 12, 2003
@ 1:04 PM

Thank you all

Thank you for your kind remarks to our work. I am happy to see that people are able to understand the great horror committed against children by the JW leadership through policy. I am sad and happy, sad that an organization would allow children to be hurt and happy to give a voice to people that suffer. Hopefully the public and JW's will help leadership of the organization to see they can no longer treat children in this manner. Thank you for visiting the silentlambs website. Regards, bill

BF

Saturday, April 12, 2003
@ 3:13 PM

Canadian show

A while ago I saw the Canadian show "5th Estate". I was shocked. Your mission is honorable. Keep up the good work.

Yonathan

Sunday, April 13, 2003
@ 2:55 AM

Thank you SVT

I am born in JW family, who didn't had such a problem but it doesn't mean that we didn't saw this brutal things they were more organized to damage peopels. They isolated me to do not talk what I saw befor 24years ago and I used it to scape from the JW grup. I missed my older brother in this sekt religion who couldn't handel to be isolated. My e- mail jokuname66@hotmail. com

Blondie

Sunday, April 13, 2003
@ 11:45 AM

Swedish TV Show

The English parts are excellent. I am looking forward to a transcript being available in English soon. As a US victim of abuse, I am happy to see that other countries are being educated to the lies of the Watchtower Society regarding their policy on child abuse. Just like the Pharisees of Jesus time had him put to death to protect their "position" with the Roman government, so the WTS puts to death figuratively all those victims/survivors of sexual abuse that looked to them and their representatives the elders for help.

Sunday, April 13, 2003
@ 2:19 PM

Very sad

This sounds more like a regime than a religion. I feel so bad for all the people caught up in it. It's like they really can't "see the forest through the trees". I find myself thinking of them as 'inmates', unaware that they are inmates, their heads are so stuffed with JW doctrine and so called "policy". Sometimes I wish I could just shake all that clutter out of their heads. It seems almost like it is easier for those outside their circle, the ones who are able to observe from a healthy distance and have a clear objective perspective, to be aware of what it really going on than it is for those within the circle. They just can't perceive anything amiss, their minds are so saturated by the WTS, nothing else can get through, if they even give people half a chance to try to reason with them. I will always beware of any group that calls itself "the truth", or tries to pass itself off as a perfect organization. Red light, red light.

PAMELA

Monday, April 14, 2003
@ 3:30 AM

MORMON CHURCH FACILITATING

HELLO, have been looking at this site for going on 5 hours. a much needed site. it's almost 5am, and cookies,milk, and pretzels time. THE MORMON church paid for a divorce from my husband (plaintiff and me the defendant.) i never even knew this until occurred. as they say, you'll be the last to know. well, i am ticked, and this ELITE AND EXCLUSIVE has done wrong to me. i believe in JUSTICE AND THE LAW AND DUE PROCESS. Long, story, but i feel that the MORMON CHURCH which makes almost FOUR BILLION a year, with now a divorce rate of 50% and inactivity rate of 50% should set some priorities. ONE CAN NOT BUY THEIR WAY INTO HEAVEN. I believe, the only one who judges me is God, He knows of my actions my intentions and feelings. He Decides, not the Mormon Church. "we will prevail" this site is awesome for all, addicting God Bless You all. Don't let Anyone tell you are not worthy to be a child of God.

Shakayla

Monday, April 14, 2003
@ 7:18 AM

Pedophiles

My friends have a few JV:s as neighbors and even my friends dog do not want to go near their house!!!!

Max from Latvia:

Monday, April 14, 2003
@ 8:23 AM

I was JW for 10 years, worked in bethel

Thanks to people, who spend their time and power for this important work. JW and Society are not so holy like they are saying. I was working in Latvian Bethel, so i know this organization. Truth must come up!

Anonymous

Monday, April 14, 2003
@ 11:55 AM

On Watch

I'm not a JW but when I see such attack against them I feel like Matthew 24:9 is being fulfilled. You're all liars! See Isaiah 54:17.

SF

Monday, April 14, 2003
@ 4:47 PM

Don't listen to them

Jehovah's Witnesses will poison your minds then when you try to leave them you don't know where to turn. What to believe I had a strong belief in God before I met them after 3 years with them I have lost my faith completely. At least I managed to get away and have been away for nearly a year now but keep bumping in to one or two of them, they look right through you as if you don't exist. Christian I don't think so !

NN

Monday, April 14, 2003
@ 8:21 PM**On Watch**

How can anyone say, realistically, that "all" are lying. "All" is everyone. "All" is 100%. That doesn't make sense. Just think of the number of people who have posted here about their personal abuse or the abuse of family/and or friends. Their pain is so palpable, you can almost feel it yourself. You can tell they are in excruciating mental, emotional, and spiritual pain, because of what they have been through. It's not the JW's who are being attacked. The policies are under scrutiny and under fire, but not the people. I think that everyone, or almost everyone, who uses this list has a great desire to help the people, that they have deep compassion for the people. Deep caring is the bottom line of this list and a desire for justice on behalf of all the hurting people, and a desire for real, valid truth. It seems so cold to just decide that "all" these people, these human beings are lying. Also, there is more than one way to read those scriptures in Matthew and Isaiah. Who's doing the lying in court? Not the people who have been violated and them mistreated for coming forward about it. It takes a tremendous amount of courage to speak up about the things these people have been through, these anguished people, these valid, valuable human beings, who should not be told to shut up, who should not allow themselves to be controlled by the cold judgment of shallow policies. They need to be heard, they need to be taken seriously, they have been damaged enough. Enough already.

Monday, April 14, 2003
@ 11:23 PM**Some thoughts**

Please, please be kind to all the JW's who show up at your door! They are for the most part good hearted people, who genuinely believe in what they are doing. They are totally sincere. They did not create the doctrines and policies that rule their lives. They are not responsible. Pleeeeeeeze be kind. Kindness needs to work both ways. By the way, when someone makes a blanket, bald statement like, "You are all liars!" (Exclamation mark and all)-then they are being unkind, cruel, vicious even. But, there could be a number of reasons why someone would make such a flat comment. A number of reasons - - maybe even some kind of fear or anxiety, or denial. Maybe they are having a hard time facing abuse they have suffered in their own lives. Or - - maybe they are just jumping to a conclusion. Which they have offered no explanation for. But, if people just go back and forth. . . . 'Liar, liar!'. . . . 'Am not!'. . . . 'Are, too!', etc. etc. , well nobody can get anywhere with that endless cycle. If you know you are telling the truth, and God knows you are telling the truth, then, by gummy, stick to your guns, and keep talking. If someone tries to knock you down, get up, brush yourself off, and keep talking. I didn't lose my faith in God when I was no longer a JW, but I think I may have a warmer, gentler, kinder sense of Him. He is Love, the source of all Love. It's a beautiful thing, to have faith in Him.

km

Tuesday, April 15, 2003
@ 1:17 PM**i am a survivor too**

i saw the program last year on dateline NBC. I almost could not take it. I forced myself to finish watching it. This might sound strange, but it was almost comforting to know that there is someone else out there that really knows what I've been going through. Everything that was said on that program was 100% accurate. Those terrible things happened to me too. My offender was and probably still is a Presiding Overseer. I have been living with this nightmare for 38 years. However, I am finally getting the help that I need and I am healing. I thank God for organizations like yours that is willing to speak out against the atrocities that go on behind their "spiritual" walls. I truly believe there is power in numbers. I am willing to be a part of this group and also be a voice in speaking out against their "demonic" policies that only protect the offender(s) not the innocent victim. They need to continually be exposed until some sort of justice is met. Keep up the good work!!!

Kristina, Sweden

Tuesday, April 15, 2003
@ 10:09 PM**Courage**

I was moved by the Swedish investigation into child molestation in JW. As always it takes courage to show real

love and engagement. Our world need more of people like Bill Bowen and Janne Josefsson (the reporter). Do keep up the good work of being a voice for the unheard.

Wednesday, April 16,
2003
@ 7:34 PM

Helped by book

Hi, I just wanted to mention that reading the book by Diane Wilson, 'Awakening of a Jehovah's Witness. . . ' really helped me to understand a lot of things about the WTS, and I would like to recommend it to anyone trying and struggling to understand what is behind this religion and what is going on in it. It's very well written as well as informative and eye-opening, sometimes pretty shocking, too. I think, too, that this book is a real morale boost for women who may have felt demeaned at times in this religion. If your self-esteem could use a lift, this is a good book for you. You don't ever have to allow yourselves to feel 'less than. . . ', because you're not. Be yourselves, be who you are. It's a great book for former Witnesses, men and women, and should prove helpful to current Witnesses who are feeling confused and don't know where to turn. Of course, this site is an excellent place to turn to! And so is this book. Please check it out. Take care, everyone.

Thursday, April 17, 2003
@ 12:08 AM

A wise quote

Something important for all to remember: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." - Eleanor Roosevelt

Toni

Thursday, April 17, 2003
@ 8:16 AM

Thank you

I really appreciate your efforts. You are brave men. You are doing a great job. You are not only unmasking the lies of JW. You are helping us too, the exjehovas, feel better. The number of those who have been deceived and mentally abused of JW is huge. Your hard work is encouraging and inspiring. God bless you.

WATCHER

Thursday, April 17, 2003
@ 5:13 PM

HOPE

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS STORY FOR SOMETIME NOW. I AM ENCOURAGED WHEN I SEE THE INCREASING COVERAGE OF THIS SAD SITUATION. THERE IS HOPE!! CAN IMAGINE THE FRUSTRATION YOU MUST FEEL AT TIMES FIGHTING THIS GOOD FIGHT. I HAVE BEEN WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH 2 J. W. 'S AT MY PLACE OF WORK FOR SOME TIME NOW, AND WHEN I BRING UP THE SUBJECT OF MOLESTATION IN THEIR SECT I AM COUNTERED WITH BLANK STARES AND ARROGANT SMIRKS! THE LEVEL OF DENIAL IN THE FACE OF HARD FACTS IS ASTOUNDING. KEEP AT IT. . . GOD HAS YOUR BACKS.

Rich

Thursday, April 17, 2003
@ 7:28 PM

in response to someone who posted "SOME THOUGHTS". quote "Please, please be kind to all the JW's who show up at your door! They are for the most part good hearted people, who genuinely believe in what they are doing. They are totally sincere." unquote. yes i agree that everyone should be treated with respect and kindness. SOME JW's are good hearted people, and for the most part are sincere, but not totally. quote "They did not create the doctrines and policies that rule their lives." unquote. . . . i'm afraid they did. nobody can make rules and dogma expecting people to live by them, without the people accepting those rules. therefore rules and dogma are given ratification by the people that accept them. if nobody accepted these rules they just couldn't exist, same being that if nobody accepted the WTS, the WTS wouldn't exist. so JW's do create the reality of those rules that THEY CHOSE to have "rule their lives". so the onus is on JW's to become informed and to do something about it. if the result is being thrown out then so be it. jesus did not condemn the man who was thrown out of the synagogue, but asked him, "whom are you putting your faith in?"

Friday, April 18, 2003
@ 12:25 AM

Rich

That was a very reasonable post you sent. It made a lot of sense. I remember, though, years ago, when I was studying with the Witnesses, I was really impressed and amazed that they seemed to have an answer to everything, and I was so very struck by what seemed to be so 'logical' in everything they taught. So, I was easily taken in. So was my husband at the time. After just one Bible study he was convinced that he had just been introduced to the TRUTH. He's a very intelligent person, but the teachings he heard and all the 'logical', persuasive answers convinced him that, yes, this was IT. This was the true religion. Then, once taken in, 'logical' reasoning on top of 'logical' reasoning, we just knew that this was God's only true organization on earth, and everyone else was wrong, wrong, wrong. The subtle altering of our thinking grew and grew, until we were totally immersed in a new 'mind set'. Our minds were saturated in it. Some people's personalities even seem to alter somewhat with the indoctrination process. It was hard for anything else to get in. That's why it seems like people can't really be responsible, not really deep down inside, for not being open to what seems so obviously crooked to others. They just can't see it, and the WTS is going to make sure, the best it can, that they never will see it. I think they need compassion. If anyone happens to find themselves feeling any contempt for these people, I hope they can replace that contempt with compassion. I hope that more and more people learn about and turn to this site, and I hope that all that convoluted form of 'reasoning' they've been so steeped in starts unraveling. The WTS may have a lot of power over people, but they have another thing coming if they think they can beat Bill Bowen.

Steve

Friday, April 18, 2003
@ 11:12 AM**help each other heal**

I am not surprised to find that JW's have a real problem with pedophiles. I just pray that all the victims will be healed from the scars of these horrific events.

JW from sweden

Friday, April 18, 2003
@ 6:12 PM**brave**

We are some JW how fight inside to change this terrible things. We thank the brother and sisters how have the brave courage to come forward, even if they now are being demonized by our leaders. You must know that a lot of JW are on the side to try to change things, we think Jehovah is with us, and Bill Bowen. Why hide bad things, do we see that in the bible? no surely not, the bible tells every bad thing and how even kings and priests committed wrongs. That is something for our leaders to think about.

Daniel

Saturday, April 19, 2003
@ 2:19 PM**Re; JW's worst offenders than catholic church**

The word on the street, is that Jehovah's Witnesses have FOUR TIMES the 'pedophiles per capita', as the scandal scourged Catholic church. This is due in part to the, 'elder enforced code of silence'. Shame, shame, shame

Saturday, April 19, 2003
@ 3:29 PM**Thank you!!!**

Wow, progress, thanks to Bill Bowen's resolve, perseverance, resoluteness, and all kinds of other cool, big words!:) Bill Bowen, you are intrepid. You're a hero! Thank you, thank you, thank you for your unwavering commitment and dedication to see to it that justice will be done on behalf of abuse victims everywhere! You're a breath of fresh air. Oh, thank you.

Helen E. M.

Sunday, April 20, 2003
@ 12:32 AM**To Brave**

The child abuse problem though huge is only part of the cancer of this group. After many years of sole searching and research, I learned that so many lies, misrepresentations and cover ups exist, that it is better to let this group alone. This religion is not from Jehovah, nor will it ever be.

PM

Sunday, April 20, 2003
@ 2:20 AM

What have been results of court actions?

If it is true that the WTS shields pedophiles and does not cooperate with the police and other legal authorities, how come none of the court cases against the WTS have been successful? The Courts KNOW that it is WT policy to report pedophiles to the police even on the basis of only one complaint. And even if the police cannot prosecute due to lack of evidence the WTS imposes restrictions the offender as if he/she was under a restraining order. Even the courts take no such action if a case against a pedophile is not proven in court.

silentlambs

Sunday, April 20, 2003
@ 12:17 PM**Stunningly Stupid**

The comments before this post are noted as being much of the typical blind mind set of those that protect child molesters. The evidence of abuse in JW's has been well established on this website and around the world. All cases are moving forward in the courts with Watchtower spending millions hiring attorneys all over the country to try to keep these cases "motioned" out of court. For a typical case it is three years to get to court, eight years for a final judgment. So we would encourage those who are impatient to "wait on Jehovah" as in due time the "Superior Authorities" are being directed to administer justice to those that have created a policy to hurt children and tried to lie their way out of it. silentlambs

Sunday, April 20, 2003
@ 3:34 PM**PM**

Many of the court cases have been successful. Look at this web site and you will see some court transcripts. There are other cases against the WT going on as we speak. There are lawyers that specialize in child abuse within a religion. They won many cases against the WT.

Sunday, April 20, 2003
@ 3:53 PM**Re: A brother walked out**

It was stated during the Watchtower study this man attended that the WTS has been exonerated of all charges, but did they say who exonerated the organization, when, where, or how? What is the evidence of this exonerated? Where is the proof? Exonerated? I think there is an explanation from the WTS due here. Proof, please?

vjb

Sunday, April 20, 2003
@ 6:21 PM**thanks**

as a former JW i reported a case of attempted child molestation by a father with his daughter . as you have brought out the elders did nothing. thanks for all your work to help all the abused children. Let's hope that your work will keep other's from being abused. keep up the good work.

Kenneth

Monday, April 21, 2003
@ 4:14 PM**Your website**

After having communication with another person in regards to the problem within the Jehovah Witness religion, I took some time and came to your site. I've previously read excerpts in regards to the pedophilia cover up that has taken place within the organization but had not reviewed your site in depth until today. First of all I want to commend you for your work. I realize that it took a lot of soul searching to chose the route that you did but I'm sure that your comfortable with that ultimate decision and the help that you've been able to gain for the children who so badly need it. I've taken the time to include a link to your site on mine in an effort to assist you. Hopefully this will be acceptable to you. This link can be viewed at: <http://hometown.aol.com/cork51/page3.html> Keep up the good work. I know it can be quite taxing and stressful at times but I've found that the rewards are unbelievable when the children gain from it. REMEMBER: EDUCATION IS THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST THE EPIDEMIC OF PEDOPHILIA

Di

Monday, April 21, 2003
@ 7:46 PM

'nice people'

Be careful about being too quick to say that 'JWs are nice people'. Of course, there's all the business about them being totally concerned with their 'image' that could make one question any thin impressions one may get from them. But more than that, it's not a 'hidden' reality that JWs are expected to martyr their children - and to encourage their own children to martyr themselves - when push comes to shove between the doctrines of their faith and the lives of their children. And for those who are not parents, they are fully expected to support their fellow JWs in this sacrifice of children. No, it doesn't matter to me whatever else JWs are or do. They will NEVER be 'nice people' in my book. At some point, EVERY JW holds a belief or takes a stand on this issue. Is there anything that could possibly matter more?

arlene

Monday, April 21, 2003
@ 8:32 PM

abused

For as long as I can remember my uncle molested me and come to find out he had also molested several of the other family members. He also was an elder of the congregation. He got off scott free. When the elders were told our family became the congregation trash and of course it was the victims fault. No one can really understand how devastating this is unless you have lived it. It will haunt you for the rest of your life. You never know if you can really trust anyone and you are always watch over your shoulder. If anyone wants to know what congregation it was, it was Springdale Ar.

Anna-Maria

Tuesday, April 22, 2003
@ 4:23 AM

Leaving JW was the best thing I ever done

I'm 29 years old from Sweden. My mum is a JW, I was born into the religion. (My father was not a JW). Mum raised me by herself because they divorced. My father is now dead. I was forced to go to meetings, go in field service and so on. I cried and tried to get away but then mum punished me. I was badly beaten, sometimes I had to starve. Mum often sent me to bed hungry because I had been "bad" on meetings. I struggled against her and the rest of the JW:s we knew. When I was only 5-6 years old I started to say that I didn't want to become a JW, I want to live a normal life. My life was a nightmare until I reached the age of 13. Mum tried to beat me up again and I hit her back. Then she got scared and left me alone. There were others just like me in the congregation, kids who just wanted to leave and was looking forward to when they would leave home. I hated everything about the religion, I never believed anything they said. I was only 6 when I first said that it was crap. I hated go door to door, and I get upset when JW:s says that they never force their kids out to preach. I was forced and so was 3 more kids in our congregation. None of us are JW:s today. We supported each other and tried to comfort each other. Not one person outside JW cared to ask me if I was ok, if I really wanted to be a JW. I had no friends in school because they hated me, they said that I was sick and insane. Yes I know there are kids who like this religion and want to become JW:s, fine so become one, but remember that there are kids who don't want to be a JW. I suffered a lot I think its crazy that nobody seems to care about the kids who are forced into JW and other sects. Mum told me what to say if anyone asked if I really wanted to go door to door. She told me that I would answer: "Yes, I love to go door to door, that's the best thing I know". I told mum that it wasn't true, I didn't like it at all. Then she started to beat me until I repeated what she had said. So there I was at peoples doors, when they asked if I liked to preach I always answered yes. But I wanted to say "Please help me"! instead. . . Nice people, hmm, not the JW:s I know. They always show you a nice face, but do you know what's behind that false smile? My mum still go out door to door and people find her so nice and polite, what if they knew that she almost beat her own child to death because she didn't want to live by the JW rules?? I wonder if they would find her so nice if they knew what she has done. The program on swedish tv was very good, I was not molested myself, but a boy in our congregation was. The elders told the family to be silent, or else they would be punished for gossip. Its so great that this site exists, people should know that everything in JW isn't good. In my town there is a woman who walks around and tell people how they should live their lives, but she would never admit that she is a cruel monster, that woman is my mum. Kids in JW are being beat up too, many of us was, I think that must come into the light as well as the sexual abuse.

Tuesday, April 22, 2003
@ 3:05 PM

Leaving JW's . . . best thing

The post from Anna Maria brought a few things to my mind from the past. I remember seeing a woman drag her daughter (who looked to be anywhere from six to eight years old) into the restroom (this was at a circuit assembly), slam her against the wall, then proceed to spank her in from of everyone in the restroom. Another time after a meeting at a Kingdom Hall (there were still several people around) an elder picked up his five year

old granddaughter and paddled the daylight out of her in front of everyone. Everyone seemed to take this in stride. A couple of times I have witnessed parents spank one year old children, not swat, spank hard! Not only were these children physically punished, severely, but, they were 'disciplined' this way in public. So, they were also PUBLICALLY HUMILIATED! It makes you sick. Witnesses are encouraged to spank children. Children don't get to be children. From a very young age they are "taught" (guess how) to sit like little automatons at meetings, quietly, like little caricatures of adults. And then their are children, who decide when they are not really at an appropriate age of maturity to make such decisions, to get baptized. This means that if they come to the awakening later (and may still be kids, teenagers) that they made a premature choice that they have to suffer the consequences by being marked or disfellowshipped. All these things and some other things I remember. Like the young, educated, very, very talented bride who was told in her wedding talk that she would not "be known", that it was her husband who would "be known", while I am sitting there thinking that I thought it was Jehovah who was supposed to be known. There's more. Many people could think of examples of things that didn't make sense, or seemed really 'off', or cruel while they were members of this religion. Whew. I am really sorry for what Anna Maria and other children have gone through at the hands of this religion.

Tuesday, April 22, 2003
@ 10:44 PM

Truth and freeness

If the truth is supposed to set you free, then why have there been so many Jehovah's Witnesses who have believed their religion is the truth, yet they have found themselves feeling suppressed, repressed, oppressed - - and ultimately depressed? If Jesus said his yoke is light and not a burden, then why have so many people truly believing they have the truth, felt so controlled and apprehensive about maybe saying and doing the wrong things, because of potential consequences for acting - - free? All those rules and policies are a burden, all the should's and should not's, all the supposed to's and not supposed to's. Is that the freedom within that 'truth'?

Anna-Maria

Wednesday, April 23,
2003
@ 2:04 AM

answer to post 101

Thank you for your compassion. Here in Sweden many JW:s claims that no JW are violent to their kids, its just a big lie. I was often told that I lied, when I was still living at home and tried to get help. Even JW:s who never even knew me as a child are accusing me for lies on the Swedish exJW sites I visit. But it doesn't bother me anymore, because I know how they are "trained" to fight against us evil apostates. My mum and her friends used to exchange advices about spanking, its horrible but true. They said that it was best to beat us with belts, or sticks from the forest. (I don't know the word, but I hope you understand) My mum has told me that what she did was wrong, but she only wanted me to become a good witness. (!!!) I don't think that beating the truth into a child is a good way. A person who becomes a witness because he is scared and forced, how can that be good? Now I'm an adult and I'm a very kind and gentle person. Mum sure taught me that violence is wrong, I have never in my whole life hurt another person or animal, I know that love, understanding and compassion is the right way. After the program on Swedish TV, JW:s over here are very busy telling everyone that it was just a lie, and that the persons who told their stories about being abused just did it to harm JW. I asked a JW about the evidences in some cases, (DNA) then she didn't know what to say. Its great that the world now knows about the abuse in JW, I think it would be good if media also wrote about how they encourage beating. Take care all of you, love from Anna-Maria

AL

Wednesday, April 23,
2003
@ 7:46 AM

overlooked

I have visited you site a couple of times after watching dateline and the fifth estate, and wrote my personal story which by anyone's standards was shocking and resulting in death, but never heard back from you even though I asked for advice, so I am concluding that although you may have been properly motivated in the beginning, you have become caught up in the hype and have forgotten your original purpose

silentlamb

Wednesday, April 23,
2003
@ 12:24 PM

Your comment

I do not know to what you are referring, the guestbook is anonymous. I suggest you resend your email and we will be glad to assist. silentlambs

Darryl

Wednesday, April 23,
2003
@ 7:34 PM

Amazing!!!

I looked at your site and I find it amazing what the JW's have been getting away with. I hope that some people in authority will wake up and do something about the JW's sheltering child molesters. Maybe it will take being hit hard in the wallet to stop this. Who knows? God bless you, Darryl

Saturday, April 26, 2003
@ 12:20 PM

Mormon policy

I wonder if the media will address the pedophilia issue in the Mormon religion, too. I hope so! My impression from what I've heard and read is that they may not have been dealing with this problem appropriately, either. Do they a similar policy to the WTS's?

tuga

Saturday, April 26, 2003
@ 3:16 PM

we are with you!

those monsters that are still abusing and abused have to pay! as long as those who hide and protect them. . . this has to stop! there are a lot of JW that wants to be part of something good, something that pleases God! thank you for your fight. . . may God help you. . .

E. M

Saturday, April 26, 2003
@ 5:37 PM

I'M NOT ALONE ANYMORE

I am so glad I found your website. I was abused by my father as a child. He held the positions of both ministerial servant and elder. I fought a long and hard battle with the congregation elders resulting in being disfellowshipped. In 2001 the case went to crown court and he was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment. This seemed to make my ordeal so minimal and still the witnesses stood by him and still do. I am still very much lost and still have a lot of healing ahead of me, but I still have faith that God will help me, a God who sees all the injustice that so many witness children have been through and I hope we will all see true justice in the end. With love to all the survivors out there. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday, April 26, 2003
@ 11:45 PM

Child Molesters are NOT accepted in the JW religion. Jehovah does not view those individuals as his acceptable. There are many child molesters in this world, and trying to point fingers and saying that the ministry consists of many of them, is completely inaccurate. Yes, there may be cases where a child molester is part of a congregation, but those may be Jehovah's Witnesses by title, and not in truth. There are so many misconceptions, so maybe it's time to be a little less narrow-minded and stop putting the blame on one religion. Child molestation is not only a problem of one religion, it's full scope problem that should be dealt in society as a whole, not just one organization. Also, they do not encourage spanking of their children (as stated below).

M

Saturday, April 26, 2003
@ 11:57 PM

I have been studying and attending meetings with Jehovah's Witnesses. There really are some amazing people that are in the truth. They are some of the most loving, caring, and kind people I have ever met. Yes, perhaps there are those few bad apples, but maybe to make things a little less biased, people should hear about all the great things they do every day. They don't go to your door to solicit for money, they go servicing so that people will have the chance to know God and the bible. Is that really such a terrible thing??

DM

Sunday, April 27, 2003
@ 7:45 AM

Not small problem

For those Jehovah's Witnesses who think the abuse problem is a minor deal I invite you to look at the right corner of the main Silentlambs page. 23,720 cases of child abuse are on file at Watchtower. That's not small, it's epidemic.

G R

Sunday, April 27, 2003
@ 4:59 PM

Misunderstandings

I am sure that there are many, many very kind, loving, and caring people who are Jehovah's Witnesses. (There are many, many kind, loving, and caring people in all religions and walks of life, I think. Most of the people I've come into contact with in my life have been good, decent, and very nice people. I truly believe that most people are really nice, and it really is rewarding to look for the best in people, to see their positive attributes. Of course, they have flaws; who doesn't? It's all part of being human, and we are all in that boat together.) I believe they do most likely go door to door, because they want to help people, because they care. These people, though, they are not being attacked. It's the way the WTS handles abuse issues, pedophilia issues. Unfortunately, there are not just a "few bad apples" who have filtered into the JW religion. There are many pedophiles spread around the world in this religion. Yes, not just the JW religion - - there are probably many pedophiles throughout many religious affiliations, and I hope that they are dealing with the situation appropriately. If they are not, then I hope and pray with all my heart that the problem comes to light to the media, just as it has with the Catholic religion and with the JW religion. The pedophilia issue is RAMPANT, among people of all faiths, and people with no religious affiliations. The point is, it needs to be addressed wherever it is found. And appropriately dealt with. I find it very difficult to feel any respect for the 'leaders' of ANY religion, who have been, or are, trying to pull the wool over people's eyes in one way or another, whether it is through denial, evasion, lying, rationalizing, or whatever. I could feel great respect for them and admire them if they were honest and up front about the pedophilia issue and other kinds of abusive situations. It takes courage to come forward about problems like this. Not being straight, honest, and forthright is sly and devious. Trying to get away with cover ups is unethical and cowardly. How could that be in any respected. How can 'leaders' like that be TRUSTED? Where is their compassion? Not just for the victims, but for the perpetrators? The pedophiles are not being helped by these cover ups. Many mental health professionals (No, not all, that's true. I guess the 'why' of pedophilia is controversial even among them.) believe that pedophiles have a sickness. The pedophiles are not being helped by the WTS's policy on abuse. They probably do need professional help. What pedophiles do is not normal, is not natural. So, something is obviously wrong with the way they perceive children, something is obviously wrong with the way they think, and something is most definitely wrong in how they feel toward children. It couldn't be more apparent. People going to the police about their children being molested actually could be the best thing to do for the perpetrators. At any rate, when the children are not getting the protection and help they need, and the pedophiles are being sheltered somehow by the 'powers that be', something is grossly wrong. Certain policy changes would be for the great benefit of Jehovah's Witnesses everywhere, most certainly not against them. These changes would help them. These changes are extremely necessary. And, no, not just in the JW faith, that is so true. But, the abuse issue most certainly does need to be addressed and correctly dealt with. That's the reality. A pedophile can't be helped by pussyfooting around with him (or her, in some cases). It sure doesn't do the victims any good. Children are supposed to be protected, to feel completely secure in the knowledge that they will be taken care of and protected. All children. Everywhere.

Billee

Sunday, April 27, 2003
@ 8:08 PM

finally someone speaks out

I spent my childhood under the stifling hands of the elders. I too spoke of the abuse from my stepfather and was reproached by the elders, told that it as my fault, that I was an evil child. Tears ran down my face as I watched "suffer the Little Children. It is healing to my soul to know that finally it is being spoken of. All I want to hear next is "Suffer the Elders to there own Fate. " Nothing good will ever come to these children as long as the abusers maintain all the power.

ARoarer

Sunday, April 27, 2003
@ 10:11 PM

So Proud of You, Bill

Hi Bill, I just stopped in to let you know how proud I and my family are of you, knowing all that you have been

through since the beginning and all you have accomplished since then for victims within Watchtower. In the days we were going through the trauma of abuse issues, court issues, and the hurtful treatment by WT elders at direction of Headquarters, abandonment of friends and family, you helped to give us a voice when they were trying to silence us. Our prayers are with you and all the victim/survivors you continue to help. Our love to you and Sheila. Aroarer

NB.

Monday, April 28, 2003
@ 4:44 AM

To Good Lord:

Pls. read Rom. 2:1. 3:4.

Anna-Maria

Monday, April 28, 2003
@ 7:21 AM

how dare you call me a liar!!

For you who wrote that JW not encourage spanking, how dare you call me a liar?? I have evidence, photos which show how I looked like after mum beat me. How dare you spit in my face like this?? You have never met me, nor the persons in our congregation. They exchanged advices of how to beat in the most effective way. Your post just gives me one more evidence about how blind JW:s are. People like you would just look the other way if a child was beaten or raped. Some JW:s I know saw how I was treated, but today they claim that it never happened. Because that is the easiest thing for them to do. They are all cowards in that congregation. How dare they talk about love, when they don't give a s**t about abused children. I can't understand how someone who don't know me and never even seen me can say here that I'm wrong. It's like I would sit here in Sweden and say that John Lennon wasn't murdered, he killed himself. And even if people who actually saw him get shot would try to tell me I'm wrong, I would still go on with the same crap. That's insane. But I want you to know, that you can't break me down. No matter how hard you try I will stand strong. I survived my childhood, and today I'm a young woman who is strong and free. Some JW:s are very disappointed about that. They have spread a rumor about me, but I don't care, and that makes them talk even more about me. Just go on, tell me I'm a liar, but I remember every beating I got during 13 years of hell. Finally, there are some JW:s here in Sweden who have admit that spanking children was encouraged. The organization taught them that beating a child was a good way to raise them to good JW:s. I hope a person like you never get children yourself, because what will you do if a JW abuses them? Nothing! You make me sick!

Monday, April 28, 2003
@ 2:18 PM

Profile of a pedophile

Here is an important site for all to check out: <http://www.mental-health-matters.com/articles/article.php?artID=273>

Monday, April 28, 2003
@ 4:58 PM

Corroboration

Whoa there, Anna-Maria. :) I remember years ago hearing a few talks given to the congregation, in which people were counseled to spank their children. Maybe this isn't done anymore, I don't know, but I want to back you up in your stating that JW's are encouraged to 'discipline' through spankings. The bathrooms at Kingdom Halls were (I don't know if they still are.) often used to punish children. Of course, there were/are JW parents who prefer to use different methods to teach, train, and guide their children, but for the most part, I recall parents using corporal punishment, at the approval of JW's in general. Again, this is based on memories from years back, so I can't speak for how the discipline issue with children is viewed now. Anyway, Anna-Maria, take a deep breath and relax. You are not a liar. Hang in there, and take very good, nurturing care of yourself.

SM

Tuesday, April 29, 2003
@ 12:02 PM

A TRUE WINESS

PLEASE, stop judging Jehovah's Witnesses by the way some people act. I am a true witness. I have been one for 18 years and I will never change. I try my hardest to serve God in a clean and honest way. I have never molested a child in my life. If you speak bad about them, then you are speaking bad about the millions of others who truly do dedicate their lives to helping people. This is SO very wrong. Sure, there are wolves in our organization who

pretend to be lambs, but those who have good intentions out-number them tremendously. This religion is no different from any other in that way because in every congregation someone is fake, but I guarantee you that we "JWs" want the best.

DK

Tuesday, April 29, 2003
@ 12:07 PM

STOP

YOU DON'T KNOW US SO DON'T JUDGE US! SOME PEOPLE MAKE MISTAKES, JUST LIKE SOME DO IN YOUR RELIGION. NO RELIGION IS PERFECT. MOST OF US ARE GOOD PEOPLE. STOP JUDGING US BY WHAT THE BAD ONES DO.

LK

Tuesday, April 29, 2003
@ 8:50 PM

RESPONSE TO STOP & A TRUE WITNESS

Did anyone else notice that the two previous comments posted by Jehovah's Witnesses were obviously more concerned about their image rather than helping and encouraging the poor victims of child abuse. What is the WTS trying to do to help these victims? Are they printing info in the watchtower to make other JWs aware of the victims and to show their support for the victims? Or are they starting a fund to help assist the victims? Or are they doing anything whatsoever to show the victims they care? Or are they simply trying to protect their image? Aren't the answers obvious. NO doubt most JW's try to live by good principles like any other person in this world, but where is your compassion and true love for the broken hearted? Especially the ones broken down by your organization and all the procedural guidelines from the governing body that the Elders are required to follow to a T, that are not biblical. You say that millions of "true Jehovah's Witnesses" are dedicating their lives to helping people. But what happens when these people experience true hardship like abuse? How are you helping them? How are you helping the millions of silent lambs (in any organization or the entire world period) out there? What are you resolving to do from the true agape from your heart to help real victims? Please feel free to let us know or work with us to help protect the silent lambs.

Tuesday, April 29, 2003
@ 8:54 PM

Misinterpreting

Please understand, you are not being judged. What silentlambs is trying to do is have the policy regarding how to deal with the pedophilia issue changed. The way things have been going has been hurting the victims. If the policy is changed, it will be for the great good of Jehovah's Witnesses. It will work for you, not against you. Pedophilia is a rampant problem. It isn't just a few people here and there. It's a widespread problem. Yes, it is true that it is going on in other religions. It is just as serious a problem in the Mormon religion as it is in the Jehovah's Witnesses. There are all kinds of abuse issues going on in the Amish religion. If it seems to Jehovah's Witnesses that they have been unfairly singled out, it is because people are not stepping forward in their own religions, as Bill Bowen has, not as strongly and unswervingly as Bill Bowen has in the Jehovah's Witnesses. He did this because he cares about people and wants to help them. He did this at great cost to himself. I hope that people in other religions will be inspired by Bill Bowen and the victims, who have all courageously spoken up, no matter what might happen to them for doing so, and be motivated to stand up and speak up, speak out about the pedophilia and any other kind of abuse that is going on in their religions. Pedophilia is a crime, it's a crime, and it needs to be dealt with appropriately, in the Jehovah's Witnesses, in other religions, in any walk of life. It is urgent that pedophilia be correctly handled. It is a crime, very possibly committed by people with mental illnesses. Pedophiles need to be placed in the hands of professionals, professionals in the mental health field and professionals in the field of law enforcement. Bringing pedophilia to the forefront and to people's attention is a good thing if it is not being taken care of in the right manner, if it is not being reported to the proper authorities. It is not an attack against you. It is bringing an unreasonable policy to light and having it exposed, and exposed, and exposed until something positive and constructive is done about it. You are not being attacked as a people. Please don't read things into what silentlambs and the media are trying to do. Put a stop to pedophilia, an end to a policy that does not work, is not working, and is harming the victims, possibly for the rest of their lives. Abuse, be it mental, emotional, physical, spiritual, whatever, needs to be exposed, so it can be taken care of. If it is not, it will never go away. Covering it up will not make it go away. It is still there. It is not chalk on a blackboard. It cannot be erased. What is, is. Period. Pedophilia, rampant pedophilia, is a fact. If it is covered up, it is still a fact. A fact is a fact. There are, by the way, many Witnesses who would like to see a policy change regarding pedophilia. It's a crime.