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Brought to you by AAWA – THE Advocates for Awareness of Watchtower Abuses

## A Word From The Top

Dear AAWA volunteers and supporters,

It is a great honor for me to chat with you in this first issue of The Sparlockian Voice, AAWA's official newsletter. Sharing our story in this kind of format every month is something that I am very excited about. I'm also very grateful to Tommy and Renee for making it happen.

I believe that AAWA is going to become an effective and loud voice, if I have anything to say about it, against the Watchtower. In a few

months we have grown from a thought into what you see today. We started as an idea and now we are a not-for-profit corporation with specific goals and hundreds of volunteers teaming up to be the voice for those people still trapped inside the walls of the Tower!

Some of you who read this newsletter might not be volunteers in AAWA, but instead you have decided that you want to support our cause in other ways. And that is great! AAWA needs lots of supporters to get

information and ideas that we might never think of. So a large supporter base is necessary to make our organization most effective.

I personally joined AAWA because I have people inside the cult that I would love to see free of the mind control. I want to make noise in the world about all the troubles that this printing company in Brooklyn makes for millions of people around the world. I could have decided to fight alone....

**(Continued on back page)**

## Look What I Can Do....

*This will be a regular feature highlighting examples of what Ex-JWs have accomplished outside of the Watchtower control. Things they desired to do, but peer pressure, and fear of shunning would've held you back from doing while under their influence ....Enjoy!*

### A Runner's Thoughts

Renee's Story

Breath in, left foot, right foot, left foot, right foot, breath out...

Sun, fresh air, I can feel

my lungs, my legs have a mind of their own. Maybe I should slow down. Hell no! Go faster. Make your lungs burn.

Blue skies. Birds flying free. Freedom. Wow, I'm free. What have I done the past couple years that I didn't feel free to do before?

I became my own competitor. Man, I love running. I love swimming. I love biking. I love races! How many races have I done? I don't know but they were all fun.

Pushing my body to see what it can do. 5k's, 10k's, Half Marathons too (13.1 miles), Marathon (26.2 miles), the Warrior Dash which was totally fun! Running thru mud, jumping over fire, climbing s...stuff. What else?

The Merrell Down and Dirty. Running that again this year. That Chicago Urbanathlon was fun too. Did that twice.

Hmmm...what else? The Splash & Dash and duathlons. ....

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## How the Watchtower Distorts Facts and Builds Fear

Tommy Gunz

WT quotes are taken from their own publications so as not to be “out of context”

**Watchtower (2006 9/15) wrote:**

*“A Beginning of Pangs of Distress”*

*“Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom,” said Jesus, “and there will be food shortages and earthquakes in one place after another.” He added: “All these things are a beginning of pangs of distress.”(Matthew 24:7, 8) Let us examine “these things” individually.*

*Vast numbers of people were slain in wars and ethnic disputes during the past century. “Three times as many people fell victim to war in [the 20th] century as in all the wars from the first century AD to 1899,” states a scholarly report from the Worldwatch Institute. In his book Humanity—A Moral History of the Twentieth Century, Jonathan Glover writes: “An estimate for the period from 1900 until 1989 is that war killed 86 million people.... Death in twentieth-century war has been on a scale which is hard to grasp. Any averaging out of the numbers of deaths is artificial, since about two-thirds (58 million) were killed in the two world wars. But, if these deaths had been spread evenly over the period, war would have killed around 2,500 people every day, that is over 100 people an hour, round the clock, for ninety years.” Can you imagine the grief and pain this must have caused the millions of relatives and friends of those who lost their lives?*

### FEAR MONGERING –

YES, war is terrible! However, the God of the Israelites and the God of the JW’s sanctioned a “Get off my lawn genocide” at the hand of Joshua when the Israelites invaded “their land” starting with Jericho.

Now without checking the exact numbers in the Watchtower above to see if they are exaggerated or not (it matters not to my argument here), let’s look at some real numbers for the beginning of the 21st Century

Since 2001, coalition forces in Afghanistan have lost a total of 2753 lives. In Iraq since 2003, they have lost a total of 4795. This has been the first 11 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. (See <http://icasualties.org/>)

Now adding in estimates of all loss of life during this conflict, we get about a million total or 100,000 per year. (See <http://unknownnews.org/casualties.html> )

Let’s compare that to some historic battles where in one day, more died.

Not to mention the atomic bomb like crushing of Jericho, shortly afterward in Ai, the Bible says that 12,000 lost their lives in one day (Joshua 8:25) Compare that to the 7548 coalition forces in the Middle East over the last decade. And Joshua and his soldiers were just getting started. How many men did Gideon and his 300 men take out in one day?

Let’s look at Samson: Day 1 with a jawbone 1000 men killed (Judges 15); Day 2 he killed 3000+ when he brought down the house (Judges 16 only counts the 3000 who were on the roof not those inside so I do not want to exaggerate here). 2 days in the life of the hairy one and 4000+ killed.

How about the angel of Jehovah? (2Kings 19:35) *And it came about on that night that the angel of Jehovah proceeded to go out and strike down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. When people rose up early in the morning, why, there all of them were dead carcasses”*

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*“Let’s look at Samson...  
Two days in the life of  
the hairy one and 4000+  
killed....”*



## Continued . . . How the Watchtower Distorts Facts and Builds Fear

Now let's look at some non-Biblical war:

**The Battle of Marathon 490 BC** -between the Greeks and Persian Empire. On that one day, an estimated 6600 died on both sides.

**Gettysburg** - Approximately 7,500 to 8,000 "official" deaths were recorded at Gettysburg, but some historians have raised that figure substantially after reviewing casualty lists by name. Many of the missing were almost certainly killed. The actual death tolls may be 4,000 to 5,000 for the Union and 6,000 to 7,000 for the Confederacy.

**World War 1** saw over 8.5 MILLION soldiers die between 1914-1918. With a period in 1918 known as The 100 Days Offensive between August 8 to November 11, 1918 that claimed 1,855,369 total casualties

And then **WW2** 1939-1945 - Civilians killed totaled from 40 to 52 million, including 13 to 20 million from war-related disease and famine. Total military dead: from 22 to 25 million, including deaths in captivity of about 5 million prisoners of war.

But since then??? The numbers have been going down - NOT UP - as the Watchtower would like you to believe.

**Korean Conflict** 1950-54 - most sources estimate some 2,000,000 killed

**Vietnam** – while the US suffered 52,000 lives, the actual number of North and South Vietnamese is not known for sure, but going with high estimates, let's say 5 Million (over 20+ years).

Now compare that to WW2's est. 75 million over 6 years and you get 12.5 million deaths per year in WW2 and only ¼ million deaths per year of conflict in Vietnam. So the numbers are going down (while the population keeps increasing, thus further reducing the ratio of deaths contributed to war in the last 60 years+.

### WAR DEATHS PER YEARS RATIO AND % of WORLD POPULATION

**1945** – WW2 – 12.5 million/yr. (0.489% 1950 population)

**1954** – Korea – 500,000/yr. (0.019% 1950 pop)

**1975** – Vietnam 250,000/yr. (0.006% 1970 pop)

**2011** – Middle East 100,000/yr. (0.00146% 2010 pop)

So in actuality, not only are the number of deaths and casualties from war steadily DECREASING, put compared to the world's increasing population, they are almost non-existent.

You see, the Watchtower wants you to think that things are worse than what they actually are. Why? So that they can control you by you putting your full trust into them. It's called fear mongering

The publishers of the Watchtower seem to forget another important text in the Holy Scriptures: "For everything there is a season..... a time for war, and a time for peace." (Ecclesiastes 3.1-8.)

This is only the beginning of an expose on JW fear mongering and twisting of facts to suit their needs.

### Fear Mongering

"...the use of fear to influence the opinions and actions of others towards some specific end. The feared object or subject is sometimes exaggerated, and the pattern of fear mongering is usually one of repetition, in order to continuously reinforce the intended effects of this tactic, sometimes in the form of a vicious circle" - Wikipedia

**Tommy Gunz** is the nom de plume of a real person who is a professional writer in his business life. He was co-editor of this first version of the AAWA newsletter. He spent 35 yrs. of his life as a JW and the last 5 of those as a Ministerial Servant.



Artwork by Taylor Milligan

### Fear Mongering

*"the use of fear to influence the opinions and actions of others towards some specific end."*



## Meme of the Month

### Say WHAT???

*"In what year, then, would the first 6,000 years of man's existence and also the first 6,000 years of Gods rest day come to an end? The year 1975. It means that within a relatively few years we will witness the fulfillment of the remaining prophecies that have to do with the "time of the end."*

~ **Awake! 1966 Oct 8**  
pp.19-20.

I don't want to brag or anything, but this is like the fifth end of the world I've survived.



**ROTTENCARDS** USER CARD

So just how many "ends of the world" are there? Most people know about 1914, 1925 and 1975, but there are so many its mind boggling. For a complete study with references, see <http://jwfacts.com/watchtower/1800s.php>

Apparently (according to the Watchtower Society), *WE* are the ones that are "mentally diseased" - not those who actually published the wrong dates.

## Jim Moon's Annual 4th of July BBQ for Ex JW's

by Renee Seisler

July 4th in rural eastern Pennsylvania, USA you will find smiling faces, hearts full of joy, stomachs full of great food, happiness, excitement, children playing, a lot of laughter, and feelings of mutual freedom. The Ex Jehovah's Witness community have a lot of stories and funny experiences to share with each other.

Who is responsible for bringing all of these wonderful emotions together?

Jim Moon was baptized as a

Jehovah's Witness (JW) back on July 4th, 1975. Each year for the past several years, he holds a backyard barbecue celebrating his independence from the JW's. Ex JW's come from all over to share this event with him. Last year close to 100 people attended. This year the same number, if not more, are expected to attend!

For those arriving before the 4th, a pre-party mixer is planned for the evening of July 3rd at the Beverly Hills Tavern. The Ex JW's in town will enjoy great food, fun and entertainment at this establishment. The day after

the BBQ it's a tradition to take a caravan of people to Shady Maple Smorgasbord, a famous buffet heaped with the finest of authentic Pennsylvania Dutch cooking. People travel from all over the country to visit this popular premier restaurant.

"Come celebrate my 33rd year of freedom from the Witnesses, and bring your friends! Who knows? Maybe some day the BBQ will get so big we'll have to rent out Yankee Stadium!" - Jim Moon

*Read about Jim Moon's Fourth of July Picnic in our next newsletter. Several AAWA associates and supporters plan to attend, including a couple of our advisory board members. Read about it in our August 2013 newsletter available July 25<sup>th</sup>!*



## “It’s Greek to me...”

We hear a lot of terms used and thrown about on the Internet and even in everyday speech that we really don’t understand. Frequently we can get the basic idea from reading the surrounding material. But why don’t the writers just use words that make it easy to understand?

### Cognitive Dissonance [Cog-ni-tive Diss-o-nance]

*Cognitive Dissonance* is the internal discomfort felt by individuals when two ideas, beliefs or values are in conflict with each other based on principles that are ingrained in your mind.

Basically it’s like adding 2+2 and coming up with 6 because an “authority” told you that you should end up with “6.” If you trust one “authority” over others (like basic math, years of schooling, and your own practical

experience) that tell you that the answer should be “4,” you might experience internal conflict and even great mental stress. “Cognitive dissonance” will make you either ignore the weakest authority in your mind or force you to justify your actions by thinking something like “well, I didn’t want it to equal 4 anyway, and 6 is more, so that result is better”.

How is this important to the Sparlockian Army? For years we were conditioned to believe that whatever fact, date or prophecy that the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (or whichever of the various names and bodies that they use for deflection) always tells us “the absolute truth,” and whatever is in conflict of their truth “is from Satan and his world.” Therefore, we (and those who are now current JW’s) would

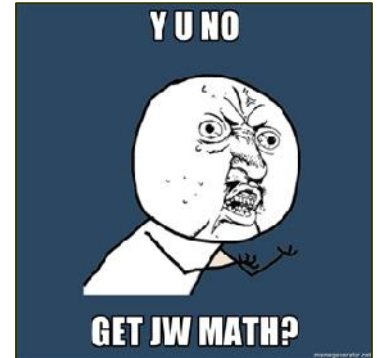
experience internal stress or “cognitive dissonance” whenever the “Society” would tell us a “truth” that was in direct conflict with what we knew to be natural and true.

For example: “Truths” like shunning being “a loving thing.” Or, how about “the generation that saw 1914 would never die”? Or, that an organization that consistently misquoted God’s word and had been forced to make corrections again and again with “new light” - and yet can still be “considered by Jehovah as the most qualified to speak for Him.” It just goes on and on...

Avoid stress and internal conflict and just “go with your gut.” There’s a reason it knows better. Oh, and by the way...

**2+2 is ALWAYS 4**

(Original by Tommy Gunz)



**Remember –  
There is No Zero year!**




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*“Cognitive Dissonance is the internal discomfort felt by individuals when two ideas, beliefs or values are in conflict with each other based on principles that are ingrained in your mind.”*

## AAWA

is committed to meeting its two key objectives:

### ONE

Raising awareness both within and outside the Watchtower Society about its damaging beliefs and practices

### TWO

Assisting those who wish to leave the organization by providing resources for them to get the help and support they need

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.AAWA.co](http://www.AAWA.co)

## Continued ...Look What I Can Do

...This year I will become a triathlete. That sponsorship was fun. Free running socks from that company was cool. Did that for two years.

Awesome. But was nice to take a break from that.

By end of this year I will entertain new sponsors. But for now I feel so free. Jehovah's Witness. Ugh! They didn't like me doing these races. Always asking me "Where were you this morning? We missed you in field service." Or saying to me, "Saw that you ran that race, you should have been sitting at the

Kingdom Hall listening to the public talk." I used to scream in my head at them, "Stop telling me what to do. Leave me alone!"

I'm never going back! I'm free now. I'm so much happier.

Breath in, left foot, right foot, left foot, right foot, breath out....

*Renee Siesler is a real person- a happily married mother who left the JW organization last year. She is co-editor of this newsletter and always smiling.*

*If there is something that you are proud of or accomplished since you've left the JW organization, something you never could have done while in then please share it with us*



## Continued... A Word From The Top

...But to get things done, many people must come together and stand united!

We must move forward like a huge army! We must fight for what we believe is right! And we have the vehicle to do it... AAWA!

We are AAWA.... and without all of our skilled and talented volunteers

there would be no AAWA! Enjoy our first issue of the newsletter, with many more follow.

Sincerely, Bo

*Bo Juel Jensen has emerged as an articulate campaigner against the Watchtower's mishandling of child abuse. He is a founding member of the AAWA advisory board.*

Read more about Bo at:

<http://wp.me/p1TWXJ-AJ>



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Advocates for Awareness of Watchtower Abuses