

LETTERS TO MY JEHOVAH'S WITNESS FRIEND 1

I have a friend. She is a Jehovah's Witness. And between April 25th and July 24th of 2005 I communicated with her by email. The purpose was to develop a relationship with her and to present the truths of the Bible to her. I want to share these letters with you over the next twelve months. I believe that they can help you when God gives you the opportunity to speak to the "Witness" at your door, or to a family member, or to a friend.

In the beginning of each of these letters, I was friendly and chatty. I wanted her to know that I cared about her and prayed for her. But I was also concerned about her spiritual well being. As a Jehovah's Witness, she does not believe that Jesus is God the Son who died for us so that we could have eternal life. She believes that Jesus is Michael the Archangel whom God created. Her hope for eternal life is based on her works of faithfulness to "Jehovah" and "enduring to the end." Thus, she is forever striving to attain eternal life. She does this by going door to door witnessing and delivering "Watchtower" and "Awake" magazines to anyone who will listen and take one.

Since my friend does not believe that Jesus is God, my first letter addresses this issue. One of the proofs that Jesus is God is that He acted as God while here on earth. You can illustrate that Jesus is God through a story in Mark 2. I do this in the following letter.

Hi my friend

I am so glad you want to continue the friendship we have developed. I, too, would like to keep at our relationship since we both have the same love for God's Word.

So many things have been occurring in my life recently! My youngest son got married to a wonderful Godly girl two weeks ago. Six weeks ago we moved out of our house and into a camper (approximately 37 feet long) in our back yard. We did this so that our house could be torn down and a new one constructed. Additionally, my husband Eddie had to go into surgery for a "roto roter" job on one of the arteries in his neck. Life sure has been hectic. But I praise the Lord because He has been with us.

You asked me about my beliefs because you said that you also wanted to share with me your beliefs. I would enjoy doing that. The fundamental belief I have is that Jesus is God. As one of the church fathers of the early years of Christianity has said, "Without a divine savior, our religion is no better than any other pagan religion."

Jesus Himself demonstrated that He was God in the story of the paralytic in Mark 2:1-12. Jesus had recently returned to His hometown. When His neighbors had "heard that He was at a home" they gathered together in crowds at the house. Because there was "no longer room" even at the doorway, a man who was a paralytic was "unable to get to Jesus." Hence, the friends who were carrying him took him up to the rooftop of the house. They "removed the roof above Jesus" and then, "when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying." When Jesus saw this manifestation of faith, He made a remarkable statement to the paralytic: Son, your sins are forgiven.

The Jewish religious leaders were horrorstruck and reckoned that Jesus must be blaspheming. "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" they reasoned. And they were right! They knew what Jehovah had declared in Isaiah 43:25—"I am, I am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins." The words "I am" are stated twice because that is the way it reads in the original Hebrew language. It signifies that Jehovah is being exclusive, that He is the only one who forgives sins. Since Jesus declares that "the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he is either a blasphemer as the religious leaders claim, or He is God. Which do you think He is?

Your friend, Barbara