

in comments
2005/10/1

**DEPARTMENTAL
MEMORANDUM**



Date 15th July 1960

JC/LG

From Mr. J. Cook. To Mr. C.H. Samers - Secretary,
Associated British Pathe Ltd.

re WATCH TOWER CONVENTION - BIRMINGHAM.

The attached speaks for itself. My own feelings about this organization are unprintable.

Newsdesk
Tracy went
open air baptisms
seems only picture
As

not Cook.
SHORTS SALES MANAGER.
Ray F. Ford.
(4347)

RECEIVED
18 JUL 1960
COMPANY SECRETARY

D.P.P.A.



WATCH TOWER

CONVENTION

106a War Lane, Birmingham B7 17
Telephone: Harborne 4710 4677

July 13, 1960

Pathe Pictures Ltd
News and Features
59 John Bright Street
Birmingham 1.

JQ/RMB

Dear Sir:

Birmingham has been chosen as the venue for the 1960 "Peace Pursuing" District Convention of Jehovah's witnesses, July 21-24. Over 6000 people from Midland towns, the Channel Islands, Europe, U. S. A., and all parts of Britain will attend at BINGLEY HALL. Entire families are coming with their children, even babes in arms.

The main speaker is Mr. A. Pryce Hughes, British Branch minister from London. Other leading British Witness spokesmen are on the programme too: Philip Rees, who has often put our point of view on television and radio, and in the national press; Jack Barr, a headquarters organiser for many years; and fourteen District and Circuit ministers.

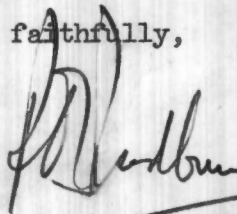
On Saturday, July 23, there will be an open-air baptism at the ROWHEATH LIDO, BOURNEVILLE. About 100 men, women and youngsters will be totally immersed. It will constitute their ordination, whether teenagers or later on in life.

Starting Monday, July 18, local workmen and housewives will take on the voluntary task of cleaning up the Halls and transforming a cattle show arena into an auditorium for worship. They will work in their own time and the men will bring their own tools. Yet they are all ministers in local congregations of Jehovah's witnesses!

From Thursday, July 21, other volunteers will operate the cafeteria system installed by Witness workers in the Princes Hall. About 1,500 three-course meals per hour will be served, with a total of about 10,000 over the four days. Civil Defence and Army officials have inspected this unique system. The shopping list includes 1400lbs of meat, 6000lbs of vegetables, 15,000 cakes, and enough tea for 50,000 cups.

Please contact me at the above address for details. We can assure you of every facility, including interviews or feature material. From July 21 I shall be at the News Service Desk at Bingley Hall.

Yours faithfully,



R.M. Bradbury, News Service manager



X 20 190

"PEACE PURSUING" DISTRICT CONVENTION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
BINGLEY HALL, BIRMINGHAM
July 21-24, 1960

TIME AND LOCATION OF BAPTISM

The baptism will take place at ROWHEATH LIDO, BOURNEVILLE, on Saturday morning, July 23rd. 1960 at 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

NUMBER EXPECTED TO BE BAPTIZED

It is estimated that over 100 men and women of all ages and from many different walks of life will be immersed.

PROGRAMME

A special 30-minute discourse on dedication and baptism will be delivered at the Bingley Hall on Saturday July 23rd. at 9:00 a.m. At the conclusion of the discourse all candidates will be asked to stand and publicly answer the following questions affirmatively.

1. Have you recognized yourself as a sinner and needing salvation from Jehovah God, and have you acknowledged that this salvation proceeds from Him and through His Ransomer, Christ Jesus?
2. On the basis of this faith in God and in his provision for redemption, have you dedicated yourself unreservedly to do the will of God henceforth, as that will is revealed to you through Christ Jesus and through God's Word as his Holy Spirit makes it plain?

Prayer will then be offered and the candidates will be transported by special coaches to the baptism pool.

BAPTISM -A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF DEDICATION

For their mass baptisms, Jehovah's witnesses use a public swimming bath, a river, or at times the sea. To those accustomed to the sprinkling of babes in a baptismal font, or the ceremonious baptism of adults in solemn church surroundings, this might seem strange.

Yet Jehovah's witnesses point to the first christian baptism, that of Jesus in A.D. 29. The baptism of Jesus was informal. John the Baptist immersed him totally in the muddy waters of the Jordan river.

While the first mass baptism in Bible times was at Pentecost, when 3,000 new followers were baptized, the largest in modern times was in 1958, when at their world assembly in New York, the Witnesses baptized 7,136 men and women by total immersion. The non-nationalistic aspect of the spectacle was of high interest in a race-conscious world.

It is no emotional or spot decision. Baptism is the culmination of a period of personal Bible study, since candidates must have a fundamental knowledge of basic Bible truths. For this reason infants are not baptized, but it does not bar teenagers if they meet the qualifications. Dedication and baptism is an entirely personal decision.

Baptism to the Witnesses does not imply the joining of an organization, nor is it a sacrament. Neither is it viewed as being for forgiveness of sins, for Jesus was sinless. Jesus viewed it as a public declaration to do his Father's will. In this same way, each candidate makes a mental decision to dedicate his life to God. His baptism symbolizes the burying of his former course of life and the beginning of a life of unselfish devotion to the will of the Creator.

The baptism ceremony is the ceremony of ordination as a minister, each one thereafter undertaking the responsibility of preaching publicly and from house to house in the manner of Jesus and his apostles. In this way 86,345 were ordained throughout the world last year, with over 5,000 of these coming from the British Isles. All these being ministers, this makes Jehovah's witnesses the largest single body of ministers in the world.

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