



Ernest Charles and Rose Ball Hennings

Ernest Charles Hennings died on February 3, 1939. His Christian sect the New Covenant Fellowship is still active and offers his books and copies of the New Covenant Advocate and Kingdom Herald. Hennings defection from the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society caused the second largest split in Watch Tower history, second only to the 1917 - 1931 schism.

When in England Ernest C. Hennings sought and found suitable premises in Forest Gate, East London, to accommodate an office for the British branch of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. On Monday, April 23, 1900, E. C. Hennings opened the first branch of the Watch Tower Society outside the United States. He also formed a branch in Germany in 1902, and one in Australia in 1904. By 1908 he was no longer working with the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society. The Hennings sect numbers less the 100 supporters, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society currently has over 7,900,000 supporters.

Ernest Hennings was married to Rose Ball who also worked for the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society prior to the defection. Rose Ball Hennings (born March 19, 1869, died November 22, 1950) was buried in the same grave, but the memorial inscription was never updated. The New Covenant Advocate was a regular publication produced by Earnest and Rose Hennings from April 1909 through to 1944. The work was continued after 1944 by members of the Melbourne Bible Student Class, now known as Christian Bible Students Melbourne, until 1953. Since that time the Group has produced other publications and magazines, the latest of which is the New Covenant News.