

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2009

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 14

Song 41

☐ Congregation Bible Study:

lv chap. 14 ¶1-9

☐ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Joshua 6-8

No. 1: Joshua 8:1-17

No. 2: Water Destroys a World—Will It Happen Again? (*lv* chap. 46)

No. 3: Why Is Ecclesiastes 7:21, 22 Practical Counsel?

☐ Service Meeting:

Song 161

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Why Am I Afraid to Share My Faith? Talk based on the July 2009 *Awake!* pages 24-27. Include a demonstration showing parents using Family Worship evening to prepare their child to answer questions at school. They do research and discuss one of the questions on page 25, then they have a practice session during which the child answers the question.

15 min: "Preach With Urgency!" Question-and-answer discussion. When considering paragraph 4, interview a zealous Kingdom publisher and ask the following questions: What steps have you taken to avoid being weighed down by unnecessary things of the world? In what ways have you benefited from preaching with urgency?

Song 92

Preach With Urgency!

¹ "Preach the word, be at it urgently." (2 Tim. 4:2) Why is Paul's exhortation so important in our day? How can these words impact our lives and those of others?

1. What exhortation of Paul demands attention in our day?

² **Lives Are Involved:** Millions of people around the world have yet to hear the good news that can lead to their salvation. (Rom. 10:13-15; 1 Tim. 4:16) Many honesthearted ones are being found in territory frequently worked. If we call on a different day or at another time of day, we may find a different person. Such diligent searching will leave us with a clean conscience and free of blood-guilt.—Acts 20:26.

³ In spite of facing violent opposition, first-century Christians 'filled Jerusalem with their teaching.' (Acts 5:28) Are we equally determined to "give a thorough witness"? (Acts 10:42) When in the ministry, do we make wise use of time? If we are waiting as others make a return visit, do we take the initiative to speak with passersby?

⁴ **Increases Our Alertness:** With the end of this system of things near at hand, we must stay alert, keeping on the watch. (1 Thess. 5:1-6) When we regularly speak about our Kingdom hope, we avoid becoming weighed down by this system of things. (Luke 21:34-36) In turn, as we keep the day of Jehovah "close in mind," we are moved to increase our share in the lifesaving preaching work.—2 Pet. 3:11, 12.

⁵ When we preach with urgency, we reflect Jehovah's view of life: "He does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance." (2 Pet. 3:9; Ezek. 33:11) May we be resolved to contact as many as possible in our territory, all to Jehovah's praise!—Ps. 109:30.

2. Why do we diligently search for those who have not heard the good news?

3. How can we make wise use of our time in the ministry?

4. How does preaching with urgency help us to keep on the watch?

5. How does respect for life motivate us in the ministry?

For United States of America

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WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 21

Song 73

☐ Congregation Bible Study:

lv chap. 14 ¶10-14, box on pp. 164-165, app. pp. 222-223

☐ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Joshua 9-11

No. 1: Joshua 9:1-15**No. 2:** How We Can Tell Armageddon Is Near (lv chap. 47)**No. 3:** God's Peaceful New World—You Can Live There (lv chap. 48)**☐ Service Meeting:**

Song 4

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Prepare to Offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Present a demonstration showing how a group overseer shares his presentation with a young publisher and explains why he selected it and which question and scriptures he will use. The young publisher explains that he had a presentation in mind but needs help refining it. Using the article he had in mind, they develop a question and select the scriptures he will use.

15 min: “‘Impart Your Soul’ to Your Students.” Question-and-answer discussion. After considering paragraph 2, interview a publisher regarding practical ways he endeavors to show personal interest in his students. What has been the result? Also interview a publisher who benefited from personal interest shown by the one conducting his Bible study.

Song 66

‘Impart Your Soul’ to Your Students

¹ In order to help a Bible student to the point of dedication, more is required than simply conducting a regular Bible study with him. The apostle Paul compared his relation-

1. What is required to help a Bible student?

ship with those he taught to that of a nursing mother cherishing her children. We too are pleased to impart “our own souls” in order to help our students to grow spiritually. —1 Thess. 2:7-9.

² **Take a Personal Interest:** As a Bible student applies what he learns, his conscience will prompt him to discontinue close association with those who do not conform to Bible principles. (1 Pet. 4:4) His family may disown him. (Matt. 10:34-36) We can help fill the emotional void by demonstrating warm personal interest. One experienced missionary recommends: “Do not rush away from the study after it is over. If appropriate, stay and talk for a while.” Be alert to offer your student practical help. For example, could you telephone or visit him when he is sick? Can you sit with your student at meetings and help with the children, if fitting?

³ **Help From the Congregation:** If you are working in the ministry near your student’s home, why not visit briefly to introduce your service companions? When appropriate, from time to time invite different publishers, including elders, to accompany you on the study. Also, soon after you establish a study, encourage your Bible student to attend meetings at the Kingdom Hall. This will enable him to enjoy upbuilding association with members of the congregation who may become his spiritual family.—Mark 10:29, 30; Heb. 10:24, 25.

⁴ A parent who tirelessly assists his children spiritually is overjoyed when they take a stand for Jehovah and walk in the truth. (3 John 4) We can experience similar joy as we impart our souls to help our Bible students.

2. Why should we demonstrate personal interest, and how may that be done?

3. How can we help our student receive encouragement from the congregation?

4. How may our diligence be rewarded?

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WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 28

Song 84

□ Congregation Bible Study:

Iv chap. 14 ¶15-19, box on p. 167

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Joshua 12-15

Theocratic Ministry School Review

□ Service Meeting:

Song 35

5 min: Announcements. Call attention to the article "Are You Ready to Sing to Jehovah at Our Meetings?" Encourage all to bring their new song book beginning January.

10 min: How to Respond. Audience discussion of objections common in your territory. Include a brief demonstration using one of these common objections. (See *Reasoning* book, pages 64-68.)

10 min: Starting Bible Studies. Announce the date for the next day for offering Bible studies. What has been accomplished locally when Bible studies were offered? Invite a pioneer or publisher to relate or demonstrate a presentation that has proved to be effective in the local territory.

10 min: The Offer for January. Briefly review features of the offer. Discuss with a publisher ways that might be used to start a Bible study with the offer of the month in an informal setting. Encourage all to make it a goal to start a Bible study this month.

Song 193

Are You Ready to Sing to Jehovah at Our Meetings?

¹ Preparing to participate in our meetings includes preparing to sing songs of praise. Consider the following suggestions.

² **Understand the Lyrics:** The theme scripture and additional scriptures listed at the end of each song help to emphasize the Scriptural basis for the lyrics.

³ **Practice:** A portion of Family Worship each week can be used to become familiar with the new songs. Sing along with the recorded piano accompaniment of songs to be

used for each meeting. You may be able to learn the melody and the lyrics of some of the new songs by listening to *Sing to Jehovah—Vocal Renditions*, Disc 1.

⁴ Will you be ready this weekend when we begin using *Sing to Jehovah* at the *Watchtower* Study? You will if you take time to understand the meaning of the songs and practice singing them.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 28, 2009.

1. How can Christians today apply the principle stated at Deuteronomy 14:1? [w05 1/1 p. 28; w04 9/15 p. 27 par. 5]
2. How can Deuteronomy 20:5-7 be applied in principle in the Christian congregation today? [w04 9/15 p. 27 par. 6]
3. How did Israel differ from other nations in matters involving warfare? (Deut. 20:10-15, 19, 20; 21:10-13) [cl pp. 134-135, par. 17]
4. What can help us serve Jehovah with joy of heart? (Deut. 28:47) [w95 1/15 p. 16 pars. 4-5]
5. How can parents benefit from the analogy given at Deuteronomy 32:9, 11, 12, which illustrates Jehovah's love for Israel? [w01 10/1 p. 9 pars. 7-9]
6. How are we to understand Rahab's misleading words to the king's men who were searching for the spies? (Josh. 2:4, 5) [w93 12/15 p. 25 par. 1]
7. The Israelites' example recorded at Joshua 3:15, 16 teaches us what lesson? [w04 12/1 p. 9 par. 6]
8. What can we learn from the way Joshua handled Achan's theft? (Josh. 7:20-25) [w04 12/1 p. 11 par. 4]
9. How does Joshua 9:22, 23 highlight the sure fulfillment of God's Word? [w04 12/1 p. 11 par. 3; si p. 44, par. 13]
10. What encouragement can be drawn from Caleb's example? (Josh. 14:8, 10-12) [w04 12/1 p. 12 par. 2; w93 5/15 p. 29 par. 1]

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 4

Song 95

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

lv chap. 15 ¶1-9

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Joshua 16-20

No. 1: Joshua 17:1-10**No. 2:** What Will Those Who Go to Heaven Do There? (rs p. 168 ¶2-6)**No. 3:** Why "Limping Upon Two Different Opinions" Cannot Please God (1 Ki. 18:21)**❑ Service Meeting:**

Song 103

5 min: Announcements.**10 min:** Use Questions to Reach the Heart of Your Bible Student. Talk based on the two sub-headings on page 239 of the *Ministry School* book.**10 min:** Local needs.**10 min:** Use Bible Literature in Your Ministry. Audience discussion of the three paragraphs under "Using Bible Literature" on pages 100 and 101 of the *Organized* book. Invite the service overseer or another elder to give suggestions on how to make good use of our literature and avoid waste.

Song 92

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher*. **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer any 192-page book published prior to 1992. **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* Publishers may also offer *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* or *The Secret of Family Happiness*. **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies when the publication is placed or if a copy is already in the home.

■ The Memorial for the year **2011** will be on Sunday, April 17, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found.

Field Service Highlights

The August 2009 report marked an important new milestone in theocratic progress for the United States branch. There were new peaks in Kingdom publishers in all three territories assigned to our branch. In the United States, the total of 1,154,275 publishers reporting is an increase of 48,165 over the previous peak of 1,106,110 set in July 2009. Truly, Jehovah 'is speeding up the work in its own time.'—Isaiah 60:22.

What to Say About the Magazines**THE WATCHTOWER® December 1**
ANNOUNCING JERUSALEM'S KINGDOM

"During this time of year, many set up a Nativity scene to depict this Bible account. [Read Matthew 2:1, 11.] Did you notice the differences between what the Bible says occurred and what is usually depicted? [Allow for response.] This article discusses what really happened." Feature the article on page 31.

Awake!® December

"I would like to get your opinion on something Jesus said. [Read Matthew 5:3.] Since there are so many different religions, do you think it matters how we choose to fulfill our spiritual need? [Allow for response.] This article shows what the Bible says on how to find true spiritual satisfaction." Feature the article that begins on page 12.

THE WATCHTOWER® January 1
ANNOUNCING JERUSALEM'S KINGDOM

"There are conflicting religious opinions regarding the use of alcoholic beverages. How do you think God feels about a person's drinking alcohol? [Allow for response.] Although the Bible reports that Jesus once miraculously turned water to wine, it also says this. [Read Proverbs 23:20a.] This magazine shows the Bible's balanced viewpoint."

Awake!® January

"In these difficult times, many people feel overworked and stressed out. Have you felt that way? [Allow for response.] Notice this reasonable advice. [Read Ecclesiastes 4:6.] This magazine discusses how we can balance work, family, and relaxation. It also gives suggestions for those looking for a job."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2009

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 12

Song 110

☐ **Congregation Bible Study:**

lv chap. 11 ¶10-19

☐ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 4-6

No. 1: Deuteronomy 4:15-28

No. 2: Remembering Jehovah and His Son
(lv chap. 37)

No. 3: When Can It Be Said That Less Is Better?
(Prov. 15:16)

☐ **Service Meeting:**

Song 13

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Conducting Home Bible Studies. Talk based on information from *Organized* book, page 98, paragraph 1, to page 99, paragraph 1. Invite publishers to comment briefly on the joy they have experienced in teaching someone the truth.

10 min: The Offer for October. Have two demonstrations. One should raise a question that may be answered on the return visit. The other should demonstrate how to offer a Bible study on the first visit. A brief audience discussion may follow each demonstration, highlighting what was learned.

10 min: "Are You Ready for Informal Witnessing?" Question-and-answer discussion.

Song 48

us to share our faith freely with others. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) If we feel uncomfortable about our appearance, we will likely hold back from giving a witness. In contrast, our neat, clean appearance may in itself arouse curiosity. For example, while traveling, a well-dressed Witness couple were seated next to a Muslim man. Noticing their appearance, the man asked if they were Christians. This led to a three-hour Bible discussion.

3 Starting Conversations: When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at Jacob's fountain, he began the conversation by simply requesting that she give him a drink. Similarly, we may be able to start a conversation by making a brief statement or by asking a simple question. Although we may at times be hesitant, by depending on Jehovah's assistance, we may 'muster up boldness' to start a conversation.—1 Thess. 2:2.

4 Creating Opportunities: Many publishers have found ways to witness informally. Review your circumstances, and think about the people you are likely to meet on a daily basis. Carry with you appropriate literature and a small Bible. Be observant, and take an interest in people around you. When you have given thought to opportunities that you may encounter during the day, you will likely be ready to give a fine witness.—Phil. 1:12-14; 1 Pet. 3:15.

5 We have two good reasons for taking advantage of opportunities to witness informally—love for God and love for neighbor. (Matt. 22:37-39) In view of the urgency of the preaching work, informal witnessing cannot be left merely to chance. We should be ready to take advantage of every appropriate opportunity to share the Kingdom good news with others while there is yet time.—Rom. 10:13, 14; 2 Tim. 4:2.

3. Following Jesus' example, how have you started a conversation?

4. How can we get ready to witness informally?

5. Why should informal witnessing not be left to chance?

Are You Ready for Informal Witnessing?

1 Informal witnessing can be very effective. The Bible contains numerous examples of informal witnessing with good results. (John 4:7-15) What might we do to prepare for this type of witnessing?

2 Dress and Grooming: Proper attention to our dress and grooming at all times will allow

1. What example shows that informal witnessing can be effective?

2. How can our dress and grooming complement our readiness to give a witness?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 19

Song 86

☐ Congregation Bible Study:

lv chap. 11 ¶20-22, box on p. 131

☐ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 7-10

No. 1: Deuteronomy 9:1-14

No. 2: Why We Should Love Jesus (*lv* chap. 38)

No. 3: To How Many Does the Bible Hold Out Hope of Heavenly Life? (*rs* p. 166 ¶3-4)

☐ Service Meeting:

Song 44

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Research Can Enhance Understanding. Talk based on material from page 33 to the sub-heading on page 34 of the *Ministry School* book. Discuss the material from the standpoint of publishers encouraging Bible students by showing them how to do research to fortify their faith and to prepare for the ministry. Present a demonstration showing how a publisher can help a Bible student to understand the value of research.

15 min: "Telephone Witnessing Can Be Effective." Question-and-answer discussion. Have two publishers each demonstrate a presentation using the offer for the month.

Song 75

Telephone Witnessing Can Be Effective

¹ Why might we consider using telephone witnessing in our ministry? Because it is another means of helping others to obtain accurate knowledge for gaining salvation. (2 Pet. 3:9) Although our primary method of declaring the good news of God's Kingdom is house-to-house preaching, we willingly take advantage of other methods to reach those who may not be found at home.—Matt. 24:14; Luke 10:1-7; Rev. 14:6.

1. Why might telephone witnessing be considered an important part of our ministry?

² **How It Is Organized:** As with field service arrangements for house-to-house work, telephone witnessing territory is also provided for the publishers. It may be done alone or with a *small group of perhaps two or three*. The place that is used should be conducive to the task at hand. Many find it advantageous to sit at a table and have in front of them items that they normally use when preaching from house to house.

³ **How to Witness by Telephone:** When witnessing over the telephone, our presentation should be conversational. Some who are just beginning may read a presentation to the householder but in a conversational manner. Introductions found in the *Reasoning* book, *Our Kingdom Ministry*, and the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* can be helpful in this regard. When developing your own presentation, identify a theme, develop a question, and be ready to share a few scriptures that provide the answer. Generally you would offer the same publications that are being offered from house to house. Consider the following reminders: Relax and speak slowly. Be courteous, patient, and friendly, as this can be perceived over the phone. Listen as the householder gives his thoughts, then acknowledge and express appreciation for his comments. Be careful not to mention the donation arrangement, as this could be misinterpreted as a form of telephone solicitation.

⁴ The person you talk to on the telephone may be a shut-in or a person whose work schedule makes it difficult to reach him in the house-to-house ministry. There are others who live in gated communities or in apartments with restricted entrance. Therefore, in an effort to accomplish our ministry more fully and thoroughly, consider using the effective method of telephone witnessing.

2. How is telephone witnessing organized?

3. What should we keep in mind when witnessing over the phone?

4. What may telephone witnessing enable us to do with our assigned territory?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 26

Song 200

☐ Congregation Bible Study:

lv app. pp. 219-221

☐ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 11-13

Theocratic Ministry School Review

☐ Service Meeting:

Song 67

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Prepare to Offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Talk. Review the contents of the current magazines, and highlight which articles may be of interest in the local territory. Include one demonstration in which a parent helps a child to prepare for the ministry. The parent and child select an article, develop a question, and choose a scripture to use. The child then demonstrates his presentation, mentioning the donation arrangement.

10 min: *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Audience discussion. Ask audience to relate which chapters in the book they have been able to use most effectively in the local territory. When introducing the book, which question, picture, or scripture have they used? Have one presentation demonstrated.

10 min: Question Box. Audience discussion. Read and discuss the scriptures in the box.

Song 70

QUESTION BOX

■ What should you do if directed to stop preaching?

In some instances, the police have approached publishers who were sharing in some form of the ministry, informed them that they were violating the law, and directed them to stop. You should promptly and politely leave the territory if directed to do so. (Matt. 5:41; Phil. 4:5) Do not try to resolve matters on your own by getting involved in a discussion about our legal rights. If it is possible, tactfully obtain the badge number of the police officer and the number of his precinct. Thereafter, promptly inform the elders, who will then contact the branch office about the incident. Similarly, if you are asked to leave an apartment building or complex by the superintendent or any other apartment representative, you should comply immediately and inform the elders. A mild and humble manner of dealing with those in authority can do much to prevent unnecessary difficulties. —Prov. 15:1; Rom. 12:18.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 26, 2009.

1. Since Jehovah told Balaam to go with Balaak's men, why did Jehovah get angry with Balaam when he went with them? (Num. 22:20-22) [w04 8/1 p. 27 par. 2]
2. How does Phinehas' 'toleration of no rivalry' toward Jehovah help us reflect on our dedication to God? (Num. 25:11) [w95 3/1 p. 16 par. 13]
3. Why was Joshua selected as Moses' successor? (Num. 27:15-19) [w02 12/1 p. 12 par. 1]
4. How might Numbers 31:27 be of encouragement to Christians today? [w05 3/15 p. 24]
5. In what ways did the arrangement of cities of refuge benefit the people in Israel? (Num. 35:11, 12) [w95 11/15 p. 14 par. 17]
6. Why is discretion an important Christian quality, and what results therefrom? (Deut. 1:13) [w03 1/15 30; w00 10/1 p. 32 pars. 1-3]
7. In what ways did the Mosaic Law express God's righteousness? (Deut. 4:8) [w02 6/1 p. 14 par. 8-p. 15 pars. 9-10]
8. Explain the right way and the wrong way to put Jehovah to the test, in harmony with Deuteronomy 6:16-18. [w04 9/15 p. 27 par. 1]
9. How had the Israelites' needs been filled by Jehovah's utterances, and how can those utterances nourish us today? (Deut. 8:3) [w99 8/15 pp. 25-26]
10. How does Deuteronomy 12:16, 24 affect our view of medical procedures involving the use of one's own blood? [w00 10/15 p. 30 par. 7]

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 2

Song 115

☐ Congregation Bible Study:

/v chap. 12 ¶1-8

☐ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 14-18

No. 1: Deuteronomy 15:1-15

No. 2: What Does the Fear of God Encompass?

No. 3: God Remembers His Son
(/r chap. 39)

☐ Service Meeting:

Song 1

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Starting Bible Studies. Audience discussion. Ask selected publishers to relate experiences starting Bible studies on the day designated for this special activity. Announce when the next day is scheduled for offering Bible studies, and have one or two brief demonstrations showing how to do it.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Witness by Letter. Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 71-73.

Song 9

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present and discuss the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* If householders already have the tract, endeavor to start a Bible study. **November:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer any 192-page book published prior to 1992. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.* **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, publishers may offer any 192-page book published prior to 1992.

■ The yearly Theocratic Ministry School Schedule will no longer be provided as an insert in *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Instead, each congregation will receive the yearly schedule, and one copy of the schedule should be posted on the information board at the Kingdom Hall. Another copy will be retained by the school overseer for his use in making assignments. Publishers will continue to receive their personal copy of *Our Kingdom Ministry* each month, and it will show the schedule for the weekly Congregation Bible Study, the Theocratic Ministry School, and the Service Meeting.

■ Starting the week of March 1, 2010, the book *"Come Be My Follower"* will be considered at the Congregation Bible Study. Congregations needing a supply of these books should request them on their next literature request.

Field Service Highlights

We were pleased to see a sizable increase in the number of Bible studies conducted in the United States during June. The total of 657,043 Bible studies conducted is an increase of 46,403 over the same month last year. The figure of 650,000 Bible studies has been surpassed every month this year.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® **October 1** ANNOUNCING JEHOWAH'S KINGDOM

"Many today have lost faith in a Creator. Why do you think that is? [Allow for response.] These verses give one possible reason. [Read Habakkuk 1:2, 3.] This article helps resolve some common questions about God that have caused people to lack faith in him." Feature the article that begins on page 11.

Awake!® **October**

"Would you agree that families face numerous challenges today? [Allow for response.] Many are not aware of the practical advice found in the Bible. Here's an example. [Read a scripture found in the magazine.] This special issue of *Awake!* shows how Bible principles can help families successfully cope with various situations."

THE WATCHTOWER® **November 1** ANNOUNCING JEHOWAH'S KINGDOM

"Do you think that everything taught in the churches is from the Bible? [Allow for response.] The Bible warns us to be careful that we are not deceived by falsehoods. [Read Colossians 2:8.] This magazine exposes six traditional teachings that conflict with God's Word."

Awake!® **November**

"Devices such as the cell phone and the computer have become a normal part of life. Do you think the use of technology saves time or wastes it? [Allow for response.] Most would agree with this encouragement to use time wisely. [Read Ephesians 5:15, 16.] This magazine discusses how we can use technology in a balanced and considerate way."