

The **WATCHTOWER**

**A Thousand Years of Relief
for Mankind**

Keeping Courtship Honorable

**"Faith Divorced from Deeds
Is Lifeless as a Corpse"**

JANUARY 1, 1974

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ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

The WATCHTOWER

January 1, 1974
Vol. 95, Number 1

A watchtower enables a person to see far into the distance and announce to others what is coming. Can a magazine serve similarly in our day? Yes, from its first issue (July 1879) onward, *The Watchtower*, published by Jehovah's witnesses, has done just that.

How can it benefit you? Consider: Do you long for a better world, one of true justice and free from sorrow, hatred and war? Do you want to live at a time when genuine peace and love prevail among people of all races? Then this magazine can aid you. Using God's Word, the Bible, as its authority, it points out the clear evidence that the present wicked system of things will soon end, destroyed by God. But it also announces the coming in of a righteous new order. There, under the rule of God's kingdom, his heavenly government, people will enjoy life forever in true peace, health and happiness on a paradise earth.

Faithfulness to the Word of God lifts *The Watchtower* above the contradicting religious teachings and philosophies of men. It stays strictly neutral as regards political affairs. It wholeheartedly upholds the highest moral standard—that of man's Maker, Jehovah God. From this source, it shows solutions to the problems of daily life.

We know that many sincere persons would appreciate a discussion of these things in their own home with a qualified person. A minister of Jehovah's witnesses will be glad to call on you free of charge. To arrange for this, simply write the publishers of this magazine or contact Jehovah's witnesses locally.

PUBLISHED BY
WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
117 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, U.S.A.
N. H. KNORE, President GRANT SUITER, Secretary

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Average Printing Each Issue: 8,000,000

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Hebrew	Melanesian-Pidgin	Serbian	
Hindi	Motu	Silozzi	
Hungarian		Sinhalese	

Five cents a copy

Watch Tower Society offices	Yearly subscription rates for semi-monthly editions in local currency
America, U.S., 117 Adams St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201	\$1.50
Australia, 11 Beresford Rd., Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135	\$1.50
Canada, 150 Bridgeland Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6A 1Z5	\$1.50
England, Watch Tower House, The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN	75p
Ghana, West Africa, Box 780, Accra	£1.90
New Zealand, 6-A Western Springs Rd., Auckland 3	\$1.50
Nigeria, West Africa, P.O. Box 194, Yaba, Lagos State	N1.05
Philippines, P.O. Box 2044, Manila D-406	8¢
South Africa, Private Bag 2, P.O. Elandsfontein, Transvaal	R1.10
(Monthly editions cost half the above rates.)	

Remittances for subscriptions should be sent to the office in your country. Otherwise send your remittance to Brooklyn.

Notice of expiration is sent at least two issues before subscription expires. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS should reach us thirty days before your moving date. Give us your old and new address (*If possible, your old address label*). Write Watchtower, 117 Adams St., Brooklyn, New York 11201, U.S.A.

The Bible translation used in "The Watchtower" is the modern-language "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures," unless otherwise indicated.

Printed in U.S.A.

WHY CALL AT MY DOOR?



"I HAVE great respect for you people. I admire your sincerity and conviction. You are doing a fine work in trying to bring people to God. But *why call at my door?* I already have a religion."

The above is typical of the viewpoint of many householders whom Jehovah's witnesses meet in their Bible educational work. You, too, may wonder why the Witnesses continue to call at your door and at the homes of others in your community who have their own religion.

Are Jehovah's witnesses trying to make money by the sale of printed literature? No, for the small contributions asked for their publications do not cover completely even the cost of printing and distribution of this literature. It is not contributions of money but the message contained in these publications that motivates these unpaid volunteers to persist in calling at the homes of people. Why should you be interested in this message?

Because it has to do with the elimination from earth of wars, racial strife, crime and violence; the end of food short-



ages, housing shortages, high costs, high taxes; even the end of all types of sickness and death. Do not these things plague people of every religion? Would you not delight to see their end?

The Bible shows how and when God will take action to solve these problems. The Scriptures make it plain that we are now in "the conclusion of the [present] system of things" or "the end of the age." (Matt. 24:3, NW; *The New English Bible*) Surely you want to know about this. It should make no difference what religion you belong to.

But, how can one be sure that the generation now living will experience such a change? Jesus' disciples asked a like question: "What will be the sign of . . . the conclusion of the system of things?" (Matt. 24:3; Mark 13:4; Luke 21:7) Jesus included the following in his answer:

"Nation will rise against nation, and

kingdom against kingdom; and there will be great earthquakes, and in one place after another pestilences and food shortages." (Luke 21:10, 11) But, have not wars, food shortages, earthquakes and disease epidemics occurred for most of human history? Yes, but only since 1914 C.E. have these things afflicted mankind in every part of the earth during one generation. Therefore, as Jesus stated, people now living will see the present system of things with all its woes brought to an end. —Compare Luke 21:29-32.

Does that mean 'the end of the world,' as some people envision it? Will there be a destruction of the earth and all life on it? By no means! In fact, the earth will never be destroyed. It has been "established for ever." (Ps. 78:69, *Authorized Version*) What will end, then? The present "age" of wickedness. Then there will be an earth-wide fulfillment of God's promise at Psalm 37:10: "The wicked one will be no more; and you will certainly give attention to his place, and he will not be." An entirely new order of things will replace this one.

What will that new order be like? The inspired apostle John describes some of the blessings of that new order at Revelation 21:3, 4: "Look! The tent of God is with mankind. . . . And God himself will be with them. And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore." The prophet Isaiah also speaks of matters that give reason for us to be convinced that then "no resident will say: 'I am sick.'" Also, the blind, deaf, speechless and lame will be cured of their infirmities. (Isa. 33:24; 35:5, 6) There will be genuine enjoyment of life under righteous conditions. Would you not like to live under conditions like these? —2 Pet. 3:13.

Has your minister, priest or religious leader mentioned this wonderful hope to you? Most clergymen say nothing about it.

In fact, many do not even believe the Bible. This is an important reason why Jehovah's witnesses call at the homes of people of other religions.

The efforts of Jehovah's witnesses to approach people in public and at their homes are rooted in the Word of God. Jesus himself went directly to the people, and he instructed his apostles and disciples to do likewise. (Matt. 10:11-13; Luke 8:1; 10:5) Actually, the work of Jehovah's witnesses constitutes a further part of the sign that Jesus gave of the nearness of the end of this system of things. He said: "And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come."—Matt. 24:14.

Is this work of preaching the 'good news of God's kingdom' effective? Indeed it is! Literally hundreds of thousands of truth-hungry persons have had their faith in God and in the Bible bolstered by the house calls of Jehovah's witnesses. Consider the experience of a woman from New Caledonia:

"While in a distressed suicidal state, I appealed by letter to the one person I felt could help me—my priest. But he did not respond. However, a week later one of Jehovah's witnesses called. I accepted a Bible study aid, and as soon as the woman left I eagerly devoured its contents. Within a matter of days I began to feel mental relief and a growing sense of liberation." Thereafter, this woman and her husband became happy servants of God, bringing good news to still others.

Jehovah's witnesses realize that many people have their own religion. But the world's religions say nothing about the good news of God's kingdom. So Jehovah's witnesses continue to call at your door. The next time they do so, why not invite them in and listen to their Bible-based message?

INFORMED persons today agree on one point—that mankind needs relief. In this they are at unity, though each usually has a different solution to offer. Ross Smyth, past president of the World Federalists of Canada, recently gave a talk in which he said:

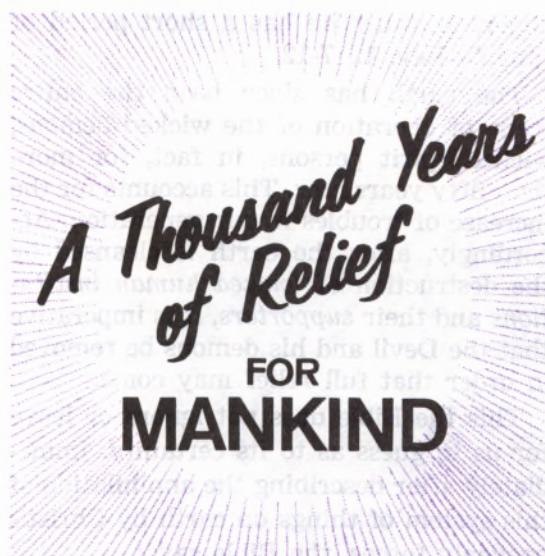
"Today the transportation and communications technology has shrunk the earth into a global village. But it is a village without a mayor, without an effective governing council, police force and judicial system. Just as a big jetliner with 365 passengers speeds through the air, our planet earth is hurtling through space with 3½ billion passengers—but nobody is in command."

Mr. Smyth puts his finger on a basic need, that is, some government that has the authority, power and wisdom to take effective command for the good of the people. He believes that a federated world government is the answer.

For about six thousand years mankind has needed relief, but never so urgently as now. What government really is the answer? God, who created the earth and put man upon it, informs us that he is providing a government that will take only a thousand years to reverse all the damage of the past six thousand years and bring mankind all it needs and desires for happiness. This is God's Messianic kingdom.

How will it accomplish this relief? The Bible shows that some preparatory work has to be done just prior to the thousand years in order to give God's government a clear, full thousand years of peace in which to rehabilitate mankind.

As discussed in previous issues of this magazine, false religion and the political and commercial system of this world are to be destroyed. You will find this described in the Bible at Revelation chapters 17-19. The cleaning out of wicked corrupters and destroyers of the earth will bring great relief, but it still leaves the



primary source of earth's woes to be removed. Who or what is this source?

THE REAL SOURCE OF MAN'S WOES

The chief source of mankind's woes is Satan the Devil, an invisible spirit person. This person has great power. He is not merely a 'principle of evil,' nor does he content himself with tempting individuals, here and there, to sin. He is called "the god of this system of things," "the ruler of the world," and the one who is "misleading the entire inhabited earth." —2 Cor. 4:4; John 14:30; Rev. 12:9.

During the period of time since 1914 C.E., the world has suffered its greatest woes. The Bible explains the reason for this. It shows that at that time preliminary action was taken against this enemy of God and man by Jesus Christ, who fought a war with Satan and his associate demons and hurled them out of the heavens of God's presence down to the vicinity of earth. Of the outcome of this fight, the Bible says: "On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to you, having great

anger, knowing he has a short period of time."—Rev. 12:7-12.

The earth has since been the entire scene of operation of the wicked demons, wicked spirit persons, in fact, for more than fifty years now. This accounts for the increase of troubles in our generation. Accordingly, after the earth is cleansed by the destruction of *wicked human institutions* and their *supporters*, it is imperative that the Devil and his demons be removed in order that full relief may come.

This the Bible does not ignore or leave for us to guess as to its certainty. Immediately after describing the annihilation of this system of things on earth by Christ's heavenly forces, the Bible says:

"And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. And he hurled him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while."—Rev. 20:1-3.

PEACE AND RELEASE FROM DEATH

This act by which Jesus Christ, at Jehovah's command, puts the Devil (along with his demons) into imprisonment in the "abyss," makes them as though they 'were not' for a thousand years. (Luke 8:30, 31; compare Revelation 17:8.) There will thus be no interference from the invisible spirit realm to mislead humans on earth. This will mean more to mankind than we can fully realize or appreciate. Satan has been the "ruler of the authority of the air," that is, an invisible ruler. Imagine what it will mean for peaceful relations among humans when Satan himself is no longer "the spirit that now operates in the sons of disobedience."—Eph. 2:2.

With the abyssing of Satan the thousand years of the Messianic reign will begin. The small number of spiritual brothers of Jesus Christ remaining on earth, along with their companions, the "great crowd," who look for blessings on earth under God's kingdom, will work initially toward beautifying the earth as a paradise garden. Then the resurrection of the dead will begin. The apostle John reports on his vision of this: "And the sea gave up those dead in it, and death and Hades gave up those dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds."—Rev. 20:13.

Among those thus coming forth out of the common grave of mankind will be that evildoer hung on an execution stake alongside Jesus, to whom Jesus said: "Verily I say unto thee this day: With me shalt thou be in Paradise." (Luke 23:43, Rotherham's translation; *New World Translation*) This evildoer will come forth from Hades into the earthly Paradise reestablished for mankind by the kingdom of Jesus Christ. In that Paradise the evildoer will share the opportunity along with all the other resurrected human dead to correct his life course and be cured of human imperfection and sinfulness. In this way, by the end of the thousand years of Christ's reign, he will be able to reach the goal of human perfection in God's image and likeness. All those attaining to human perfection and sinlessness on earth by the end of the thousand years must, however, undergo a final test of their loyalty to God's universal sovereign rule, in order to keep their perfect life.—Rev. 20:7-9.

Those perfected humans on earth who maintain their integrity and prove faithful to God's rightful rule will be declared righteous by the Supreme Judge, Jehovah God. These innocent ones He will declare to be worthy of eternal life, and He will

assign to them the right to endless life in happiness in the earthly Paradise. Free of all condemnation, these obedient ones will then *really live* from God's perfect standpoint. In this manner it is, then, that "the rest of the dead [aside from those enjoying the heavenly resurrection] did not come to life until the thousand years were ended." (Rev. 20:5) This expression applies to the "great crowd" of Armageddon survivors as well as to the resurrected ones.

But those perfected humans who do not faithfully pass the test of godly loyalty during the "little while" that Satan is released after the thousand years are ended will be everlasting destroyed, just as John in his preview presents the matter, saying: "And death and Hades were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire. Furthermore, whoever was not found written in the book of life was hurled into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:14, 15) So these disloyal ones do not attain to life eternal.

A REAL, DEFINITE THOUSAND YEARS

Is the thousand-year reign of the Messianic kingdom a literal, full, actual thousand years? Some say No. The *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, after stating that "the 1,000 year reign of Jesus [is] a symbol for the entire life span of the Church," continues:

IN COMING ISSUES

- How One Language Will Bring Unity to Mankind.
- Keep Close in Mind the Presence of the Day of Jehovah.'
- Finding Joy in Training Children.

"... The chaining of Satan during this same period signifies that the influence of Satan has been notably reduced, not completely removed. The lessening of Satan's influence is the result of the effectiveness of Christ's Redemption. After a final struggle near the end of time ... Satan will be completely conquered by Christ."

But from what we have considered, it is clear that the thousand-year reign of Christ is not the "life span of the Church," which began on the day of Pentecost, 33 C.E., and has run until now—more than 1,900 years. Why not? Well, has there actually been such lessening of Satan's influence, because of the "effectiveness of Christ's Redemption"? If so, the apostle Peter would not have found it necessary to write to fellow Christians: "Keep your senses, be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone."—1 Pet. 5:8.

Neither would the apostle Paul have been impelled to warn his brothers: "Put on the complete suit of armor from God that you may be able to stand firm against the machinations of the Devil; because we have a wrestling ... against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places."—Eph. 6:11, 12.

Furthermore, after foretelling the war in heaven, Revelation says: "And the dragon [the Devil] grew wrathful at the woman, and went off to wage war with the remaining ones of her seed, who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness to Jesus." (Rev. 12:17) Does this sound like a chaining of Satan?

What a disappointing thing for mankind if the thousand years were already past, as this Catholic opinion would imply! There has been no relief during all those years for mankind. Even true Christians have suffered severe persecution. Mankind

in general has groaned under many burdens and sufferings, and in the last few years their woes have increased.—Rom. 8:19-22.

Jehovah God is not a God whose promises and works fall short, leaving us frustrated and not completely satisfied and happy. God and his Messianic King both know and feel for man in his unhappy state, and they happily anticipate the thousand years, which God has purposed for the relief of mankind. (Ps. 103:14; Jonah 4:11; Matt. 9:36) And, in his wisdom, Jehovah brings in his Kingdom rule at exactly the proper time to accomplish his purposes.

According to the Bible's timetable, we

are near the end of six thousand years of human history, and Christ's royal reign for the relief and rehabilitation of mankind to perfection is at our doors. A wonderful prospect! Do you desire to live under that coming rule? It is the only right, natural thing to desire.

If you do wish for such a time of relief, you cannot find it in man-made governments, for the entire matter of a good government rests on right principles. These you do not find in the governments of imperfect men. So if you love right principles, you will be interested in learning more about God's government and its rulers. This will be considered in future issues of this magazine.



The Christian View of COURTSHIP

MARRIAGE is a worldwide practice. Though it may surprise many persons, courtship is not. And even in the many lands where it is practiced, courtship customs vary greatly. To people where courtship is accepted as normal, its absence in certain lands may seem hard to understand. But people liv-

Helpful facts that young people want to know

ing in lands where courtship is not practiced might be equally puzzled at some of the customs in lands where it is carried on. They might even find some of these customs somewhat offensive.

So, rather than take a narrow-minded viewpoint and think that the only way to do things is the way people in our own locality do them, it is much better to broaden out our thinking. After all, in the final analysis, is it not the way things work out, the results, that determine how

good or how bad certain customs are? In the Bible at Ecclesiastes 7:8 we read: "Better is the end afterward of a matter than its beginning." And we must admit that in many countries where courtship is the custom, a large percentage of marriages are not

working out well but are ending in divorce.

PREVAILING CUSTOMS

Really, the question that concerns you is: What is the prevailing custom where you live? In some countries or regions the prospective bride and groom do not meet until their wedding day. Arrangements for their marriage have all been carried out by others—by their respective parents or perhaps by a “matchmaker” or “go-between” that the parents (or, in some cases, the prospective husband himself) may employ. Now, this arrangement of marriage without preliminary courtship may not be what many prefer; but it is the custom with others. And, we should note, it is a custom that we cannot condemn as out of harmony with God's Word, the Bible.

We find it illustrated in the marriage of Abraham's son Isaac to Rebekah, which you can read about in Genesis chapter 24. And we read of Isaac's son Jacob that when he wanted to marry Laban's daughter Rachel, he made his marriage proposal, not to her, but to her father, asking Laban for his approval of the marriage. (Gen. 29:15-20) Furthermore, these marriages of true worshipers worked out well.

There could really be only one Scriptural basis for a Christian's objecting to marriage under such an arrangement. What is that? That would be where the arrangement called upon one to marry a person who was not a fellow believer in the true God, Jehovah, nor a disciple of God's Son, Jesus Christ.—Compare Deuteronomy 7:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14.

So, what is said in the article that follows is not to promote the courtship arrangement nor to disregard existing customs in many lands nor to minimize their worth. It is, rather, to give sound counsel

from God's Word, particularly for young persons in lands where such courtship practice *does* exist.

TEEN-AGE MARRIAGES

And, although primarily directed to young people, the purpose of this succeeding article is not to encourage early marriage. The hard facts show that teen-age marriages simply do not have the same likelihood of success as marriages where one or both persons have attained a more mature age. As one sociologist commented: “Research studies show that, in general, teen-age marriages are characterized by a high divorce or unhappiness rate compared with marriages at later age.”

On the other hand, there is no Scriptural basis for rigidly ruling out all marriage among such younger persons. Generally, the laws of the land grant the parents the right to exercise their mature judgment to decide what they believe will be in the best interests of their children and lead to the greatest happiness and benefit for them. They may decide either to allow or not to allow marriage of their sons or daughters who are under their jurisdiction. Certainly, the many problems of our times and the large percentage of marriage failures should cause them to exercise caution. And it should cause thinking young persons likewise to exercise caution—rather than to ‘marry in haste and repent at leisure.’ It is foolish to rush through a door just because it is open, when you do not have any good idea of what is on the other side.

Above all, the wise person, young or old, will seek God's direction. Yes, “roll your works upon Jehovah himself and your plans will be firmly established,” for “the heart of earthling man may think out his way, but Jehovah himself does the directing of his steps.”—Prov. 16:3, 9.



Keeping COURTSHIP HONORABLE

THE Bible says: "Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement." (Heb. 13:4) Is it not reasonable that what precedes marriage—courtship, in many lands—should also be kept honorable if it is to please God?

In some places a young man is allowed to be with a young girl only when at least one of the parents, or some other older person, is present. In many Western lands, however, such young persons may often be together without a chaperon. The question is, then, where such wider area of freedom is permitted, how can courtship be kept honorable? What can a young person do to assure that in his or her case courtship will lead to a truly happy and successful marriage?

Freedom always brings with it responsibility. So, if this question is one that you now face, you do well to keep in mind the fine principle set out at Galatians 5:13. Here the apostle Paul was, of course, speaking of the freedom that Christianity brought to those embracing it. But the principle applies to any kind of freedom, especially if we want our exercise of it to bring fine results and God's favor. The apostle writes: "You were, of course, called for freedom, brothers; only do not use this freedom as an inducement for the flesh, but through love slave for one another." Genuine love—for God and for our neighbor, including the person we may be courting—will help us to avoid using any freedom we have in a selfish, harmful way.

WHAT SHOULD COURTSHIP ACCOMPLISH?

To be honorable, courturing should be carried on with marriage as its goal. So, it should not begin before the person is ready to take on marriage responsibilities. Of course, you cannot know right at the start whether you want to marry a person or not. It makes sense not to be too quick in settling your attention on any one individual. But this is no reason for carrying on "courtships" that amount to no more than a mere flirtation or series of flirtations.*

Even if you are "interested" in someone, you would be wise, for a while, to try to keep your association with such one as merely part of a group, in group activities. Why? Because, in those circumstances, you can often get a better idea of what a person is really like. This is because we all incline to be more "ourselves" when we are not under the pressure of feeling that someone is paying us special attention. But when a couple separates from the group, the natural tendency from then on is to be what the other person wants you to be, even to mirror his or her likes and dislikes. And sometimes this can camouflage one's real personality. When paired off, a couple can also quickly become emotionally involved so that they begin to see each other through 'rose-colored glasses.' If a couple gets married under the flush of such emotion, they often face a rude awakening. Far better to 'look before you leap.'

* For further information on this subject, see the article "What About Dating?" in the October 1, 1971, issue of *The Watchtower*, pages 593-595.

Generally, it is the man who initiates courtship, by expressing interest in the woman. If he is honest and serious about it, she has the right to believe that he is at least contemplating marriage. Then what? Well, she then has a responsibility to ask herself whether she believes she could consider marriage with him. If she is quite certain that she would not consider him as a prospective husband, then it would be quite cruel for her to allow him to develop a deep interest in her. Some girls have been willing to let someone court them just to enhance their appearance of popularity or eligibility, hoping that other young men will now notice them. Some young men have done similarly, thinking they can 'play the field,' have a good time and then pull out before things get too serious. But such selfish use of one's freedom can cause real hurt, severe wounds that may take months, even years to heal.—Compare Proverbs 26:18, 19.

Only if used unselfishly can the freedom to court bring benefits. It can afford an opportunity to become better acquainted with the person with whom you are considering spending the rest of your life. Depending on how honest each one is toward the other, you can get to learn each other's likes and dislikes, standards, habits and outlooks, yes, and each other's temper and disposition and reaction to problems or difficulties. You rightly want to know such things as: Is he or she kind, generous and considerate of others? What about respect for parents and older persons? Is there good evidence of modesty and humility, or is the person boastful, obstinate? Do I see self-control and balance or, instead, weakness and childishness, perhaps sulking or even tantrums? Since a large part of life is work, what about signs of laziness, irresponsibility or a wasteful attitude toward money?

What about plans for the future? Is a family desired or is there interest in some special vocation? In an article entitled "Danger Signals in Courtship" the writer states: "Our study of engaged and happily and unhappily married people found the unhappily married were in little agreement on life goals and values."—*Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality*, November 1970, page 43.

Above all, you should want to know how much God's purposes figure in the other's interests and plans. Yes, when the whole picture is filled out, how well suited are you for each other? If serious differences exist, do not fool yourself into thinking that marriage will automatically solve them. It may only make the friction that they cause be felt more keenly.

HONORABLE CONDUCT IN COURTSHIP

In lands where unchaperoned association is allowed by parents, couples who are courting often engage in expressions of affection such as holding hands, kissing, even embracing. How advisable is this? Does the Bible have any counsel for us on such matters?

The Bible does not set forth any specific rules on these matters. Parents, of course, have the right to instruct their sons and daughters as to the standards by which they want them to conduct themselves. While elders in a congregation cannot establish such rules, they can direct young people's attention to the sound guiding principles found in God's Word, and anyone who honestly wants to take a wise course in life will willingly and gladly give heed to such counsel.—Prov. 1:7-9; 2:6-9.

The Bible, of course, does definitely rule out such things as fornication. But it also warns against other unclean conduct that may not be as grave as fornication. Any couple that heed these warnings will save



If one's courtship becomes a series of passionate expressions with less and less restraint, how will this affect prospects for a successful marriage?

themselves much grief and will not run the risk of having the memories of some misconduct come back to trouble them.—Eph. 5:3-5.

Holding hands can be a clean expression of affection between persons contemplating marriage. True, it does have a stimulating effect, but this is natural and not necessarily bad. Why, just the sight of the person one is considering marrying may also stimulate, 'make the heart beat faster.' (Song of Sol. 4:9) Nevertheless, we need to remember that, human nature being what it is, physical contact does increase the "pull" of sexual attraction. It is also a fact that as simple forms of contact are repeated the pleasurable sensation they first brought generally decreases. This can lead you to seek something more intensely stimulating. But how far can you go without endangering a clean relationship? Because of realizing the possible danger, some persons may prefer to limit themselves very strictly as to all physical contact during courtship, and no one should disparage or make light of their conscientious position.—Compare Romans 14:5, 10, 22, 23.

Kissing may also be a clean expression of affection between persons contemplat-

ing marriage—or it may not be. Really the question is, To what extent does passion enter the picture? Some types of dancing are clean and free from passion; others are not. So, too, with kissing, or even embracing. But even if clean, each of these expressions represents a new line crossed. If they are crossed early in courtship—perhaps even before engagement—they may well cause the couple's relationship to degenerate into mere satisfying of passion, leading them to engage in unclean conduct, if not fornication.—Col. 3:5, 6.

We ought to be honest with ourselves. If we know we do not have strong self-control in these things, then we should not jeopardize our future or that of the other person by taking chances. Would you drive a car down a steep winding road if you knew its brakes were in poor shape? The time to make up your mind and settle your heart on these matters is before you begin, not after. Once the physical desires begin to stir, it is generally very difficult to stop their buildup. (Jas. 1:14, 15) Those who let passion build up in them to the point of desiring sexual relations—when they are not entitled to these through marriage—subject themselves to tension, frustration and actual pain. It is like reading an exciting book—only to find that the last chapter has been torn out.

Those who keep their relationship in courtship on a high level will get off to a far better start in marriage than those allowing their relationship to work down to a low level through intimacy that steadily increases in frequency and intensity. How much respect can a girl feel for someone that she has to 'keep fighting

off'? But a young man who shows strength of willpower and respectful restraint earns respect. The same is true of a girl. And she particularly needs to realize that, whereas her feelings may require time to be stirred, this is seldom true of a male.

—Prov. 25:28.

Giving in to frequent and increasingly passionate expressions can lead to a premature marriage. The book *Adolescence and Youth* (page 288) says: "The early stages of courtship are often impossibly romantic. Marriage at that time might lead a person to expect more of the marriage than any marriage could realize. Lengthened courtship usually brings about a more reasonable understanding of the other person so that an understanding marriage may result." For such longer courtship, restraint must be exercised—otherwise the power of sexual drive may build up so early as to become a real danger.—Compare 1 Corinthians 9:27.

Serious doubts and suspicions may also crop up after marriage if passion was allowed to color the picture strongly during the courtship or engagement period. The couple may begin to wonder, Did we really marry for love? Or were we just caught up in passion? Was it a wise choice? The girl may also incline to doubt the genuineness of her husband's love, wondering if he did not just marry her for her body and not for what she was and is as a person.

To protect yourself and your future happiness, avoid situations that lend themselves to passion. (Ps. 119:101, 104) Lonely places and darkness are not going to help you to keep courtship honorable. Nor will situations where time hangs heavy and there seems to be nothing else to do except engage in such expressions of affection. But much clean enjoyment can be had in such activities as ice-skating, playing tennis or similar sport, having a meal together at a restaurant or visiting

some museum or local point of interest and beauty. While enjoying some feeling of privacy because of not being around personal acquaintances, you still have the safeguard of not being completely isolated from other people.

Too, instead of thinking just about what you are "missing" by showing restraint, think about what you are preparing for in the future. Then, in all the years to come, you will be able to look back on your courtship, not with distaste or regret, but with pleasure.—Rom. 13:13, 14.

Yes, courtship can really test you as to what kind of person you are, what you have in your heart, how conscientious you are. God's Word does not draw precise lines for every aspect of this matter. Yet the sound principles, wise counsel and helpful guidelines found in God's Word are ample to aid us to keep a balance, to stay well within the bounds of what is clean and morally healthful. Thus our expressions of affection for a prospective mate will never work to the harm of that one, emotionally or spiritually. So, if you should enter into courtship, by all means keep it honorable. You will always be happy you did.



There is much clean enjoyment that can be had and which also safeguards a couple from being completely isolated from others

Insight on the News

- The Middle East came back into sharp focus in late 1973 with the fourth in the series of fierce Arab-Israeli conflicts.

Mid-East Crisis

They believe that a vital element in the establishing of God's kingdom is the rise of Israel to the place of earth's leading nation, with Jerusalem as "the capital of the United States of the World"—ruled by Christ. Does Bible prophecy really focus on Israel in this way?

No, it plainly does not. For one thing, the Israeli leaders themselves have consistently disclaimed any interest in seeing the young republic become a "theocracy." More importantly, the Bible shows that it is spiritual—not fleshly—Israel on which prophecies of restoration would find later fulfillment. That is why the apostle Paul, himself a Jew, found need to point out that "he is not a Jew who is one on the outside, nor is circumcision that which is on the outside upon the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one on the inside, and his circumcision is that of the heart by spirit, and not by a written code."—Rom. 2:28, 29.

As a political, rather than a theocratic, state, the modern Republic of Israel finds itself enmeshed in the political power struggles of today. It is true that strong religious differences separate Jew and Arab. But the fuses igniting their wars have all been political and economic issues, not issues related to the Bible.

- Figures from the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago indicate that three fifths of

Shaping Church Morals
American church members endorse some form of pre-marital sex. Why? Often because their clergymen place greater value on the opinions of influential theologians, such as the late Paul Tillich, than on God's Word.

Tillich was a professor at Union Theological Seminary and Harvard Divinity School. The Protestant "Christian Century" magazine called him one of the "giants" among modern theologians. What did Tillich do if a student came to him faced with a difficult moral decision? He wrote: "I don't quote the

Ten Commandments, or the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, or any other law." Why this aversion for specific moral laws?

Perhaps it was to excuse what the New York "Post" calls Tillich's "free-and-easy sex life." His widow recently revealed that their marriage "was a break with the whole concept of monogamy," and that Tillich expected her to take "him into loving arms whenever he emerged from the darkness of his indiscriminating sexuality."

The apostle Peter warns Christians that "there will also be false teachers" who "will disown even the owner that bought them," that is, teach and lead a life entirely contrary to what Jesus taught. What would be one result of their false teaching? Peter says: "Many will follow their acts of loose conduct." —2 Pet. 2:1, 2; Jude 4.

Is it any wonder, then, that many church members carry on in the same unprincipled manner?

- The age-old problem of venereal disease keeps plaguing mankind.

Only Way to Stop VD
The World Health Organization says that VD is assuming epidemic proportions internationally.

What is the solution? "The big answer is education," many authorities say. Ads all over Sweden warn, "Last night, 128 Swedes got gonorrhea," and then urge the use of contraceptive devices as protection. Elsewhere checkups are encouraged, particularly in women. Eighty-five percent of the cases involving women show no outward signs of disease.

But despite partial success, these campaigns have not stopped the international onslaught of VD. Why?

Because the problem is not straightforwardly recognized for what it is—a moral one. The one way to be sure of keeping VD out of your life is to follow the simple, clear instruction found in the Bible: "Flee from fornication." (1 Cor. 6:18) Those choosing to do otherwise can expect to pay the consequences, in one form or another.

- Worldwide inflation is causing hurt—and the pinch is greatest on food, exactly where

Bible prophecy pointed centuries ago. The symbolic "black horse" of Revelation is riding, with food scarcity and high prices marking his trail.

Inflation Hurts —Rev. 6:5, 6.

True, in many industrial lands salaries have never been higher. But living standards in some places are now rolling back. A U.S. wage earner would have had to get a salary increase of 6 or 7 percent each year for the past four years just to stay even with the spiraling cost of living. Where does the problem lie?

It is a combination of many things. Once inflation starts, money starts losing value. Rather than hold their money, people prefer to spend—often on nonessentials, even luxuries. Spending creates a demand for goods and this, in turn, forces up the price. Savings, insurance policies and similar investments steadily weaken as the national currency loses buying power. Governments contribute by their wars and by deficit spending. Taxes grow. Money's instability creates distrust. That is why wage earners demand large salary boosts, fearing that a moderate raise will not match future living costs. Manufacturers hike prices sharply for the same reason, fearing that moderate price rises will not cover growing manufacturing costs.

All of this points up the inability of imperfect men to govern the earth effectively. It also proves the truth of the apostle's warning that "those who are determined to be rich" eventually wind up 'stabbing themselves all over with many pains.'—1 Tim. 6:9, 10.

● Many new translations of the Bible in "modern English" have come out in recent years. Yet most of these still use archaic English "for language addressed to God."

"Modern English" Bibles

Even the "Revised Standard Version" of 1952 and "The New English Bible" of 1971 at Job 42:2 read: "I know that thou canst do all things." But now, says a late issue of "Theology Today," translators are finally changing.

An editorial in the journal refers to "the liturgical drift that has now reached flood proportions that assumes to address Deity in the second person plural ('You'—'Your'—'Yours' rather than 'Thee'—'Thou'—'Thine')." Reserving the older forms of language for "De-

ity" has posed no few headaches for trinitarian translators. They erroneously believe that Jesus is God. Well, when Jesus was on the earth, should translators have him addressed as 'Thou art the Christ,' implying he is God? Or, as 'You are the Christ,' indicating that he is a man?—Matt. 16:16.

Really, why should archaic language be used in addressing God? Some translators are beginning to realize what others appreciated long ago, namely, that the Bible was originally written in the living language of the people of the day. And so Bible characters spoke and prayed to God in the same everyday language that they employed when speaking to their fellow creatures on earth. They did not have one special language to use when speaking to God and another to use when speaking to their neighbor.

● A recent survey shows that churchgoing in the United States continued to decline in 1973. According to a report in the "National Catholic Reporter," the number of Catholics attending church weekly or almost weekly dropped from 61 percent to 48 percent between 1972 and 1973. And in the past ten years the number of priests quitting amounted to nearly 10 percent of the worldwide total.

In general, Protestant churches in the United States also report a drop in churchgoing, though somewhat more gradual. The number of weekly churchgoers dropped to 36 percent in 1973. Among Jews only about 19 percent attend religious services on a weekly basis.

Is interest in spiritual things dying?

A refreshing contrast pointing in a different direction appears in the "1974 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses." Its report shows that those presenting themselves for baptism by Jehovah's witnesses rose from somewhat over 160,000 in their 1972 "service year" to 193,990 in the 1973 period. With meeting attendance running around 100 percent worldwide, the "Yearbook" report focuses more particularly on active witnessing done. It shows that the Witnesses in 208 lands and islands of the sea spent over 300 million hours during the past year in carrying the good news of God's kingdom to their neighbors. The number sharing rose about 100,000 in one year, and a high of 1,810,000 took part in September of 1973.

"FAITH DIVORCED FROM DEEDS

is LIFELESS AS A CORPSE"

WHEN we speak of faith we think of one's belief in God. The apostle Paul, in describing faith to Hebrew Christians, said: "Faith is the assured expectation of things hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld." (Heb. 11:1) An assured expectation has something

backing it up. It conveys the idea that this expectation is guaranteed, that there will be a future possession. Some suggest that faith is like a title deed of things hoped for. Faith can also involve fidelity to one's promises or allegiance to duty. One who has faith in Jehovah God and in his Son, Christ Jesus, would want to show loyalty, acting in full harmony with Jehovah's ways and advocating them to others.—Ps. 145:10, 11.

² What Jesus Christ taught his disciples and what has been passed on to all Christians down through the centuries by means of the Word of God constitutes true Christian faith. (Eph. 1:15-17; 4:5) In the early days of Christianity, when the disciples of Jesus spoke the things that Jesus had taught them, many believed and put faith in Christ Jesus and his teachings. The disciples gave priority to this work of preaching and teaching. "Consequently the word of God went on growing, and the number

"Of what benefit is it, my brothers, if a certain one says he has faith but he does not have works? That faith cannot save him, can it?"
—Jas. 2:14.

of the disciples kept multiplying in Jerusalem very much; and a great crowd of priests began to be obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7) This good news that was preached by the disciples certainly spread out, and their own faith in that good news became well known; so, when Paul was writing to

the Romans, he could truthfully say: "First of all, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ concerning all of you, because your faith is talked about throughout the whole world."—Rom. 1:8.

³ Paul was a real evangelizer, a proclaimer of the good news. He learned of Jesus Christ, who through his death on the torture stake provided the means for taking away the sin of the world, and Paul learned about Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Paul was so deeply appreciative of the significance of these things that he felt everyone should know about them. So he traveled thousands of miles, much of it on foot, preaching and teaching. He opened up new territory as a missionary would, and brought to many people of many nations the message that would provide them a basis for faith.

"The Word of Faith Which We Proclaim"

⁴ Paul told people, as he wrote to the Romans: "The word is near you: it is

4. What was "the word of faith" that Paul proclaimed, and how did he share in proclaiming it?

1. Define faith, and what are some of the ideas that definition conveys?

2, 3. (a) What constitutes true Christian faith? (b) To what extent did the disciples of Jesus spread that true faith? (c) What part did the apostle Paul have in spreading that true faith?

upon your lips and in your heart.' This means the word of faith which we proclaim. If on your lips is the confession, 'Jesus is Lord', and in your heart the faith that God raised him from the dead, then you will find salvation. For the faith that leads to righteousness is in the heart, and the confession that leads to salvation is upon the lips." (Rom. 10:8-10, *The New English Bible*) Paul spoke in synagogues, along river banks, in schools, in prison, in private homes, to all kinds of people, Jews and Greeks, and crowds of various sizes. When Paul spoke, the "word" was brought near them, so near that they could repeat it with their own lips and cherish it in their own hearts. Some did believe and exercise such faith in their hearts.

⁵ Concerning the "faith that leads to righteousness," Paul wrote to the Romans: "What shall we say, then? That people of the nations, although not pursuing righteousness, caught up with righteousness, the righteousness that results from faith; but Israel, although pursuing a law of righteousness, did not attain to the law." (Rom. 9:30, 31) It is quite evident that due to Paul's evangelism many Gentiles were aided to catch up with righteousness. The other disciples, too, through their teaching in many cities brought thousands of Gentiles to a knowledge of Christ Jesus, and these caught up with righteousness, the righteousness that results from faith in the Son of God. From what Paul pointed out to the Jews who made great efforts to keep the Mosaic law, they were never able to attain righteousness. "Why was this? Because their efforts were not based on faith, but (as they supposed) on deeds. They fell over the 'stone' mentioned in Scripture: 'Here I lay in Zion a stone to trip over, a rock to stumble against; but he who has faith in him will not be put to shame.'" —Rom. 9:32, 33, NE.

⁵ For the expression of faith to result in a righteous standing before God, it must include faith in whom?

⁶ The law that was given to the Jews was to be a tutor leading them to Christ. It was to bring them to the Messiah and aid them to recognize him and to accept him as their instructor and Lord when he came. (Gal. 3:24) Yet most of them, lacking faith, stumbled over the very one to whom God's righteous law was directing them, namely, God's Son. So, now, the "word" or message that "Jesus is Lord" was being proclaimed not only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles, to all the nations. This "word" from God is made readily available to people everywhere. Paul's letter to the Romans said that the "word is near you: it is upon your lips and in your heart." But what will the individual do about it? If the "word" really gets down into his heart he will believe. He will have faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and as the one through whom God will carry out all His grand promises. (2 Cor. 1:20) In order to have such faith he must have knowledge—first of all, knowledge of God and knowledge of what He has said and done, because the provision for salvation through Christ originates with God. God himself raised Jesus from the dead. This is what Paul is trying to convince people about, especially the Romans in his day. Sometimes it was necessary in Paul's day to impress upon even those who claimed to be dedicated to God the significance of these fundamental truths. Paul was proclaiming "the word of faith." What was that faith based on? There were two very definite things that Paul had in mind, and so must we 1,900 years later. To be a Christian one must hear "the word of faith" and be convinced (1) That Jesus, the Son of God, is Lord, that by his sacrificial death he purchased mankind and so he must be acknowledged by Christians as their owner; also, (2) That Jehovah

6. (a) Why did the Jews as a nation reject Jesus as the Messiah, and so to whom was the message that "Jesus is Lord" proclaimed? (b) On what was the "word of faith" Paul spoke of based?

God raised Jesus from the dead. Of course, you would want some proof of these two things since they are essential for one's finding salvation, that is, finding everlasting life.—2 Cor. 5:14, 15.

⁷ The disciples that walked with Christ Jesus nineteen centuries ago had a marvelous opportunity to acquire strong faith because they really walked with the Son of God. They heard him speak while he was here upon the earth as a human creature and after his resurrection too. When Jesus asked his followers: "Who do you say I am?" they could answer with conviction that he was the Messiah, the Son of God. (Matt. 16:15, 16) But on this matter the faithless Pharisees were put in a position where they could no longer answer Jesus. The record is set forth at Matthew 22:41-46: "Now while the Pharisees were gathered together Jesus asked them: 'What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?' They said to him: 'David's.' He said to them: 'How, then, is it that David by inspiration calls him "Lord," saying, "Jehovah said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies beneath your feet' "? If, therefore, David calls him "Lord," how is he his son?' And nobody was able to say a word in reply to him."

⁸ Peter, however, on the day of Pentecost made it clear who this "Lord" was and that he was at the right hand of God. He said: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for a certainty that God made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you impaled." (Acts 2:36) Just as the apostles and the early Christians did, so Christians right down to this day make confession with their lips that Jesus is Lord. If they are true Christians, this is

7. Because of strong faith, what did Jesus' disciples recognize about the identity of Jesus, but how did the Pharisees react?

8, 9. (a) What must Christians confess about Jesus to show their faith, and how are they to demonstrate that they really believe this? (b) Then what further step is necessary to show one's faith?

more than a verbal expression, however. They demonstrate their submission to Christ as Lord by doing the will of Jesus' Father, as Jesus taught his disciples to do. (Matt. 7:21; John 15:8) Christians must believe something else too, and that is that Jesus was resurrected from the dead by God. Peter confirmed this on the day of Pentecost. He said: "This Jesus God resurrected, of which fact we are all witnesses." (Acts 2:32) Now do you believe these two fundamental facts stated by both Paul and Peter, that "Jesus is Lord" and that "this Jesus God resurrected" from the dead? If you do, then there is something you have to do about it, namely, make confession of your faith with your lips. Those who make such a heartfelt confession should get baptized. The apostle Peter urged those who heard him speak at Pentecost of 33 C.E. to do that. "Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added."—Acts 2:40, 41.

⁹ Think of it: about three thousand of those to whom Peter spoke were baptized! They were added to the congregation and they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and they personally shared in preaching the good news to others.—Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 8:1, 4.

¹⁰ Many years later, about 56 C.E., the apostle Paul was writing to the Christian congregation in Rome. That congregation may have been established by some Jews or proselytes from Rome who had visited Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, 33 C.E. They may have witnessed the miraculous outpouring of the holy spirit then. (Acts 2:1-5, 10) Now twenty-three years had passed. In the meantime Paul had become an apostle to the nations, and being interested in the congregation in Rome he was

10. (a) How did the apostle Paul seek to encourage the Roman congregation to zealous activity? (b) What, then, would they do to prove their faith, setting what example for Christians today?

trying to stir them up to greater activity so this good news of the Kingdom would be preached even more widely than it had been up to that time. The things in which they confessed faith before baptism also were to be declared publicly after baptism so that others might believe. Paul wrote: "If on your lips is the confession, 'Jesus is Lord', and in your heart the faith that God raised him from the dead, then you will find salvation." (Rom. 10:9, NE) If they really believed this they would be zealous in preaching it to others. They must prove their faith by the things that were on their lips, by expressing their belief to other people that Jesus truly is Lord. They must prove by their actions that they believed that Jesus had been exalted to a position second only to God and that "every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:9-11) We, too, must give evidence that we have such faith. Of course, in order to believe that, every Christian must also believe that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, and that Jehovah God in heaven did this for his Son. Paul shows in his letter that he was convinced of it, and he was trying to persuade all readers of his letter that they should tell out the information that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. In that way the individual will find salvation. Of course, one who is saved is a winner. He overcomes the world. He will gain life everlasting.

11 Paul emphasizes the need of faith, not only in these two things, Jesus' being Lord and the resurrection, but, of course, in all the things that Jesus taught. This faith must be deep-seated, not superficial, not something that is just on the surface; "the faith that leads to righteousness is in the heart, and the confession that leads to salvation is upon the lips."—Rom. 10:10, NE.

11, 12 How does Romans 10:10 show that true faith must be deep-seated?

12 World wide today the Christian witnesses of Jehovah are making this confession. Peoples of all nations in hundreds of languages are learning the truth of God's Word. Christians must prove that they have faith by the deeds they perform.

Of What Good Are Words Without Deeds?

13 The disciple James, a half brother of Jesus, was undoubtedly acquainted with his brother's activities, but there is no indication that he was a disciple who followed Jesus during his earthly ministry. James may have been among those relatives of his that said of Jesus: "He has gone out of his mind." (Mark 3:21) However, very likely it is this James that saw Jesus after his resurrection. Paul evidently had him in mind when he wrote to the Corinthians: "After that he appeared to upward of five hundred brothers at one time . . . After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles." (1 Cor. 15:6, 7) So it is likely that this James, after the death of Jesus and prior to Pentecost of 33 C.E., assembled for prayer together with his mother and the apostles and others in the upper chamber in Jerusalem. (Acts 1:13, 14) He became a believer that Jesus is Lord, and he also knew that Jesus was raised from the dead. James later became a prominent follower of Christ Jesus and, in later years, was one of those who shared in deciding matters on behalf of all the congregations when the body of elders met in Jerusalem.—Acts 15:6, 13.

14 James wrote some very strong things to his Christian brothers, and he dealt with this matter of faith. He looked at it in the same way that Paul did. James ex-

13. Though not a disciple of Jesus to begin with, what course of faith did James, the half brother of Jesus, eventually follow?

14. (a) How did James show the interrelation of faith and good works? (b) What words of Jesus do we have to show the basis on which he is now separating people, with either life or death in view?

pressed it in this way: "My brothers, what use is it for a man to say he has faith when he does nothing to show it?" (Jas. 2:14, NE) An individual has no reason to brag about his faith if he does not have works to back it up. Really his claim that he has faith is spurious. To illustrate this important matter of appropriate works James puts a question to the congregation: "If a brother or a sister is in a naked state and lacking the food sufficient for the day, yet a certain one of you says to them: 'Go in peace, keep warm and well fed,' but you do not give them the necessities for their body, of what benefit is it?" (Jas. 2:15, 16) Works are needed to demonstrate that the desire expressed in the words is genuine. We recall that Jesus said: "When the Son of man arrives in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit down on his glorious throne. . . . and he will separate people one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will put the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you. . . . I was a stranger and you received me hospitably; naked, and you clothed me. . . . To the extent that you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"—Matt. 25: 31-40.

¹⁵ Persons would not necessarily have to be literally naked to be in need of help. The footnote of the *New World Translation* on Matthew 25:36 says: "Or, 'not sufficiently dressed'; in the common language the original word for this expression meant 'lightly clad, in the undergarment only,' hence scantily dressed, not necessarily nude or naked." Whether the person is naked or just lightly clad, the

15, 16. (a) What explanation do we have of the word "naked" found at Matthew 25:36? (b) How can a person do good works to Jesus' "brothers" and not just be saying, in effect, "Good luck to you"?

individual seeing the condition of the "stranger" should not simply say, "Go in peace, keep warm and well fed." Of course, we cannot offer such aid to Jesus personally, but we can do so to his "brothers," spirit-anointed Christians who are alive here on earth. Do you offer such help to them, doing so both because you see their need and because you know that they belong to Christ?—Matt. 10:41, 42.

¹⁶ James points out that words that are not backed up with acts are of no value. Just saying the words "Keep warm" will not benefit your Christian brother or sister. Another translation puts the words of James this way: "Suppose a brother or a sister is in rags with not enough food for the day, and one of you says, 'Good luck to you, keep yourselves warm, and have plenty to eat', but does nothing to supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?" (NE) If one wants to see persons keep themselves warm, then it will take a little work on the part of the Christian to see to it that the persons are kept warm by giving them something, not just saying, "Good luck to you," and doing nothing to supply the bodily needs. In like manner, faith must be accompanied by works. Faith must be backed up with action.

Is Your Faith Dead or Alive?

¹⁷ James goes on to say: "So with faith; if it does not lead to action, it is in itself a lifeless thing." (Jas. 2:17, NE) That is true. James now introduces an imaginary person, and says: "Nevertheless, a certain one will say: 'You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith apart from the works, and I shall show you my faith by my works.'" (Jas. 2:18) The point being discussed is not whether works in harmony with the Mosaic law lead to salvation or faith in Jesus Christ does. Rather,

17. What is the point of James 2:18?

faith that is real and alive is being contrasted with a dead or lifeless faith. Another translation presents it in this way: "But someone may object: 'Here is one who claims to have faith and another who points to his deeds.' To which I reply: 'Prove to me that this faith you speak of is real though not accompanied by deeds, and by my deeds I will prove to you my faith.'" —NE.

¹⁸ So the question is forced on a person's mind: Can a Christian prove his faith with no works at all? Or must a Christian prove his faith by demonstrating to others through the use of his heart, mind, soul and strength that his faith is a live faith, a productive faith, not a dead one? James is showing that works or activity is proof of one's faith. There are many people in the world today that say they believe in God, but when you ask, 'Who is he? What has he done? What is he doing?' that brings the conversation to a close. They have no real faith in God, because they do not know him. They have no "assured expectation of things hoped for." They are acquainted with no "evident demonstration of realities though not beheld." (Heb. 11:1) Others say, 'I believe in Jesus Christ,' but when you ask, 'What is Jesus Christ doing now?' they just do not really know. They say he died. They do not believe he is the resurrected Lord, alive in the heavens, entrusted with great power and reigning as king, soon to bring to its end the wicked system of things, and preparing to bring to full realization the prayer that Christians have been taught to pray, namely, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10, AV) Such persons are lost when it comes to telling you what their faith is all about. They cannot back it up with Bible proof. They have no hope.

18, 19. (a) What evidence do we have that many people who say they believe in God and Christ do not have real faith? (b) What did James say to those professing belief in God but not having an active faith?

Really, they do not believe that Jesus is Lord and that Jehovah God raised him from the dead and that he has been made king of God's kingdom and put on the heavenly throne for the blessing of all mankind. Do you?

¹⁹ Evidently James in his discussion with people who professed to be of the congregation of God in the first century found that some did not have a faith that was alive, that was active, one that moved a person to show genuine love toward his Christian brothers and to share in producing more disciples of Jesus Christ. So James said: "You believe there is one God, do you? You are doing quite well. And yet the demons believe and shudder." (Jas. 2:19) Why did James say that?

²⁰ He points out that the demons believe there is a God. In fact, they know that quite well, because "when men started to grow in numbers on the surface of the ground and daughters were born to them, then the sons of the true God began to notice the daughters of men, that they were good-looking; and they went taking wives for themselves, namely, all whom they chose." (Gen. 6:1, 2) These "sons of the true God" were spirit creatures but they materialized. As they "continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame." Because of their depravity these fallen angels brought havoc to the earth, and their hybrid offspring, "the mighty ones," no doubt had much to do with the "violence" that filled the earth in those days. As a result, God said that he was going to destroy mankind by a flood, preserving only Noah, his wife and his three sons and their wives.—Gen. 6:4-7, 11-13.

²¹ What happened to those materialized angels when the floodwaters fell? They

20, 21. How do we know that the demons believe in God, but what happened to them at the time of the Flood, and why?

were forced back into the spirit realm, but not to the assigned positions they had forsaken. Jude tells us: "The angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day." (Jude 6) James refers to these angels as demons. These demons believed there is one God, they believed that he exists, but they did not do the works of God.

²² They knew of the Son of God, Christ Jesus, too, but they did not do his works. When Jesus was in the country of the Gadarenes he met up with two demon-possessed men coming out from among the memorial tombs. These men were unusually fierce and no one had any courage to pass by on the road. These demons knew who Jesus Christ was. "They screamed, saying: 'What have we to do with you, Son of God? Did you come here to torment us before the appointed time?'" The account tells us that Jesus expelled the demons from the men and the demons went into a herd of swine.—Matt. 8:28-32.

²³ There was no question about these demons believing that there is a God and that Jesus is the Son of God. And they shuddered at the thought of what this meant for them. Peter tells us: "God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into Tartarus, delivered them to pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment."

—2 Pet. 2:4.

²⁴ It is very evident that these sons of God became demons because of not doing God's will. They were rebellious. They certainly knew there is a God; and now James, in speaking to those in the Christian congregation, says: "You believe there is one God, do you? You are doing quite well." But if that was as far as their

22, 23. What evidence is there that the demons also knew Christ Jesus and recognized his power?

24. So, then, why is belief in God not sufficient?

belief went, then they were not much better off than the demons. The demons are against God, and still they believe. They have knowledge. They know the position that Jehovah holds in the universe, but they do not conform to his will. Similarly, millions upon millions of people right here upon the earth believe there is a God, and say they have faith, but where are their works? Theirs is a dead faith.

Evidence of Living Faith

²⁵ So James puts the matter squarely before his hearers: "Can you not see, you quibbler, that faith divorced from deeds is barren?" (Jas. 2:20, NE) A barren woman does not bring forth; she does not produce. What does your faith do for you? Does it have works? Does it produce something? Do you live in harmony with what you profess to believe? Does your faith help you to make disciples of Christ Jesus? Are you increasing Kingdom interests? To emphasize his point, James gives us an illustration and speaks about Abraham: "Was it not by his action, in offering his son Isaac upon the altar, that our father Abraham was justified? Surely you can see that faith was at work in his actions, and that by these actions the integrity of his faith was fully proved. Here was fulfillment of the words of Scripture: 'Abraham put his faith in God, and that faith was counted to him as righteousness'; and elsewhere he is called 'God's friend.' You see then that a man is justified by deeds and not by faith in itself." (Jas. 2:21-24, NE) Do you have faith like that of Abraham, the kind of faith that moves one to put the doing of God's will ahead of life itself?

²⁶ Paul, in his letter concerning faith,

25. (a) With what questions is each of us now faced? (b) What does James tell us about Abraham's faith?

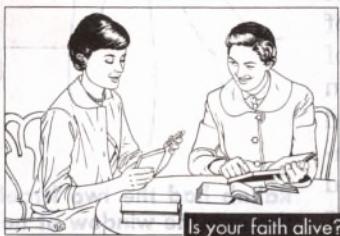
26. (a) As related by Paul, how did Abraham and Sarah exhibit faith in God's promises? (b) What question now poses itself for each of us?

said: "Faith is the assured expectation of things hoped for." He, too, wrote about Abraham and uses Abraham as a real-life example of faith. He says: "By faith Abraham obeyed the call to go out to a land destined for himself and his heirs, and left home without knowing where he was to go. By faith he settled as an alien in the land promised him, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs to the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with firm foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith even Sarah herself received strength to conceive, though she was past the age, because she judged that he who had promised would keep faith; and therefore from one man, and one as good as dead, there sprang descendants numerous as the stars or as the countless grains of sand on the sea-shore."

(Heb. 11:8-12, NE) We know that Abraham died without getting the fulfillment of the promise made to him, but he certainly had faith and an assured expectation of the things hoped for, and all through his life he had the evidence of God's blessing upon him. Abraham's faith in "the city . . . whose architect and builder is God" moved him to leave behind material conveniences in order to do God's will. Do your works similarly give evidence that God's kingdom is more important to you than are material possessions?—Luke 12:29-31.

²⁷ There was another man, one who saw what the sons of God had done in their association with the daughters of men before the global flood, and Paul also uses him as an illustration of one showing real

faith. We read: "By faith Noah, after being given divine warning of things not yet beheld, showed godly fear and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; and through this faith he condemned the world, and he became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith." (Heb. 11:7) The building of the ark was not accomplished by a miracle. Noah had to cut down trees, shape them, and put various compartments in the structure. He had to cover the inside and outside with tar. (Gen. 6:14) This ark was not small; its measurements were 437 feet six inches long, 72 feet eleven inches wide and 43 feet nine inches high. This colossal chest-like structure was built on dry land. The Bible also details its very interesting passenger list. Besides Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives, Noah was instructed to bring other creatures into the ark with him: "Every living creature of every sort of flesh, two of each, you will bring into the ark to



Is your faith alive?



Does it move you to preach to others?

27. How did Noah show that he was a man with an active faith?

preserve them alive with you. Male and female they will be. Of the flying creatures according to their kinds and of the domestic animals according to their kinds, of all moving animals of the ground according to their kinds, two of each will go in there to you to preserve them alive. And as for you, take for yourself every sort of food that is eaten; and you must gather it to yourself, and it must serve as food for you and for them. And Noah proceeded to do according to all that God had commanded him. He did just so." (Gen. 6:19-22) Would you say that Noah had work to prove his faith?

²⁸ There is another man that Bible readers have learned about in the Scriptures. Showing that he had an assured expectation of things hoped for, Paul says of him: "By faith Moses, when grown up, refused to be called the son of the daughter of Pharaoh, choosing to be ill-treated with the people of God rather than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin, because he esteemed the reproach of the Christ as riches greater than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked intently toward the payment of the reward. . . . By faith he had celebrated the passover and the splashing of the blood, that the destroyer might not touch their firstborn ones. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land, but on venturing out upon it the Egyptians were swallowed up."—Heb. 11:24-29.

²⁹ James did not take the time to discuss the faith of other men, as Paul did. Addressing his brothers and sisters, he referred to just Abraham and Rahab. So he said: "The same is true of the prostitute



Rahab had the two Israelite spies descend by a red rope through the window of her house, situated on Jericho's wall

Rahab also. Was not she justified by her action in welcoming the messengers into her house and sending them away by a different route?" (Jas. 2:25, NE) Rahab grew up in a land where other gods were worshiped, not the God of Israel. But she heard of the God of Israel and she had faith in their God because of what He had done for the Israelites. Paul referred to her too, just as James, in using her as an example of faith. Paul said: "By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with those who acted disobediently, because she received the spies in a peaceable way." (Heb. 11:30, 31) Not only did Rahab believe what the messengers told her when they came into her house, but she worked in their behalf. She hid the messengers

28. Because of his active faith, what did Moses reject?
29. What in Rahab's course of action toward the two spies shows that she had faith in Jehovah?

and aided them to escape. She also gathered her family into a place of safety. She believed what the Israelites told her to be true.

³⁰ James concludes his discussion on faith by saying: "As the body is dead when there is no breath left in it, so faith divorced from deeds is lifeless as a corpse." (Jas. 2:26, NE) In days gone by, if a person wanted to be sure there was no breath left in a body he would take a glass or a mirror and hold it close to the mouth and nose of the person. If there was any breath in that body he would be able to see it on the glass. If there was no sign of breath, he would say that the person was dead. So James uses the illustration of a body. When there is no breath in it, that is the way a person professing faith but having no works is. When faith is divorced from deeds and there is no work backing up that faith, then one's faith is like a lifeless corpse.

³¹ One thing that we should keep in mind is that James is addressing Christians, persons who are dedicated to Jehovah God and are baptized and who make the full claim that they are Jehovah's Christian witnesses. He is endeavoring to stir every one of them to action. If they have faith they should demonstrate it. Do not forget how he started out his dissertation on faith: "Of what benefit is it, my brothers, if a certain one says he has faith but he does not have works?"—Jas. 2:14.

³² Our faith today should be strong because we have the entire Bible. We have the Hebrew and the Greek Scriptures. We see what people did in faith before Christ Jesus, the Son of God, appeared on the earthly scene. We also see the faith of the early Christians and what they did. They

30, 31. What connection is made by James between the body and breath and faith and deeds, and so what is the intent of James' words?

32, 33. For what reason should Jehovah's witnesses today have strong faith, and do they give evidence of having such faith?

recognized Jesus Christ as the Son of God; they observed his life course and his determination to preach the Kingdom good news and then imitated him by putting their faith in that kingdom and preaching the good news. Now Jesus has been resurrected from the dead. Concerning this one whose example true Christians seek to imitate, Hebrews 1:3 says: "He is the reflection of [God's] glory and the exact representation of his very being, and he sustains all things by the word of his power; and after he had made a purification for our sins he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty in lofty places."

³³ So today we find hundreds of thousands of Jehovah's Christian witnesses with strong faith. They have it on their lips that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God, and in their hearts is the faith that God raised Christ Jesus up from the dead. Having this kind of faith and publicly declaring it, telling people of all nations and tongues about it, they have an assured expectation of salvation to everlasting life.

³⁴ Extreme pressure may be brought upon them by the wicked system of things during its closing hours; they may suffer economic hardship; at times their very survival may appear to be in doubt. But in the face of all this, with faith in Jehovah they will have reason for joy. As the prophet Habakkuk was inspired to write: "Although the fig tree itself may not blossom, and there may be no yield on the vines; . . . yet, as for me, I will exult in Jehovah himself; I will be joyful in the God of my salvation."—Hab. 3:17, 18.

³⁵ We today are very close to that critical time. We are living in the last days of this system of things, and we see the fulfillment of prophecy, especially that set forth in the twenty-fourth chapter of Mat-

34. If we have faith in Jehovah, how will we react in the face of the situation described at Habakkuk 3:17, 18?

35. What activity in particular in these times will show that we have a living faith?

thew, which describes the very things that would occur before this system of things comes to an end. Jesus said, as recorded at Matthew 24:14: "And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." Jehovah's witnesses believe this. They have faith in God's kingdom and so they have declared this good news world wide. It should be of interest to everyone to see just what Jehovah's witnesses did do during the past service year.

Worldwide Report

³⁶ By consulting the chart on pages 27-30 you will be able to see what Jehovah's Christian witnesses have done in preaching the good news of God's kingdom during the service year of 1973 in 208 different countries, lands and islands of the sea. All this territory is looked after through branch offices of the Watch Tower Society established in 95 different lands.

³⁷ As Christians well know, Jesus commanded his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them." (Matt. 28:19) This was done with excellent success during the past service year. There were 193,990 individuals who became disciples, dedicating their lives to do the will of God and symbolizing this by water baptism. They have now identified themselves with Jehovah's Christian witnesses and are proving their faith by their works.

³⁸ On the average, there were 1,656,673 preachers of the good news out in the field service each month, but a peak of 1,758,-429 declaring the good news was reached

36, 37. (a) How does the service chart in this magazine show the faith of Jehovah's witnesses? (b) To what extent have new disciples been made during the past year?

38. (a) What shows the extent to which Jehovah's witnesses exerted themselves in preaching the good news during the past year? (b) Approximately how many individuals actually had Bible studies?

during the year. These individuals did a tremendous amount of work, which can probably be best appreciated by realizing how many hours they spent in house-to-house work, making return visits, conducting Bible studies and speaking at all appropriate times and on all types of occasions concerning their Kingdom hope. These people dedicated to preaching the good news devoted 300,468,676 hours to the field ministry. Just think what a great amount of time that is! This was not time spent just reading the Bible themselves, but was used actually in going out and talking to other people about what God's Word has to say. Additionally, they made 131,657,832 return visits on persons who showed interest in the Bible, and conducted home Bible studies for a period of six months or more with 1,209,544 different families each week. Was such a Bible study conducted in your home? By the end of six months, if people are truly interested in the kingdom of God they will usually be coming to the Kingdom Hall. So we could assume that approximately 2,400,000 different individuals throughout the world actually had Bible studies conducted in their homes during the year, and, of course, they had to make a decision as to whether they were going to be disciples of Jesus Christ and show their faith in God's kingdom by their works. As you have noted, 193,990 individuals did become disciples, dedicating their lives to God, and now they are associated with Jehovah's Christian witnesses in proclaiming the good news.

³⁹ Not only do Jehovah's witnesses use the Bible in their studies with people, but they also use Bible study aids. They have distributed many of these during the year. In fact, 21,761,877 Bibles and study-aid

39, 40. As shown by the statistics, what use did Jehovah's people earth wide make of printed publications during the past year?

1973 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLD WIDE

Country	Population	1973 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Publisher to:	1973 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1972	1972 Av. Pubs.	1973 No. Bptzd.	Av. Plo.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Total Return Visits	Avg. Bible Studies
U.S. of America	208,717,000	472,662	442	439,489	5	418,239	55,775	25,952	6,059	78,806,678	34,208,792	281,337
Bermuda	53,000	130	408	115	5	110	18	8	2	25,793	17,317	111
Alaska	342,669	1,020	336	921	7	860	102	55	13	162,198	67,360	588
Argentina	23,923,000	23,560	1,015	22,074	11	21,264	2,787	1,273	486	4,136,735	2,156,752	20,455
Malvinas Islands	2,098	8	262	6	20	5	3	1	1	1,677	618	5
Australia	13,154,700	24,160	544	23,547	1	23,309	2,079	1,272	460	4,331,504	1,769,759	11,235
Austria	7,537,633	10,371	727	10,057	2	9,867	789	368	193	1,628,125	822,319	5,524
Bahamas	189,000	460	411	429	2	420	38	22	11	76,515	39,003	450
Barbados	241,000	874	275	843	-2*	860	70	39	13	131,881	50,548	529
Bequia	5,000	27	185	20	-23*	26	3	1	1	6,403	3,039	19
Carriacou	8,000	32	250	29	16	25	1	4	1	7,727	4,506	28
Grenada	94,500	218	433	198	3	193	36	16	4	41,490	18,424	175
St. Lucia	101,100	165	612	154	-13*	177	22	18	4	42,671	22,785	240
St. Vincent	89,000	118	754	107	4	103	1	10	3	28,243	10,761	97
Belgium	9,663,850	15,655	617	15,168	3	14,687	1,918	589	241	2,523,752	1,193,313	7,237
Belize	129,682	517	251	488	1	482	57	54	12	117,617	47,277	458
Bolivia	5,101,699	1,513	3,372	1,324	2	1,300	212	236	43	491,096	191,772	2,025
Brazil	102,970,000	75,437	1,365	72,835	2	71,562	9,860	2,748	1,541	10,868,653	4,475,323	57,576
British Isles	54,421,300	67,401	807	65,348	1	64,434	6,083	3,907	943	11,775,826	5,822,793	36,814
Malta	330,000	63	5,238	53	6	50	4	1	1	10,331	4,854	43
Burma	28,000,000	655	42,748	638	4	612	82	124	30	264,311	103,410	678
Canada	21,302,000	52,773	404	50,650	3	49,233	6,305	2,882	863	8,766,958	3,486,648	24,733
Central Afr. Rep.	2,255,000	1,165	1,936	1,049	-11*	1,178	51	90	43	272,880	114,845	1,429
Tchad	2,700,000	112	24,107	90	32	68	12	24	5	43,980	19,706	207
Chile	10,000,000	9,726	1,028	8,991	6	8,497	1,648	490	165	1,594,705	722,127	8,920
Colombia	23,201,900	10,550	2,199	9,685	10	8,803	1,096	810	201	2,238,880	968,014	11,160
Congo	1,000,000	1,584	631	1,495	-5*	1,581	91	94	31	325,266	136,929	1,552
Gabon	600,000	279	2,151	241	2	237	14	7	6	33,021	14,312	185
Costa Rica	1,867,045	3,451	541	3,253	3	3,164	410	115	88	517,904	194,864	2,729
Cyprus	646,000	741	872	688	8	636	95	18	13	86,060	35,782	260
Dahomey	2,700,000	2,028	1,331	1,974	1	1,970	163	241	90	586,985	233,387	1,935
Denmark	5,016,579	13,773	364	13,154	1	13,043	1,008	795	215	2,066,491	906,571	5,671
Faroe Islands	38,731	91	426	83	22	68	7	16	5	26,826	11,513	54
Greenland	47,935	80	599	76	55	49	1	24	7	20,301	9,607	62
Dominican Republic	4,431,748	4,649	953	4,474	6	4,236	359	433	102	1,151,168	566,018	6,523
Ecuador	6,819,500	4,069	1,676	3,771	8	3,504	654	398	67	1,006,676	475,945	4,937
El Salvador	3,756,657	3,310	1,135	2,854	20	2,371	731	261	68	764,342	298,707	4,049
Fiji	545,205	490	1,113	453	-4*	471	37	52	19	123,662	44,142	559
American Samoa	28,000	70	400	58	-15*	68	13	5	1	14,344	5,820	45
Gilbert & Ellice Isls.	55,000	13	4,231	12	20	10	1	2	2	702	110	5
New Caledonia	100,579	212	474	198	5	188	16	5	4	31,748	15,682	194
New Hebrides	85,000	38	2,237	36	44	25	2	2	2	6,243	3,253	41
Niue	4,353	11	396	9	-18*	11	1	1	1	743	434	20
Tahiti	119,168	189	631	169	1	167	32	12	4	37,712	15,551	227
Tonga	90,000	17	5,294	13	-7*	14	1	1	1	2,788	814	17
Western Samoa	146,625	101	1,452	98	-2*	100	12	5	2	18,178	5,682	80
Finland	4,633,832	11,689	396	11,420	4	10,929	1,177	730	235	1,951,653	944,720	5,842
France	52,000,000	48,371	1,075	46,077	7	43,020	6,476	1,495	837	7,626,178	3,843,678	32,384
Algeria	14,000,000	24	583,333	16	7	15	2	1	1	1,545	1,257	20
Comoro Islands	201,000	1	201,000	1	New					78	45	1
Tunisia	5,200,000	36	144,444	34	-8*	37	6	1	1	3,388	2,019	20
Germany, West	59,823,100	93,178	642	90,702	1	89,737	6,476	3,285	1,237	13,730,305	6,601,138	35,281
West Berlin	2,056,600	5,382	382	5,300	-2*	5,395	176	166	55	765,989	436,359	1,979
Ghana	9,175,727	17,156	535	16,533	3	16,093	1,788	907	366	3,425,025	1,570,196	15,161
Greece	8,900,000	16,406	542	16,218	2	15,896	662	718	450	2,828,975	1,550,317	7,480

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Guadeloupe	324,000	1,988	163	1,808	4	1,735	165	77	26	321,776	174,331	1,581
French Guiana	45,000	141	319	126	-4*	131	4	7	2	26,018	15,620	188
Martinique	330,000	753	438	705	-4*	736	84	32	14	126,506	63,666	731
Guatemala	5,211,929	3,457	1,508	3,160	13	2,805	446	231	60	714,957	270,648	3,792
Guyana	714,233	1,147	623	1,067	2	1,047	87	146	31	304,075	123,215	1,109
Haiti	4,500,000	2,679	1,680	2,493	10	2,274	300	208	32	646,384	277,146	3,774
Hawaii	808,560	3,808	212	3,709	2	3,627	313	538	41	1,089,988	532,396	4,193
Guam	98,580	135	730	121	2	119	4	19	1	33,566	11,538	78
Marshall Isls.	23,166	105	221	94	13	83	25	8	2	24,020	10,628	164
Palau	12,686	25	507	21	50	14	1	7	1	13,791	5,499	56
Ponape	21,423	114	188	61	5	58	13	11	1	18,530	7,072	56
Saipan	10,458	28	374	24	41	17	1	5	1	9,020	2,500	19
Truk	29,334	13	2,256	12	9	11	4	6	1	9,440	2,800	45
Yap	7,369	9	819	7	17	6	4	1	1	7,095	3,352	42
Honduras	2,781,400	1,756	1,584	1,582	8	1,464	228	157	33	433,304	168,470	2,102
Hong Kong	4,000,000	278	14,388	267	6	252	35	45	6	105,689	47,896	442
Macao	375,000	6	62,500	6	6	6	1	3	1	2,967	1,334	9
Iceland	210,775	135	1,561	128	-1*	129	8	25	3	30,363	13,111	101
India	547,949,809	3,905	140,320	3,742	5	3,566	408	380	205	917,028	322,277	3,128
Nepal	11,044,034	5	2,208,807	5	25	4	2	1	1	1,687	766	10
Sikkim	191,000	15	12,733	9	29	7	2	1	1	2,089	676	3
Indonesia	127,000,000	3,200	39,688	2,936	8	2,724	520	648	128	1,210,282	415,086	4,275
Ireland	4,505,840	1,186	3,799	1,115	5	1,060	124	216	42	405,956	156,170	626
Israel	4,312,500	181	23,826	174	7	162	15	17	4	43,896	16,207	176
Italy	54,680,000	30,822	1,774	28,720	17	24,527	6,146	1,360	667	5,832,547	3,039,632	27,259
San Marino	18,000	36	500	30	50	20	2	1	1	5,163	2,199	20
Ivory Coast	4,100,000	672	6,101	623	13	552	38	72	24	197,844	116,234	1,121
Upper Volta	5,258,141	19	276,744	17	70	10	11	2	2	17,370	8,742	80
Jamaica	1,953,472	5,333	366	5,018	-1*	5,090	257	176	171	739,397	294,659	3,525
Cayman Islands	11,600	24	483	22	22	18	3	1	1	5,660	2,132	29
Japan	106,900,566	18,562	5,759	16,360	24	13,159	3,672	3,833	512	7,256,195	3,346,787	29,831
Kenya	11,694,000	1,295	9,030	1,153	-1*	1,161	234	147	46	346,436	133,222	1,255
Burundi	3,615,000	70	51,643	56	-2*	57	1	2	2	15,708	10,101	29
Ethiopia	25,248,000	931	27,119	860	21	711	322	65	14	217,705	99,326	1,159
Rwanda	3,827,000	14	273,357	10	11	9	5	2	1	5,150	1,888	12
Seychelles	53,000	21	2,524	16	14	14	1	2	1	2,534	1,494	22
Sudan	15,000,000	75	200,000	68	13	60	16	12	1	25,238	10,024	90
Tanzania	13,630,000	1,338	10,187	1,268	-1*	1,266	66	115	59	362,127	125,500	2,212
Uganda	10,127,000	161	62,901	135	-8*	146	22	26	7	53,297	29,620	263
Korea	33,000,000	19,367	1,704	17,194	17	14,754	4,177	2,243	320	4,858,338	1,745,383	20,000
Lebanon	2,790,000	1,483	1,881	1,427	4	1,374	80	65	33	271,681	125,049	1,072
Abu Dhabi	55,000	10	5,500	7	17	6				493	424	4
Bahrain Is.	220,000	2	110,000	2	100	1				41	35	2
Dubai	25,000	2	12,500	1	New					129	95	
Iran	28,662,000	22	1,302,818	17	-11*	19	2	5	1	7,694	3,244	24
Iraq	9,440,000	11	858,182	6	50	4	4	4		517	284	4
Jordan	2,320,000	35	66,286	28	-7*	30	4	2	1	5,167	2,495	23
Kuwait	733,196	14	52,371	12	33	9				563	364	5
Qatar	100,000	1	100,000	1	1	1				92	59	
Saudi Arabia	7,740,000	3	2,580,000	2	New			1	1	229	104	1
Syria	6,100,000	161	37,888	156	5	148	11	6	5	25,447	10,671	91
Leewards-Antigua	70,794	150	472	139	-1*	141	15	13	3	28,899	11,644	134
Anguilla	6,000	15	400	14	-7*	15	1	1	1	3,573	1,430	11
Dominica	70,302	187	376	170	-10*	188	2	16	7	38,156	15,020	132
Montserrat	12,335	24	514	21	5	20	1	5	1	5,626	2,031	20
Nevis	11,230	37	304	33	6	31	3	1	1	6,696	1,974	17
St. Kitts	34,227	113	303	105	-1*	106	10	6	4	19,756	9,884	76

St. Martin	9,547	58	165	42	-34*	64	2	4	1	7,124	3,402	45	
Liberia	1,100,000	888	1,282	831	9	761	80	117	22	285,705	111,563	1,112	
Luxembourg	413,200	628	658	604	5	574	55	51	13	135,948	63,092	458	
Malagasy Rep.	7,928,868	464	17,088	403	6	379	66	19	11	74,148	39,323	441	
Malaysia	10,452,309	272	38,428	254	19	214	48	40	14	88,199	37,058	452	
Brunel	112,000	2	56,000	2	100	1			1	223	136	2	
Mauritius	825,690	282	2,928	271	-6*	287	14	25	6	63,818	23,998	313	
Réunion	466,000	306	1,523	289	-9*	316	21	18	9	59,576	24,742	235	
Rodrigues	25,000	20	1,250	18	20	15	3	3	1	6,102	2,932	26	
Mexico	54,528,617	60,619	900	57,694	3	56,204	7,167	4,200	2,224	10,624,110	4,250,178	52,380	
Morocco	16,690,000	238	70,126	208	1	205	46	23	7	59,878	27,747	207	
Gibraltar	29,254	62	472	56	6	53	3	4	1	9,508	3,876	40	
Netherlands	13,350,000	24,425	547	23,245	11	21,024	2,420	1,402	249	4,276,437	1,712,017	9,740	
Neth. Ant.-Curacao	150,008	441	340	416	9	382	45	15	6	76,840	39,618	417	
Aruba	61,293	246	249	232	20	194	23	6	4	36,096	17,504	158	
Bonaire	8,181	26	315	23	15	20	2	3	1	6,653	2,731	22	
Newfoundland	530,000	974	544	881		877	53	91	34	207,301	94,352	485	
New Zealand	2,974,654	6,127	485	5,883	1	5,829	510	412	104	1,155,732	493,308	3,289	
Cook Islands	21,227	32	663	27	17	23	13	3	1	7,783	3,158	39	
Norfolk Island	1,232	3	411	2	-50*	4				297	222	1	
Nicaragua	2,000,000	2,131	939	1,998	13	1,768	253	152	34	454,113	223,881	2,310	
Nigeria	55,670,052	92,233	604	84,657	3	82,404	10,854	7,476	1,589	20,708,927	7,982,500	86,630	
Cameroon	5,150,000	9,329	552	8,623	1	8,507	633		277	643,317	441,779	6,060	
Equatorial Guinea	244,574	137	1,785	48	-38*	78	5	1	1	4,018	1,734	42	
Niger	2,870,000	45	63,778	35	59	22	8	16	3	29,486	10,823	96	
Norway	3,947,775	6,347	622	6,091	5	5,793	622	222	170	837,516	375,588	2,537	
Okinawa	950,000	541	1,756	509	2	499	34	93	12	182,062	76,423	704	
Pakistan	62,000,000	142	436,620	134	-14*	155	13	23	3	45,657	17,951	152	
Afghanistan	15,000,000	10	1,500,000	9		9				1,403	700	2	
Panama	1,565,053	2,115	740	2,002	1	1,980	238	152	55	436,570	205,592	2,321	
Papua	668,864	503	1,330	476	1	473	85	27	29	86,160	35,135	492	
Bougainville Is.	76,741	28	2,741	24	71	14		7	2	12,764	5,805	73	
Manus Island	22,705	11	2,064	8	-38*	13			1	713	434	9	
New Britain	157,704	131	1,204	112	45	77	17	17	6	38,338	15,119	186	
New Guinea	1,488,175	481	3,094	453	5	430	99	40	20	109,714	37,204	457	
New Ireland	51,654	57	906	49	2	48	11	13	6	25,181	7,020	70	
Solomon Islands	160,988	558	289	526	-6*	558	58	72	29	158,881	65,799	805	
Paraguay	2,400,000	1,032	2,326	975	6	920	124	118	31	270,962	132,377	1,060	
Peru	14,500,000	7,219	2,009	6,699	16	5,766	1,297	780	136	1,977,138	767,681	9,002	
Philippines	39,000,000	60,340	646	57,556	6	54,212	7,260	5,434	1,566	11,814,125	3,739,244	34,330	
Portugal	8,300,000	10,572	785	9,894	6	9,300	1,540	310	145	1,561,494	682,640	10,090	
Angola	5,300,000	1,007	5,263	803	60	501	255	22	11	181,772	131,255	1,628	
Azores	315,000	146	2,157	128	13	113	31	8	4	29,032	13,589	179	
Cape Verde Is.	218,000	13	16,769	11	38	8	2		1	1,957	1,535	25	
Madeira	257,000	127	2,204	119	11	107	21	4	2	21,386	8,832	143	
Portuguese Guinea	625,000	3	208,333	3	-25*	4				53	19	2	
29 Puerto Rico	2,722,000	11,100	245	10,333	12	9,191	957	427	144	1,883,027	785,062	9,618	
Virgin Isls. (Brit.)	10,500	74	142	69	8	64	6	2	1	9,658	4,765	63	
Virgin Isls. (U.S.)	75,260	373	202	346	7	324	19	19	7	62,064	29,659	370	
Rhodesia	5,887,600	12,011	490	11,354	-2*	11,535	1,547	563	462	2,138,423	787,677	8,778	
Malawi	4,530,000	20,601	220	15,807	-29*	22,275	2,226	864	447	2,567,134	1,029,620	9,227	
Mozambique	6,650,000	6,167	1,078	4,251	4	4,077	780	154	74	823,823	336,219	3,705	
Senegal	4,000,000	251	15,936	237	8	219	31	47	7	100,377	46,544	420	
Gambia	325,000	7	46,429	6	-14*	7			3	1	5,491	3,366	16
Mali	4,500,000	7	642,857	5	25	4			3	1	5,306	2,994	23
Mauritania	1,500,000	4	375,000	3		3				233	120	3	
Sierra Leone	2,520,000	1,068	2,360	1,001		1,003	152	225	54	419,261	191,141	1,953	
Guinea	5,143,284	224	22,961	194	7	182	27	55	11	94,442	40,851	395	
Singapore	2,100,000	232	9,052	223	9	205	34	16	4	44,383	22,712	351	
South Africa	22,987,000	23,848	964	22,829	-1*	23,010	2,797	1,369	615	4,645,587	1,606,985	17,222	
Botswana	702,000	222	3,162	190	9	175	44	21	10	54,872	17,595	239	

Country	Population	1973 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Pub. to:	1973 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1972	1972 Av. Pubs.	Avg. No. Bpzd.	1973 Av. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Total Return Visits	Avg. Bible Studies
Lesotho	1,173,000	573	2.07	514	2*	527	9	143,358	7,041	52,537	4,100	504
St. Helena	4,952	75	66	66	-1*	67	9	143,358	7,041	52,537	4,100	34
South-West Afr.	610,000	224	2.723	198	9	181	32	15	5	42,354	16,179	138
Swaziland	454,000	631	719	580	-7*	626	349	39	18	135,062	45,142	516
Spain	33,501,157	19,638	1.706	18,398	17	15,668	3,403	1,241	283	4,188,570	2,047,156	21,508
Andorra	23,092	26	888	20	18	17	3	5,460	5,460	2,638	2,638	32
Canary Islands	1,228,613	697	1,763	601	21	497	83	47	11	140,823	63,295	624
Sri Lanka	13,000,000	366	35,519	343	7	322	56	65	11	125,792	45,017	445
Surinam	375,000	13,684	548	643	6	600	81	61	11	164,536	66,452	660
Sweden	8,129,160	13,867	586	13,400	6	12,670	1,129	775	2,288,286	1,184,488	8,247	8,247
Liechtenstein	6,310,200	8,620	1,732	8,385	3	8,151	716	185	175	583,079	583,079	5,468
Taiwan	15,000,000	1,122	13,369	1,089	-3*	1,123	132	97	49	210,305	64,634	453
Thailand	38,359,008	468	81,964	450	5	429	45	77	20	150,988	51,384	453
Cambodia	6,701,000	1	6,701,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	13	13
Laos	3,000,000	54	55,556	49	23	40	9	14	2	26,392	8,168	60
Vietnam	19,600,000	82	213,043	88	19	74	18	18	2	33,261	13,620	144
Togo	2,100,000	2,055	1,022	1,959	10	1,788	196	213	42	609,636	266,345	280
Trinidad	394,600	2,351	4,930	2,206	1*	2,193	229	173	39	472,401	185,785	276
Tobago	37,900	104	364	98	-1*	99	9	11	2	25,800	14,027	118
Uruguay	2,900,000	3,791	765	3,620	6	3,412	527	308	131	887,340	403,817	428
Venezuela	11,772,922	9,420	1,250	8,826	5	8,392	968	447	131	1,781,841	775,889	874
Zaire	22,000,000	14,278	1,541	12,949	2	12,694	1,843	1,010	393	3,247,735	1,308,673	15,927
Zambia	4,556,000	52,339	87	50,775	-3*	55,712	3,066	762	953	7,059,814	4,229,959	48,320
197 Countries	1,601,872	1,56,557	1,506,225	3,6	1,453,838	182,656	92,572	28,953	124,341,225	1,117,515		
11 Other Countries			150,448	5.5	142,604	11,334	2,032	2,897	15,501,789	7,316,607	92,029	
GRAND TOTAL (208 countries)	1,758,429		1,656,573	3.8	1,596,442	193,980	94,604	31,850	300,468,676	131,657,832	1,209,544	
MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE WORLD WIDE MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLD WIDE												
										1972	1973	
										3,662,407	3,994,924	
										10,350	10,523	

books were distributed due to their preaching of the good news, along with 9,965,259 booklets.

⁴⁰ All of you are acquainted with the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines and you know that Jehovah's witnesses use these magazines in regular calls on the homes of the people. During the past year they placed 235,468,467 copies of these in many languages. *The Watchtower* is printed in 75 different languages and *Awake!* in 31 languages. Many one-year subscriptions were taken too. The record shows 1,894,447 subscriptions sent in to the Society during the year. In order to accommodate all the subscribers and other readers of these magazines, the 37 printeries that the Watch Tower Society uses had to print a total of 198,177,981 copies of *The Watchtower* and 202,520,-820 *Awake!* magazines in the last twelve months. This is an increase of 15,500,000 magazines over the previous year. So people are interested in Bible study and in the message that Jehovah's Christian witnesses are trying to bring to them.

⁴¹ In addition to those who are active Witnesses, many other individuals are very much interested in what Jehovah's witnesses are doing and they attend the meetings of Jehovah's witnesses. There are 31,850 congregations in all the world. At the Memorial celebration on the evening of April 17, 1973, there were 3,994,924 in attendance at the Kingdom Halls of Jehovah's witnesses throughout the world, and 10,523

* Percentage of decrease
† Work banned and reports are incomplete

partook of the emblems, the bread and the wine, indicating that they professed to be anointed with God's spirit and hoped to be associated with Christ Jesus in heavenly glory. The others look forward to living on a paradise earth under the divine rule of Jehovah's heavenly kingdom.

⁴² At times people inquire whether Jehovah's witnesses carry on with their work behind the Iron Curtain. Yes, our records show that there are 150,448 Christian witnesses of Jehovah preaching the good news under severe difficulties in lands such as those. In fact, they had a 5.5-percent increase during the last twelve months, and 11,334 persons were baptized in these countries. These baptisms were done privately, of course, because Jehovah's witnesses are banned behind the Iron Curtain and in a few other countries. But this does not hold Jehovah's witnesses back from trying to make disciples of

42. How well did Jehovah's people behind the Iron Curtain do in their ministry in the past year?

these persons too, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the holy spirit. All of these who become disciples believe that "faith divorced from deeds is lifeless as a corpse." So, joyfully, in 208 lands of the world and to the ends of the earth, Jehovah's Christian witnesses have worked hard and had a most delightful year in preaching the good news of Jehovah's kingdom.

⁴³ What about you? Do you have such faith, a living faith in God that moves you to talk to others about his loving purposes? If that is your desire, now is the time to exert yourself in study of God's Word, to associate regularly with the people whose works give evidence that their faith is alive, and to pray earnestly to Jehovah to bless your efforts to bring your life into harmony with his will.

—1 John 5:14; Luke 13:23, 24.

43. If one desires to have a truly active faith, what should one now do?

Jehovah Opens Hearts

AT TIMES the circumstances that bring people in touch with the Bible's message are very unusual and illustrate that Jehovah God is indeed opening hearts to pay attention to the truth.—Acts 16:14.

One of Jehovah's witnesses, a special pioneer minister serving in Australia, reports:

"When first arriving in Coonamble, we heard of a young man interested in God's Word. His name was Tony and he lived in a lean-to tent in Lightning Ridge, 120 miles away. We thought we would have no trouble at all finding him, until we saw Lightning Ridge! There is a lean-to tent under almost every tree. We drove around for a while and at last settled our eyes on one tent. As we approached, a young man came out. We told him we were looking for a young man who was interested in studying the Bible with us. He got very excited and said that he was the one.

"This young man, while walking through an old dry creek bed at Annarke looking for sapphires, found a little book, the cover of which was so swollen up that when he picked up the book, the cover fell off. He read the book twice, translated it into Slovenian and sent its translation to his parents in Europe. It was the book *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life*.

"For two months we called on Tony every Monday night and in candlelight studied the *Truth* book. Then he decided to give up opal mining and came to Coonamble and lived with us at the Kingdom Hall. Apart from personal study, he worked on the hall, cleaning and fixing it up. And, being an electrician by trade, he installed all the lights in the Kingdom Hall.

"Eventually he got baptized in the creek behind our hall, after having to dig a hole big and deep enough to take him, as the river was almost dry."



Questions from Readers

- Why do Jehovah's witnesses refrain from participation in New Year's celebrations?—U.S.A.

The New Year's celebrations associated with the end of one year and the beginning of the next on January 1 have false religious connections. The first day of January was sacred to the two-faced Roman god Janus and so was a pagan holiday. But there is another strong reason for Christian abstention.

Christians are admonished: "Let us walk decently, not in revelries and drunken bouts, not in illicit intercourse and loose conduct." (Rom. 13:13) New Year's celebrations, however, are very frequently marked by such practices and excesses. Observes the *Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology, and Legend*: "Many Occidental countries mark the passing

of the old year and the arrival of the new by elaborate balls, drinking, and generally orgiastic behavior." Of non-Western cultures, the same work notes that they also "consider the ending of one year and the beginning of the next as a moment of gratification.

Involvement in a New Year's celebration on the part of a person, even if he maintains self-control, could mean condoning the unrestrained conduct of others and approving a practice rooted in false religion. The refusal of Jehovah's witnesses to engage in such celebrations does not mean they do not enjoy relaxation and recreation. They do. But they seek to preserve a good conscience before God and men, avoiding excesses and also the appearance of observing pagan festivities.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

**February 3: "Faith Divorced from Deeds Is
Lifeless as a Corpse," 11-24. Page 16. Songs
to Be Used: 78, 89.**

February 10: "Faith Divorced from Deeds Is Lifeless as a Corpse," ¶25-43, Page 22. Songs to Be Used: 36, 25.