

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MAY 1988

Vol. 31, No. 5

FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## Meetings for Field Service

MAY 2-8

### Introductions

1. Review three points under "Comments." (rs p. 9)
2. What are you planning to say?

MAY 9-15

### Offering subscriptions

1. What articles will you present, and to whom?
2. What are the benefits of having a subscription?
3. To whom can you offer it?

MAY 16-22

### Conclusions

1. How can we make an effective conclusion to our presentation?
2. If the offer is declined, what could we present?
3. If no interest is shown, how should we conclude?

MAY 23-29

### House-to-house record

1. What notations do you make? Why?
2. Why list addresses of deaf persons and those who speak another language?
3. How will you use this information?

MAY 30-JUNE 5

### How will you

1. Make a return visit on someone who promised to take subscription?
2. Highlight talking points in June literature offer?
3. Use the current Topic for Conversation?

## Be Zealous for Pure Worship

<sup>1</sup> Jehovah is the zealous God. (Isa. 9:7; 59:17) It is to be expected that all lovers of Jehovah would prove themselves to be zealous in worshipping him. Like Jesus, they manifest a genuine concern for the glory of Jehovah and the spiritual welfare of mankind. —Ps. 69:9; John 2:17.

<sup>2</sup> Through Jehovah's organization we receive constant reminders to help us to be zealous in our service to Jehovah. By heeding these reminders, we will not be halfhearted in our worship. (Ps. 119:113) We will imitate such zealous men as Jehu and the apostle Paul, as well as other faithful servants of God. —2 Ki. 10:16; 1 Cor. 14:12.

### IN THE FIELD MINISTRY

<sup>3</sup> During the month of May, we will have many fine opportunities to demonstrate zeal as we continue to offer the *Watchtower* subscription. Since 1879 *The Watchtower* has been available on a subscription basis, and millions of people continue to benefit as regular subscribers. Over three million of its readers now enthusiastically present the *Watchtower's* Bible-based message to still others. During this *Watchtower* subscription campaign, we want to use the current Topic for Conversation, "The Bible Benefits Family Life." How can this be done?

<sup>4</sup> After introducing yourself, you might ask: "Have you noticed that many families are finding it difficult to bear up under the pressures of life today? [Allow for reply.] While some seem to be doing quite well, many others are experiencing serious problems that range from disobedient children to child abuse and from gen-

eral distrust to the breakup of marriage and family. Where do you think concerned family members can turn for trustworthy counsel and assistance? [Allow for reply.] The one that instituted marriage, the Creator himself, gives us the best counsel on family life. Notice how Genesis 1:27, 28 states God's purpose for the human family. [Read.] Since God instituted the arrangement, he is the One who knows what the family needs in order to achieve real happiness. We can all benefit from following God's instructions regarding family life. [Read Isaiah 48:17, 18.] For more than a hundred years, *The Watchtower* has directed the attention of its readers to Bible principles that benefit family life." Then, after calling attention to a specific point in the current issue, offer the subscription.

<sup>5</sup> You may find it helpful to review the introductions found in the *Reasoning* book on pages 10 and 11 under the headings "Bible/God" and "Family/Children." These introductions can be adapted to fit the circumstances in your own congregation's territory.

<sup>6</sup> Let true Christian zeal move you to speak about the message of pure worship published in *The Watchtower*. Speak in a positive way, with conviction, when offering the subscription. Sheeplike ones will hear the Bible message with appreciation and will respond favorably.

<sup>7</sup> As we use every appropriate occasion to make the good news known, may honesthearted ones see that we are "a people . . . zealous for fine works." —Titus 2:14.

## Help Children to Benefit More From Meetings

<sup>1</sup> When your children are attending meetings, do they really listen? Can they relate to you afterward things they have learned from each meeting? Have you encouraged them to pay attention and make use of knowledge gained by careful observation? Do you set them an active example by your expressions in the meetings, one that they can see, hear, and imitate? Do your children imitate your faith? Positive answers to these questions are of vital importance if children are going to grow up as devoted servants of Jehovah.

### INCULCATE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING ATTENDANCE

<sup>2</sup> A child needs Bible instruction if he is going to have everlasting life. (John 17:3) If a child is going to

learn to appreciate spiritual things, meeting attendance is necessary. At times, parents hesitate to bring children to meetings because they fear the children will disturb others. Some may leave their children at home to do their school homework. The wise parent, however, brings his children to the meetings. —Deut. 31:12.

<sup>3</sup> The first thing a child should learn from infancy is that he goes to the Kingdom Hall to listen. But if he is given things to keep him occupied, such as toys or food, or if he is allowed to play at his seat, will he learn to listen and appreciate why we attend meetings at the Kingdom Hall? Admittedly, some children are

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)



# Meetings to Help Us Make Disciples

## WEEK STARTING MAY 2

Song 186

10 min: Local announcements and Theocratic News.

20 min: "Presenting the Good News—With Joy." Question-and-answer consideration. In connection with paragraph 3, demonstrate mature publisher helping newer one to prepare presentation, using Topic for Conversation and Reasoning book.

15 min: "Be Zealous for Pure Worship." Question-and-answer consideration of article. In considering paragraphs 3 and 4, demonstrate use of current Topic for Conversation with literature offer.

Song 16 and concluding prayer.

## WEEK STARTING MAY 9

Song 23

10 min: Local announcements and accounts report. Include expressions of appreciation for financial support of congregation. Read any acknowledgment of contributions sent to the Society. Encourage all to share in field service on second Saturday of the month. Have a 30- to 60-second demonstration on how to offer current magazines.

20 min: "Teach Students How to Use the Bible." Audience discussion. After considering paragraph 3, have brief demonstration with a publisher assisting a Bible student to find scriptures. Refer to listing of Bible books and explain how to look them up. Show him where the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures begin and end and how Bible books are divided into chapters and verses. Point out where Genesis and Revelation, as well as the book of Psalms, are

found. When considering paragraph 5, explain how to use "Bible Words Indexed" feature.

15 min: "Is Your Giving a Sacrifice?" Talk by elder, based on pages 28-31 of the December 1, 1987, *Watchtower*.

Song 118 and concluding prayer.

## WEEK STARTING MAY 16

Song 139

10 min: Local announcements and discussion of Question Box.

20 min: "Help Children to Benefit More From Meetings." Question-and-answer coverage of article. Include interview with youngsters. What have they been learning at the meetings or in their personal study? What experiences have they had in the field? Show the value of bringing children to the meetings and studying with them as well as taking them in the field.

15 min: "The Theocratic Ministry School Library." Theocratic Ministry School overseer discusses article with audience, applying information to circumstances of local congregation.

Song 183 and concluding prayer.

## WEEK STARTING MAY 23

Song 30

10 min: Local announcements. Consider talking points from latest magazines. Present two well-prepared 30- to 60-second demonstrations, one featuring *The Watchtower* and the other, *Awake!* Encourage all to share in magazine witnessing this Saturday.

15 min: Local needs or talk on "A Lesson in Forgiveness," pages 8

and 9 of the March 1, 1988, *Watchtower*. Make local application.

20 min: "1988 'Divine Justice' District Convention." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 1-18 of insert.

Song 31 and concluding prayer.

## WEEK STARTING MAY 30

Song 65

5 min: Local announcements and Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

25 min: "1988 'Divine Justice' District Convention." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 19-31 of insert by presiding overseer. Help brothers appreciate that good conduct and dress are expected of all in the congregation. Comments may also be made on any local problems in connection with convention. As time permits, discuss "District Convention Reminders."

15 min: Literature offer for June and July. Zealous Congregation Book Study conductor discusses offer with audience, suggests practical talking points for local territory, and uses five minutes for demonstrating how to tie in presentation with Topic for Conversation suggested for June.

Song 68 and concluding prayer.

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *United in Worship of the Only True God*:

May 2: Pages 153 to 156, par. 6  
May 9: Pages 156, par. 7 to 161, par. 2  
May 16: Pages 162, par. 3 to 170, par. 4  
May 23: Pages 170, par. 5 to 172, par. 8  
May 30: Pages 173, par. 9 to 177, par. 3

## Help Children

(Cont'd)

more attentive than others. However, when a child misbehaves, the wise parent will correct him and lovingly train him to listen, not by bribing him with candy or toys, but by applying the discipline of God's Word.—Prov. 13:24; Eph. 6:4.

## YOUR EXAMPLE AS A PARENT

<sup>4</sup> *The Watchtower* of January 15, 1982, page 17, asked the following questions: "Do your children know that you take Bible study meetings seriously? Do they see that you consider these meetings important enough not just for you to attend

but for you to participate in, offering comments when these are requested?" If your children see you chatting unnecessarily during the meetings or if you or others are playing with them, what impression will that make on them? How will they view meeting times? Since children are good imitators, your example can have a profound effect on them.

<sup>5</sup> Some parents have found it helpful to provide even small children with their own copies of the publications used at the meetings. Perhaps during the family study, they help

their children prepare appropriate comments. Also, parents can encourage their children by reviewing points that were discussed during the meeting and by taking time to answer questions they may have. Parents should also be alert to commend their children for their participation in the meetings.

<sup>6</sup> It is true that this training involves hard work for the parents. However, doing things God's way produces good results. As the scripture says: "The righteous is walking in his integrity. Happy are his sons after him."—Prov. 20:7.



# 1988 "Divine Justice" District Convention

<sup>1</sup> Jehovah God loves justice and righteousness. (Ps. 33:5) His servant Elihu declared: "As for the Almighty, we have not found him out; he is exalted in power, and justice and abundance of righteousness he will not belittle."—Job 37:23.

<sup>2</sup> Truly, Jehovah God has not overlooked the injustices that have been committed in this world. Since he is a God of unchanging moral standards, we can rest assured that he will not indefinitely tolerate the lawlessness of today. (Compare Isaiah 14:3-8.) In fact, Bible prophecy points to our time as the last days for this ungodly world. So we need to show by our works that we love righteousness and divine justice and that we keep ourselves separate from the condemned practices of this world.

<sup>3</sup> Jehovah's Witnesses are looking forward to the "Divine Justice" District Conventions that are scheduled for 1988. A listing of 119 conventions in the United States was provided in the February 15, 1988, issue of *The Watchtower*. At district conventions we are truly taught by Jehovah. We attend with the mental disposition manifested in the inspired prayer at Psalm 119:33: "Instruct me, O Jehovah, in the way of your regulations, that I may observe it down to the last." Surely, these words express the feelings of all of Jehovah's dedicated servants today.

<sup>4</sup> **PROGRAM FROM KEY CITIES:** Just as in 1983, arrangements have been made for conventions to be tied in by telephone line to a key city. In each of the six successive weeks that conventions are scheduled, those attending in Alaska, Bermuda, Canada, Hawaii, and the contiguous United States will benefit from talks given by members of the Governing Body. When you attend your convention, you will learn which is the key city when the program comes through. There is no need to write to the Society about this matter. Arrangements have also been made for missionaries to visit their home country and attend a district convention with their family and friends. A special part on the program will deal with the activities of the missionaries. At a number of conventions, missionaries will be invited to share their experiences with us.

<sup>5</sup> **ATTEND ALL SESSIONS:** The "Divine Justice" District Conventions will last four days. Have you made plans to be in attendance at all the sessions? From the opening session on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. until the concluding prayer at approximately 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, important information essential to our spiritual health will be presented. A different aspect of divine justice will be highlighted each day. The program will include talks, demonstrations, and dramas. Therefore, do not miss even one session. It is appreciated that this may require you to make some personal sacrifices and adjustments in your schedule.

You may have to make some arrangements with your employer so as to attend the convention. If you make the matter a subject of sincere prayer and put forth heartfelt effort to be there, Jehovah will certainly bless you.—Matt. 5:3.

<sup>6</sup> Endeavor to arrive early each day and to be in your seat before the sessions begin. This will give you an opportunity to enjoy Christian fellowship with brothers and sisters from other places. (Rom. 1:12) It will also allow you to join in praising Jehovah with song, which is a very important part of our worship, and to share in the opening prayer. Consider also that those sitting around you will certainly appreciate that you have not distracted their attention from the program by arriving late. Christian love and consideration, along with respect for Jehovah and the spiritual things he is providing, should motivate us to do our best to arrive on time.

<sup>7</sup> You have already been given information about the convention your congregation is assigned to attend. Information has also been provided regarding rooming accommodations and other arrangements for your convention. Considerable planning and work have been done to see that sufficient seating, literature, food, and other provisions are available for everyone. It is understandable that circumstances may prevent a few from attending where they are assigned. Some may need to assist relatives in another area. However, wherever possible, your cooperation in attending the convention to which your congregation is assigned will help to prevent overcrowding.

<sup>8</sup> **PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU HEAR:** "The sayings of Jehovah are pure sayings, as silver refined in a smelting furnace of earth, clarified seven times." (Ps. 12:6) Many of God's "pure sayings" will be heard at this "Divine Justice" District Convention. The information presented will not be a general message for the curious listener but will be special information for Jehovah's people, for those who are dedicated to him, who want to please him, who 'tremble at his word.' (Isa. 66:5) Of all people on earth, we are highly favored to be taught by Jehovah.—Isa. 54:13.

<sup>9</sup> Listening means really paying attention with both our mind and our heart, with our ears and our powers of understanding. We need to listen and hear "the word of Jehovah." (Jer. 2:4) What we hear will include accurate knowledge to expand our understanding and deepen our appreciation. We will hear information to build our faith and strengthen our hope. We will receive counsel and discipline lovingly provided for our benefit. A great deal of time has been used to research and prepare the program. Therefore, it is essential that we listen and be awake to what Jehovah's Word is telling us. We can thus



benefit personally and so be able to use this information to help others.—Prov. 18:15.

<sup>10</sup> Since our primary purpose for attending the convention is to receive spiritual direction and encouragement, plan to arrive early enough to take care of matters that need attention, such as obtaining convention food tickets, and then be seated before the program begins. Doing this will leave you relaxed, with your mind uncluttered with concern over matters not directly related to the program.

<sup>11</sup> Be sure to get a good night's sleep each night so that you will be refreshed in the morning and can fully concentrate on the program during the day. Although convention time affords a fine opportunity to renew friendships and to enjoy pleasant association, if we stay up late into the night visiting with friends, we may not be alert to benefit fully from the program the next day.

<sup>12</sup> It is suggested that good judgment be used as to the items we bring to the convention site. In the past, some have brought large coolers or other bulky items that could not be placed under their seat. These have been placed in aislesways or on seats. We need to show consideration in such matters, since this has resulted in depriving brothers and interested persons of a seat and, in most instances, has violated fire and safety codes.

<sup>13</sup> **BAPTISM:** The talk to baptismal candidates will be given on Saturday morning. Baptism is the outward symbol that one has dedicated himself without reservation to Jehovah God. This part of the program is always one of the highlights of a district convention. All of us benefit by listening carefully and reflecting on our own relationship with Jehovah. Additionally, we share the joy of those being baptized.

<sup>14</sup> Those planning to be baptized at one of the district conventions should be sure to inform the presiding overseer well in advance of the convention so that there will be plenty of time to review the questions in the *Our Ministry* book. A modest bathing suit and a towel should be brought by each one who plans to be baptized.—See *Our Kingdom Ministry*, May 1987, page 3, paragraph 6.

<sup>15</sup> Baptismal candidates should endeavor to be in their seats in the designated section before the program begins on Saturday morning. After the baptism talk and prayer by the speaker, the session chairman will give brief instructions to baptismal candidates and then call for a song. All will stand during the singing of the song. Before the last verse has been sung, the attendants will direct the baptismal candidates to the immersion site or to vehicles that will take them there, while the rest of the audience completes singing the song.

<sup>16</sup> **TAKE NOTES:** Besides your Bible and songbook, remember to bring a notepad and pen or pencil. We may not be in the habit of taking notes during weekly congregation meetings because most of the talks and

demonstrations are taken from material that is available to all in the congregation. However, listening to the information presented at the district convention is an entirely different matter. While some of the talks will in time appear in the publications, others will not. Even if all the talks were to appear in print, there are still significant benefits to be derived from taking brief, meaningful notes.

<sup>17</sup> For one thing, taking notes serves as an aid to concentration. Isolate the speaker's key points and key scriptures or new thoughts that may be presented. Then make brief notes of these. Usually a sentence or two will suffice for a key point. By following this suggestion, your concentration will unquestionably improve. You will be less likely to let your mind drift or be distracted. You will also be equipped to benefit from the review of the convention highlights with your congregation the following week.

<sup>18</sup> Will you have young children or teenagers with you? Then why not arrange for them also to take notes in accord with their age and ability? Let the family know that you plan to review some of the main points brought out by the speakers when you return to your place of lodging or while you are traveling home. Younger children can be encouraged to write down all the scripture citations or note how many times they hear a speaker refer to key words or the theme of the talk. By doing this, they will get much more from the talks. It is good for children to learn to pay close attention at Christian meetings. You will be helping them to build a solid foundation for the future.—Deut. 31:12; Eph. 6:4. *Time For Vac*

<sup>19</sup> **FINE CONDUCT:** Each year at the conclusion of our district conventions, we receive favorable comments about the orderliness and good conduct that was in evidence. Observers often remark about the neat appearance of adults and children alike, not to mention the peace and unity of the brothers while attending the convention. The year 1987 was no exception. But why do we mention this? Because it is encouraging to know that when we set a fine example, it is observed and appreciated by others. (1 Pet. 2:12) More importantly, though, it brings praise to God. We want to honor Jehovah in word and deed, and since people may judge the organization and even the God we worship by our conduct, we want to be ever conscious of how we act.

<sup>20</sup> There are a number of areas to which we will need to give attention in order to (shine as illuminators) fully, especially when we are away from the convention grounds, such as at restaurants and motels.—Phil. 2:15.

<sup>21</sup> First, how are we doing in the matter of unnecessary seat saving? Improvement has been noted in this regard, and for this we commend you. However, we still need to pay attention to this matter, since some do abuse the arrangement. Please keep in mind that SEATS MAY BE SAVED ONLY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY



WHO MAY BE TRAVELING WITH YOU IN YOUR OWN CAR. It is only natural to want to sit near the ones with whom we came, and it is expected that immediate family members would sit together. But please do not reserve seats for others. Oftentimes friends locate seats on their own, and the extra ones saved are not used. We can show appreciation for the convention and consideration for others by following these directions.—Matt. 7:12.

<sup>22</sup> As dedicated servants, our conduct should be fine AT ALL TIMES. Exemplary conduct becomes especially noteworthy at large gatherings, and Jehovah's name is glorified by such conduct. However, poor conduct and thoughtlessness on the part of just a few can bring reproach on Jehovah's name and on his people. Reports have been received that a few brothers and their families have used poor judgment in their use of motel facilities. Recreation seems to be foremost on the mind of a few, so they leave the convention before the program has concluded in order to be first at the swimming pool. Some Witness children have not had proper supervision and have been very unruly. The spirit of the world becomes manifest among a few when they return to their accommodations. Some not only change into immodest and faddish attire but also change their conduct. At the convention, we see clearly what the Christian personality should be, but some, after leaving the convention site, seem to forget what they saw and heard on the program. (Jas. 1:22-24) Our presence at the convention and elsewhere, as well as our conduct and grooming, bear witness about us and the God we worship. *VAC from truth*

<sup>23</sup> Of course, when the convention program is over, many enjoy getting together for a meal and association. This can be delightful and the time can be well spent in good conversation as we share experiences and review the convention highlights. It brings pleasure to us and glory to our God Jehovah as we "behave in a manner worthy of the good news." —Phil. 1:27.

<sup>24</sup> A final kindly reminder has to do with visiting and talking during the sessions. Obviously, we are glad to see friends at the convention, but respect for Jehovah and consideration for our brothers should be foremost in mind. Hence, we would not want to be disturbing or distracting others during the program. If you have to leave your seat for some important reason, do it as quickly and quietly as possible. Also, while the program is on, no one should be visiting in the corridors. We are there to listen and to learn. —Luke 8:18.

<sup>25</sup> **FOOD NEEDS:** As mentioned in the January 1988 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, the Society has simplified the food service arrangement at the district conventions by eliminating hot foods and serving only cold food items along with hot and cold beverages. This enables more of our brothers and sisters who work in food preparation to join us in the

*area of assembly*  
audience and benefit from all the spiritual food presented. We appreciate very much the willingness of those who volunteer to serve us at district conventions.

<sup>26</sup> All attending the convention will find the food available to be satisfactory and nourishing, giving good variety for four days. Great care has been taken to buy food of the highest quality. Your fully utilizing the provisions available through the Food Service Department will support the convention operation.

<sup>27</sup> **VOLUNTEER SERVICE:** The emphasis on simplification is particularly noted in connection with the man-hours needed to organize and operate a district convention. Those who have been in the truth many years will recall that previously, before and during large conventions, tens of thousands of volunteers were needed, devoting many hours of their time in various convention departments. That labor of love was deeply appreciated, but it often caused many of the volunteers to miss a great deal of the program.

<sup>28</sup> While fewer volunteers and fewer hours are now required to do the work, volunteer help is still needed for the smooth operation of a district convention. Can you have a share? No one should feel that volunteering will mean missing most of the program as some have experienced in the past.

<sup>29</sup> When you arrive at the convention site, check with the Volunteer Service Department. Even if you may be able to work for only a part of the convention, your services will be appreciated. You will find it spiritually rewarding to work at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also contribute to the success of the convention, but they are required to work with a parent or a guardian.

<sup>30</sup> **RECORDINGS:** It seems timely to clarify the Society's position on the use of video cameras as well as audio equipment. A consistent policy is desirable for all meetings—district conventions, circuit assemblies, special assembly days, and in Kingdom Halls. While there is no prohibition on the use of such equipment, it seems there must be controls and limitations. Attendants should be alert that those who use video cameras and audio recorders do not disturb others or distract attention from the program in progress. Brothers using such equipment should co-operate with the attendants and elders having oversight and not be pleasing themselves. Such equipment should not be set up in aisles or exits. No such equipment should be connected to the public address system or electrical outlets, nor will floodlights be permitted. In some cases, such equipment can be set up where it will not disturb the audience, such as in the back of halls.

<sup>31</sup> **CONCLUSION:** There are good reasons why we want to be at the "Divine Justice" District Convention where we can worship Jehovah with thousands of our brothers. Also, conventions are spiritual feasts that strengthen our faith and deepen our appreciation for the truth. The prophet Isaiah

*Purpose?*



declared that Jehovah's servants "will not go hungry, neither will they go thirsty, nor will parching heat or sun strike them. For the One who is having pity upon them will lead them, and by the springs of water he will conduct them." (Isa. 49:10) Truly, Jehovah's people do not hunger spiritually or thirst for truth.

Neither does the scorching heat of God's fiery judgments fall upon us. We know how good the spiritual provisions taste and how nourishing they are. That is why we rejoice at the opportunity to assemble together this summer for the "Divine Justice" District Conventions.

## District Convention Reminders

**ROOMING:** Your cooperation in using the listing of accommodations provided by the convention is very much appreciated. If you have not already confirmed a reservation, please do so immediately if you are planning to stay overnight in the convention city. If you find it necessary to cancel your reservation for accommodations, you should write or phone the hotel/motel directly, doing so as far in advance as possible. If you have made duplicate reservations with the idea of selecting preferred accommodations upon arrival, please cancel immediately what you do not actually intend to use. (Matt. 5:37) We should work what is good toward all and not engage in worldly practices that could damage our reputation and relationship with motel managers who are giving us special rates.—Gal. 6:10.

Congregation convention coordinators should be sure that Special Needs Room Request forms have been promptly forwarded to the appropriate convention address. If you must cancel an accommodation made through the special needs arrangement, you should notify both the landlord or hotel/motel and the convention Rooming Department so that the room may be reassigned.

The convention Rooming Department will provide, upon request, available information on any commercial trailer or camping facilities in the convention area. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request.

**BABY STROLLERS:** In many states, baby strollers may not be used in places of public assembly. Fire regulations prohibit parking them in corridors, aisles, or between rows of seats. Since larger crowds may cause congested conditions, baby strollers are potentially dangerous not only to the baby but also to any who may stumble over them, so please do not bring them to the convention site. However, car or infant seats are permissible, since these can be secured in seats next to the parents. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

**PROGRAM TIMES:** It is the course of wisdom and shows respectful appreciation if we are in our seats when the program begins. In all convention cities, the program on Thursday will begin at 1:30 p.m. with music, then song and prayer, and sessions will conclude by 5:10 p.m. In the Central and Mountain time zones, the program on Friday will begin at 9:20 a.m. and conclude at 4:40 p.m. On Saturday it will begin at 9:20 a.m. and conclude at 4:55 p.m. In the Eastern time zone, the program on Friday and Saturday will begin at 10:20 a.m. and conclude at 5:40 p.m. on Friday and 5:55 p.m. on Saturday. In the Pacific time zone, the program on Friday and Saturday will begin at 9:20 a.m. It will conclude at 4:30 p.m. on Friday

and 4:35 p.m. on Saturday. In all time zones, on Sunday the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at approximately 4:00 p.m. The public address on Sunday will begin with song and prayer at 2:00 p.m.

**GILEAD AND BETHEL MEETINGS:** A meeting will be held on Friday for pioneers between the ages of 20 and 40 who are interested in attending Gilead School to receive training for missionary service. There will be a meeting on Saturday for any dedicated publishers and pioneers between 19 and 35 years of age who are U.S. residents and who would like to enter Bethel service. Announcements will be made at the convention regarding the exact times and locations of these meetings.

**PIONEER IDENTIFICATION:** All regular and special pioneers, as well as traveling overseers, will need to bring their Watchtower Identification and Assignment card (S-202) to the convention. Pioneers on the list for at least six months at the time of the district convention they attend may receive \$20 worth of convention tickets upon presentation of their Watchtower ID card at that one convention only. Therefore, treat the card as carefully as cash. It cannot be replaced at the convention. Any gift releases or other literature at pioneer rates will be available to pioneers at the bookroom only, upon showing their Watchtower ID card. Those in Bethel service may obtain these same provisions by showing their Bethel ID card.

**LAPEL CARDS:** These cards are provided as a means of advertising the convention and identifying our brothers and sisters in attendance. To this end, please wear the specially designed lapel card at the convention and while traveling to and from the convention site. This often makes it possible for us to give a fine witness while traveling. Lapel cards can be obtained through your congregation; they will not be available at the conventions. The lapel cards cost two cents each. (Lapel cards have already been consigned to each congregation by the Society, but the plastic holders must be ordered by the congregation.)

**A WORD OF CAUTION:** Regardless of where you park, you should lock your vehicle at all times and never leave anything visible inside. Keep your belongings locked inside the trunk, if possible. Also, guard against thieves and pickpockets who are attracted by large gatherings. This includes not leaving anything of value unattended on seats at the conventions. Additionally, it has been reported that there is a greater risk of falls on stairs and ramps when sisters wear high-heeled shoes. Please be careful.



# Teach Students How to Use the Bible

<sup>1</sup> "When you received God's word, which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but, just as it truthfully is, as the word of God." (1 Thess. 2:13) As true Christians, we are concerned about letting the Bible speak. Therefore, when conducting a Bible study, help your student to appreciate that he is learning Jehovah's thoughts, not man's thoughts. By teaching students to use the Bible well, you can build in them confidence in the Scriptures, a solid foundation for faith, and the ability to defend their beliefs from the Bible. —2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 1 Pet. 3:15.

<sup>2</sup> When do you start teaching the student to use his Bible? How do you teach him the order of the books of the Bible and how to locate scriptures? What can the student personally do to learn certain key scriptures, and how can you help him? There are various methods that can be used successfully.

## USE THE BIBLE

<sup>3</sup> From the start, show the student the page in the Bible that lists all the Bible books and show him how he can find each one. Many scriptures are quoted in the Society's publications, and others are cited but not quoted. At first, it may be advisable to look up and read all of them from the Bible, thus emphasizing that it is a Bible study. This will take some extra time, but it will help the student to become familiar with his Bible. It will also develop his confidence that what is stated in the publications is Bible-based.

<sup>4</sup> When the student asks questions, help him find the answers in the Bible by looking up appropriate scriptures. In this way he will know he is getting God's answers to his questions. (John 17:17) Help the student to reason on the scriptures and to appreciate fully the Bible's answer. At the end of a study, you may want to review two or three key scriptures by having the student look them up and explain them in his own words. This will enable him to defend his faith from the Bible. Also, by using the Bible, he will learn to speak with authority and

conviction when sharing what he has learned with others.—Acts 17:1-3.

<sup>5</sup> Encourage the student to look up and reason on scripture citations as he prepares the lesson for his personal study, the Watchtower Study, and other meetings. Thus, he will be prepared to make good use of his Bible during the meetings and to give Scripturally based comments on the study material. Also, show him the list of "Bible Words Indexed" in the back of the New World Translation. This index will assist him in finding scriptures on many different subjects as well as answers to questions. When scriptures are personally read and examined, the impression of the truths being taught is considerably deepened.

<sup>6</sup> Teaching students how to use the Bible will have lasting benefits. The student will recognize that the teaching he receives comes from God. Yes, "the word of God is alive" and powerful. (Heb. 4:12) We want to help others to become skillful in "handling the word of the truth aright." —2 Tim. 2:15.

# Question Box

## • Why acquire a personal library?

One fundamental reason is that personal study is important to Jehovah's Witnesses. (John 17:3) It is a convenience to have a library at home in order to do research, answer questions, and prepare for Christian meetings. We should not underestimate the value of having easy access to reliable Scriptural information.

Another reason for having a home library is related to the fact that each Christian must "carry his own load" of responsibility. (Gal. 6:5) When questions arise, it is good to have the habit of first doing our own research and only then asking questions of others if necessary. We can develop our powers of discernment and understanding by being diligent students of God's Word and making good use of a home library.—Heb. 5:11-14.

Some children have been assisted by their parents to build their own personal library, having in mind both present and future needs. No doubt about it, a good personal library is a valuable possession in a Christian home.

## The Theocratic Ministry School Library

<sup>1</sup> The apostle Paul urged Timothy to 'continue applying himself to public reading, exhortation, and teaching, and to ponder over the things he had learned, to be absorbed in them, that his advancement might be manifest to all persons.' (1 Tim. 4:13, 15) One way we can apply this admonition is through personal study and research. A good theocratic library can be very helpful to this end. It is good to have and use our own personal library at home. But the Theocratic Ministry School library located at the Kingdom Hall may have additional references, especially for newer ones who do not have personal copies of older publications.

<sup>2</sup> In 1944 congregations were encouraged to establish a Theocratic Ministry School library at the Kingdom Hall. The purpose of the library was to enable students to have access to Society publications and other reference books advantageous for research and Bible study but not otherwise available.—Acts 17:3.

## WHAT TO INCLUDE

<sup>3</sup> What publications should be included in the Theocratic Ministry School library? Since its purpose is to aid us in Bible study, it should

include current publications of the Society and a variety of Bible translations. Also, a good dictionary may be provided. (See Question Box, May 1972 *Kingdom Ministry*.) The *Watch Tower Publications Index 1930-1985*, which is designed for research and study, is an essential item in a good theocratic library. However, many Kingdom Halls do not have all the publications referred to in the *Index*. In order to make more material available, the Society is planning to reprint *The Watchtower* bound volumes for the years 1960 to 1979, in English only. This will make a fine addition to those Theocratic Ministry School libraries that do not already have these references.

<sup>4</sup> The Theocratic Ministry School overseer is responsible for the library. A ministerial servant may be assigned to assist him in caring for it. The school overseer should be interested in helping new ones learn how they can use the library to gain the most benefit. He should also be alert to see that appropriate new publications are added and that the books are clearly marked to show that they are the property of the

(Continued on page 8, col. 1)

## TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

The Bible Benefits Family Life.  
Gen. 1:27, 28—God instituted the family arrangement.  
Isa. 48:17, 18—Family members benefit from heeding God's Word.



# PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

## THEOCRATIC NEWS

### With Joy

<sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ found great joy in his ministry. For him, doing his Father's will was his food. (John 4:34) Likewise, Paul derived great joy from his work in the ministry. What was the secret of their having joy in the ministry despite the many hardships and persecutions they had to endure? Their service to Jehovah was whole-souled. They worked hard in their God-given assignments, and the result was joy because of their labors. (John 13:17; Rev. 14:13) How can you increase your joy in the ministry as you serve Jehovah? **JOY & WORK**

### THINK IN TERMS OF HELPING PEOPLE

<sup>2</sup> Jesus Christ and Paul were excellent teachers. They aimed to reach the hearts of those who listened. Many did not respond, but those who did were a real cause for joy. (Phil. 4:1; compare Luke 15:7.) Yes, helping people to learn of Jehovah and seeing them take a stand for the truth makes us happy. In the first century, "the conversion of people of the nations" was a cause for "great joy to all the brothers." —Acts 15:3.

<sup>3</sup> You too can experience this joy by skillfully sharing what you know with others. Jehovah's organization has provided excellent tools to assist us as we teach others the truth. For example, we have the Topic for Conversation found in Our Kingdom Ministry. There is also the Reasoning book, which has many appealing introductions and answers to important questions that people ask. When you prepare for the ministry, think in terms of how you can use suggestions from Our Kingdom Ministry and the Reasoning book to help those living in your area. Work hard

**Library** (Cont'd) congregation. All should cooperate with the school overseer in keeping the library neat and in good order. If you have publications you wish to donate to the library, then you can let the school overseer know what you have available.

### MAINTAIN IN GOOD CONDITION

<sup>5</sup> The school overseer will arrange a periodic check of the library to see that it is in good order and that any repairs or replacements are cared for. Feel free to use any of the publications in the library before and after the meetings. However, no

to help people get on the road to salvation by being well prepared to initiate good conversations with them. Such may lead to productive Bible studies and greater joy in our service. —Jas. 1:25.

### A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

<sup>4</sup> Whether you are serving as a publisher or a pioneer, keep in mind the purpose of the ministry. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) The preaching of the good news for a witness is an assignment from God. It is a privilege, and we should appreciate that what Jehovah asks of his servants is not burdensome. (1 John 5:3) He wants his people to enjoy his service. Consequently, even though some may not respond favorably to the preaching work, you can still have much joy in the ministry. Why is this so?

<sup>5</sup> Jesus' disciples found great joy in their ministry, and he explained to them what their principal reason for joy should be. (Luke 10:17-20) Those of the "great crowd," who have earthly hopes, also have every reason to rejoice. (Rev. 7:9, 10) Whether your hope be heavenly or earthly, the fact that you are doing God's will should give you great joy because "your labor is not in vain in connection with the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) Jehovah "is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name." (Heb. 6:10) Serving Jehovah whole-souled is a source of joy for those who love him. —Ps. 40:8.

<sup>6</sup> A Christian should enjoy his service to God. Continue to find joy in the ministry, assured that Jehovah appreciates even the smallest act of genuine devotion. (Compare Mark 12:41-44.) May all of us continue to "glorify our ministry" and experience the joy it brings. —Rom. 11:13.

books should be taken from the Kingdom Hall. If there is some exceptional need, then the matter should be discussed with the school overseer. When more than one congregation meets in a Kingdom Hall, each congregation should have its own Theocratic Ministry School library.

<sup>7</sup> The Theocratic Ministry School library serves a very beneficial purpose. As we take advantage of this provision to do research, we can have the joy of uncovering the "hidden treasures" of God's Word that give knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. —Prov. 2:4-6.

- ♦ Belgium had a new peak of 11,431 Bible studies for December, 1,094 more than a year ago.
- ♦ The Faeroe Islands reported 97 publishers for December, a 9-percent increase over the same month a year ago.
- ♦ Greenland reached a new peak of 105 publishers in December. In two years their number has increased 25 percent.

## Announcements

- Literature offer for May: Watchtower subscription for one year for a contribution of \$5.00. Six-month subscriptions are \$2.50. June and July: *Survival Into a New Earth or Happiness—How to Find It* for contribution of \$1.00 each. August: One of the following 32-page magazine-size brochures for 30c: *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, or *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*.
- One of the dramas to be presented at the "Divine Justice" District Convention is based on Ezekiel 9:1-11 and Numbers 35:1-34. Another is based on Genesis 6:1-7:24; 18:20-19:26. Everyone should read that material in order to benefit fully from the dramas presented.
- It is important that brothers planning charters to visit Brooklyn Bethel and Watchtower Farms first correspond by mail with the office at each location. Please provide information on the number coming and the dates for each location. The Society will provide directions and the route chartered buses should take. Address your mail to the Bethel Office, 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201 and Route 1, Box 300, Wallkill, NY 12589.
- Please observe that beginning with this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, schedules for the Service Meeting and for the Congregation Book Study show weeks beginning with Monday. This is consistent with the recent adjustment in the schedule for the Watchtower Study. Congregation Book Studies being conducted on Sunday will be affected.
- New Publications Available:
  - Watch Tower Publications Index 1985* —Italian
  - Tract No. 15 —Chinese
- New Cassette Recordings Available:
  - Jehovah Delivers Those Calling Upon His Name* (single cassette; congregation and public: \$2.00; pioneers: \$1.75) —Danish, German, Swedish
  - Ezekiel* (set of four cassettes; congregation and public: \$6.00; pioneers: \$5.00) —English

### FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. B.I.St.
Sp'l Pios.	265	129.6	81.8	53.3	5.7
Pios.	57,856	79.8	35.8	27.5	3.0
Aux. Pios.	24,507	58.6	26.5	17.6	1.7
Pubs.	684,887	9.5	6.1	3.8	0.5
TOTAL	767,515				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 2,533