

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 1994

For United States of America

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A Model to Follow Closely

¹ Jesus unquestionably was the greatest man who ever lived. He set a perfect example for his disciples. Although we cannot measure up to his standard of perfection, we are urged to "follow his steps closely." (1 Pet. 2:21) We should desire to be as much like Jesus as possible, zealously sharing the truth with others.

² Jesus was more than a preacher; he was a superlative teacher. "The crowds were astounded at his way of teaching." (Matt. 7:28) Why was he so effective? Let us take a close look at his "way of teaching."

³ **How We Can Follow Jesus:** Jesus had been taught by his Father. (John 8:28) His motive was to honor Jehovah and glorify His name. (John 17:4, 26) In our preaching and teaching, our motive should also be to honor Jehovah and not to draw attention to ourselves.

⁴ Everything Jesus taught was based on God's Word. He continually referred to what was written in the inspired

Scriptures. (Matt. 4:4, 7; 19:4; 22:31) We want to direct our listeners to the Bible; thus we let them see that what we preach and teach is based on the highest authority.

⁵ Jesus used brief, practical, uncomplicated expressions. For example, in explaining how we can gain God's forgiveness, he encouraged us to be forgiving of others ourselves. (Matt. 6:14, 15) We should try to explain the Kingdom message in simple, down-to-earth terms.

⁶ Jesus skillfully used illustrations and questions to stimulate the thinking of others. (Matt. 13:34, 35; 22:20-22) Illustrations about common, everyday matters can help people understand complicated Bible doctrines. We should ask questions that encourage our listeners to think about what they hear. Leading questions can help them come to right conclusions.

⁷ Jesus took time to explain difficult matters to those who asked for more

information. Those truly interested, such as his disciples, were able to get the sense of what Jesus taught. (Matt. 13:36) We should likewise be helpful when questions are asked in sincerity. If we do not know the answers, we can research the subject and return with the information at a later time.

⁸ Jesus used object lessons to teach. An example of this was his washing the feet of his disciples, even though he was their Master. (John 13:2-16) If we show a humble spirit, those being taught will be motivated to apply what they are learning.

⁹ Jesus appealed to people's hearts and to their love for righteousness. We want to reach hearts too. We try to appeal to the inborn desire of all mankind to worship a higher personage and to live with others in peace and happiness.

¹⁰ During December we can share with others the things we have learned about Jesus by offering the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. Our imitating Jesus' teaching qualities may motivate sincere ones to listen as we explain what he taught.—Matt. 10:40.

Show Appreciation for God's House

¹ In Bible times Jehovah commanded his people to assemble together regularly at his house. (Lev. 23:2) These gatherings helped them keep their minds on God's word, providing time for meditation, association, and discussion of Jehovah's Law. Their minds became filled with God's thoughts, which brought rich spiritual blessings. These were truly happy occasions. The arrangement promoted unity and clean worship. Gatherings in God's house today are no less important.

² **How Can We Show We Appreciate Meetings?** Some congregations report low meeting attendance. Occasionally a person's situation may prevent him from attending a meeting. But have you allowed relatively minor problems to interfere with regular meeting attendance? Some may decide to stay home if they have a slight headache or feel tired after a busy day. Others have felt obligated to entertain unbelieving relatives who want to visit. Some have even missed meetings in order to watch a favorite

TV program or some sporting event. The level of appreciation demonstrated in these situations obviously falls short of the heartfelt desire expressed by the sons of Korah: "My soul has yearned and also pined away for the courtyards of Jehovah."—Ps. 84:2.

³ Although there is an abundance of spiritual food provided at the meetings, some in attendance have difficulty paying attention. They may find themselves daydreaming, thinking about the day's anxieties, or even dozing off. Many have found that taking brief notes helps them keep alert and focus on what is being said. Writing things down also impresses the information on the mind. In addition, advance preparation is an aid to benefiting fully. If we prepare well, we will be able "to pay more than the usual attention."—Heb. 2:1.

⁴ Children as well as adults need to absorb the instruction provided at meetings. What the children learn will be very limited if parents provide toys or coloring books to keep them occupied and quiet. There is a lack of

proper discipline when children are allowed to play, talk, cry, or do other things that disturb those sitting nearby. Frequent and unnecessary trips to the rest room or water fountain during the meeting are usually reduced when the child knows that one of his parents will always accompany him.

⁵ **Punctuality Is Important:** Occasionally, unavoidable circumstances may prevent us from arriving at a meeting on time, but habitually arriving late after the opening song and prayer shows a lack of respect for the sacred purpose of the meetings and our responsibility to avoid disturbing others. Remember that singing and praying with our brothers at congregation meetings is part of our worship. Habitual tardiness is usually a result of poor organization or failure to plan in advance. Being punctual shows that we respect and appreciate our meetings.

⁶ As the day draws ever nearer, the need to assemble together can only become greater. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Let us show our appreciation by regular attendance, advance preparation, punctuality, rapt attention, and then application of what we learn.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER

Week Starting December 5

Song 68

12 min: Local announcements and appropriate Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Point out one or two striking articles that could be featured when offering the latest magazines. Have capable publisher demonstrate a presentation, using one of the articles.

15 min: "A Model to Follow Closely." Questions and answers.

18 min: "Invite Others to Follow the Greatest Man." Discuss with audience. Arrange for two brief demonstrations. Stress need to keep accurate house-to-house records; briefly review what information should be recorded. Song 153 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 12

Song 86

13 min: Local announcements and Theocratic News. Accounts report, including any donation acknowledgments. Offer some suggestions on how to respond to worldly holiday greetings.—See *Our Kingdom Ministry*, December 1990, page 8.

14 min: "Pay Constant Attention to Your Teaching." Talk by the school overseer. Review instructions that accompany the "Theocratic Ministry

School Schedule for 1995," pointing out any reminders especially needed by the congregation.

18 min: "Show Appreciation for God's House." Questions and answers. Make further comment about the need for punctuality at meetings.—See *The Watchtower* of June 15, 1990, pages 26-9. Song 99 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 19

Song 78

10 min: Local announcements. Review local arrangements for field service during the upcoming holiday period. Suggest ways of presenting current magazines in local territory.

20 min: "Pay Attention to the Prophetic Word." Insert. Questions and answers on paragraphs 1-8, to be handled by an elder. Discuss application of cited scriptures.

15 min: "Urge Them to Become His Followers." Discuss with audience. Have two brief demonstrations. Recommend that all use some field service time each week for making return visits.

Song 22 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 26

Song 74

5 min: Local announcements. Discuss "Will Your Meeting Times Change?" if applicable to your congregation.

20 min: "Pay Attention to the Prophetic Word." Insert. Questions and answers on paragraphs 9-13, to be handled by an elder. Stress importance of preparing for, regularly attending, and participating in the Congregation Book Study. Show appreciation for spiritual instruction, critical for our guidance in these last days.

10 min: Local needs. Or give a talk on the article "Are You Helping Your Child to Choose Jehovah?" in *The Watchtower* of October 1, 1994, pages 26-30.

10 min: Prepare for January offer. Any 192-page book published prior to 1982 may be used. If the congregation has none in stock, the book *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* may be offered. If this book will be used locally, prepare a presentation that can be used when offering the publication at the door. If some other book will be offered, prepare one or two appropriate presentations for it. Ideas for presentations can be found in the *Reasoning* book, pages 9-15. Have a capable publisher demonstrate presentation. Song 94 and concluding prayer.

Will Your Meeting Times Change?

In cases where several congregations using the same Kingdom Hall have agreed to rotate or adjust meeting times, this should be done the first of January. A willingness to cooperate with the arrangement that has been established demonstrates mutual love and consideration. Often the change in meeting times will be to your personal advantage, making meeting attendance more convenient.

On the other hand, the change taking place this year may not fit in well with your schedule of activity. It could require adjustments in your normal routine that may be somewhat unsettling. Each one's willingness to cooperate demonstrates an appreciation for the overall arrangement, which works out for the mutual benefit of everybody involved.

Of course, the next rotation of meeting times may be more to your liking. In the meantime, you are encouraged to make the necessary personal adjustments so you can attend all weekly meetings according to the schedule that has been decided upon by the congregation. Strive to maintain the view of the psalmist David, who declared: "I rejoiced when they were saying to me: 'To the house of Jehovah let us go.'"—Ps. 122:1.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
December 5:	p. 39, ¶ 7	p. 43, ¶ 7
December 12:	p. 43, ¶ 8	p. 47, ¶ 23
December 19:	p. 47, ¶ 1	p. 50, ¶ 14
December 26:	p. 51, ¶ 15	p. 55, ¶ 5

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp1 Pios.	191	120.2	78.8	51.5	4.9
Pios.	75,309	81.4	36.1	24.1	2.4
Aux. Pios.	28,206	59.5	26.0	14.6	1.3
Pubs.	786,826	9.8	5.5	3.6	0.4
TOTAL	890,532			Baptized:	1,567

THEOCRATIC NEWS

Albania: A new peak of 353 publishers was reached in July, as well as a new peak in magazine placements. Congregation publishers averaged 22.4 hours in the ministry and conducted 1,073 home Bible studies.

Cameroon: A new branch office was established in July, coinciding with a new peak of 21,323 publishers.

Greenland: Publishers reporting field service totaled 134 in July. This was a new peak.

Zaire: Even faced with the catastrophic situation of hundreds of thousands of refugees entering Zaire, a new peak of 83,442 publishers was reached in July. The brothers have made an excellent effort to help one another, and they say that the relief operations from outside are much appreciated.

PAY ATTENTION TO THE PROPHETIC WORD

¹ "We have the prophetic word made more sure." (2 Pet. 1:19) Why did Peter say this? The Kingdom prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures as well as those from Jesus Christ himself had been confirmed, or "made more sure," by what Peter and two other disciples had seen and heard at the transfiguration scene some 32 years earlier. This dramatic vision had reassured them that Jesus Christ would indeed come into Kingdom power with radiant glory and with the full support of his Father. Christians in the first century were 'doing well in paying attention to that prophetic word as to a lamp shining,' in that their hearts would otherwise be dark. Paying attention to the illuminating prophetic word would keep them alert and enlightened to the dawn of a new day, when the "daystar," Christ, would rise in Kingdom glory. —2 Pet. 1:16-19; Matt. 17:1-9.

² We were not on hand to see the glorious transfiguration scene along with Peter. Yet, Christians in this generation who have paid attention to the prophetic word have been highly privileged to see, not a preview of Christ's Kingdom, but overwhelming evidence that the glorious King rules in reality! Each passing year since 1914, the prophetic word is made more sure as we witness the fulfillment of the various elements of the striking "sign" Jesus gave of his royal "presence." An important part of the sign is that the announcement of his government, or Kingdom, would be made in all the nations before the King brings an end to this system of things. Under Christ's direction, the Kingdom-preaching work is being done now in 231 lands on a scale never before imagined. (Matt. 24: 3-14) Furthermore, as the time for "the great tribulation" draws close, the enthroned King has been gathering "a great crowd" "out of all nations" who come to exercise faith in the ransoming "blood of the Lamb."—Rev. 7:9, 10, 14.

³ Since the "daystar" has risen, that is, Christ has come into Kingdom power, is there still reason to pay attention to the prophetic word? Yes! The glorified Jesus Christ gave the apostle John a series of visions that make up the book of Revelation. While these were of encouragement and instruction to the early Christians, they are of special value to those living in "the Lord's day," where we now find ourselves. (Rev. 1:10) That is why the congregations of Jehovah's people are now making a further study of the *Revelation Climax* book.

⁴ "Happy is he who reads aloud and those who

hear the words of this prophecy, and who observe the things written in it; for the appointed time is near." (Rev. 1:3) If we are to be happy, we must get the sense, yes, the real understanding, of these prophetic visions. What does this require? Repetition is needed to sound down into our hearts the import of the Revelation account. The apostle Peter, a member of the first-century governing body, recognized the value of repeating fundamental truths to 'rouse up' his brothers spiritually. (2 Pet. 1:12, 13) The modern-day "faithful and discreet slave" likewise helps us keep our appreciation alive by repeatedly drawing our attention to the prophetic word.—Matt. 24:45-47.

⁵ **How to Pay Attention:** What kind of attention does the prophetic word in Revelation deserve? The apostle Paul reminds us that God has not spoken to Christians through angels or prophets as he communicated with his pre-Christian servants. Rather, Jehovah has communicated with us through his most cherished Son, whom he appointed "heir of all things." (Heb. 1:1, 2) "That is why it is necessary for us to pay more than the usual attention to the things heard by us, that we may never drift away." (Heb. 2:1) Yes, we must pay attention to God's Word and especially so to the prophetic word that comes through Jesus Christ. How can we pay special attention to our study of Revelation?

⁶ First, it is very important to be present each week at the Congregation Book Study. True, for many of us, this will be the third time that we have studied the *Revelation Climax* book. Thus, some may take a somewhat casual view of attending the book study, feeling that even if they miss a meeting, they are already familiar with the material. However, with each passing year, this prophetic information becomes more relevant and timely than it was in 1989 when we first studied the *Revelation Climax* book. All of us need to be alert to present-day happenings that are moving rapidly forward in fulfillment of the prophecies of Revelation. Then we can be prepared to act in harmony with Jehovah's will. Make it your personal goal not to miss a single book study, if at all possible, during this important consideration of Revelation.

⁷ Second, prepare your lesson well. Look up the cited scriptures and consider how they support the explanation of the verses of Revelation being studied. In this way you will get more than simply answers to the questions. Strive to acquire not just knowledge but wisdom and understanding. (Prov. 4:7) Third, actively participate by making comments and reading scriptures. Make it a goal to answer at least once and preferably several times at each study. Doing so will help you keep your mind focused on the lesson.

⁸ Paying more than the usual attention to the prophetic word includes more than preparation, attendance, and participation. It also means that even after the study, we continue to 'ponder over these things, to be absorbed in them.' (1 Tim. 4:15) If the prophetic word is to be as a lamp shining in our hearts, we must allow it to affect our inner person deeply—our thoughts, desires, emotions, motivations, and goals. (2 Pet. 1:19) Thus, we should be asking ourselves such questions as: What does this information mean to me personally? What have I learned about Jehovah and his Son, Jesus Christ? What principles underlie the material? Am I getting the sense of the study in my heart? How can I apply these truths in my life? In my family? In the congregation? By making practical application of what we learn, we can say, as did the psalmist: "Your word is a lamp to my foot, and a light to my roadway."—Ps. 119:105; Job 29:3, 4.

⁹ **Keep Awake During Critical Times:** In the year 33 C.E., Jesus warned his disciples of Jerusalem's coming destruction and the situation that would signal the time for them to flee to a place of safety. (Luke 19:41-44; 21:7-21) Then, over 30 years passed. It could have seemed to some Judean Christians that little would change in the near future. How timely was the exhortation from the beloved apostle Peter in his second letter, written about 64 C.E., to 'pay attention to the prophetic word!' (2 Pet. 1:19) Shortly afterward, in 66 C.E., Jerusalem was surrounded by Roman armies. When the Roman forces suddenly withdrew for no apparent reason, Judean Christians who were awake followed Jesus' instructions and fled. Then, in 70 C.E., the Roman armies returned and completely destroyed Jerusalem. How glad those Christians must have been that they had paid close attention to Jesus' prophetic word!

¹⁰ For what are we modern-day Christians on the watch? In the Revelation visions, Jesus alerted Christians living now to many events that would take place during the Lord's day. During the past 80 years, a number of these events have already occurred: the birth of the Kingdom; the war in heaven and subsequent defeat of Satan and his demons, followed by their confinement to the vicinity of the earth; the fall of Babylon the Great; and the appearance of the scarlet-colored wild beast, the eighth world power. The fulfillment of these aspects of the prophetic word in Revelation makes it more sure that soon we will see these remaining dramatic events: the sealing of the last members of the 144,000, the completed gathering of the great crowd, the destruction of Babylon the Great, the war of Armageddon, the abyssing of Satan, and the Millennial Rule of Christ. How important that we pay attention to Jesus' warning: "Look! I am coming as a thief. Happy is the one that stays awake

and keeps his outer garments, that he may not walk naked and people look upon his shameful-ness!"—Rev. 16:15.

¹¹ Are we keeping awake? How seriously do we take the prophetic word? Whether we dedicated our lives to Jehovah 5 years ago or 50 years ago, Paul's words to the Roman Christians aptly apply to us: "You people know the season, that it is already the hour for you to awake from sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than at the time when we became believers. The night is well along; the day has drawn near." Paul then exhorts Christians to "put off the works belonging to darkness" and to "walk decently." (Rom. 13:11-13) We live in a world that is in pitch darkness morally. What was shocking conduct just 30 or 40 years ago is normal to many worldlings in this last decade of the 20th century. Beware, brothers, that you never allow yourselves to drift into the world's darkness and become morally drowsy. If you allow yourself to become permissive or tolerant of this world's degraded thinking and way of life, you will lose sight of the big issues that face us today and that will soon be settled forever: the vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty and the sanctification of his name. Spiritual drowsiness will put in jeopardy one's salvation, now so near at hand.

¹² **Grow in Heart Appreciation for the Prophetic Word:** The ancient Hebrew prophets were keenly interested in the fulfillment of their spirit-inspired utterances about the Messiah. They made "a diligent inquiry and a careful search" as to the outworking of God's purpose. (1 Pet. 1:10, 11) Likewise, as you pay attention to the prophetic word in the book of Revelation, you will grow in appreciation for spiritual things. Your spiritual appetite will intensify, so that you will be stirred to dig into "the deep things of God." (1 Cor. 2:10) As you fill your heart with appreciation and love for the prophetic word, there will be no need for anyone to urge you to attend the meetings; you will be moved to attend and participate regularly. (Luke 6:45) And if the 'word is in your own heart,' you will be moved to 'make public declaration of it for salvation.'—Rom. 10:8-10.

¹³ The deeper we get into the time of the end, the more ridiculers will deride us for persisting in our faith in God's prophetic declarations. (2 Pet. 3:3, 4) Yet, we will keep awake to the prophetic word. The lamp of God's Word shows us where we are in the stream of time. It brilliantly lights up the fact that we are in the last days of this dark world. The day-star has risen! Christ is in Kingdom power! On the horizon we already see the dawn of a new day. May God's promised new world continue to be as real to us as the Kingdom was to the three apostles who were privileged to see a preview of it in the miraculous vision of Jesus' transfiguration!

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 5 to December 19, 1994. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Satan cunningly entices people to satisfy normal desires in wrong ways. [*uw* p. 65 par. 9]
2. Sheol, Hades, and Gehenna all refer to mankind's common grave. [*uw* p. 72 par. 6]
3. Since the fulfillment of Psalm 110: 1, 2 extends into the last days of this world, these verses help us to understand that Jesus' prophecy about the conclusion of the system of things was not limited to Jerusalem's destruction in 70 C.E. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w94* 2/15 p. 12 par. 17.]
4. The Sanhedrin was the 71-member Roman High Court that met in Jerusalem. [*gt* chap. 119]
5. The "world rulers" referred to at Ephesians 6:12 are the political leaders separated from the favor of God. [*uw* p. 63 par. 4]
6. The millions who will be resurrected from the dead will be judged according to the deeds they performed before their resurrection. [*uw* p. 75 par. 12]
7. In addition to serving as Mediator of the new covenant, Jesus personally made a covenant with his loyal apostles for a Kingdom. [*gt* chap. 115]
8. Baptism is, in itself, a guarantee of salvation. [*uw* p. 100 par. 12]
9. When Jesus prayed: "Father, if you wish, remove this cup from me," he was asking to be spared from dying. (Luke 22:42) [*gt* chap. 117]

10. According to Psalm 58:4, the cobra is unable to hear. [Weekly Bible reading; see *it-1* p. 485.]

Answer the following questions:

11. Knowing that Jehovah feeds the birds and beautifully clothes the flowers should relieve his human servants of what anxieties? [*uw* p. 87 par. 3]
12. As described at Psalm 58:3-5, how are the wicked like a serpent? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w86* 10/15 p. 30.]
13. In harmony with Ephesians 5:3-5, on what basis will a discerning Christian reject certain music that may have a pleasing melody, a catchy rhythm, or an insistent beat? [*uw* p. 67 par. 12]
14. What does the Bible mean at Revelation 20:14, where it says that Hades was "hurled into the lake of fire"? [*uw* p. 75 par. 12]
15. On what basis are the sheep and the goats judged in Jesus' parable at Matthew 25:31-46? [*gt* chap. 111 par. 43]
16. If Nisan 11, 33 C.E., ended at sundown on Tuesday, when did Nisan 14 begin and end? [*gt* chap. 112]
17. What does it mean to be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit? [*uw* p. 98 par. 9]
18. In what ways would Jesus' disciples do works greater than he did, as he declared at John 14:12? [*gt* chap. 116 par. 6]
19. What is "the secret place of the Most High" referred to at Psalm 91:1, and what must we do to dwell there?

[Weekly Bible reading; see w93 12/15 p. 12; w86 12/15 p. 29.]

20. Why could Jesus say at John 16:33 that he had conquered the world? [gt chap. 116 par. 37]

Provide the word or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. As shown in the case of Job, Satan contends that we are interested mainly in _____ possessions, our own comfort and well-being, and that our motive in serving God is a _____ one. [uw p. 93 par. 13]
22. When Jesus was unjustly tried, _____ was governor of Judea, and _____ was ruler of Galilee. [gt chaps. 121, 122]
23. In harmony with what _____ explained at Luke 3:16, at Pentecost 33 C.E., Jesus' disciples first experienced baptism with _____; in 70 C.E., unrepentant Jews were baptized with _____. [uw p. 96 par. 4]
24. Jesus' baptism into _____ began in 29 C.E. but was not completed until he actually _____ and was _____. [uw p. 97 par. 6]
25. The parties to the new covenant are _____ and _____. [gt chap. 114]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. Evidently, the "gods" referred to in Psalm 82 are (Satan and the demons; pagan gods of the nations; men who were the judges of Israel). [Weekly Bible reading; see w86 12/15 p. 28.]
27. The main purpose of Jesus' coming into the world was to (save mankind; make disciples; bear witness to the truth). [gt chap. 122]
28. If we experience physical afflictions or material loss, the Devil would like to see us (honor Jehovah and prove the

Devil a liar; blame God and become disloyal; endure as Job did). [uw p. 60 par. 13]

29. Of the three-part accusation made by the Jewish religious leaders against Jesus, as recorded at Luke 23:2, the charge that was of concern to Pilate had to do with Jesus' (subverting the Jewish nation; forbidding the paying of taxes to Caesar; saying he himself is Christ a king). [gt chap. 121]
30. At Psalm 63:3, David was actually saying that having a fine relationship with Jehovah was (the next best thing to life; as good as life; even more precious than life itself). [Weekly Bible reading; see w85 4/1 p. 4.]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Ps. 86:1, 2; Matt. 26:52; John 13:1-17; John 15:8; Heb. 13:5, 6

31. Regardless of high prices and widespread unemployment, as long as we exert ourselves in harmony with our faith, Jehovah will make sure that we have what we really need. [uw p. 89 par. 6]
32. True Christians are no part of the world; therefore, they do not resort to carnal weapons. [gt chap. 118; see w94 6/1 p. 12.]
33. Although we may suffer from anxieties and depression because of the problems bearing in upon us, we can be confident that Jehovah will turn his ear to this earth and listen to our humble prayers. [Weekly Bible reading; see w92 12/15 p. 9 pars. 3, 4.]
34. We can truly glorify God by manifesting Christlike qualities, particularly love, and by sharing as fully as possible in the activity of making disciples. [gt chap. 116 par. 19]
35. As Christians we should be willing to serve others without partiality, no matter how menial or unpleasant the task may be. [gt chap. 113]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **December: The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.**

January: Any 192-page book published prior to 1982 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have the older books in stock will offer *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* **February:** *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* will be featured. Placements of this book should be followed up with return visits, and efforts should be made to start Bible studies. **March:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14). The pre-1982 publications mentioned above are not available in Brooklyn.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to the congregation when this has been done.

■ The Memorial for 1996 will be Tuesday, April 2, after sundown. This advance notice of the date for the 1996 Memorial celebration is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and they must find other facilities.

■ Large-print editions of the semi-monthly *Watchtower* in Hungarian and Romanian became available with the September 1, 1994, issue. Audiocassette editions of the semi-monthly *Watchtower* in Italian also became available on that date.

■ Distributors' copies of *The Watchtower* in Marshallese, Palauan, Ponapean, Trukese, and Yapese are now available and may be requested from the Society.

■ The Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, and Nepali editions of *The Watchtower* will change from monthly to semi-monthly beginning January 1, 1995.

■ Estonian and Papiamentu have been added to the languages in which *Awake!* is available. These are quarterly editions and begin with the January-March 1995 issue. Distributor copies may be requested through the congregation.

■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 1994 on their December literature request. The bound volumes will be available in Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.—See the *Watchtower Publications List*, paragraphs 24, 25.

■ Beginning with the 1995 district conventions and the September 1995 circuit assemblies and special assembly days, there will be no food served. Each one is to bring his own food and drink. Complete details will be provided in a later issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office when reaching 18 years of age. All those required to do so should take care of the matter promptly, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. Elders will want to have this in mind and give appropriate reminders to young brothers nearing the age of 18. Questions as to the young Christian's responsibilities in this regard may be answered by the elders.

■ The Society has prepared legal forms that can provide us with added protection regarding our stand on blood. These forms also address other health-care matters, such as end-of-life decisions. Thus they work together with the Advance Medical Directive/Release in making your health-care wishes known. Publishers are not obliged to prepare these forms. Those interested in doing so (for example, those contemplating surgery or those who want to make other health-care wishes known in advance) may obtain from the congregation secretary the form for their state of residence. He will also provide a question-and-answer folder that fully explains the purpose and use of the form.

Pay Constant Attention to Your Teaching

¹ The new Theocratic Ministry School program will begin in January 1995. What is new in the program? The exciting history of Jehovah's modern-day organization will be the subject for discussion in most of the instruction talks. During the course of the year, 178 pages of the book *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* will be considered. Since there will be no review questions following the instruction talk from the *Proclaimers* book, what can we do to pay attention to our teaching and maximize the benefits?—1 Tim. 4:16.

² Although many have already read the *Proclaimers* book, consideration of the material in the school schedule will help all to appreciate even more their theocratic heritage. (Ps. 71:17, 18) Why not set aside some

time each week to review the assigned material in the *Proclaimers* book?

³ **Lively and Interesting Instruction Talks:** Instruction talks from the *Proclaimers* book should be presented in a lively and interesting manner. They should also highlight the practical value of the information, making use of it to deepen respect for Jehovah's organization and appreciation for the privileges that are ours as God's servants. If each family that attends the School brings a copy of the *Proclaimers* book to the meeting, family members can follow the instruction talk more closely and benefit from the illustrations and photographs in the book.

⁴ **Thought-Provoking Bible Readings:** Reading well, with proper sense stress and feeling, is an important part of effective teaching. In addition, the amount of assigned material to be

read in Talk No. 2 is not extensive, and ample time will usually be available for introductory and concluding comments by the speaker. The introduction should stimulate interest in the assigned material and prepare the audience to discern its practical value. The conclusion may include explanatory comments and application of the material, with the speaker making full use of the time allotted.

⁵ Further information on the school program and on how assignments are to be handled can be found in the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1995." We pay attention to our teaching by reviewing the instructions in this material, by preparing our assignments well, and by applying the counsel we are given, in order to improve in the art of speaking and teaching. Those not yet enrolled in the school are warmly invited to do so.

Invite Others to Follow the Greatest Man

¹ As recorded at Matthew 5:14, Jesus told his disciples: "You are the light of the world." Followers of Jesus were to tell people everywhere about Jehovah's Kingdom and His loving provision for salvation through Jesus. With that commission in mind, during the month of December we look forward to offering the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. Here are some suggestions you may want to use.

² **After introducing yourself, you might put the following in your own words:**

■ "Many have wondered what Jesus was like when he lived as a man on this earth. In what ways do you think he was different from others? [Allow for reply.] This fascinating book, *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*, relates the highlights of his life and ministry, and it provides insight into the kind of man he was. After reading it, some feel as though they have had an opportunity to associate with him personally, share his sufferings, and observe his ministry firsthand." Point to the first illustration in the book, which features the title. Then turn to the in-

troduction, and read the second paragraph under the subheading "Benefit by Learning About Him." If there is good response, offer the book.

³ **Or you might say something like this:**

■ "During this season people are thinking about Jesus. However, because so many bad things are happening all over the world, some may wonder if Jesus really cares about us. How do you feel about that?" Allow for a reply. Turn to chapter 24 of the *Greatest Man* book, and discuss briefly why Jesus came to earth. Then read John 15:13, emphasizing Jesus' heartfelt love for others. Remember to have the latest magazines, a brochure, or an appropriate tract available to offer if the book is not accepted.

⁴ **Here is another suggestion:**

■ "Most young people are looking for role models to imitate, but good ones are hard to find. Jesus Christ set the perfect example for everyone. [Read 1 Peter 2:21.] His whole life was centered on the worship of his heavenly Father. What do you think it would be like if more people tried to imi-

tate him?" Allow for a reply. Refer to the third paragraph on the next to the last page of the book, which describes his special qualities. Explain how the *Greatest Man* book can help all of us to become better Christians.

⁵ **You might want to use something like this:**

■ "When someone mentions Jesus Christ, many people think of him either as a baby or as a suffering man about to die. Their concept of Jesus involves only his birth and his death. The marvelous things he said and did during his lifetime often go unnoticed. What he accomplished affects every person who has ever lived on this earth. That's why it's vital that we learn as much as we can about the wonderful things he did in our behalf." Read John 17:3. Turn to the first page of the introduction of the *Greatest Man* book, and read the fourth paragraph. Explain how the book can be obtained and used for personal study.

⁶ Be sure to keep a record of interest and placements so that you can follow up by making return visits. While there is yet time, let us zealously seek out honesthearted people and help them to become followers of our Savior, Jesus Christ.—Matt. 16:24.

Urge Them to Become His Followers

¹ At 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul wrote: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God kept making it grow." Paul used this reasoning to help his brothers see the need for working unitedly under the headship of Christ. In this way he also helped them appreciate the vital role they played in the important planting and watering work.

² That lifesaving work is to be brought to a conclusion in this very day. As dedicated Christians, we share the serious responsibility to help others become Jesus' followers. (Acts 13:48) How will you follow up on the interest you were able to stimulate by using the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*?

³ **If you are returning to visit a person who accepted the book, you could say:**

■ "When we last spoke, we discussed what Jesus Christ was like as a man. I was pleased to leave you the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. What has impressed you most about Jesus' teaching and about his personality?" Allow for response. Turn to chapter 113,

and discuss Jesus' superb example of humility. Read Philipians 2:8 to show how the apostle Paul viewed Jesus' humble attitude. You could then explain how more can be learned through a regular study of the Bible.

⁴ **You may prefer this introduction:**

■ "We talked about things Jesus did while on earth that show he truly cares about us. What do you think he will ultimately do to relieve those who have suffered so much?" Allow for response. Turn to chapter 133, and review the comments in the fifth paragraph. Turn to the picture on the next page, and explain what it will be like when God's will is done on the earth as it is in heaven. Point out the benefits to be gained by learning more.

⁵ **If there was insufficient interest to offer the book initially, perhaps you can start your discussion this way:**

■ "I think both of us agree that many people today pattern their life after

someone they view as their role model. Jesus Christ is the best role model anyone could have. I would like to share with you a very important lesson that I learned by studying the example set by Jesus. [Turn to chapter 40 in the *Greatest Man* book, and call attention to Jesus' kindly lesson on mercy.] This forcefully reminded me of how much I need to demonstrate this quality toward others." Read Matthew 5:7. If there now seems to be greater interest, offer the book or the brochure *Does God Really Care About Us*?

⁶ **Or you may want to try this direct approach:**

■ "The last time I was here, we discussed the importance of gaining knowledge about Jesus. John 17:3 says that it 'means everlasting life' to take in such knowledge. How can we do that?" Allow for response. Continue by explaining our Bible study arrangement and how to take advantage of it.

⁷ Paul says that a worker in the harvest "will receive his own reward according to his own labor." (1 Cor. 3:8) If we exert ourselves vigorously in helping others become Jesus' followers, our reward is sure to be great.