

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

OCTOBER 1980

Vol. 23, No. 10

FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meetings for Field Service

OCTOBER 6-12

What Do You Do

1. To tie in the offer with topic for conversation?
2. When the offer is not accepted?
3. To lay a basis for a return visit?

OCTOBER 13-19

When Offering the October 22 "Awake!"

1. What would you say to a man?
2. To a housewife?
3. To a youth?

OCTOBER 20-26

How Can Families

1. Prepare for service?
2. Evangelize together?
3. Show neighbor love?

OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 2

What Do You Suggest

1. For follow-up on "Awake!" subscriptions?
2. To present "Bible Stories" book?
3. As a presentation for young publishers?

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

Reason and Remedy for World Woes.—Rev. 12:12; Rom. 16:20.

MORE THAN ONE MILLION ATTEND CONVENTIONS IN U.S.

We rejoice that at the 102 "Divine Love" District Conventions in the U.S. this summer, there was a new all-time peak in attendance of 1,024,126. It is also very encouraging to know that 9,617 were baptized.

Serving Jehovah as a Family

¹ The family that serves Jehovah together is the basic unit of the Christian congregation today. So, while each individual Christian must have a personal relationship with Jehovah, a family of Christians serving together helps to strengthen such relationship.

² Evidently this is one reason why Paul encouraged Christians to continue living with mates who were nonbelievers, saying: "For, wife, how do you know but that you will save your husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save your wife?" (1 Cor. 7:16) So, as Christians, we are encouraged to worship and serve Jehovah as families.

HOW TO SERVE AS A FAMILY

³ Among early Christian families, one that was noteworthy was that of Philip "the evangelizer." He was an active, hospitable Christian. (Acts 21:8) But his service did not stop there. As an evangelizer he apparently assisted his family to be regular in Jehovah's service, too, for the record mentions that his four virgin daughters "prophesied."—Acts 21:9.

⁴ How can Christian families today be active, evangelizing families? All in the family must appreciate the privilege of serving Jehovah, preaching and teaching

the Christian good news. (Matt. 28:19, 20) But to enjoy such godly service, each one must be prepared. So married Christians should recognize the need to prepare for service together as a family, discussing points in the literature that could be used, appropriate Scripture texts and other talking points.

⁵ Scheduling time for all to share in field service is also very important. Therefore, many families are using the first Sunday of the month to work together. Concerning families working together in service the first Sunday each month, one brother wrote: "Field service has really picked up. The friends are responding to the recommendations of assisting one another, especially the youth." Does your family thus serve together each month?

⁶ It is very encouraging to see entire families working together with their book study groups. In this way children as well as adults share in covering the territory assigned to the group. Such working together with the group will assist parents to instill in their children greater appreciation for our responsibility to preach the good news and care for the "sheep."

⁷ Many parents assist their children
(Continued on page 8, col. 1)

Growing Spiritually as a Family

¹ "In an age that emphasizes maximum personal expression and gratification," comments a family magazine, "many parents don't want to sacrifice anything of themselves for their children, who are viewed as a burden." A news magazine also reports that the current tendency of parents to give 'priority to their own right to self-fulfillment' leaves their children emotionally crippled and without a moral code. This is just as the Scriptures foretold, "that in the last days . . . men will be lovers of themselves, . . . having no natural affection."—2 Tim. 3:1-5.

² Clearly, to attain the goal of family unity and happiness, the Christian family must resist such tendencies and follow the instructions provided by the Founder of the family, Jehovah God. (Ps. 100:3; Prov. 3:5, 6) Fathers, particularly, are charged with the responsibility of "bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah."—Eph. 6:1-4.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

³ Happily, Jehovah has provided parents with many valuable aids to help the family grow spiritually, but it does take a measure of self-discipline, or even self-sacrifice, to make use of and to benefit from them. For example, the Yearbook provides a Bible text and upbuilding comments for consideration each day. Is considering that information a part of your family's daily routine? Showing the benefits of daily discussing a Bible text, a report from an African country where the work is banned tells how the imprisoned brothers assigned a different one of their group each day to think up a Bible text for discussion. Then each brother would give a comment on that selected text. Later they explained how very helpful it is to know many Bible verses in advance of such tests of faith. Yes, how beneficial it is for each family to cultivate such useful habits as regularly
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Meetings to Help Us Make Disciples

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 5

10 min: Song 71 and local announcements.

15 min: Discussion of article "Serving Jehovah as a Family." Handle with appropriate questions directed to audience. In connection with paragraphs 4 to 8, ask for suggestions or results obtained by families working together in field service.

30 min: "Training Our Children to Be Lovers of Jehovah." What key points do you remember from symposium on Saturday afternoon at "Divine Love" District Convention? Chairman should use appropriate questions to draw out audience on main points and consider local application of the following:

(1) In raising our children to become disciples, emphasize that effort must be put forth; does not happen automatically. Discuss following scriptures, noting what action must be taken:

Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a boy . . ." Time and effort needed.

Ephesians 6:4: Greek expression for "bringing them up" means "nourishing out," spiritually feed, nurture and develop them; "in the discipline" refers to instructing, involving training, education, and correction; "mental-regulating of Jehovah" means "putting in [the child's mind] the mind of Jehovah." The mind and will of Jehovah are found in the Bible. Suggest that children memorize basic Bible texts. How many have been doing so, and what are the effects? (Can review texts such as Acts 20:35; John 3:16; Eph. 6:1; Mic. 6:8; Matt. 24:14; Ps. 83:18; Prov. 22:15, and so forth.)

2 Timothy 3:15: "Infancy" can refer to a newborn (Luke 2:12) or a three-month old (Acts 7:19, 20; Ex. 2:2). Point is, start immediately while child is still like young twig. Baby's brain reaches three quarters adult size by age two; heart doubles in size in first year. Important to reach heart.—Matt. 15:18; Luke 6:45.

(2) Goal of training is in the way of God's righteousness; must be done according to Bible standards, using Bible principles. Time and patience needed; also consistency from both parents, where possible, is important. (Col. 3:21) Chairman should briefly recount demonstrations seen at convention or have audience relate what was remembered.

Scene 1: Child speaks disrespectfully to parents in front of visiting adult. Some texts discussed were Prov. 23:22; 13:24 (obedience to parents required by God); Rom. 13:1 (disrespect of parental authority can lead to rebelliousness).

Scene 2: Child refuses to let a visiting child play with his toys, displaying selfish attitude. Texts used: Acts 20:35; Matt. 20:28 (Jesus' own example); 1 Tim. 6:18 and 1 John 4:20.

Scene 3: Child throws tantrum when not allowed to take playthings to Kingdom Hall. Texts considered: Deut. 21:18 (self-will can lead to rebelliousness with serious consequence); Deut. 31:12 (even little ones to listen and learn at meetings); Prov. 22:15; 23:13, 14 (why physical rod of punishment may be necessary).

Basic course is to reason with child showing undesirable outcome of bad course followed, using Scriptural principle to set things straight. Rod of discipline applied when and where necessary. Remember, goal is to raise

Christian that will be loved by Jehovah and bring honor to his name.

5 min: Song 24 and prayer. (Remind audience to read October 22 *Awake!* and bring it to next week's meeting.)

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 12

10 min: Song 31, Announcements and accounts report.

12 min: "Presenting the Good News—Families, Using *Awake!*" Question-and-answer discussion of article. When considering paragraph 3, ask audience for suggestions on talking points from October 22 *Awake!*

15 min: Keeping Clean for the Service of God. Talk with audience participation. Carefully consider how the material applies in your area and focus on aspects needing attention.

In many areas there is increasing lack of concern about cleanliness and appearance. What have you observed in your area? How is it affecting our brothers and sisters?

Bible's emphasis on spiritual cleanliness (Lev. 19:1, 2; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16); also evidence that physical cleanliness is important. Customs of Israelites and early Christians marked them as clean people. For example, man's leaving hair unattended and garment unwashed considered signs of mourning. (2 Sam. 19:24) Hospitality included washing feet of guests, likely dirty from walking on dusty roads in sandals. (Judg. 19:21; John 13:5) (If time permits, can consider other examples: Ex. 30:17-21; Lev. 17:15; 15:13, and so forth.)

God's counsel "YOU must be holy" applies to us today and shows importance of personal cleanliness. Christians, as ministers, have good reasons for proper grooming and personal hygiene. If we are neat, clean and well-groomed, not gaudy or untidy, it will reflect well on message we bring and on the God we worship. (2 Cor. 6:3, 4; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10) Children need to be instructed on cleaning, handling clothes, eating habits, and so forth. Help them to realize it is not just to aid mother, but is related to worshiping God.

Christians also concerned about keeping home and possessions clean and orderly. Whole family should cooperate, for a clean and presentable home reflects on one's worship. Cars and other equipment used in preaching work may also need attention.

Commendation is due for vast improvement many have made since learning truth. Encourage all to keep clean for service of God.

15 min: Elders can use this time to consider local needs or arrange to have several publishers relate experiences found on the last page of recent issues of *The Watchtower*. Local experiences may also be used.

8 min: Song 9 and closing prayer.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 19

Theme: Growing Spiritually as a Family.

10 min: Song 63 and local announcements.

18 min: "Growing Spiritually as a Family." Question-and-answer discussion of article. Ask audience what they have been doing or how they intend to apply suggestions mentioned in paragraphs 3 to 6.

25 min: Showing Neighbor Love—Week by Week. Chairman can handle

introductory part and then include audience in discussion, emphasizing Bible principles.

(10 min.) Throughout history man has functioned on weekly basis. God's work relative to earth done on weekly cycle of seven days (Gen. 2:2)

Israel observed seven-day cycle. Nearly all functions done weekly: shopping, washing, secular work, and so forth. Our worship also on weekly basis: five meetings per week.

How can we show love for others on weekly basis? How would 1 Corinthians 13:8 apply to our preaching activity? Schedule weekly service where possible.

Each one's circumstances and responsibilities differ (2 Cor. 8:12) Everyone has 168 hours per week. Showing neighbor love should receive high priority for Christian. What are various opportunities for organized field service and group witnessing in local congregation?

What are advantages of weekly service?

Interview two or three congregation publishers of various ages who are exemplary and who share in service weekly.

When do they go out? Why do they consider weekly service important? What are the advantages of being out at least once each week?

(13 min.) Stimulating the Pioneer Spirit

Many who publish weekly have pioneer spirit but cannot be regular pioneers.

Such appreciate opportunities to be auxiliary pioneers.

Appreciate need for whole-souled service (Col. 3:23, 24)

Circumstances of individual dictate what is required to serve whole-souled (Gal. 6:4)

Auxiliary pioneer work is an aid in whole-souled service.

Interview several publishers with varying circumstances who find it possible to be auxiliary pioneers from time to time. Could include housewife, older publisher, school-age child, elder or ministerial servant, some who auxiliary pioneer during circuit overseer's visit, or others. Stress how auxiliary pioneer arrangement suits circumstances of many.

Regular pioneers a blessing to congregation and community.

One of best ways to show neighbor love weekly by week.

Increased service makes for increased results (2 Cor. 9:6)

"Art of teaching" cultivated to greater degree (2 Tim. 4:2)

Interview, if possible, some who are presently pioneering or have pioneered in the past.

Ask what moved them to take up pioneer work, and how have they benefited spiritually from pioneering?

(2 min.) Our Neighbors Need Love Time left to warn neighbors being reduced weekly (1 Cor. 7:29, 31)

Do not hold back from helping week by week as a regular publisher, auxiliary or regular pioneer (Prov. 3:27)

7 min: Song 32 and prayer.
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Announcements

● Literature offer for October: *Awake!* subscription for \$2.50. November: *My Book of Bible Stories* for \$2.50. December: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* and *Happiness—How to Find It* for \$3.10. January: *Watchtower* subscription for \$2.50.

● The Society now has available in grade-one Spanish Braille the booklet *There Is Much More to Life!* This one-volume publication may be obtained on a free loan basis or purchased and kept permanently. A remittance of \$1.00 should accompany orders if purchased. All orders for Braille items should be sent to the Society's BRAILLE DESK and not included on regular congregation literature orders. Braille publications should not be stocked by the congregation.

● Public talks based on the new book *Happiness—How to Find It* will be scheduled during January and February 1981. Further information regarding this matter will appear in the November issue of *Our Kingdom Service*.

● Beginning the week of January 4, 1981, all congregations will begin studying the book *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* at the congregation book studies.

Meetings... Make Disciples (Cont'd)

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 26

10 min: Song 62 and local announcements.

25 min: The Family Unit in True Worship. Scriptural discussion involving young and old in audience. Read Scripture texts as time permits. (Chairman can select texts to develop from those listed.)

Jehovah the originator of family unit (Gen. 5:3)

Hebrews worshiped Jehovah as family unit

What responsibility rested on Hebrew parents? (Deut. 6:6-8) How were children to view their parents? (Lev. 19:3; Deut. 27:16; Deut. 5:16)

How were parents to protect spirituality of children as children approached age of marriage? (Deut. 7:1-4)

When might families get together for fellowship and spiritual instruction? (Deut. 16:16; Luke 2:41, 44)

Christians also encouraged to worship as family unit; strong families needed in congregations today

What counsel is given to Christian family heads? (Eph. 5:25, 28-30; 6:4; also Chap. 4 in *Family Life book*)

How are Christian wives encouraged in the Scriptures? (Eph. 5:22, 24; Prov. 31:10; see also Chap. 5 in *Family Life book*)

What responsibility is placed on Christian youths? (Eph. 6:1-3)

How does 1 Corinthians 12:25, 26 show that all in the family "body" should progress as Christians? (See also pp. 186, 187 of *Family Life book*.)

How can families effectively worship together at home? at Christian meetings?

All Christians should seek to strengthen family ties

Today the family unit is undergoing most vicious attack yet by Satan

Results: Breakdown of morals; break up of families (2 Tim. 3:1-4)

A Revised Theocratic School

¹ Since 1943, when it was first instituted, the Theocratic School has been a great help in training Jehovah's Witnesses to preach and teach more effectively. In fact, the original textbook used in the school said: "It is to the one end of making each one a more efficient Theocratic minister to the honor of the Lord's name; that he may be better equipped to publicly present the hope that is with him."—1 Pet. 3:15.

² From time to time there have been minor changes in the format of the school. You will notice some changes in the school program for 1981 when you read through the instructions and schedule that accompany this issue of *Our Kingdom Service*. What are some of these changes? For one thing, the Theocratic School will be 45 minutes in length. (See next month's issue of *Our Kingdom Service* for further details.)

³ The time allotted for Assignment No. 1 is being reduced from 20 minutes to 15 minutes. Otherwise this assignment, including the material being covered, remains basically the same as in the current school schedule.

⁴ The 1981 schedule will allow eight minutes instead of six for highlights from the Bible reading assignment. This will allow more time for audience participation and thus all are encouraged to keep up with the Bible reading schedule with a view to participating in the discussion. Talk No. 2 will be handled as it is now.

⁵ Sisters will continue to be assigned to Talk No. 3, and this talk will still be based on *My Book of Bible Stories*. Talk No. 4, based on *Watchtower* and *Awake!* articles, will preferably be assigned to a male student. It will be the last talk on the program during 1981 and will be like Talk No. 5 on the current schedule. In many congregations

True Christians warned to turn away (2 Tim. 3:5)

Need to continue helping one another in love to keep our Christian families strong and to help our brothers (Gal. 6:10)

¹² min: Discussion of "A Revised Theocratic School." Highlight changes in school program for 1981. Encourage all to attend school regularly and keep up with Bible reading program.

¹³ min: Our Field Service Next Month. Briefly outline offer of *My Book of Bible Stories* for contribution of \$2.50. Discuss midweek and weekend field service arrangements. Include some experiences that will build appreciation for group activity. Also encourage all to spend some time in field service next Sunday, the first Sunday of November. Song 112 and prayer.

gations the majority of the students are sisters and so Talk No. 4 may, at times, be assigned to a sister if desired. In this case the school overseer will assign an assistant as is currently done.

⁶ Also you will note that the new schedule sets out the number and title of the opening song for each week's program. This should prove helpful. Another change has to do with counsel. Sometimes the school overseer has had a difficult time getting all of the students together after the school in order to give private counsel. So, in 1981, counsel will again be given from the platform after each student talk. In this way the student and the entire congregation can benefit from the good, constructive counsel given. (See *School Guidebook*, p. 11.) No doubt the students will want to review the points of counsel that they will be working on when preparing for the school.

⁷ In order to prepare properly, each student should have his own copy of the *Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook*, which explains in detail all the points of counsel. The school overseer will, of course, base his counsel on this publication, taking into consideration the experience of each individual student in the Theocratic School.

⁸ The value of the Theocratic School is summed up very well on page nine of the *School Guidebook*, where it says: "This school provides free training for the ministry. It serves the congregation in two ways: (1) The individual student is given a program of study that helps him to improve in ability to gather, develop and present information logically to others; and (2) the entire congregation receives much valuable information in the course of each week's program. Improved spiritual appreciation and ministerial activity are sure to result."

⁹ We hope the new school arrangement for 1981 will help each Kingdom publisher to follow the inspired advice of the apostle Paul: "Do your utmost to present yourself approved to God, a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright."—2 Tim. 2:15.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl. St.
Sp'l Pios.	560	104.9	85.9	40.2	4.6
Pios.	16,928	76.4	62.5	29.5	3.3
Aux. Pios.	13,735	60.4	48.7	18.1	1.5
Pubs.	515,859	8.5	8.9	3.6	.4
TOTAL	547,082				
Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 4,780					

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

As Families, Using "Awake!"

¹The two special issues of *Awake!* published this month are designed to deal with problems that confront a wide cross section of the people we meet in field service, pointing out Scriptural solutions. Have you read the magazines and thought about how to use them in the field?

²The October 8 issue develops the theme "How Can You Cope with Stress?" and the October 22 issue focuses on the theme "Does Life Have Any Meaning?" Truly, individuals and family groups everywhere are under tremendous pressure and stress every day—a modern epidemic! Where can relief be found, presently and permanently? On the other hand, many sincere persons are searching for the real meaning of life. Some, unfortunately, have accepted answers that have only brought more disappointment and sorrow. What can they do to make their lives meaningful? These captivating questions are just what some of the most timely articles in the two special issues deal with. What marvelous instruments we have in these two magazines to help those who are "skinned and thrown about"!—Matt. 9:36.

³How fine it would be for each family to get together and go over these two magazines so that all can benefit personally from the fine information. Groups of publishers may do the same. As you do so, why not let each one present pick out something in the magazine—an article, an illustration, a caption, or a statement—that is especially appealing, and then help

Serving Jehovah . . . (Cont'd)
dren in establishing magazine routes. This is very commendable! Yet, we do not want to overlook the possibility of starting Bible studies with these readers. A pioneer couple made it a goal to develop their magazine calls into Bible studies and reported: "It has been surprising to us how many have said yes, they would like a study." So we encourage families to work together also in making return visits and conducting Bible studies. This way children can develop the fine art of teaching the truth to others.

⁴Some families find it very enjoyable to work together in assisting other families to get into the field service. Such kind, Christian

one another develop something to say for presenting it in the field. A little practice this way will polish up the presentations and everyone will be ready for a full share in offering the *Awake!* subscription.

⁴Besides offering the subscription from house to house and to friends and acquaintances, be alert to other opportunities to make good use of these fine issues. When the householder is busy, or is on the way out, or does not wish to take the subscription, why not briefly offer the two magazines? Street work is another good way to use these special magazines. By taking the initiative and approaching people, you can simply show them the magazine with the theme on the cover and ask if they would like to find out a little more about the matter. Then turn to an appropriate article and offer the magazines.

⁵Some congregations have made a special effort to assist the younger publishers to have a full share in offering the magazines by making arrangements for field service during after-school hours, perhaps on Fridays. Good results have been reported, for it seems that generally more people are at home in the late afternoon, and the younger publishers usually enjoy offering the magazines, if they are well prepared.

⁶Let us, as families and as individuals, put to good use these two marvelous instruments, the October 8 and 22 special issues of *Awake!* Let the "armies of cavalry," the symbolic "horses" of Revelation 9:16 go forth!

assistance is usually appreciated very much. One sister, the mother of seven young children, wrote: "I'm thankful to Jehovah and his earthly organization for having been helped to have a larger share in the work." If you are part of a Christian family, small or large, can you find ways to encourage the entire family to serve Jehovah together?

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Choosing the Best Way of Life*:

October 5: Pages 97 to 104*
October 12: Pages 104* to 111
October 19: Pages 112 to 118
October 26: Pages 119 to 125*

* To or from subheading.

Growing Spiritually . . . (Cont'd)
setting aside a time that is practical for a discussion of the daily text from the *Yearbook*.

⁴Family Bible reading is another means by which the whole family can be helped to grow spiritually. (Rom. 15:4) Surely each family needs such instructions in resisting the temptations and wicked influences in these perilous times. To bear out the truth in Paul's statement, a high school counselor with a number of educational degrees said: "I discovered that the Bible's counsel on such things as having a successful marriage, preventing juvenile delinquency and how to gain and keep friends is far superior to anything I had read or studied in college." Parents who take the time to read the Bible with the family each day are also fulfilling the command given at Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.

⁵Parents who are concerned about the spiritual growth of the family appreciate the importance of helping their children to get the most out of congregation meetings. To help their very young daughter benefit from the weekly *Watchtower* study, a couple noticed that there was usually a picture in each magazine by which she could remember what she had learned at the meeting. So they referred to these pictures and had many delightful discussions with her, even telling her bedtime stories thereby.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

⁶When it comes to relaxation and entertainment, parents who are concerned about the spiritual development of the family will wisely guard against the insidious encroachment of the spirit of the world. For example, many family members admit that they feel farther apart when they spend too much time viewing television. Some even say that television is the main cause of the communication gap that exists in many families. Interestingly, some families have set aside certain "NO TV" evenings for family discussions, reading, or other types of recreation that involve the entire family, and have found the family atmosphere greatly improved.

⁷It surely is a course of wisdom to follow Bible guidelines to keep our families united in these "critical days." This contributes toward family happiness. A happy, united family ascribes glory and strength to its Founder, Jehovah God.—Ps. 96:7.