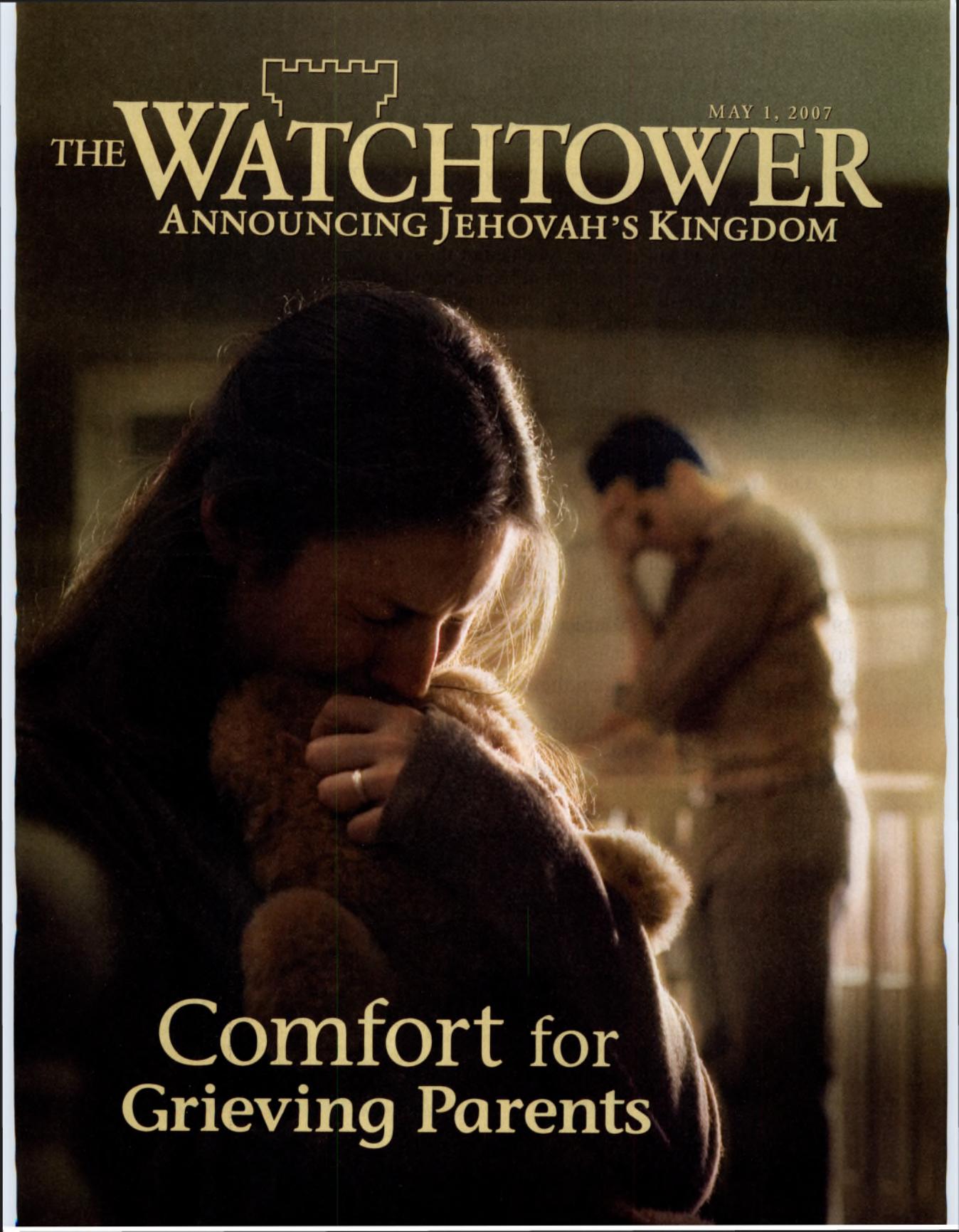


MAY 1, 2007

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

A photograph showing a woman with long dark hair hugging a young child from behind. The woman is wearing a light-colored sweater. In the background, a man is standing and looking down at the child. The lighting is warm and dramatic, creating a somber atmosphere.

## Comfort for Grieving Parents

# THE WATCHTOWER®

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

May 1, 2007

Average Printing Each Issue: 28,578,000

Vol. 128, No. 9

THE PURPOSE OF *THE WATCHTOWER* is to exalt Jehovah God as Sovereign Lord of the universe. It keeps watch on world events as these fulfill Bible prophecy. It comforts all peoples with the good news that God's Kingdom will soon destroy those who oppress their fellow men and that it will turn the earth into a paradise. It encourages faith in God's now-reigning King, Jesus Christ, whose shed blood opens the way for mankind to gain eternal life. *The Watchtower*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses continuously since 1879, is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Deep and Lasting Pain
- 4 Help From "the God Who Supplies Endurance and Comfort"
- 8 Our Treasure Hunt Yielded Lasting Riches
- 14 Let God's Word Guide Your Steps
- 19 Do Not Put Apart What God Has Yoked Together
- 24 Youths—Pursue Goals That Honor God
- 29 Youths—You Touch Your Parents' Heart
- 30 Questions From Readers
- 32 Far More Important Than the Weather

## WATCHTOWER STUDIES

JUNE 4-10:

Let God's Word Guide Your Steps.

Page 14. Songs to be used: 42, 46.

JUNE 11-17:

Do Not Put Apart What God Has Yoked Together.

Page 19. Songs to be used: 24, 117.

JUNE 18-24:

Youths—Pursue Goals That Honor God.

Page 24. Songs to be used: 183, 157.

Publication of *The Watchtower* is part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References*.

*The Watchtower* (ISSN 0043-1087) is published semimonthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; M. H. Larson, President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Watchtower, Wallkill, NY 12589.

Changes of address should reach us 30 days before your moving date. Give us your old and new address (if possible, your old address label).

© 2007 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania.

All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

Semimonthly

ENGLISH

Would you welcome more information or a free home Bible study? Please send your request to Jehovah's Witnesses, using the appropriate address below.

*America, United States of:* Wallkill, NY 12589. *Antigua:* Box 119, St. Johns. *Australia:* Box 280, Ingleburn, NSW 1890. *Bahamas:* Box N-1247, Nassau, N.P. *Barbados, W.I.:* Crusher Site Road, Prospect, St. James BB 24012. *Britain:* The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN. *Canada:* Box 4100, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 4Y4. *Germany:* Niederselters, Am Steinfels, D-65618 Selters. *Ghana:* P. O. Box GP 760, Accra. *Guyana:* 352-360 Tyrell St., Republic Park Phase 2 EBD. *Hawaii:* 96819: 2055 Kam IV Rd., Honolulu. *Hong Kong:* 4 Kent Road, Kowloon Tong. *India:* Post Box 6440, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560 064, KAR. *Ireland:* Newcastle, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. *Jamaica:* P. O. Box 103, Old Harbour, St. Catherine. *Japan:* 4-7-1 Nakashinden, Ebina City, Kanagawa Pref., 243-0496. *Kenya:* P.O. Box 47788, GPO Nairobi 00100. *New Zealand:* PO Box 75142, Manurewa, Manukau 2243. *Nigeria:* P.M.B. 1090, Benin City 300001, Edo State. *Philippines, Republic of:* P. O. Box 2044, 1060 Manila. *South Africa:* Private Bag X2067, Krugersdorp, 1740. *Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of:* Lower Rapsey Street & Laxmi Lane, Curepe. *Zambia:* Box 33459, Lusaka 10101. *Zimbabwe:* Private Bag WG-5001, Westgate.

**NOW PUBLISHED IN 159 LANGUAGES. SEMIMONTLY:** Afrikaans, Albanian,\* Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bicol, Bulgarian, Cebuano,\* Chichewa,\* Chinese, Chinese (Simplified),\* Ci-bemba,\* Croatian,\* Czech,\*\* Danish,\*\* Dutch,\*\* Efik,\* English\*\* (also Braille), Estonian, Ewe, Fijian, Finnish,\*\* French\*\* (also Braille), Ga, Georgian,\* German,\*\* Greek,\* Gun, Hebrew, Hili-gaynon, Hungarian,\*\* Igbo,\* Iloko,\* Indonesian, Italian,\*\* Japanese\*\* (also Braille), Kiryandwanda, Kirundi, Korean\*\* (also Braille), Latvian, Lingala, Lithuanian, Luvale, Macedonian, Malagasy,\* Malayalam, Maltese, Myanmar, Norwegian, Pangasinan, Papiamento (Aruba), Papiamento (Curaçao), Polish,\*\* Portuguese\*\* (also Braille), Punjabi, Rarotongan, Romanian,\* Russian,\* Samar-Leyte, Samoan, Sepedi, Serbian, Sesotho, Shona,\* Silozi, Sinhala, Slovak,\* Slovenian, Spanish\*\* (also Braille), Sranantongo, Swahili,\* Swedish,\* Tagalog,\* Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tigrinya, Tok Pisin, Tongan, Tshiluba, Tsonga, Tswana, Turkish, Twi, Ukrainian,\* Vietnamese, Xhosa, Yoruba,\* Zulu\*

**MONTHLY:** American Sign Language,□ Armenian (West), Azerbaijani, Azerbaijani (Cyrillic), Baoulé, Bislama, Brazilian Sign Language,<sup>△</sup> Cambodian, Chitonga, Chuukese, Gilbertese, Greenlandic, Guarani, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hindi, Hiri Motu, Icelandic, Isoko, Kannada, Kaonde, Kazakh, Kikongo, Kiluba, Kirghiz, Kongo, Kosraean, Kwaywama/Ndonga, Luganda, Lunda, Marathi, Marshallese, Mauritian Creole, Maya, Mexican Sign Language,<sup>□</sup> Mizo, Moore, Nepali, Niuean, Ossetian, Otetela, Palauan, Persian, Ponapean, Sango, Seychelles Creole, Solomon Islands Pidgin, Tahitian, Tatar, Tiv, Tumbuka, Tuvaluan, Tzotzil, Umbundu, Urdu, Uruund, Uzbek, Venda, Wallilian, Yapese, Zande, Zapotec (Isthmus)

\* Study articles also available in large-print edition.

<sup>△</sup> Audiocassettes also available.

<sup>□</sup> CD also available.

<sup>○</sup> MP3 CD-ROM also available.

<sup>▲</sup> Videocassette

<sup>□</sup> DVD

# Deep and Lasting Pain

RECENTLY, a researcher wanted to learn how the passing of time affects the feelings of those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in death. He sent questionnaires to a number of parents whose children had died several years before. Not all the parents responded. A father named Vladimir, who lost his son five years earlier, explained that he still finds it too difficult to speak about his son.\*

Such long-lasting sorrow is not uncommon among bereaved parents. Ten years ago William lost his 18-year-old son in a drowning accident. William writes, "The pain of that loss is still with me, and I will have it as long as I live." Five years after Lucy lost her son to an unexpected illness, she wrote: "For the first few days, I kept thinking, 'It can't be true.' I felt as if I were having a bad dream and would soon wake up. After some time I started to realize that it was true, that he was not coming home. My son died five years ago, but at times, when I am alone, I still cry about him."

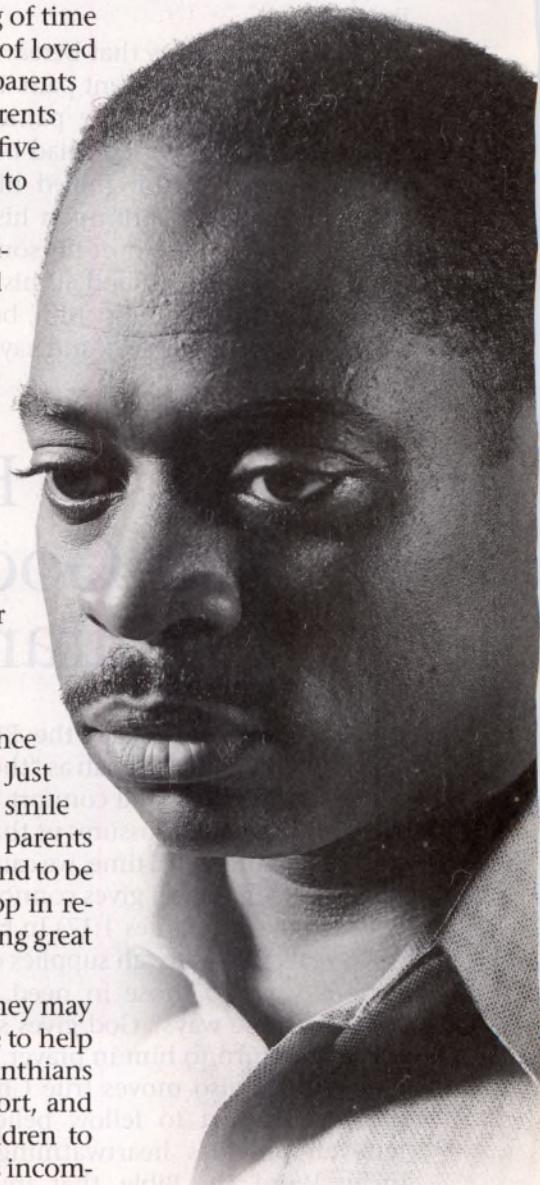
Why do bereaved parents, such as Vladimir, William, and Lucy, feel so much deep and lasting pain? Let us consider some reasons.

## Why So Much Sorrow?

When a baby is born into a family, the parents experience emotions that are found in no other human relationship. Just holding their little one, watching it sleep, or seeing its wide smile brings them profound happiness and satisfaction. Loving parents cherish their children. They train them to behave properly and to be courteous. (1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11) As the children develop in response to these efforts, parents feel proud and begin nurturing great hopes regarding them.

Caring parents work hard to provide for their offspring. They may regularly set aside money or material goods so as to be able to help their children to start a family of their own in time. (2 Corinthians 12:14) This tremendous expenditure of emotion, time, effort, and money points to one conclusion—parents raise their children to live, not to die. When a child dies, the work of raising him is incomplete, and the parents' hopes for him are dashed. The warm love and

\* Some names have been changed.



affection that flow from the parents to the child are cut off, blocked by the stone wall of death. The place that their son or daughter once occupied in their hearts is now empty. The parents feel a deep sorrow that is not easily dispelled.

The Bible confirms that bereaved parents bear intense and persistent pain. Describing what happened when the patriarch Jacob heard that his son Joseph had been killed, the Bible says: “Jacob ripped his mantles apart and put sackcloth upon his hips and carried on mourning over his son for many days. And all his sons and all his daughters kept rising up to comfort him, but he kept refusing to take comfort and saying: ‘For I

shall go down mourning to my son into Sheol [or, the grave]!’” Years later, Jacob still grieved for his son, who he presumed was dead. (Genesis 37:34, 35; 42:36-38) Another Bible example involves a faithful woman named Naomi who lived through the death of her two sons. Deeply saddened, she wanted to change her name from Naomi, meaning “My Pleasantness,” to Mara, meaning “Bitter.”—Ruth 1:3-5, 20, 21, footnote.

However, the Bible goes beyond acknowledging the grief that parents experience. It also indicates how Jehovah gives strength to those who are grieving. In the next article, we will consider some of the ways in which God supplies comfort to those who mourn.

## Help From “the God Who Supplies Endurance and Comfort”

SOME 2,000 years ago, the Bible writer Paul described Jehovah as “the God who supplies endurance and comfort.” (Romans 15:5) Since the Bible assures us that Jehovah does not change with time, we can have confidence that God still gives comfort to those who serve him. (James 1:17) In fact, the Bible reveals that Jehovah supplies comfort in various ways to those in need. What are some of these ways? God gives strength to those who turn to him in prayer, asking for his help. He also moves true Christians to provide comfort to fellow believers. And Jehovah provides heartwarming accounts in his Word, the Bible, that are especially strengthening to those who are grieving the loss of a child in death. Let us consid-

er these three forms of comfort, one at a time.

### “Jehovah Himself Heard”

King David wrote about our Creator, Jehovah: “Trust in him at all times, O people. Before him pour out your heart. God is a refuge for us.” (Psalm 62:8) Why did David have such confidence in Jehovah? Speaking about himself, David wrote: “This afflicted one called, and Jehovah himself heard. And out of all his distresses He saved him.” (Psalm 34:6) In all the distressing situations that he lived through, David always prayed to God for help, and Jehovah always came to his aid. David knew from experience that God would support him and help him to endure.



## “Bring the Woman Who Lost Two Children”



Kehinde and Bintu, a Nigerian couple who are Jehovah's Witnesses, lost two of their children in a car accident. Ever since, they have suffered pain because of this terrible loss. Even so, their trust in Jehovah sustains them, and they continue sharing the Bible's message of hope with their neighbors.

Others noticed the serenity and strength displayed by Kehinde and Bintu. One day a woman named Mrs. Ukoli said to one of Bintu's friends: "Bring the woman who lost two children at the same time and is still preaching the Bible's message. I want to know what gives her the power to endure." When Bintu

arrived at the woman's house, Mrs. Ukoli told her: "I want to know why you are still preaching about the God who killed your children. God took my only girl. Since then, I have nothing to do with God." Bintu used the Bible to explain the reason why people die and why we can have the sure hope that dead loved ones will be resurrected.—Acts 24:15; Romans 5:12.

Afterward, Mrs. Ukoli said: "I used to think that God takes people in death. Now I know the truth." She decided to study the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses in order to learn more about God's promises.

Grieving parents need to know that Jehovah will sustain them through intense sadness, just as he did David. They can approach the great "Hearer of prayer," trusting that he will give them help. (Psalm 65:2) William, quoted in the preceding article, noted: "Many times, I have felt that I could not endure one more moment of life without my son, and I have asked Jehovah to give me relief. He has always given me strength and courage to continue living." If you likewise pray to Jehovah in faith, the great God of heaven will sustain you. After all, Jehovah God promises those who strive to serve him: "I, Jehovah your God, am grasping your right hand, the One saying to you, 'Do not be afraid. I myself will help you.'"—Isaiah 41:13.

### Support Provided by True Friends

Those bereaved of a child often need time to mourn in private and sort out their feelings. However, for them to avoid the company of others for an extended period of time would not be a wise course to follow. Accord-

ing to Proverbs 18:1, "one isolating himself" may come to harm. Therefore, those who are grieving should be careful not to fall into the trap of isolation.

God-fearing friends can render important assistance to those who are distressed. Proverbs 17:17 states: "A true companion is loving all the time, and is a brother that is born for when there is distress." Lucy, also mentioned in the preceding article, experienced the comfort given by true companions after the loss of her son. Commenting about her friends in the congregation, she noted: "Their visits helped a lot, although at times they said very little. One friend visited me on days when I was alone. She knew that I would be home crying, and she often came by and cried with me. Another called me every day to encourage me. Still others invited us to their homes for meals, and they continue to do so."

Although the deep pain that parents feel when they lose a child does not easily disappear, prayer to God and association with true

Christian friends will bring real comfort to those who grieve. Numerous Christian parents who have lost a child experience that Jehovah is with them. Yes, Jehovah "is healing the brokenhearted ones, and is binding up their painful spots."—Psalm 147:3.

### Bible Accounts That Provide Comfort

In addition to prayer and upbuilding association, God's written Word is a source of comfort to those who mourn. Bible accounts reveal that Jesus has the deep desire and the ability to remove the pain of bereaved parents by bringing the dead back to life. Such accounts supply true comfort to those who grieve. Let us consider two such accounts.

Luke chapter 7 describes what happened when Jesus met up with a funeral procession in the city of Nain. The people were about to bury the only son of a widow. Verse 13 states: "When the Lord caught sight of her, he was moved with pity for her, and he said to her: 'Stop weeping.'"

Few would dare to tell a mother at her son's funeral to stop weeping. Why did Jesus say that? Because he knew that the mother's sorrow was about to vanish. The account goes on to say: "[Jesus] approached and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still, and he said: 'Young man, I say to you, Get up!' And the dead man sat up and started to speak, and he gave him to his mother." (Luke 7:14, 15) At that moment, the mother must have wept again, but this time she wept for joy.

## I Want to Help, but I Do Not Know How\*

While the parents and siblings of a deceased child feel great sorrow, their friends may feel apprehension. They want to support the family but fear that saying or doing the wrong thing will make the painful circumstance worse. Here are some suggestions for those who may think, 'I want to help, but I do not know how.'

❖ Do not avoid the bereaved because you are not sure what to say or do. Your very presence is strengthening to them. Are you at a loss for words? An embrace and a sincere "I am so sorry" lets them know that you care for them. Are you afraid that if you start to cry, you will contribute to their sadness? The Bible says: "Weep with people who weep." (Romans 12:15) Your tears show that you share their grief, and that is comforting.

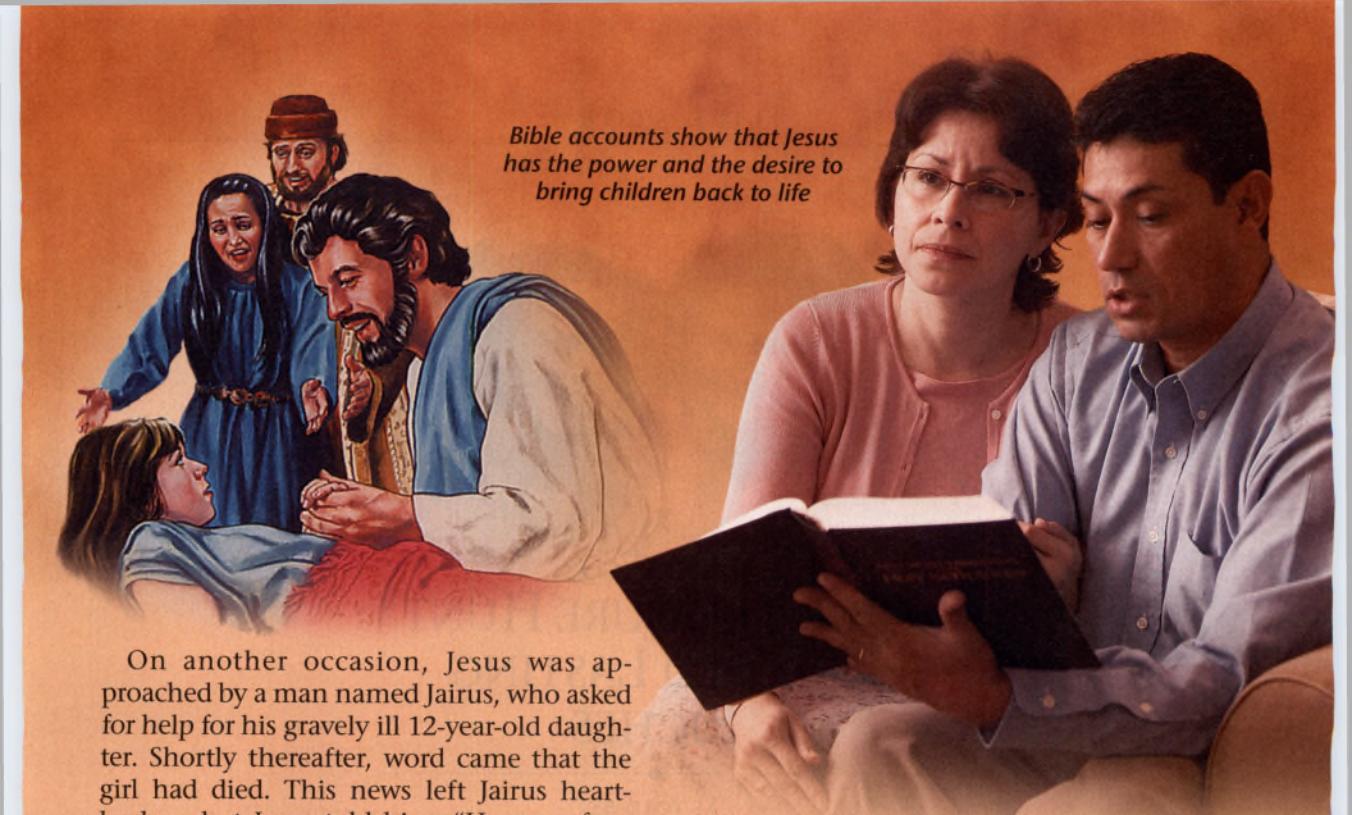
❖ Take the initiative. Can you prepare a light meal for the family? Can you wash the dirty dishes that have accumulated? Can you run errands for them? Do not say, "Let me know if

you need anything." Even when said sincerely, those words tell many bereaved parents that you are too busy to help them. Rather, ask, "What can I do to help you now?" and then carry out their request. But avoid intruding in the private areas of their home or in their lives.

❖ Avoid saying, "I know how you feel." Each human reacts differently to the death of a loved one. Even if you too have lost a child, you do not know exactly how they feel.

❖ Much time will pass before a semblance of normalcy returns to the home. Continue helping as much as you can. Initially, there is often a flurry of attention given to a bereaved family, but they need more. Be attentive to their needs in the weeks and months to come.\*

\* For more information on how to help those mourning the loss of a child, see the chapter "How Can Others Help?" pages 20-4 of the brochure *When Someone You Love Dies*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses.



*Bible accounts show that Jesus has the power and the desire to bring children back to life*

On another occasion, Jesus was approached by a man named Jairus, who asked for help for his gravely ill 12-year-old daughter. Shortly thereafter, word came that the girl had died. This news left Jairus heartbroken, but Jesus told him: "Have no fear, only exercise faith." At the family's home, Jesus went in to the lifeless girl. Taking her by the hand, he said: "Maiden, I say to you, Get up!" What happened? "Immediately the maiden rose and began walking." How did her parents react? "They were beside themselves with great ecstasy." As Jairus and his wife embraced their daughter, they felt deep happiness. It was as if they were dreaming.

—Mark 5:22-24, 35-43.

Such detailed Bible accounts about the resurrection of children show grieving parents today what they can look forward to. Jesus said: "The hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." (John 5:28, 29) Jehovah purposed that his Son will give life to those who have died. Countless millions of children lost in death will "hear his voice" when he speaks to them: "I say to you, Get up!" Those young ones will again be walking and talking. And like Jairus and his wife, the parents

of those children will be "beside themselves with great ecstasy."

If you have lost a son or a daughter in death, please know that Jehovah can change your sorrow into joy by means of the resurrection. To benefit from this glorious prospect, obey the psalmist's exhortation: "Search for Jehovah and his strength. Seek his face constantly. Remember his wonderful works that he has performed, his miracles." (Psalm 105:4, 5) Yes, serve the true God, Jehovah, and worship him acceptably.

What will be the immediate result if you "search for Jehovah"? You will receive strength through prayer to God, you will feel comforted by the loving concern of true Christian companions, and you will be uplifted by studying God's Word. Moreover, in the near future, you will experience the 'wonderful works and miracles' that Jehovah will carry out for your eternal benefit and for that of the child whom you lost in death.



## OUR TREASURE HUNT YIELDED LASTING RICHES

AS TOLD BY  
**DOROTHEA SMITH AND DORA WARD**

For what kind of treasure were we looking? We were two young girls with a fervent desire to share in the fulfillment of Jesus' command: 'Go and make disciples of people of all the nations.' (Matthew 28:19) Let us explain how this search yielded lasting riches.

**D**OROTHEA: In 1915, shortly after the start of World War I, I was born as the third child in our family. We lived near Howell, Michigan, in the United States. My father was not religious, but my mother was a God-fearing woman. She tried to teach us to follow the Ten Commandments, but she worried that my brother, Willis; my sister, Viola; and I were not members of any church.

When I was 12 years old, Mother decided that I should get baptized as a member of the Presbyterian Church. I vividly remember the day of my baptism. Two babies, each held by

its mother, were baptized at the same time that I was. I felt terribly humiliated to be baptized along with babies. The minister sprinkled a few drops of water on my head and murmured some words that I did not understand. Really, those two babies knew as much about baptism as I did!

One day in 1932, a car drove into our driveway, and my mother answered the door. There stood two young men offering religious books. One of them introduced himself as Albert Schroeder. He showed Mother some literature published by Jeho-

vah's Witnesses. She obtained the books. Those publications helped her to accept the truth from God's Word.

### The Treasure Hunt Begins

Eventually, I moved to Detroit to live with my sister. There I met an elderly lady who visited my sister to teach her the Bible. Those discussions reminded me of a weekly radio program that I had listened to while at home with my mother. That program consisted of a 15-minute talk on a Bible subject delivered by J. F. Rutherford, who took the lead among Jehovah's Witnesses at the time. In 1937 we began to associate with the first congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in Detroit. The following year I was baptized.

In the early 1940's, it was announced that Jehovah's Witnesses were opening a school called Gilead in South Lansing, New York, to train missionaries. When I learned that some of the graduates of that school would be invited to serve abroad, I thought to myself, "That's something for me!" I set attending Gilead as my goal. What a privilege it would

be to search in other lands for "treasures"—that is, for people who desire to become disciples of Christ Jesus!—Haggai 2:6, 7.

### Gradually Reaching My Goal

In April 1942, I resigned from my job and began serving as a pioneer, or full-time evangelizer, in Findlay, Ohio, together with a group of five spiritual sisters. There was no congregation with a program of regular meetings, but we encouraged one another by reading as a group articles from our Christian publications. During my first month of pioneering, I placed 95 books with interested people! About a year and a half later, I received an assignment to serve as a special pioneer in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. There I joined a group of five other pioneers, including Dora Ward, a Christian sister from Iowa. Dora and I became pioneer partners. We were baptized the same year, and we shared the desire to attend Gilead School and to serve abroad as missionaries.

In early 1944, the big day came! We both received an invitation to attend the fourth class of Gilead. We enrolled in August of that

year. But before I go any further, let Dora tell you how she ended up being my longtime treasure-hunting partner.

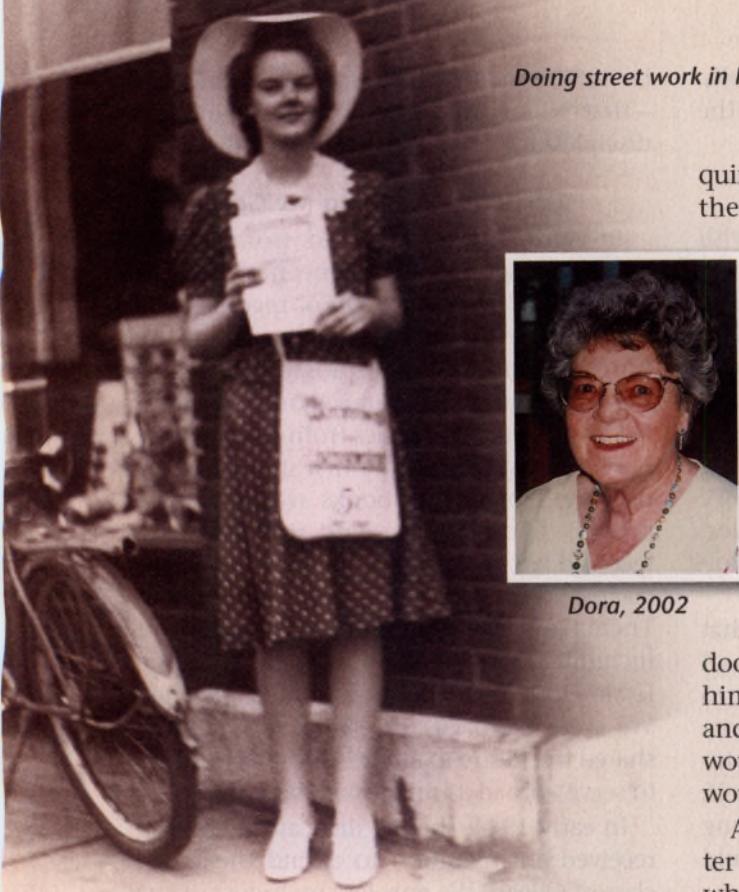
### Eager to Start Full-Time Witnessing

DORA: My mother was prayerfully searching for an understanding of



*Dorothea in 2002 and in the preaching work in 1943*

*Doing street work in Fort Dodge, Iowa, in 1942*



*Dora, 2002*

God's Word. One Sunday, I was with her when we heard on the radio a lecture by J. F. Rutherford. At the end of the talk, Mother exclaimed, "This is the truth!" Soon thereafter, we were studying the publications of Jehovah's Witnesses. In 1935, when I was 12 years old, I attended a baptism talk given by one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and I felt a heartfelt desire to dedicate my life to Jehovah. Three years later, I was baptized. My dedication and baptism helped me to remain steadfast in keeping my goals alive during the remaining years I spent attending school. I was eager to finish school so that I could begin to serve as a pioneer.

At that time the group of Witnesses with whom we associated met as a congregation in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Much effort was re-

quired to attend Christian meetings. Back then, the *Watchtower* study articles did not include questions for the congregation discussion. We were asked to submit prepared questions to the brother who conducted the *Watchtower Study*. On Monday nights, my mother and I prepared a question for each paragraph, and we gave these to the conductor so that he could choose which ones to use.

From time to time, our congregation received a visit from a traveling overseer. One of those brothers, John Booth, introduced me to the door-to-door ministry when I was 12. At 17, I asked him how to fill out a pioneer application, and he assisted me. Little did I realize that we would cross paths later in life and that he would become a lifelong friend!

As a pioneer, I often worked with Sister Dorothy Aronson, a full-time evangelizer who was 15 years older than I was. We were pioneer partners until she was invited to attend the first class of Gilead in 1943. After that, I continued serving as a pioneer by myself.

#### **Opposition Fails to Stop Us**

The 1940's were challenging years for us because of the nationalistic fervor incited by World War II. When we preached from house to house, we were often bombarded with rotten eggs, ripe tomatoes, and sometimes even stones! A more serious test came when we presented the *Watchtower* and *Consolation* (now *Awake!*) magazines on the street corner. The police, instigated by religious opposers, approached us and threatened to arrest us if we were seen preaching publicly again.

Of course, we refused to stop witnessing, and we were taken to the police station for questioning. After being released, we returned to the same street corner and offered the same magazines. On the advice of the responsible brothers, we used Isaiah 61:1, 2 to defend our stand. Once when I was approached by a young policeman, I tensely recited the scriptures to him. Surprisingly, he turned on his heel and walked away! It seemed to me that the angels were protecting us.

### An Unforgettable Day

In 1941, I had the joy of attending a five-day convention of Jehovah's Witnesses in St. Louis, Missouri. During that convention, Brother Rutherford asked all children between the ages of 5 and 18 to gather in the main section of the stadium. Thousands of children assembled. Brother Rutherford greeted us by waving his handkerchief. We all waved back. After giving a one-hour talk, he said: "Children who have agreed to do the will of God and have taken your stand on the side of his theocratic government by Christ Jesus and hence have agreed to obey God and his King, please stand up." The 15,000 children rose as one body—I was one of them! The speaker added: "All of you who will do what you can to tell others about God's Kingdom and its attending blessings, will you please say Aye." We did, and thunderous applause followed.

Then the book *Children*\* was released, and a long line of young ones filed by the platform, where Brother Rutherford gave each one of us a copy of the new book. It was exciting! Today, a goodly number of those who received a book on that occasion are still zealously serving Jehovah throughout the

\* Published by Jehovah's Witnesses but now out of print.

world, speaking about the Kingdom of God and his righteousness.—Psalm 148:12, 13.

After pioneering alone for three years, how happy I was to receive an assignment as a special pioneer in Chambersburg! There I met Dorothea, and soon we became inseparable. We were full of youthful enthusiasm and had a lot of stamina. We were eager to expand our share in the preaching work. Together we set out on a treasure hunt that has lasted a lifetime.—Psalm 110:3.

A few months after we began serving as special pioneers, we met a graduate of the first class of Gilead, Albert Mann. He was about to leave for his foreign assignment. He encouraged us to accept any foreign assignment we might receive.

### At School Together

DORA AND DOROTHEA: Imagine our joy when we started our missionary training! The first day of school, Albert Schroeder, the brother who had placed *Studies in the Scriptures* with Dorothea's mother 12 years earlier, registered us. John Booth was there too. He was now the farm servant at Kingdom Farm, where the school was located. Later, both men served as members of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses.

At Gilead School, we studied the deeper truths of the Bible. It was excellent training. There were 104 students in our class, including the first foreign student from Mexico. He was trying to improve his English while we were trying to learn Spanish. How thrilled we were on the day that Brother Nathan H. Knorr distributed the foreign assignments to us students! Most were assigned to Central and South America; our assignment was Chile.

### Treasure Hunting in Chile

In order for us to enter Chile, it was necessary to obtain a visa, which took



Dorothea and Dora outside  
their first missionary home in  
Chile, 1946

considerable time. Thus, after graduating in January 1945, we served as pioneers in Washington, D.C., for a year and a half. When we received our visas, we became part of a group of nine missionaries who made the trip to Chile. Seven were from earlier classes of Gilead.

Several Christian brothers met us on our arrival in Santiago, the capital. One of them was Albert Mann, the Gilead graduate who had encouraged us a few years earlier. He had come to Chile the year before, together with Joseph Ferrari from the second class of Gilead. There were fewer than 100 publishers in all of Chile when we arrived. We were eager to seek and find more treasures—honesthearted people—in our new assignment.

We were assigned to serve in a missionary home in Santiago. Living with a large missionary family was a new experience for us. In addition to spending a set number of hours in the preaching work, all missionaries were assigned to cook once a week for the family. We had our share of embarrassing moments. Once, we prepared hot biscuits for breakfast for our hungry family, but when we took the biscuits out of the oven, we noticed a very disagreeable odor. We had used

baking soda instead of baking powder! Someone had put the soda in an empty baking-powder can.

More embarrassing, though, were the mistakes we made while learning Spanish. A large family with whom we studied the Bible nearly stopped studying because they could not figure out what we were saying. But by looking up the scriptures in their own Bibles, they still managed to learn the truth, and five of them became Witnesses. In those years, there was no language course for new missionaries. We started in the preaching work right away and tried to learn the language from the people to whom we witnessed.

We conducted many Bible studies, and some of our students responded rapidly. Others required much patience. Teresa Tello, a young woman, listened to the message of the truth and said, "Please, come again and tell me more." We returned 12 times without finding her. Three years passed. Then we attended an assembly that was held in a theater in Santiago. As we left the assembly on Sunday, someone called, "Senorita Dora, Senorita Dora!" We turned, and there was Teresa. She had been visiting her sister across the street and came over to the theater to see what was going on. What a joy it was to meet her again! We made arrangements for a Bible study, and soon thereafter she was baptized. Later she became a special pioneer. Today, some 45 years later, Teresa is still in special full-time service.—Ecclesiastes 11:1.

## Discovering Treasures in the "Sands"

In 1959 we were assigned to Punta Arenas—meaning “Sands Point”—at the southernmost tip of Chile’s 2,700-mile-long coastline. Punta Arenas is an unusual territory. During the summer months, the days are long—daylight lasts until 11:30 p.m. We were able to spend many days in the ministry but not without obstacles, for summer brings violent Antarctic winds. Winter months are cold, and the days are short.

Despite these challenges, Punta Arenas has its charm. During the summer, there is a continuous parade of billowing rain clouds across the western sky. Occasionally, they drop a load of water on your head, but then the wind comes and dries you off. A beautiful rainbow follows as the sun appears through the clouds. These rainbows sometimes last for hours, fading in and out as the sun shines through the rain clouds.—Job 37:14.

Back then, there were few publishers in Punta Arenas. We sisters had to conduct the meetings in the small local congregation. Jehovah blessed our efforts. Thirty-seven years later, we returned to this area for a visit. What did we find? Six thriving congregations and three beautiful Kingdom Halls. What a joy that Jehovah permitted us to discover spiritual treasures in those southern sands!—Zechariah 4:10.

### IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Do You View the Future  
With Fear or Hope?

Why Meet Together?

The Resurrection—Is It  
Real to You?

## More Treasures at a “Wide Beach”

After serving for three and a half years in Punta Arenas, we were assigned to serve in the port city of Valparaiso. The city is composed of 41 hills surrounding a bay overlooking the Pacific Ocean. We concentrated our preaching activities on one of these hills, Playa Ancha, which means “Wide Beach.” During our 16-year stay there, we saw a group of young Christian brothers grow spiritually to the point that they now serve as traveling overseers and as Christian elders in congregations throughout Chile.

Our next missionary assignment was Viña del Mar. We served there for three and a half years until an earthquake damaged the missionary home. We returned to Santiago, where we had started our missionary service 40 years earlier. Things had changed. New branch facilities had been built, and the former branch building became a home for all missionaries remaining in the country. Later, that home began to be used as a location for the Ministerial Training School. At that time, Jehovah’s loving-kindness was demonstrated to us again. Five of us missionaries who were advanced in years were invited to live at Bethel. During the time that we have served in Chile, we have had 15 different assignments. We have seen the work grow from fewer than 100 publishers to some 70,000! What a joy it has been to search for treasures in Chile for 57 years!

We feel very blessed that Jehovah has allowed us to find so many people—treasures, really—who have gone on to be used by Jehovah in his organization. During our more than 60 years of serving Jehovah together, we wholeheartedly agree with the sentiments expressed by King David, who wrote: “How abundant your goodness is, which you have treasured up for those fearing you!”—Psalm 31:19.

# LET GOD'S WORD GUIDE YOUR STEPS

*"Your word is a lamp to my foot, and a light to my roadway."*—PSALM 119:105.

CAN you recall an occasion when you had to ask someone for directions? Perhaps you were close to your destination but were unsure of the last few turns. Or it may be that you were completely lost and needed to change your course altogether. In either case, would it not be wise to follow the direction of someone who knew the area? Such a person could help you reach your destination.

<sup>2</sup> For thousands of years, mankind in general has tried to navigate its way through life without divine help. Left on their own, however, imperfect humans are completely lost. They simply cannot find the road to true peace and happiness. Why have they been unable to reach that destination? More than 2,500 years ago, the prophet Jeremiah stated: "It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step." (Jeremiah 10:23) Anyone who tries to direct his own step without accepting qualified help inevitably faces frustration. Truly, mankind needs direction!

<sup>3</sup> Jehovah God is supremely qualified to provide such direction. Why? Because he understands better than anyone else the makeup of humans. And he is fully aware of how the human race got sidetracked and became lost. He also knows what is required for them to get back on course. Further-

---

1, 2. Why have most humans not succeeded in finding true peace and happiness?

3. Why is Jehovah God supremely qualified to provide direction for mankind, and what does he promise?

more, as the Creator, Jehovah *always* knows what is best for us. (Isaiah 48:17) Thus, we can fully trust his promise as recorded at Psalm 32:8: "I shall make you have insight and instruct you in the way you should go. I will give advice with my eye upon you." There is no doubt about it: Jehovah provides the best direction. But just how does he guide us?

<sup>4</sup> A psalmist said in prayer to Jehovah: "Your word is a lamp to my foot, and a light to my roadway." (Psalm 119:105) God's statements and reminders are found in the Bible, and they can help us to overcome obstacles that we may encounter on our path. Indeed, when we read the Bible and let it guide us, we are experiencing firsthand what is described at Isaiah 30:21: "Your own ears will hear a word behind you saying: 'This is the way. Walk in it, you people.'"

<sup>5</sup> Note, though, that Psalm 119:105 points to two related functions of God's Word. First, it serves as a lamp to our foot. When we face day-to-day challenges, principles found in the Bible should guide our steps so that we make wise decisions and avoid the traps and pitfalls of this world. Second, God's reminders light our roadway, helping us to make choices that are consistent with our hope of living forever in God's promised Paradise. With the road ahead well-lit, we will be able to discern the consequences—good or bad—of a particular course. (Romans 14:21; 1 Timothy 6:9; Revelation 22:

---

4, 5. How can God's utterances direct us?

12) Let us see in greater detail how God's utterances as found in the Bible can be a lamp to our foot and a light to our roadway.

### "A Lamp to My Foot"

<sup>6</sup> Every day, we make decisions. Some decisions may seem relatively minor, but we may at times be confronted with a situation that challenges our morality, our honesty, or our neutral stand. To face such trials successfully, we must have our "perceptive powers trained to distinguish both right and wrong." (Hebrews 5:14) By obtaining accurate knowledge of God's Word and developing an understanding of its principles, we train our conscience so that we will make decisions that please Jehovah.—Proverbs 3:21.

<sup>7</sup> Consider an example. Are you an adult who is sincerely trying to make Jehovah's heart rejoice? (Proverbs 27:11) If so, you are to be commended. But imagine for a moment that some workmates offer you a ticket to accompany them to a sporting event. They enjoy your companionship at work and would like to socialize with you outside the work environment. You might have the strong impression that these individuals are not bad people. They might even have some good principles. What will you do? Would there be any danger in accepting the invitation? How can God's Word help you to make a good decision in this matter?

<sup>8</sup> Consider a few Scriptural principles. The first one that may come to mind is found at 1 Corinthians 15:33, which says: "Bad associations spoil useful habits." Does adhering to this principle require that you shun un-

6. Under what circumstances can God's utterances be a lamp to our foot?

7. Describe a situation in which a Christian may be inclined to associate with unbelieving workmates.

8. What Scriptural principles help us to reason on the matter of associations?



*When does association with an unbeliever become unwise?*

believers entirely? The Scriptural answer to that question is no. After all, the apostle Paul himself showed loving consideration for "people of all sorts," including unbelievers. (1 Corinthians 9:22) The very nature of Christianity demands that we show an interest in others—including those who do not share our beliefs. (Romans 10:13-15) Indeed, how can we follow the counsel to "work what is good toward all" if we isolate ourselves from people who might need our help?—Galatians 6:10.

<sup>9</sup> However, there is a clear difference between being friendly toward a workmate and being that one's close companion. Here is where another Scriptural principle enters the picture. The apostle Paul warned Christians: "Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers." (2 Corinthians 6:14) What is

9. What Bible counsel helps us to be balanced in our relationship with our workmates?

the meaning of the phrase “do not become unevenly yoked”? Some Bible translations render those words “do not team up,” “do not try to work together as equals,” or “stop forming inappropriate relationships.” At what point does a relationship with a workmate become inappropriate? When does it cross the line and become an uneven yoking? God’s Word, the Bible, can direct your step in this situation.

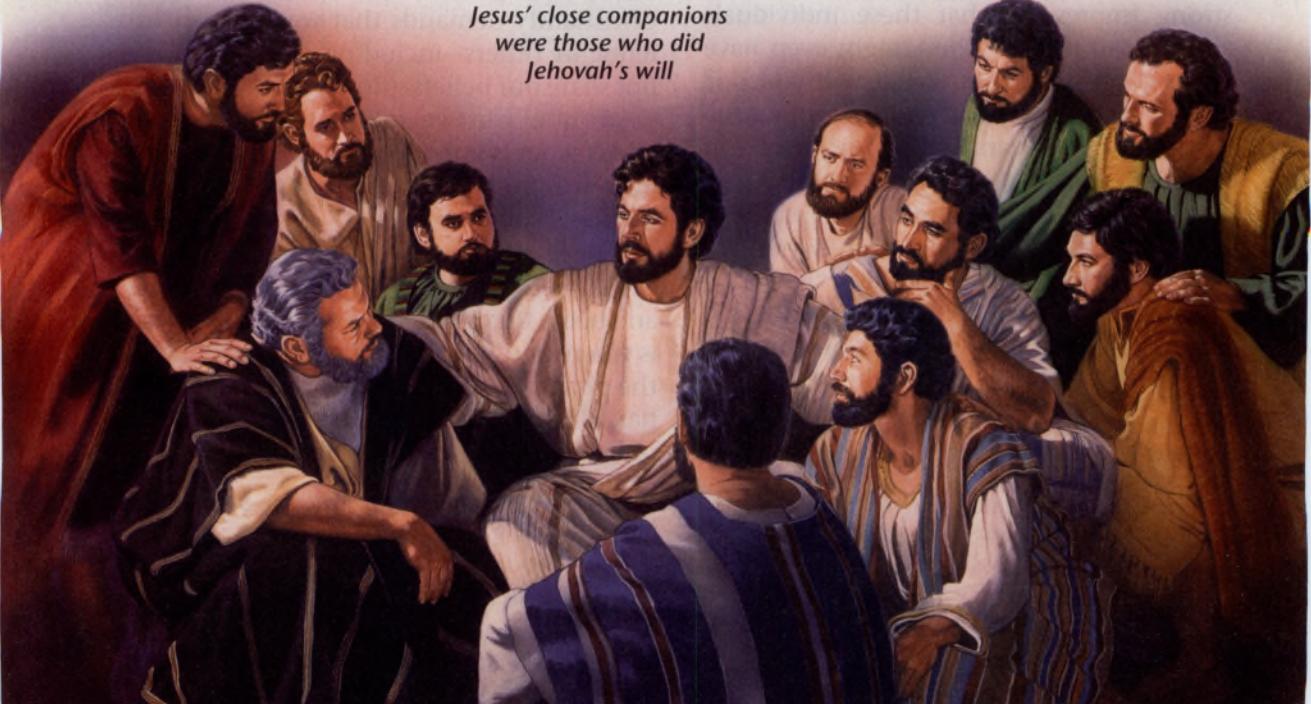
<sup>10</sup> Consider the example of Jesus, who from creation onward had a love for humans. (Proverbs 8:31) While on earth, he forged a close bond with his followers. (John 13:1) He even “felt love” for a man who was religiously misguided. (Mark 10:17-22) But Jesus also set clear boundaries regarding his choice of close companions. He formed no close ties with people who were not sincerely interested in doing his Father’s will. On one occasion, Jesus stated: “You are my friends if you do what I am

- 
10. (a) How did Jesus choose companions?
  - (b) What questions can help a person to make good decisions about associations?

commanding you.” (John 15:14) True, you may get along well with a particular workmate. But ask yourself: ‘Is this person willing to do what Jesus commands? Does he or she want to learn about Jehovah, the one whom Jesus instructed us to worship? Does he or she have the same moral standards that I as a Christian have?’ (Matthew 4:10) As you talk with your workmates and insist on applying Bible standards, the answers to these questions will be evident.

<sup>11</sup> There are many other situations in which God’s utterances can be like a lamp to our foot. For example, an unemployed Christian may be offered a sorely needed job. However, the schedule is demanding, and if he accepts the job, he will be absent for a number of Christian meetings and will miss out on other activities related to true worship. (Psalm 37:25) Another Christian may be strongly tempted to view entertainment that clearly violates Bible principles. (Ephesians 4:17-19) Still another might

- 
11. Cite situations in which God’s utterances should guide our steps.



*Jesus’ close companions  
were those who did  
Jehovah’s will*



*Does our lifestyle demonstrate that we put Kingdom interests first?*

be prone to take offense at the imperfections of fellow believers. (Colossians 3:13)

In all such situations, we should let God's Word be a lamp to our foot. Really, by following Bible principles, we can successfully face any challenge in life. God's Word is "beneficial for teaching, for reproofing, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness."—2 Timothy 3:16.

#### "A Light to My Roadway"

Psalm 119:105 also states that God's utterances can light our roadway, illuminating the path ahead. We are not left in the dark when it comes to the future, for the Bible explains the meaning of distressing world conditions and what the outcome will be. Yes, we realize that we are living in "the last days" of this wicked system of things. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) Knowing what lies ahead should have a profound impact on how we live now. The apostle Peter wrote: "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to

12. How are God's utterances a light to our roadway?



be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion, awaiting and keeping close in mind the presence of the day of Jehovah!"—2 Peter 3:11, 12.

13 Our thinking and our lifestyle should reflect our firm conviction that "the world is passing away and so is its desire." (1 John 2:17) Applying Bible guidelines will help us to make wise decisions regarding our future goals. For example, Jesus stated: "Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33) How commendable it is to see many young ones showing faith in Jesus' words by pursuing the full-time ministry! Others—including entire families—have voluntarily moved to lands where there is a pressing need for Kingdom proclaimers.

14 Consider one Christian family of four who moved from the United States to the Dominican Republic to serve with a congregation in a town with a population of 50,000. The congregation is made up of

13. How should the urgency of our times affect our thinking and our lifestyle?
14. How did one Christian family expand their ministry?

about 130 Kingdom publishers. Yet, on April 12, 2006, some 1,300 attended the Memorial of Christ's death! The field in that area is so "white for harvesting" that after just five months, this father, mother, son, and daughter were conducting a total of 30 Bible studies. (John 4:35) The father explains: "The congregation has 30 brothers and sisters who have moved here to help out. About 20 are from the United States, while the rest come from the Bahamas, Canada, Italy, New Zealand, and Spain. They arrive eager to engage in the ministry and have had a tremendous impact on the enthusiasm of the local brothers."

<sup>15</sup> Understandably, many are not in a position to move to another land to serve where there is a greater need. But those who are—or who can adjust their circumstances to make themselves available—will surely experience numerous blessings by sharing in this aspect of the ministry. And no matter where you serve, do not miss out on the joy that can be yours when you serve Jehovah with all your strength. If you put Kingdom interests first in your life, Jehovah promises to "empty out upon you a blessing until there is no more want."—Malachi 3:10.

15. What blessings have you enjoyed because of putting Kingdom interests first in your life?

### Do You Recall?

- Why is it important to let Jehovah God guide our steps?
- In what way can God's utterances be a lamp to our foot?
- How can God's utterances be a light to our roadway?
- How will Bible study help us to follow God's direction?

### Benefiting From Jehovah's Guidance

<sup>16</sup> As we have seen, Jehovah's utterances guide us in two related ways. They serve as a lamp to our foot, helping us to move forward in the right direction and guiding us when we have to make decisions. And they light our roadway, enabling us to see clearly what lies ahead. That, in turn, helps us to follow Peter's admonition: "Brace up your minds for activity, keep your senses completely; set your hope upon the undeserved kindness that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."—1 Peter 1:13.

<sup>17</sup> There is no doubt that Jehovah provides guidance. The question is, Will you submit to it? To understand the direction that Jehovah provides, make it your resolve to read a portion of the Bible each day. Meditate on what you read, try to perceive Jehovah's will in matters, and think of different ways that the material could apply in your life. (1 Timothy 4:15) Then use your "power of reason" when you make personal decisions.—Romans 12:1.

<sup>18</sup> If we allow them to, the principles found in God's Word will enlighten us and give us the guidance we need when we make decisions about the proper course to follow. We can be confident that Jehovah's recorded utterances make "the inexperienced one wise." (Psalm 19:7) When we allow the Bible to guide us, we are blessed with a clean conscience and the satisfaction that comes from pleasing Jehovah. (1 Timothy 1:18, 19) If we let God's utterances guide our steps each day, Jehovah will reward us with the ultimate blessing of everlasting life.—John 17:3.

16. How will we benefit by letting God's utterances guide us?
17. How will Bible study help us to follow God's direction?
18. When we let God's Word guide us, what blessings do we receive?

# DO NOT PUT APART WHAT GOD HAS YOKED TOGETHER

*"They are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart."*—MATTHEW 19:6.

**I**MAGINE that you are about to embark on a long journey by automobile. Will you face challenges along the way? It would be naive to assume otherwise! For instance, you might encounter severe weather, making it necessary for you to slow down and proceed with caution. At some point, you may confront a mechanical problem that is beyond your ability to solve, requiring that you pull to the side of the road and seek help. Should such situations cause you to conclude that it was a mistake to start on the journey and that you should abandon the automobile? No. When traveling a long distance, you expect problems and wisely look for ways to deal with them.

<sup>2</sup> The same is true of marriage. Problems are inevitable, and it would be naive for a couple who are contemplating wedlock to expect a life of bliss. At 1 Corinthians 7:28, the Bible candidly states that husbands and wives would have "tribulation in their flesh." Why is this the case? Simply put, it is because husbands and wives are imperfect, and we are living in "critical times hard to deal with." (2 Timothy 3:1; Romans 3:23) Hence, even a compatible, spiritually-minded couple will face occasional problems.

<sup>3</sup> In the modern world, when some couples encounter problems, their first reaction

1, 2. Why is it both Scriptural and realistic to expect that married couples will have occasional problems?

3. (a) How is marriage viewed by many in the world? (b) Why do Christians strive to maintain their marriage?

is to end the marriage. In many lands, divorce rates are spiraling out of control. However, true Christians handle problems rather than run from them. Why? Because they view marriage as a sacred gift from Jehovah. Jesus said regarding married couples: "What God has yoked together let no man put apart." (Matthew 19:6) Granted, living by that standard is not always easy. For instance, relatives and others—including some marriage counselors—who do not recognize Bible principles often encourage couples to separate or divorce on unscriptural grounds.\* But Christians know that it is far better to repair and maintain a marriage than to dissolve it hastily. Indeed, it is vital that at the outset we resolve to do things Jehovah's way—not according to the counsel of others.—Proverbs 14:12.

## Overcoming Difficulties

<sup>4</sup> The fact is that every marriage needs attention from time to time. In most cases, that will involve the settling of minor disagreements. In some marriages, though, there may be more severe challenges that threaten the foundation of the relationship. At times, you may need to ask for help from an experienced married Christian

\* See the box "Divorce and Separation" in Awake! February 8, 2002, page 10, published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

4, 5. (a) What challenges must be met in a marriage? (b) Why do the principles found in God's Word really work, even when problems arise in a marriage?

elder. However, these situations do not mean that your marriage is a failure. They merely highlight the importance of adhering closely to Bible principles in working out solutions.

<sup>5</sup> As the Creator of the human race and the Originator of the marriage arrangement, Jehovah knows better than anyone else what we need in order to have a successful marital relationship. The question is, Will we listen to the counsel found in his Word and obey it? We certainly stand to benefit if we do. Jehovah stated to his ancient people: “O if only you would actually pay attention to my commandments! Then your peace would become just like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.” (Isaiah 48:18) Adhering to the guidelines set out in the Bible can bring success to a marriage. Let us first consider the counsel that the Bible gives to husbands.

#### **“Continue Loving Your Wives”**

<sup>6</sup> The apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesians contains clear guidelines for husbands.

6. What is the Scriptural counsel for husbands?

*A husband should be a good provider, not only materially but also spiritually*

Paul wrote: “Husbands, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation and delivered up himself for it. In this way husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself, for no man ever hated his own flesh; but he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation. Nevertheless, also, let each one of you individually so love his wife as he does himself.”—Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29, 33.

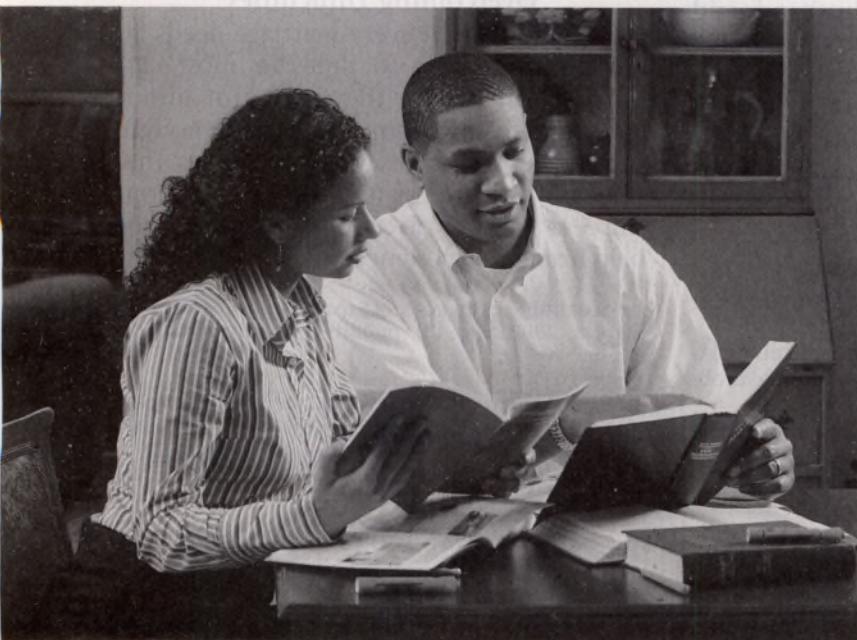
<sup>7</sup> Paul does not discuss every conceivable problem that might arise between a husband and a wife. Rather, he gets to the core of the matter by identifying what should be a prominent part of the foundation of every Christian marriage—love. In fact, love is mentioned six times in the above verses. Note, too, that Paul tells husbands: “Continue loving your wives.” No doubt, Paul recognized that falling in love is likely to be much easier than staying in love. This is especially so during these “last days,” when many are “lovers of themselves” and “not open to any agreement.” (2 Timothy 3:1-3) Such negative qualities are eroding many marriages today, but a loving husband will not let the world’s selfish traits influence his thinking and actions.—Romans 12:2.

#### **How Can You Provide for Your Wife?**

<sup>8</sup> If you are a Christian husband, how can you resist selfish tendencies and display genuine love for your wife? In his words to

7. (a) What should be a prominent part of the foundation of a Christian marriage? (b) How do husbands continue loving their wives?

8, 9. In what ways does a Christian husband provide for his wife?



the Ephesians quoted earlier, Paul identified two things that you need to do—provide for your wife, and cherish her just as you do your own body. How can you provide for your spouse? One way is materially—taking care of your wife's physical needs. Paul wrote to Timothy: "Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith."—1 Timothy 5:8.

<sup>9</sup> However, more is involved than merely providing food, clothing, and shelter. Why? Because a husband can be very good at supplying his wife's material needs and yet fall short in satisfying her emotional and spiritual needs. Providing for her in these latter ways is essential. True, many Christian men are very busy caring for matters relating to the congregation. But having weighty congregation responsibilities does not mean that a husband should neglect fulfilling his God-given obligations as a family head. (1 Timothy 3:5, 12) Commenting on this matter, some years ago this journal made the following statement: "In accordance with Biblical requirements, it can be said that 'shepherding begins at home.' If an elder neglects his family, he could jeopardize his appointment."<sup>\*</sup> Clearly, it is imperative that you provide for your wife—physically, emotionally and, most important of all, spiritually.

### What Does It Mean to Cherish Your Wife?

<sup>10</sup> If you cherish your wife, you take good care of her because you love her. There are several ways in which you can do this. First, spend adequate time with your mate. If you

\* See *The Watchtower*, May 15, 1989, page 12.

10. How can a husband cherish his wife?



*A man who cherishes his wife  
is a source of refreshment to her*

neglect your wife in this regard, her love for you may grow cold. Consider, too, that what you think your wife needs in the way of time and attention may not be what she feels she needs. It is not simply a matter of saying that you cherish your spouse. Your wife must *feel* cherished. Paul wrote: "Let each one keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person." (1 Corinthians 10:24) As a loving husband, you want to make sure that you understand the actual needs of your wife.—Philippians 2:4.

<sup>11</sup> Another way to show that you cherish your wife is by treating her tenderly, both in speech and in action. (Proverbs 12:18) Paul wrote to the Colossians: "You husbands, keep on loving your wives and do

11. How is a husband's relationship with God and the congregation affected by the way he treats his wife?

not be bitterly angry with them." (Colossians 3:19) According to one reference work, the latter part of Paul's statement may be rendered idiomatically as "do not treat her like a maid" or "do not make a slave of her." A husband who is a tyrant—either in private or in public—is certainly not showing that he cherishes his wife. By treating his wife harshly, he could affect his relationship with God. The apostle Peter wrote to husbands: "Continue dwelling in like manner with [your wives] according to knowledge, assigning them honor as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one, since you are also heirs with them of the undeserved favor of life, in order for your prayers not to be hindered."\*—1 Peter 3:7.

<sup>12</sup> Never take the love of your wife for granted. Reassure her of your continuing love. Jesus set an example for Christian husbands in the way he treated the Christian congregation. He was gentle, kind, and forgiving—even when his followers repeatedly

\* To qualify for privileges in the Christian congregation, a man must not be "a smiter"—that is, one who strikes others physically or browbeats them verbally. Thus, the September 1, 1990, issue of *The Watchtower* states on page 25: "A man does not qualify if he acts in a godly way elsewhere but is a tyrant at home."—1 Timothy 3:2-5, 12.

12. What can a Christian husband learn from the way Jesus treated the Christian congregation?

### Do You Recall?

- Why can even Christian marriages experience problems?
- How can a husband provide for his wife and show that he cherishes her?
- What can a wife do to show that she deeply respects her husband?
- How can a husband and a wife strengthen their commitment?

manifested negative traits. Jesus could therefore say to others: "Come to me, . . . for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and you will find refreshment for your souls." (Matthew 11:28, 29) In imitation of Jesus, a Christian husband treats his wife in the same way that Jesus treated the congregation. A man who truly cherishes his wife, showing this in word and deed, will be a source of genuine refreshment to her.

### Wives Who Live by Bible Principles

<sup>13</sup> The Bible also contains principles that can help wives. Ephesians 5:22-24, 33 states: "Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord, because a husband is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. In fact, as the congregation is in subjection to the Christ, so let wives also be to their husbands in everything. . . . The wife should have deep respect for her husband."

<sup>14</sup> Note the emphasis that Paul placed on subjection and respect. A wife is reminded to subject herself to her husband. This is in harmony with God's arrangement. Every living creature in heaven and on earth is subject to someone. Even Jesus is in subjection to Jehovah God. (1 Corinthians 11:3) Of course, a husband who exercises his headship in a proper manner will make it easier for his wife to remain in subjection.

<sup>15</sup> Paul also stated that a wife "should have deep respect for her husband." A Christian wife should manifest a "quiet and mild spirit," not arrogantly challenging her husband or taking an independent course. (1 Peter

13. What principles does the Bible contain that can help wives?
14. Why is the Scriptural principle of subjection not demeaning to women?
15. What is some of the counsel for wives that is found in the Bible?

3:4) A godly wife works hard for the good of the household and brings honor to her head. (Titus 2:4, 5) She will endeavor to speak well of her husband and thus do nothing to cause others to disrespect him. She will also work hard to make his decisions succeed.—Proverbs 14:1.

<sup>16</sup> Having a quiet and mild spirit does not mean that a Christian woman does not have opinions or that her thinking is unimportant. Godly women of old, such as Sarah and Rebekah, took the initiative to express their concern about matters, and the Bible record shows that Jehovah approved of their actions. (Genesis 21:8-12; 27:46-28:4) Christian wives too can make their feelings known. However, they should do so considerately, not in demeaning tones. They will likely find that such communication will be more pleasing and effective.

### The Role of Commitment

<sup>17</sup> Marriage is a lifelong commitment. Therefore, both husband and wife should have a genuine desire to make the marriage work. Lack of open communication can allow problems to fester and become serious. Too often, marriage mates stop communicating when problems develop, causing resentment. Some spouses even look for a way out of the relationship, perhaps developing a romantic interest outside the marriage. Jesus

16. What can Christian wives learn from the examples of Sarah and Rebekah?

17, 18. What are some of the ways in which husbands and wives can resist Satan's attempts to destroy the marital union?



*Christian wives make their feelings known in a respectful way*

warned: "Everyone that keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."—Matthew 5:28.

<sup>18</sup> The apostle Paul counseled all Christians, including married Christians: "Be wrathful, and yet do not sin; let the sun not set with you in a provoked state, neither allow place for the Devil." (Ephesians 4:26, 27) Our chief enemy, Satan, tries to take advantage of differences that may arise between Christians. Do not let him succeed! When problems arise, research what the Bible says about Jehovah's thinking on matters, using Bible-based publications. Discuss differences calmly and honestly. Bridge any gap between what you know about Jehovah's standards and what you actually do to apply them. (James 1:22-25) When it comes to your marriage, be determined to continue walking with God as a couple, and do not let anyone or anything put apart what he has yoked together!—Micah 6:8.

# YOUTHS—PURSUE GOALS THAT HONOR GOD

*"Be training yourself with godly devotion as your aim."*—1 TIMOTHY 4:7.

**"I**HAVE no one else of a disposition like his who will genuinely care for the things pertaining to you. . . . Like a child with a father he slaved with me in furtherance of the good news." (Philippians 2:20, 22) The apostle Paul included this glowing commendation in his letter to first-century Christians in Philippi. To whom was he referring? To Timothy, his younger traveling companion. Imagine how this confirmation of Paul's affection and trust must have warmed Timothy's heart!

<sup>2</sup> Spiritually-minded young ones like Timothy have always been a precious asset among Jehovah's people. (Psalm 110:3) Today, God's organization is blessed with many young ones who serve as pioneers, missionaries, construction volunteers, and Bethelites. Highly commendable, too, are those who zealously share in congregation activities while caring for other responsibilities. Such young people enjoy the true satisfaction that comes from pursuing goals that honor our heavenly Father, Jehovah. They are truly 'training themselves with godly devotion as their aim.'—1 Timothy 4:7, 8.

<sup>3</sup> As a young person, are you reaching

1, 2. (a) Why did Paul commend Timothy? (b) How are young ones today 'training themselves with godly devotion as their aim'?

3. What questions will be considered in this article?



*Timothy pursued fine goals*

out for specific spiritual goals?

Where can you find help and encouragement to do so? How can you resist the pressures of this materialistic world? What blessings can you expect to reap if you pursue goals that honor God? Let us find answers to these questions by considering the life and career of Timothy.

## Timothy's Background

<sup>4</sup> Timothy grew up in Lystra, a small town in the Roman province of Galatia. He likely came in touch with Christianity as a teenager when Paul preached in Lystra about 47 C.E. Timothy quickly gained an excellent reputation among the local Christian brothers. On returning to Lystra two years later and learning of his progress, Paul chose Timothy to serve as his missionary companion. (Acts 14:5-20; 16:1-3) As Timothy matured, he was entrusted with even greater responsibilities, including crucial missions to strengthen the brothers. When Paul wrote to Timothy from prison in Rome about 65 C.E., Timothy was serving as a Christian elder in Ephesus.

<sup>5</sup> Timothy evidently chose to pursue spiritual goals. But what led him to do so? In his second letter to Timothy, Paul mentioned

4. Briefly outline Timothy's Christian career.

5. According to 2 Timothy 3:14, 15, what two factors contributed to Timothy's decision to pursue spiritual goals?

two determining factors. "Continue in the things that you learned and were persuaded to believe," he wrote, "knowing from what persons you learned them and that from infancy you have known *the holy writings*." (2 Timothy 3:14, 15) Let us first examine the role that other Christians played in Timothy's choices.

### Benefit From Positive Influences

<sup>6</sup> Timothy was reared in a religiously divided home. His father was a Greek, and his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother Lois were of Jewish origin. (Acts 16:1) Eunice and Lois taught Timothy truths from the Hebrew Scriptures from his infancy. After they converted to Christianity, they no doubt helped persuade him to believe Christian teachings. Clearly, Timothy took full advantage of this excellent training. Paul noted: "I recollect the faith which is in you without any hypocrisy, and which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, but which I am confident is also in you."—2 Timothy 1:5.

<sup>7</sup> Today, many young ones are blessed with God-fearing parents and grandparents who, like Lois and Eunice, recognize the importance of spiritual goals. Samira, for example, still remembers the long conversations that

6. What training did Timothy receive, and how did he respond?
7. What blessing do many young ones enjoy, and how can this be of benefit to them?

*What positive influences helped Timothy?*

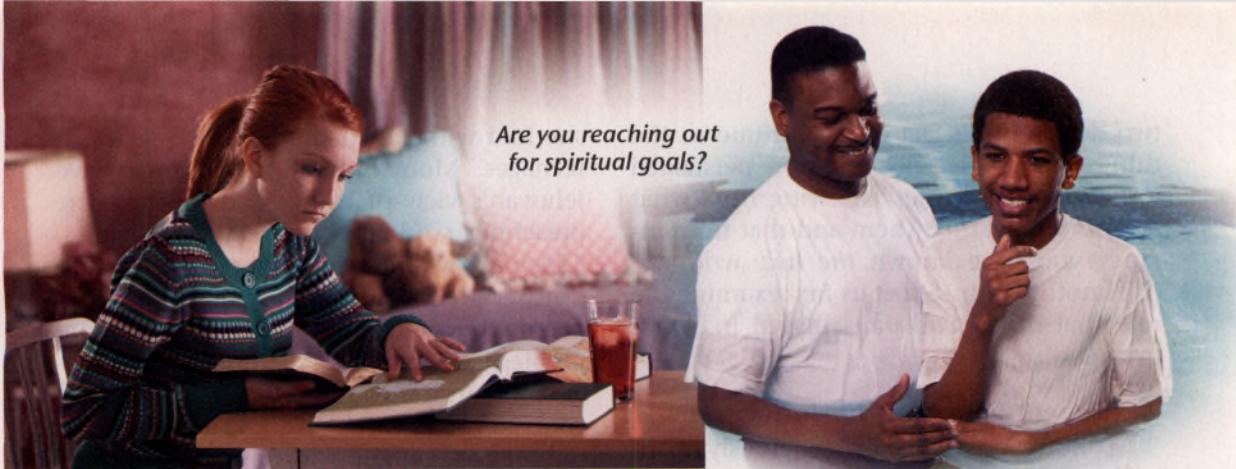


she had with her parents when she was a teenager. "Mom and Dad taught me to have Jehovah's view of things and to make the preaching work my priority," she relates. "They always motivated me to pursue full-time service." Samira reacted favorably to her parents' encouragement and now enjoys the privilege of serving as a member of the Bethel family in her country. If your parents encourage you to focus on spiritual goals, give careful consideration to their advice. They have your best interests at heart.—Proverbs 1:5.

<sup>8</sup> It is also important for you to seek upbuilding companionship in the Christian brotherhood. Timothy became well-known to the Christian elders in his own congregation and to those in Iconium, some 20 miles away. (Acts 16:1, 2) He cultivated a close friendship with Paul, a dynamic person. (Philippians 3:14) Paul's letters indicate that Timothy welcomed advice and that he was quick to imitate examples of faith. (1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Timothy 4:6, 12-16) Paul wrote: "You have closely followed my

8. How did Timothy benefit from upbuilding Christian companionship?





*Are you reaching out  
for spiritual goals?*

teaching, my course of life, my purpose, my faith, my long-suffering, my love, my endurance." (2 Timothy 3:10) Yes, Timothy closely followed Paul's example. Similarly, if you draw close to spiritually strong individuals in the congregation, you will be helped to develop sound spiritual goals.—2 Timothy 2:20-22.

### Study "the Holy Writings"

<sup>9</sup> Is reaching spiritual goals just a matter of choosing the right associations? No. Like Timothy, you need to make a careful examination of "the holy writings." Studying may not be your favorite activity, but remember that Timothy had to 'train himself with godly devotion as his aim.' Athletes often train hard for many months in order to reach their goal. Similarly, reaching spiritual goals requires sacrifice and serious effort. (1 Timothy 4:7, 8, 10, footnote) 'But how,' you may ask, 'can studying the Bible help me to reach my goals?' Let us consider three ways.

<sup>10</sup> First, the Scriptures will provide you with the right *motivation*. They reveal the wonderful personality of our heavenly Father, his supreme act of love in our behalf, and the eternal blessings in store for his faith-

9. Besides choosing the right associations, what must you do to 'train yourself with godly devotion as your aim'?

10, 11. Why will the Scriptures motivate you to reach spiritual goals? Give an illustration.

ful servants. (Amos 3:7; John 3:16; Romans 15:4) As your knowledge of Jehovah grows, so will your love for him and your desire to dedicate your life to him.

<sup>11</sup> Many young Christians say that regular personal Bible study has been fundamental to helping them to make the truth their own. Adele, for example, was brought up in a Christian home but had never set any spiritual goals. "My parents took me to the Kingdom Hall," she relates, "but I did not do personal study or listen at the meetings." After her sister was baptized, Adele began to take the truth more seriously. "I set out to read the entire Bible. I would read a little and then write down a comment about what I had just read. I still have all my notes. I read the Bible in one year." As a result, Adele was motivated to dedicate her life to Jehovah. Despite a serious physical disability, she is now a pioneer, or full-time evangelizer.

<sup>12</sup> Second, the Bible will help you to *make needed changes in your personality*. Paul told Timothy that "the holy writings" are "beneficial for teaching, for reproofing, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16, 17) By regularly

12, 13. (a) What changes will Bible study help a young person to make, and how? (b) Give examples of the practical wisdom contained in God's Word.

meditating on matters related to God's Word and by applying Bible principles, you will allow God's spirit to refine your personality. It will nurture in you essential qualities, such as humility, perseverance, industriousness, and genuine love for fellow Christians. (1 Timothy 4:15) Timothy possessed these qualities, and they made him an asset both to Paul and to the congregations Timothy served.—Philippians 2:20-22.

<sup>13</sup> Third, God's Word is a storehouse of *practical wisdom*. (Psalm 1:1-3; 19:7; 2 Timothy 2:7; 3:15) It will help you choose your friends wisely, select wholesome entertainment, and deal with countless other challenges. (Genesis 34:1, 2; Psalm 119:37; 1 Corinthians 7:36) Making wise decisions now is vital to your reaching spiritual goals.

### "Fight the Fine Fight"

<sup>14</sup> Giving priority to goals that honor Jehovah is the wisest course but by no means the easiest. When it comes to choosing a career, for example, you may come under a great deal of pressure from relatives, peers, and well-meaning educators who believe that a higher education and a lucrative career are the keys to true success and happiness. (Romans 12:2) Like Timothy, you will need to "fight the fine fight of the faith" in order to "get a firm hold on the everlasting life" that Jehovah holds out to you.—1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 3:12.

<sup>15</sup> When unbelieving family members disapprove of your choices, the test can be especially severe. Possibly, Timothy had to overcome such opposition. According to one reference work, Timothy's family probably "belonged to the educated and upper income bracket." His father may well have expected him to seek higher education and to contin-

14. Why is pursuing spiritual goals not the easiest course?
15. What opposition did Timothy possibly face?

ue a family business.\* Imagine how Timothy's father may have reacted on discovering that Timothy preferred the dangers and financial uncertainties of missionary work with Paul!

<sup>16</sup> Young Christians today face similar challenges. Matthew, who serves at a branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses, recalls: "When I began serving as a pioneer, my father was extremely disappointed. He felt that I had 'wasted' my education by taking a job as a cleaner to support me in my ministry. He would taunt me, reminding me of how much I could earn if I took a full-time job." How did Matthew deal with that opposition? "I kept up a solid Bible-reading schedule and constantly prayed, especially at moments when it would have been easy for me to lose my temper." Matthew's determination has been rewarded. Over time, his relationship with his father improved. Matthew has also drawn closer to Jehovah. "I have seen Jehovah provide for me, encourage me, and protect me from bad decisions," says Matthew. "I would not have experienced any of these things if I had not reached out for spiritual goals."

### Keep Spiritual Goals in Focus

<sup>17</sup> A subtle challenge to your pursuing spiritual goals may even come from fellow believers. 'Why be a pioneer?' some may ask. 'You can lead a normal life and still share in

\* Greek society placed a high value on education. Plutarch, a contemporary of Timothy, wrote: "To receive a proper education is the source and root of all goodness. . . . It is this, I say, which leads on and helps towards moral excellence and towards happiness. . . . All other advantages are human, and trivial, and not worth our serious concern."—*Moralia*, I, "The Education of Children."

16. How did one youth deal with parental opposition?
17. How may some mistakenly discourage those who plan to enter full-time service? (Matthew 16:22)

the preaching work. Get a good job and guarantee your financial security.<sup>18</sup> This may seem to be sound advice, but would you really be training yourself with godly devotion as your aim if you were to follow it?

<sup>18</sup> Some Christians in Timothy's time apparently had similar thoughts. (1 Timothy 6:17) To help Timothy keep his eye on spiritual goals, Paul encouraged him, saying: "No man serving as a soldier involves himself in the commercial businesses of life, in order that he may gain the approval of the one who enrolled him as a soldier." (2 Timothy 2:4) A soldier on active duty cannot afford to be distracted by civilian pursuits. His life and the lives of others depend on his always being ready to act on the orders of his commanding officer. As a soldier under Christ, you must be equally single-minded and avoid becoming tied up in unnecessary material pursuits that could prevent you from fully accomplishing your lifesaving ministry.—Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:2, 5.

<sup>19</sup> Rather than making a life of ease your goal, cultivate a self-sacrificing spirit. "Be ready to do without the comforts of life, as one of the army of Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy

18, 19. (a) How can you keep your focus on spiritual goals? (b) Explain what sacrifices you, as a youth, are making for the sake of the Kingdom.

### Do You Remember?

- Where can young ones find help to reach out for spiritual goals?
- Why is careful Bible study so important?
- How can young ones resist the materialistic influence of this world?
- What blessings come from seeking spiritual goals?

2:3, *The English Bible in Basic English*) In Paul's company, Timothy learned the secret of being content in even the most difficult circumstances. (Philippians 4:11, 12; 1 Timothy 6:6-8) You can do the same. Are you willing to make sacrifices for the sake of the Kingdom?

### Blessings Now and in the Future

<sup>20</sup> For some 15 years, Timothy stuck with Paul. Timothy witnessed firsthand the formation of new congregations as the good news spread to almost all of the northern Mediterranean area. His life was more thrilling and satisfying than it would have been had he chosen to live a "normal" life. By pursuing spiritual goals, you too will reap priceless spiritual blessings. You will draw close to Jehovah and earn the love and respect of fellow Christians. Instead of the pain and frustration that result from pursuing material wealth, you will enjoy the genuine happiness that comes from unselfish giving. Most precious of all, you will "get a firm hold on the real life"—eternal life on a paradise earth.—1 Timothy 6:9, 10, 17-19; Acts 20:35.

<sup>21</sup> So if you have not already done so, we warmly encourage you to begin immediately to train yourself with godly devotion as your aim. Draw close to those in the congregation who can help you reach out for spiritual goals, and seek their guidance. Make regular personal study of God's Word a priority. Be determined to resist the materialistic spirit of this world. And always remember that the God "who furnishes us all things richly for our enjoyment" promises you that you can have rich blessings both now and in the future if you choose goals that honor him.—1 Timothy 6:17.

20, 21. (a) Describe some of the blessings that come from pursuing spiritual goals. (b) What are you determined to do?

# Youths

## *You Touch Your Parents' Heart*

**N**O GREATER cause for thankfulness do I have than these things, that I should be hearing that my children go on walking in the truth," wrote the aged apostle John. (3 John 4) Although the children mentioned in this Bible verse refer to Christian disciples, a God-fearing parent can easily relate to these sentiments expressed by John. Just as parents make an important difference in the lives of their offspring, so children make a great difference in the lives of their parents.

King Solomon of Israel noted how deeply children can affect their parents. He wrote: "A wise son is the one that makes a father rejoice, and a stupid son is the grief of his mother." (Proverbs 10:1) Therefore, all children—even older ones—do well to consider the effect that their actions will have on their father and mother. Why is this appropriate?

Just think of all the care that your God-fearing parents have poured into your upbringing! Their concerns and prayers for you began long before your birth. After

you were born, both parents enjoyed bonding with you and likely thanked God for the grand—but sobering—privilege and responsibility of parenting.



A tiny, helpless person was now in their charge, and as worshippers of Jehovah, they took this seriously.

Since your parents are true Christians, they turned to the Bible and Bible-based literature for trustworthy guidance, and they asked those who had raised children for advice. They also continued to express their concerns to God in prayer. (Judges 13:8) As you grew, your parents knew your strengths but were not blind to your weaknesses. (Job 1:5) With the teenage years came new challenges. At times, you may have acted rebelliously, and your parents found themselves praying more, reading more, and thinking more about how to help you to continue worshiping your heavenly Father, Jehovah.

Your parents never stop being a mother and a father. Their concern for your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare continues even after you grow older. All the while, however, parents remember that you

are a free moral agent and that there are no guarantees as to how your life will turn out. Ultimately, you will decide for yourself what course to follow.

Would it not stand to reason, then, that if there is "no greater cause for thankfulness" for parents than to hear that their children "go on walking in the truth," the opposite is also true? Indeed, children who act foolishly bring grief to their parents. Solomon stated: "A stupid son is a vexation to his father and a bitterness to her that gave him birth." (Proverbs 17:25) What deep sorrow parents experi-

ence when a child forsakes the worship of the true God!

Clearly, you have considerable influence within your family and beyond. Your behavior deeply touches your parents' hearts. If you turn your back on God and his principles, your parents will suffer. However, the opposite is also true. If you remain faithful and obedient to Jehovah, your parents will rejoice. Be determined to make the heart of your parents rejoice! What more precious gift could you ever give to those who raise, protect, and love you?

## Questions From Readers

---

### When does the calling of Christians to a heavenly hope cease?

The Bible does not reveal a precise answer to that question. We do know that the anointing of Jesus' disciples with a view to their heavenly inheritance began in 33 C.E. (Acts 2:1-4) We also know that after the death of the apostles, genuine anointed Christian "wheat" came to "grow together" with counterfeit Christians, "weeds." (Matthew 13:24-30) Then, starting in the late 1800's, anointed Christians were again prominently active. In 1919 "the harvest of the earth," including the gathering of the final ones of the anointed, began to be reaped.—Revelation 14:15, 16.

From the late 1800's until 1931, the main thrust of the preaching work was the gathering of the remaining members of the body of Christ. In 1931 the Bible Students took the Bible-based name Jehovah's Witnesses, and in the November 15, 1933, issue of *The Watchtower*, the thought was expressed that this unique name was the "denarius" re-

ferred to in Jesus' parable recorded at Matthew 20:1-16. The 12 hours mentioned in the parable were thought to correspond to the 12 years from 1919 to 1931. For many years after that, it was believed that the call to the heavenly Kingdom had ended in 1931 and that those called to be joint heirs with Christ in 1930 and 1931 were "the last" called. (Matthew 20:6-8) However, in 1966 an adjusted understanding of that parable was presented, and it became clear that it had nothing to do with the end of the calling of the anointed.

In 1935 the "great crowd" of Revelation 7:9-15 was understood to be made up of "other sheep," Christians with an earthly hope, who would appear on the world scene in "the last days" and who as a group would survive Armageddon. (John 10:16; 2 Timothy 3:1; Revelation 21:3, 4) After that year, the thrust of the disciple-making work turned to the gathering in of the great crowd. Hence, especially after 1966 it was believed that the heavenly call ceased in 1935. This seemed to

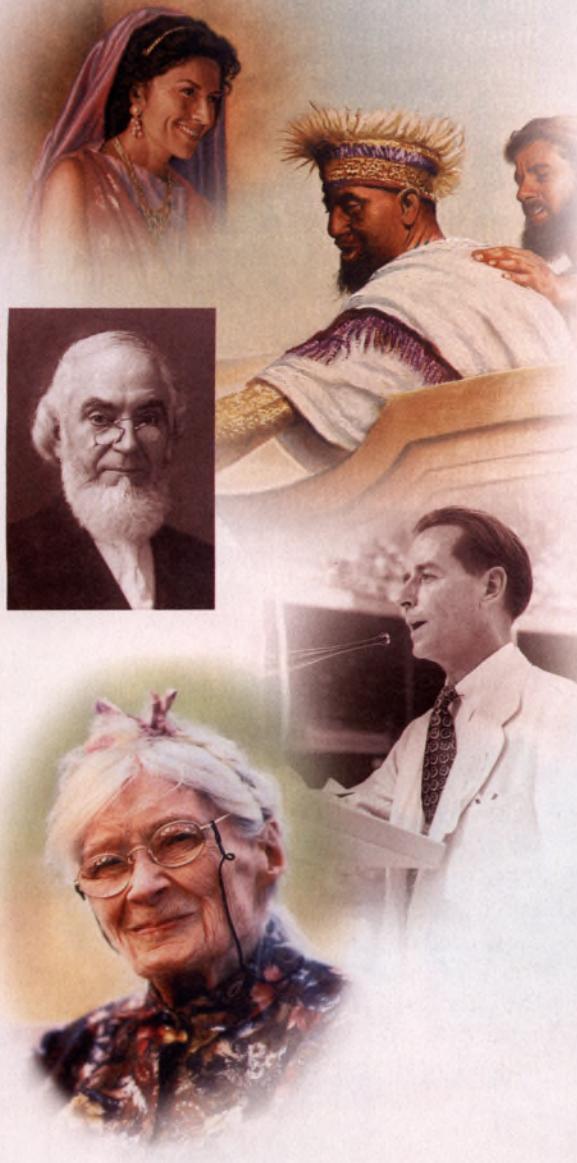
be confirmed when almost all who were baptized after 1935 felt that they had the earthly hope. Thereafter, any called to the heavenly hope were believed to be replacements for anointed Christians who had proved unfaithful.

Without a doubt, if one of the anointed unrepentantly falls away, Jehovah does call another individual to take his place. (Romans

11:17-22) However, the number of genuine anointed ones who have become unfaithful is likely not large. On the other hand, as time has gone by, some Christians baptized after 1935 have had witness borne to them that they have the heavenly hope. (Romans 8:16, 17) Thus, it appears that we cannot set a specific date for when the calling of Christians to the heavenly hope ends.

How should a person be viewed who has determined in his heart that he is now anointed and begins to partake of the emblems at the Memorial? He should not be judged. The matter is between him and Jehovah. (Romans 14:12) However, genuine anointed Christians do not demand special attention. They do not believe that their being of the anointed gives them special "insights," beyond what even some experienced members of the great crowd may have. They do not believe that they necessarily have more holy spirit than their companions of the other sheep have; nor do they expect special treatment or claim that their partaking of the emblems places them above the appointed elders in the congregation. They humbly remember that some anointed men in the first century did not qualify to serve as elders or ministerial servants. (1 Timothy 3:1-10, 12, 13; Titus 1:5-9; James 3:1) Some anointed Christians were even spiritually weak. (1 Thessalonians 5:14) And sisters, although anointed, did not teach in the congregation.—1 Timothy 2:11, 12.

Hence, anointed Christians along with their other sheep companions strive to stay spiritually strong, cultivating the fruitage of the spirit and working for the peace of the congregation. All Christians, whether anointed or of the other sheep, work hard at preaching the good news and making disciples under the direction of the Governing Body. Anointed Christians are content to do this for as long as it is God's will that they remain on earth as Jehovah's servants.



# Far More Important Than the Weather

**A**LMOST all nations have proverbs about the weather: Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in the morning, sailor take warning. Meteorologists today give technical reasons why weather conditions may well develop as the proverb says.

In Jesus' time, people were likewise accustomed to studying the sky and interpreting its appearance. Jesus said to some Jews: "When evening falls you are accustomed to say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is fire-red'; and at morning, 'It will be wintry, rainy weather today, for the sky is fire-red, but gloomy-looking.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but . . ." But what? Jesus went on to make a striking statement: "The signs of the times you cannot interpret."—Matthew 16:2, 3.

What were these "signs of the times"?

They were the many clear indications that Jesus was the true Messiah sent from God. His actions were as clearly recognizable as the redness of the sky. However, most of the Jews ignored the signs that showed that the Messiah had come—a development certainly more important than the weather.

Today, too, there is a sign that is far more important to understand than the color of the literal sky. Jesus foretold that this wicked world would be brought to an end so that a better world could begin. He mentioned a number of developments that together would show when this change was about to happen. Among these are global wars and famines. Jesus said that when these things are seen, the time for God's intervention is near.—Matthew 24:3-21.

Do you see "the signs of the times"?