

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 1995

For United States of America

Vol. 38, No. 10

## Always Praise Jehovah

<sup>1</sup> There are few activities so important that they always deserve our attention. Among them we include eating, breathing, and sleeping. These are essential if we are to sustain ourselves physically. The apostle Paul put preaching the good news in a similar category when he urged: "Let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise." (Heb. 13:15) So, praising Jehovah also deserves our constant attention. It is something we should try to do each day, always praising our heavenly Father.

<sup>2</sup> When others tried to divert his attention elsewhere, Jesus responded: "I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God." (Luke 4:43) During his three-and-a-half-year ministry, everything he did each day was directly connected in some way with glorifying God. We know that Paul felt this way, in view of the thought he expressed at 1 Corinthians 9:16 ("Woe is me if I did not declare the good news!") Other faithful Christians were encouraged to be ready always to make a defense of their hope to others. (1 Pet. 3:15) Today hundreds of thousands of zealous

pioneers and millions of congregation publishers endeavor to imitate such fine examples.

<sup>3</sup> When we reflect on the wholehearted zeal manifested by Jesus Christ, our Model, we are prompted to follow his steps closely. (1 Pet. 2:21) Sometimes we may get discouraged when we have to face the problems of everyday living. How can we daily take advantage of opportunities to praise Jehovah when we have a full-time secular job? Nor can we forsake family obligations that require much of our time. Most young people are occupied with necessary daily schooling. Some might feel that it is not possible to praise Jehovah publicly every day. At times, some may go for an entire month without sharing the good news in some way.

<sup>4</sup> Jeremiah was one who could not hold back. When he failed briefly to speak in Jehovah's name, he felt an unbearable fire burning within him. (Jer. 20:9) In the face of what seemed to be overpowering adversity, Jeremiah always found some way to speak Jehovah's message to oth-

ers. Can we imitate his example of courage and persist in searching out opportunities to praise our Creator each day?

<sup>5</sup> Our speaking about Jehovah should not be confined to formal, prearranged times for witnessing with other publishers in the congregation's territory. All we need is a listening ear. We encounter people continuously every day—they come to our home, we work with them on the job, we stand in line with them at the supermarket, or we ride with them on the bus. All it takes is a friendly greeting and a thought-provoking question or remark that will start a conversation. Many have found this to be their most productive form of witnessing. When we have many opportunities to speak to others about the good news, it would be unthinkable for us to go for a whole month without giving a Kingdom witness.

<sup>6</sup> The privilege of praising Jehovah will never cease. As the psalmist indicated, every breathing thing should be praising Jehovah, and surely we want to be included. (Ps. 150:6) If our heart moves us to do so always, we will take advantage daily of opportunities to speak about Jehovah and his Word.

## Are We Staying Awake—Avoiding Distractions?

<sup>1</sup> Jesus gave a warning: "Keep awake, ... that you may succeed in escaping" calamities that were sure to come. (Luke 21:36) We are living in the most perilous time in human history. Disaster awaits those who give in to spiritual drowsiness. This poses a danger for each one of us. Jesus mentioned eating, drinking, and the anxieties of everyday living. Why? Because even these things could preoccupy us, become distractions, and induce dangerous spiritual drowsiness.

<sup>2</sup> **Common Distractions:** Some have become preoccupied with excessive or questionable recreation, even becoming TV addicts. Of course, seeking first the Kingdom does not mean that we must avoid all forms of recreation. When we use reasonableness and moderation, recreation can be beneficial. (Compare 1 Timothy 4:8.) But it is a distraction when it becomes a big thing in our lives, cutting deeply into our time, our resources, or our share in the Kingdom-preaching work.

<sup>3</sup> Another common distraction that causes spiritual drowsiness is the desire for unnecessary material things. This requires that a person spend more time at secular work and causes spiritual pursuits to be crowded out. Some have lost sight of spiritual goals by becoming engrossed in acquiring material possessions in order to achieve a more comfortable way of life. While we need "sustenance and covering," we must guard against developing a love of money, which can lead us astray from the faith. (1 Tim. 6:8-10) By failing to keep our eyes focused on Kingdom interests, we could become lax in caring for the spiritual needs of our family and fail to accomplish our ministry.—1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Tim. 4:5.

<sup>4</sup> Still others allow their 'hearts to become weighed down with the anxieties of life' to the point that they fall asleep spiritually. (Luke 21:34) At times, anxiety is experienced because of health problems or distressing family situa-

tions. But such personal concerns must not be permitted to diminish our awareness of the fast-approaching end of this system of things.—Mark 13:33.

<sup>5</sup> Nothing would please the Devil more than to succeed in putting us in a dreamlike state, chasing after some worldly fantasy. We have to battle to keep awake spiritually. We know that 'Jehovah's day is coming as a thief,' and it is vital that we "stay awake and keep our senses." (1 Thess. 5:2, 6) If we detect signs of drowsiness in ourselves, it is urgent that we "put off the works belonging to darkness."—Rom. 13:11-13.

<sup>6</sup> **Aids to Help Us Stay Awake:** What are such aids? Prayer is essential. We should pray incessantly. (1 Thess. 5:17) Closeness to the Christian congregation will 'incite us to love and fine works.' (Heb. 10:24) A regular, honest examination of ourselves can help to keep us alert to our need to overcome weaknesses. (2 Cor. 13:5) Good personal study habits will keep us "nourished with the words of the faith." (1 Tim. 4:6) If we are diligent, we can be confident that we will be able to avoid distractions, 'stay awake, and stand firm in the faith.'—1 Cor. 16:13.



## SERVICE MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER

### Week Starting October 2

Song 149

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Call special attention to announcement regarding November 8 *Awake!* if appropriate for your territory.

**15 min:** "Always Praise Jehovah." Questions and answers. Emphasize application of cited and quoted Scripture texts.

**20 min:** "Offer Magazines on Every Occasion." Discuss main points, and then review articles that might be used in offering latest issues. Have two or three presentations demonstrated. Be sure to include suggestions on letting people know how they can make a donation to worldwide work. Song 153 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting October 9

Song 131

**10 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report.

**15 min:** Local needs. Or a talk by an elder, "Disfellowshipping—A Loving Provision?" based on the July 15, 1995, *Watchtower*, pages 25-7.

**20 min:** "Are We Staying Awake—Avoiding Distractions?" Questions and answers. As time permits, make additional comments based on May 1, 1992, *Watchtower*, pages 20-2. Song 128 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting October 16

Song 120

**10 min:** Local announcements. Call attention to the booklet *Good News for All Nations*, which provides a door-to-door presentation in 59 different languages. Encourage use of this booklet when persons who speak a foreign language are encountered in the territory.

**15 min:** "Jehovah's Witnesses and Education." Elder, using notes taken on convention talk, discusses with audience features of new brochure. Have well-prepared demonstration showing how a parent would speak with a teacher or school official and present the brochure. Encourage those who have children in school to distribute the brochure as directed in convention talk if they have not done so already.

**20 min:** "Return Visits With a Purpose." Discuss our goals in making re-

turn visits. Arrange to have capable publishers demonstrate two different presentations. Have publisher explain how this work is financed. Song 130 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting October 23

Song 100

**10 min:** Local announcements. Theocratic News.

**15 min:** "We Need the Congregation." Questions and answers.

**20 min:** Direct Interest to the Organization. Service overseer conducts a discussion with two or three publishers, using the brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide*. Explain why it is beneficial to make interested ones aware of how the organization functions, how various activities are arranged, and how they can become involved. Review points from pages 14 and 15 on "Meetings for Inciting to Love and Fine Works." Group briefly demonstrates how this material might be included in a discussion on a return visit or Bible study to help an interested person appreciate the need to attend. Song 126 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting October 30

Song 159

**10 min:** Local announcements. With worldly holidays coming up in November and December, encourage all to consider enrollment as auxiliary pioneers.

**15 min:** Have You Tried Referrals? A talk. Some publishers have been able to start new Bible studies in this way: After studying with an interested person for a while, they ask the person if he knows of anyone else among his friends, relatives, or acquaintances who might be interested in a Bible study. Often several names are given. Ask if you can use his name when calling on these individuals. When making the call, you might say: "So-and-so has enjoyed studying the Bible so much that he thought you too would like to benefit from our free Bible study program." This can provide a nice list of return visits that may develop into productive Bible studies. Include one or two experiences from publishers who have found interested persons or started new studies in this manner.

**20 min:** Offering the *New World Translation* With the Book *The Bible*

—*God's Word or Man's?* During November. Review features of the *New World Translation* in the *Reasoning* book, pages 276-80. Read "Definition," explaining why it was produced. Answer these questions: On what was this translation based? Who were the translators? Is it really a scholarly translation? Why is the name Jehovah used in the Christian Greek Scriptures? Then explain why we can be grateful to have this translation. (See "All Scripture" book, page 331, paragraphs 22 and 23.) Have a capable publisher demonstrate a brief presentation using the introductory comments to chapter 14 in the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* page 184. Remind all to pick up copies for use in service this week.

Song 138 and concluding prayer.

## THEOCRATIC NEWS

**Cuba:** Recently the Cuban government permitted a representative of the Society to visit Cuba as zone overseer. A meeting was held with the circuit and district overseers. The brothers are now able to assemble in groups of up to 150. They appreciate that they now enjoy increased freedom and that the Bethel Home can again be used as a center for Jehovah's Witnesses in Cuba.

### CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

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

	From:	To:
October 2:	p. 198, ¶ 1	p. 201, ¶ 11
October 9:	p. 201, ¶ 12	p. 208, ¶ 7
October 16:	p. 208, ¶ 8	p. 211, ¶ 20
October 23:	p. 211, ¶ 21	p. 215, ¶ 3
October 30:	p. 216, ¶ 4	p. 218, ¶ 16

### JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bt.St.
Sp'l Pios.	153	120.0	74.9	53.3	5.0
Pios.	69,966	67.2	30.1	21.7	2.3
Aux. Pios.	26,348	58.6	24.4	13.0	1.1
Pubs.	818,917	9.8	5.6	3.6	0.4
TOTAL	915,384			Baptized:	10,889



## INSTRUCTIONS

During 1996 the following will be the arrangements when conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

**TEXTBOOKS:** *The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [b12], *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* [jv], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [st], *Reasoning From the Scriptures* [rs], *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* [kl], and *Insight on the Scriptures* Vol. 1 [it-1] will be the basis for assignments.

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as follows:

**ASSIGNMENT NO. 1:** 15 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant, and it will be based on *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* When based on the *Proclaimers* book, this assignment should be delivered as a 15-minute instruction talk with no oral review; when based on the *"All Scripture"* book, it should be delivered as a 10- to 12-minute instruction talk with a 3- to 5-minute oral review following, using the printed questions in the publication. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. Illustrations, photographs, and charts found in the *Proclaimers* book may be commented on by the speaker and used as teaching aids.

The brothers assigned this talk should be careful to *keep within the time limit*. Private counsel may be given if necessary or if requested by the speaker.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING:** 6 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant who will effectively apply the material to local needs. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. A 30- to 60-second overall review of the assigned chapters may be included. The principal objective, however, is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value to us. The students will then be dismissed to their various classrooms by the school overseer.

**ASSIGNMENT NO. 2:** 5 minutes. This is a Bible reading of the assigned material to be given by a brother. This will apply in the main school as well as in the auxiliary groups. The reading assignments are usually short enough to permit the student to present brief explanatory information in the opening and concluding remarks. Historical background, prophetic or doctrinal significance, and application of principles may be included. *All* the assigned verses should be read without a break. Of course, where the verses to be read are not consecutive, the student may cite the verse where the reading continues.

**ASSIGNMENT NO. 3:** 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. The subject for this presentation will be based on *Reasoning From the Scriptures* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. The student assigned should be able to read. While presenting this information, the student may be either seated or standing. When the assignment is based on the *Reasoning* book, the sister presenting this part will need to adapt the theme and the material to be considered to a practical setting, preferably one that involves field service or informal witnessing. When the assignment is based on the *Knowledge* book, the setting may be a return visit or a home Bible study. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student helps the householder to reason on and understand the material and in how the scriptures are applied. Paragraphs in the book need not be read. One assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, but an additional assistant may be used. Not the setting but the effective use of the material should be given prime consideration.

**ASSIGNMENT NO. 4:** 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a brother or a sister. It will be based on a Bible character. For each assignment the name of a Bible character and a theme are set forth in the schedule. Information about the Bible character can be found in *Insight on the Scriptures*, Volume 1, under his name. The student should study Scriptural references in the material in order to get a clear picture of the Bible character—the events of his life, as well as his personality, traits, and attitude. Thereafter, the student should develop the assigned theme of the talk and select appropriate scriptures to be used. Additional scriptures that highlight Bible principles that tie in with the theme may be included. The purpose of the talk is to show what can be learned from the example of the Bible character under consideration, whether good or bad. Acts of faithfulness, courage, humility, and unselfishness furnish good examples to be followed; unfaithful acts, as well as undesirable traits, stand as a strong warning to turn Christians away from an improper course. When assigned to a brother, this talk should be given with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3.

**COUNSEL AND REMARKS:** After each student presentation, the school overseer will give specific counsel, not necessarily following the program of progressive counsel outlined on the Speech Counsel slip. Rather, he should concentrate on those areas where the student needs to improve. If the student merits solely a "G" and there is no other speech quality marked "I" or "W," then the counselor should circle the box, where the "G," "I," or "W" would normally appear, of the speech quality that the student should work on next. He will advise the student of this that evening as well as show this speech quality on the student's next Theocratic Ministry School Assignment slip (S-89). Those on the program should sit toward the front of the hall. This will save time and enable the school overseer to give his counsel directly to each student. As time allows after the giving of necessary oral counsel, comments may be given by the counselor on informative and practical points not covered by the students. The school overseer should use *no more than a total of two minutes* for counsel and any other brief remarks after each student presentation. If the Bible highlights assignment left something to be desired, private counsel may be given.

**PREPARING ASSIGNMENTS:** Before preparing an assigned part, the student should read carefully the *School Guidebook* material dealing with the speech quality to be worked on. Students given Assignment No. 2 may choose a theme appropriate to the portion of the Bible that is to be read. Other assignments are to be developed in line with the theme shown on the printed schedule.

**TIMING:** No one should go overtime, nor should the counsel and remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 2 through 4 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. The one designated to give the stop signal should do so promptly. When brothers handling Assignment No. 1 and Bible highlights go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 45 minutes, excluding song and prayer.

**WRITTEN REVIEW:** Periodically a written review will be given. In preparation, review the assigned material and complete the scheduled Bible reading. Only the Bible may be used during this 25-minute review. The balance of the time will be devoted to a discussion of the questions and answers. Each student will check his own paper. The school overseer will consider with the audience the answers to the review questions and concentrate on the more difficult ones, helping all to understand the answers clearly. If local circumstances make it necessary, the written review may be given a week later than what is shown on the schedule.



# SCHEDULE

## Jan. 1 Bible reading: Jeremiah 13 to 15

Song No. 191

- No. 1: Conduct That Sets Us Apart From the World (*ju* p. 178 par. 4-p. 183 par. 1)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 14:10-22  
 No. 3: Jesus Did Not Go to Heaven in a Physical Body (*rs* p. 333 par. 3-p. 334 par. 3)  
 No. 4: Aaron—Theme: Continue Faithful Despite Human Weaknesses

## Jan. 8 Bible reading: Jeremiah 16 to 19

Song No. 157

- No. 1: Respect for Life and the Moral Cleanness of the Organization (*ju* p. 183 par. 2-p. 187)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 18:1-17  
 No. 3: Why Jesus Appeared in Materialized Bodies (*rs* p. 334 par. 4-p. 335 par. 2)  
 No. 4: Abednego—Theme: Youths—Honor Jehovah by Your Loyalty

## Jan. 15 Bible reading: Jeremiah 20 to 22

Song No. 24

- No. 1: True Christians Are No Part of the World (*ju* p. 188-p. 192 par. 2)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 20:1-13  
 No. 3: Those Resurrected to Rule With Christ Will Be Like Him (*rs* p. 335 par. 4-p. 336 par. 2)  
 No. 4: Abel—Theme: Exercise Faith That Pleases God

## Jan. 22 Bible reading: Jeremiah 23 to 25

Song No. 38

- No. 1: Loyalty to God and Christian Neutrality (*ju* p. 192 par. 3-p. 195 par. 4)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 23:16-32  
 No. 3: What the Resurrection Will Mean for Mankind in General (*rs* p. 336 par. 3-p. 337 par. 3)  
 No. 4: Abiathar—Theme: Disloyalty Can Nullify Years of Faithful Service

## Jan. 29 Bible reading: Jeremiah 26 to 28

Song No. 163

- No. 1: Worldly Customs That Challenge a Christian's Faithfulness (*ju* p. 196 par. 1-p. 201)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 26:1-16  
 No. 3: Why Resurrected Ones Will Not Be Condemned for Their Past Deeds (*rs* p. 338 par. 1)  
 No. 4: Abigail—Theme: Display Qualities That Honor Jehovah

## Feb. 5 Bible reading: Jeremiah 29 to 31

Song No. 185

- No. 1: Early Developments of the Modern-Day Organization (*ju* p. 204-p. 209 par. 1)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 31:27-40  
 No. 3: How the "Rest of the Dead" Come to Life on Earth (*rs* p. 338 par. 2-p. 339 par. 2)  
 No. 4: Abihui—Theme: Prominence Does Not Excuse Disobedience

## Feb. 12 Bible reading: Jeremiah 32 and 33

Song No. 6

- No. 1: Organizing to Get the Good News Preached (*ju* p. 209 par. 2-p. 217 par. 1)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 33:1-3, 14-26  
 No. 3: Those Who Are Included in the Earthly Resurrection (*rs* p. 339 par. 3-p. 340 par. 3)  
 No. 4: Abishai—Theme: Be Loyal to Those Taking the Lead

## Feb. 19 Bible reading: Jeremiah 34 to 37

Song No. 98

- No. 1: Theocratic Organization and Its Benefits (*ju* p. 217 par. 2-p. 221 par. 4)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 35:1-11, 17-19  
 No. 3: The Events Associated With Christ's Presence Take Place Over a Period of Years (*rs* p. 341 pars. 1, 2)  
 No. 4: Abner—Theme: Men Who Live by the Sword Die by the Sword

## Feb. 26 Bible reading: Jeremiah 38 to 41

Song No. 91

- No. 1: Traveling Overseers Strengthen the Congregations (*ju* p. 222 par. 1-p. 227 par. 4)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 38:1-13  
 No. 3: Christ's Return Is Invisible (*rs* p. 341 par. 3-p. 342 par. 2)  
 No. 4: Abraham—Theme: Live for the Doing of God's Will

## Mar. 4 Bible reading: Jeremiah 42 to 45

Song No. 184

- No. 1: Theocratic Alignment and Training for Overseers (*ju* p. 227 par. 5-p. 232 par. 3)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 43:1-13  
 No. 3: The Manner of Jesus' Coming and How Every Eye Will See Him (*rs* p. 342 par. 4-p. 343 par. 5)  
 No. 4: Absalom—Theme: Selfish Ambition Leads to Disaster

## Mar. 11 Bible reading: Jeremiah 46 to 48

Song No. 53

- No. 1: Gearing Up for Explosive Growth (*ju* p. 233 par. 1-p. 235)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 48:1-15  
 No. 3: Events Associated With the Presence of Christ (*rs* p. 344 pars. 1-5)  
 No. 4: Achan—Theme: Robbing God Brings Dire Consequences

## Mar. 18 Bible reading: Jeremiah 49 and 50

Song No. 65

- No. 1: Meetings That Fill Spiritual Needs (*ju* p. 236-p. 241 par. 1)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 49:1-11, 15-18  
 No. 3: Christians Are Not Required to Keep the Sabbath (*rs* p. 345 par. 2-p. 346 par. 3)  
 No. 4: Adam—Theme: Why We Must Keep God First in Our Life

## Mar. 25 Bible reading: Jeremiah 51 and 52

Song No. 70

- No. 1: Jeremiah—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 129 pars. 36-39)  
 No. 2: Jeremiah 51:41-57  
 No. 3: No Bible Record of Adam's Keeping a Sabbath Day (*rs* p. 346 par. 4-p. 347 par. 2)  
 No. 4: King Ahab—Theme: There Can Be No Peace for the Wicked

## Apr. 1 Bible reading: Lamentations 1 and 2

Song No. 140

- No. 1: Introduction to Lamentations (*si* pp. 130-1 pars. 1-7)  
 No. 2: Lamentations 2:13-22  
 No. 3: Jesus Did Not Divide the Mosaic Law Into "Ceremonial" and "Moral" Parts (*rs* p. 347 par. 3-p. 348 par. 1)  
 No. 4: King Ahaz—Theme: Idolatry Brings God's Disfavor

## Apr. 8 Bible reading: Lamentations 3 to 5

Song No. 194

- No. 1: Lamentations—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 132 pars. 13-15)  
 No. 2: Lamentations 5:1-22  
 No. 3: The Ten Commandments Passed Away With the Mosaic Law (*rs* p. 348 pars. 2-3)  
 No. 4: Ahithophel—Theme: Jehovah Thwarts the Schemes of Traitors

## Apr. 15 Bible reading: Ezekiel 1 to 4

Song No. 124

- No. 1: Introduction to Ezekiel (*si* pp. 132-3 pars. 1-6)  
 No. 2: Ezekiel 3:16-27  
 No. 3: Why Moral Restraint Was Not Removed When the Ten Commandments Passed Away (*rs* p. 349 pars. 1, 2)  
 No. 4: Amnon—Theme: Selfish Erotic Love Is Ruinous



**Apr. 22 Bible reading: Ezekiel 5 to 8**

Song No. 30

**No. 1:** Commemoration of the Lord's Death (*ju* p. 242 par. 1-p. 243 par. 3)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 5:1-15

**No. 3:** What the Sabbath Means to Christians (*rs* p. 349 par. 3-p. 351 par. 2)

**No. 4:** Aquila—Theme: Preach With Zeal and Be Hospitable

**Apr. 29 Written Review. Complete Jeremiah 13 to Ezekiel 8**

Song No. 155

**May 6 Bible reading: Ezekiel 9 to 11**

Song No. 183

**No. 1:** Young Ones Given Attention and All Encouraged to Preach (*ju* p. 244 par. 1-p. 248 par. 3)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 9:1-11

**No. 3:** God Wants You to Have a Happy Future (*kl* pp. 6-7 pars. 1-5)

**No. 4:** King Asa—Theme: Be Zealous for Pure Worship

**May 13 Bible reading: Ezekiel 12 to 14**

Song No. 109

**No. 1:** Meetings Arranged for All to See and Hear (*ju* p. 248 par. 4-p. 253)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 14:1-14

**No. 3:** Everlasting Life in Paradise—Not a Dream (*kl* pp. 7-9 pars. 6-10)

**No. 4:** Queen Athaliah—Theme: Beware of the Jezebel Influence

**May 20 Bible reading: Ezekiel 15 and 16**

Song No. 4

**No. 1:** Conventions Give Evidence of Our Brotherhood (*ju* p. 254-p. 260 par. 2)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 16:46-63

**No. 3:** What Life Will Be Like in Paradise (*kl* pp. 9-10 pars. 11-16)

**No. 4:** Balaam—Theme: Greed Can Blind Us to a Wrong Course

**May 27 Bible reading: Ezekiel 17 to 19**

Song No. 225

**No. 1:** Milestones in Spiritual Growth (*ju* p. 260 par. 3-p. 264 par. 5)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 18:21-32

**No. 3:** Why the Knowledge of God Is Vital (*kl* pp. 10-11 pars. 17-19)

**No. 4:** Barnabas—Theme: Be Warmhearted and Generous in Your Ministry

**June 3 Bible reading: Ezekiel 20 and 21**

Song No. 180

**No. 1:** Conventions Energize the Evangelizing Work (*ju* p. 265 par. 1-p. 268 par. 3)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 21:18-32

**No. 3:** The Book That Reveals the Knowledge of God (*kl* pp. 12-13 pars. 1-6)

**No. 4:** Baruch (Jeremiah's secretary)—Theme: Serve Jehovah Unselfishly

**June 10 Bible reading: Ezekiel 22 and 23**

Song No. 97

**No. 1:** Memorable Gatherings of Jehovah's People (*ju* p. 269 par. 1-p. 275 par. 2)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 22:17-31

**No. 3:** What the Bible Reveals About God (*kl* pp. 14-15 pars. 7-9)

**No. 4:** Bath-sheba—Theme: Repentant Wrongdoers Can Receive God's Favor

**June 17 Bible reading: Ezekiel 24 to 26**

Song No. 46

**No. 1:** Conventions Organized for International Praise to Jehovah (*ju* p. 275 par. 3-p. 282)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 26:1-14

**No. 3:** Why You Can Trust the Bible (*kl* pp. 15-16 pars. 10-13)

**No. 4:** Belshazzar—Theme: Learn Humility and Avoid Disaster

**June 24 Bible reading: Ezekiel 27 to 29**

Song No. 172

**No. 1:** Seek First God's Kingdom (*ju* p. 283-p. 287 par. 1)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 29:1-16

**No. 3:** The Bible Is Accurate and Reliable (*kl* p. 17 pars. 14, 15)

**No. 4:** Boaz—Theme: Be Morally Clean and Accept Godly Responsibility

**July 1 Bible reading: Ezekiel 30 to 32**

Song No. 85

**No. 1:** Trusting in Jehovah With All Their Heart (*ju* p. 287 par. 2-p. 292 par. 4)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 31:1-14

**No. 3:** The Bible Is a Book of Prophecy (*kl* pp. 17-18 pars. 16-18)

**No. 4:** Cain—Theme: How We React to Counsel Tells Much About Us

**July 8 Bible reading: Ezekiel 33 and 34**

Song No. 35

**No. 1:** Motivated by Love to Serve God (*ju* p. 292 par. 5-p. 298 par. 1)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 34:17-30

**No. 3:** Bible Prophecies About Jesus (*kl* pp. 19-21 pars. 19, 20)

**No. 4:** Caleb (son of Jephunneh)—Theme: Jehovah Makes Powerful Those Who Follow Him Fully

**July 15 Bible reading: Ezekiel 35 to 37**

Song No. 128

**No. 1:** Pioneering and Seizing Opportunities to Witness (*ju* p. 299 par. 1-p. 303)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 35:1-15

**No. 3:** Form a Longing for the Knowledge of God (*kl* pp. 21-2 pars. 21-3)

**No. 4:** Cornelius—Theme: Jehovah God Is Not Partial

**July 22 Bible reading: Ezekiel 38 and 39**

Song No. 173

**No. 1:** Growing Together in Love (*ju* p. 304-p. 307 par. 1)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 38:1-4, 10-12, 18-23

**No. 3:** The True God and His Name (*kl* pp. 23-4 pars. 1-5)

**No. 4:** Cyrus—Theme: God's Word Always Comes True

**July 29 Bible reading: Ezekiel 40 to 44**

Song No. 115

**No. 1:** Brotherly Love for Victims of War (*ju* p. 307 par. 2-p. 310 par. 2)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 40:1-15

**No. 3:** Why You Should Use God's Name (*kl* pp. 24-5 pars. 6-8)

**No. 4:** Daniel (God's prophet)—Theme: Jehovah Blesses Whole-Souled Devotion

**Aug. 5 Bible reading: Ezekiel 45 to 48**

Song No. 112

**No. 1:** Ezekiel—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 137 pars. 29-33)

**No. 2:** Ezekiel 47:1-12

**No. 3:** How Jehovah Made His Name Great (*kl* pp. 25-7 pars. 9-13)

**No. 4:** David—Theme: Youths, Prepare Now to Serve Jehovah Courageously

**Aug. 12 Bible reading: Daniel 1 and 2**

Song No. 82

**No. 1:** Introduction to Daniel (*si* pp. 138-9 pars. 1-6)

**No. 2:** Daniel 2:31-45

**No. 3:** Qualities of the True God (*kl* pp. 27-8 pars. 14-16)

**No. 4:** Deborah (the prophetess)—Theme: Faithful Women Praise Jehovah

**Aug. 19 Bible reading: Daniel 3 and 4**

Song No. 135

**No. 1:** Christian Love When Natural Disasters Strike (*ju* p. 310 par. 3-p. 315 par. 2)

**No. 2:** Daniel 3:16-30

**No. 3:** Jehovah God Is Merciful and Gracious (*kl* pp. 28-9 pars. 17-19)

**No. 4:** Dinah—Theme: Bad Associations Can Lead to Tragedy



**Aug. 26 Written Review. Complete Ezekiel 9 to Daniel 4**  
Song No. 201

**Sept. 2 Bible reading: Daniel 5 and 6**

Song No. 29

**No. 1:** A United Brotherhood in the Face of Persecution (*ju* p. 315 par. 3-p. 317)

**No. 2:** Daniel 6:4-11, 16, 19-23

**No. 3:** Jehovah Is Slow to Anger, Impartial, and Righteous (*kl* p. 30 pars. 20, 21)

**No. 4:** Doeg—Theme: Beware of Those Who Love What Is Bad

**Sept. 9 Bible reading: Daniel 7 and 8**

Song No. 148

**No. 1:** Building Together on a Global Scale (*ju* p. 318 par. 1-p. 325 par. 5)

**No. 2:** Daniel 7:2-14

**No. 3:** Jehovah God Is One (*kl* pp. 30-1 pars. 22, 23)

**No. 4:** Dorcas—Theme: Genuine Christians Abound in Good Works

**Sept. 16 Bible reading: Daniel 9 and 10**

Song No. 105

**No. 1:** Refinement and Enlargement of the Building Work (*ju* p. 325 par. 6-p. 333 par. 3)

**No. 2:** Daniel 9:20-27

**No. 3:** Jesus Christ Is the Key to the Knowledge of God (*kl* pp. 32-3 pars. 1-3)

**No. 4:** Ebed-melech—Theme: Be Fearless, and Honor Jehovah's Servants

**Sept. 23 Bible reading: Daniel 11 and 12**

Song No. 168

**No. 1:** Daniel—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 141-2 pars. 19-23)

**No. 2:** Daniel 12:1-13

**No. 3:** The Promised Messiah (*kl* p. 33 pars. 4, 5)

**No. 4:** Ehud (son of Gera)—Theme: Jehovah Delivers His People

**Sept. 30 Bible reading: Hosea 1 to 5**

Song No. 205

**No. 1:** Introduction to Hosea (*si* pp. 143-4 pars. 1-8)

**No. 2:** Hosea 5:1-15

**No. 3:** Jesus' Lineage Identifies Him as the Messiah (*kl* p. 34 par. 6)

**No. 4:** Eleazar (son of Aaron)—Theme: Steadfastly Serve Jehovah

**Oct. 7 Bible reading: Hosea 6 to 10**

Song No. 166

**No. 1:** Rapid Expansion Around the Globe (*ju* p. 333 par. 4-p. 339)

**No. 2:** Hosea 8:1-14

**No. 3:** Fulfilled Prophecy Identifies Jesus as the Messiah (*kl* pp. 34-6 pars. 7, 8)

**No. 4:** Eli (the high priest)—Theme: Permissiveness Dishonors God

**Oct. 14 Bible reading: Hosea 11 to 14**

Song No. 92

**No. 1:** Hosea—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 145 pars. 14-17)

**No. 2:** Hosea 11:1-12

**No. 3:** Further Proof That Jesus Was the Messiah (*kl* p. 36 par. 9)

**No. 4:** Elihu (son of Barachel)—Theme: True Friends Speak the Truth

**Oct. 21 Bible reading: Joel 1 to 3**

Song No. 161

**No. 1:** Introduction to Joel and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 146-8 pars. 1-5, 12-14)

**No. 2:** Joel 2:1-11, 28-32

**No. 3:** Jehovah Bears Witness About His Son (*kl* p. 38 pars. 10, 11)

**No. 4:** Elijah (the prophet)—Theme: Never Underestimate the Power of Prayer

**Oct. 28 Bible reading: Amos 1 to 5**

Song No. 199

**No. 1:** Introduction to Amos (*si* pp. 148-9 pars. 1-6)

**No. 2:** Amos 3:1-15

**No. 3:** Jesus' Prehuman Existence (*kl* p. 39 pars. 12-14)

**No. 4:** Eliphaz (the Temanite)—Theme: Jehovah Hates a False Tongue

**Nov. 4 Bible reading: Amos 6 to 9**

Song No. 18

**No. 1:** Amos—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 150 pars. 13-17)

**No. 2:** Amos 8:1-14

**No. 3:** Jesus' Life Course on Earth (*kl* pp. 40-1 pars. 15-17)

**No. 4:** Elisha—Theme: Have Deep Respect for Jehovah's Servants

**Nov. 11 Bible reading: Obadiah to Jonah 4**

Song No. 26

**No. 1:** Introduction to Obadiah and to Jonah and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 151-3 pars. 1-5, 10-14; pp. 153-5 pars. 1-4, 9-12)

**No. 2:** Jonah 3:10; 4:1-11

**No. 3:** Jesus Is Alive and Ruling as King (*kl* pp. 41-2 pars. 18-20)

**No. 4:** Elizabeth—Theme: Be God-Fearing and Blameless

**Nov. 18 Bible reading: Micah 1 to 4**

Song No. 138

**No. 1:** Introduction to Micah (*si* pp. 155-6 pars. 1-8)

**No. 2:** Micah 4:1-12

**No. 3:** Worship That God Accepts (*kl* pp. 43-5 pars. 1-5)

**No. 4:** Enoch (son of Jared)—Theme: Walk With Jehovah

**Nov. 25 Bible reading: Micah 5 to 7**

Song No. 89

**No. 1:** Micah—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 157-8 pars. 16-19)

**No. 2:** Micah 6:1-16

**No. 3:** Doing the Will of God (*kl* pp. 46-7 pars. 6-10)

**No. 4:** Epaphras—Theme: Pray and Slave for Your Brothers

**Dec. 2 Bible reading: Nahum 1 to 3**

Song No. 136

**No. 1:** Introduction to Nahum and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 158-60 pars. 1-7, 11, 12)

**No. 2:** Nahum 1:2-14

**No. 3:** Worship God His Way (*kl* p. 48 pars. 11-13)

**No. 4:** Epaphroditus—Theme: Have Respect for Trustworthy Men

**Dec. 9 Bible reading: Habakkuk 1 to 3**

Song No. 144

**No. 1:** Introduction to Habakkuk and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 161-3 pars. 1-5, 12-14)

**No. 2:** Habakkuk 1:12-2:8

**No. 3:** Guard Against Offending God (*kl* pp. 49-50 pars. 14-17)

**No. 4:** Esau—Theme: Our Decisions Reveal Whether We Appreciate Sacred Things

**Dec. 16 Bible reading: Zephaniah 1 to 3**

Song No. 146

**No. 1:** Introduction to Zephaniah and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 163-6 pars. 1-6, 10-12)

**No. 2:** Zephaniah 1:7-18

**No. 3:** Keep God's High Standards (*kl* pp. 50-1 pars. 18, 19)

**No. 4:** Esther—Theme: How True Beauty Is Made Manifest

**Dec. 23 Bible reading: Haggai 1 and 2**

Song No. 164

**No. 1:** Introduction to Haggai and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 166-8 pars. 1-7, 13-16)

**No. 2:** Haggai 2:6-19

**No. 3:** Give Jehovah Whole-Souled Worship (*kl* pp. 51-2 pars. 20-2)

**No. 4:** Eunice—Theme: An Example for Christian Mothers

**Dec. 30 Written Review. Complete Daniel 5 to Haggai 2**

Song No. 177



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **October**: *Awake!* and *The Watchtower*. Make special effort to place copies of the magazines. Subscriptions may be offered on return visits when genuine interest is manifested. **November**: Offer the *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **December**: The new book, entitled *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*, will be offered, and a special effort will be made to follow up all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. **January**: Any 192-page book published prior to 1982 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14). The pre-1982 publications that may be used during January are not available in Brooklyn. ■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1996" and should be kept for reference throughout 1996.

■ Congregations should begin requesting *Examining the Scriptures Daily—1996* with their October literature request. The booklets will be available in Arabic, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. Until these booklets are available and shipments are made, they will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Examining the Scriptures* booklets are special-request items.

■ The November 8 issue of *Awake!* will include articles on Mormonism. This coverage is not an attack on the Mormon faith but rather a clear exposition of some Mormon beliefs in comparison with the Bible. These articles have been carefully researched and checked from Mormon sources. We believe this examination of Mormon history and doctrine will help sincere persons to see where the light of truth really lies. You may wish to order extra copies for your future contacts in the ministry. Congregations should notify the Society at once of any increased orders for this issue.

■ New Publications Available: *Does God Really Care About Us?*

—Persian

*How to Start and Continue Bible Studies*  
—Punjabi

*Jehovah's Witnesses and Education*

—English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese

*Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century* —Lithuanian, Macedonian

*Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* —Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

*Doing What Is Right in Jehovah's Eyes*

—German

*Sing Praises to Jehovah* (set of eight audiocassettes in an album) —Polish

■ New Braille Publications Available: *Examining the Scriptures Daily—1996* (four volumes) —Grade-two English  
*Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1996* (one volume)

—Grade-two English

Please mark requests for Braille publications ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.

■ New Videocassettes Available:

*The New World Society in Action* (A review of the historic 1954 film of the same title)  
—English

## We Need the Congregation

<sup>1</sup> The sons of Korah once expressed their appreciation for Jehovah's congregation in this way: "A day in your courtyards is better than a thousand elsewhere." (Ps. 84:10) To them, the world had nothing to offer in comparison. If you share those feelings, you should make the congregation the focal point of your life.

<sup>2</sup> From its inception, the Christian congregation has manifested that it has Jehovah's blessing. (Acts 16:4, 5) None of us should take the congregation for granted or feel that it is simply a means to bring us together physically. The congregation is the rallying point for Jehovah's Witnesses in every community. It provides for united association so that we can be taught by Jehovah and organized for Kingdom activity.—Isa. 2:2.

<sup>3</sup> The Christian congregation is a basic channel for teaching us the

truth. (1 Tim. 3:15) Jesus' followers must "all be one"—at unity with God, with Christ, and with one another. (John 17:20, 21; compare Isaiah 54:13.) No matter where we may go in the world, our brothers believe the Bible's teachings and principles, and they conduct themselves in harmony with them.

<sup>4</sup> We are trained and equipped to fulfill our assignment to make disciples. Each month, *The Watchtower*, *Awake!*, and *Our Kingdom Ministry* offer helpful information to assist us in starting Scriptural discussions. The meetings are designed to show us how to find and develop interest. The increase we see worldwide proves that we have heavenly backing in this work.—Matt. 28:18-20.

<sup>5</sup> Through the congregation, we receive daily encouragement 'inciting us to love and fine works.' (Heb. 10:24, 25) We are strengthened to endure trials faithfully. Loving over-

seers help us to cope with pressures and anxieties. (Eccl. 4:9-12) We are given needed counsel when we are in danger of going astray. What other organization provides such loving care?—1 Thess. 5:14.

<sup>6</sup> It is Jehovah's will that we stay close to his organization to preserve our unity. (John 10:16) One way the congregation helps us maintain contact with the faithful slave class is by sending out traveling overseers for our encouragement. Our responding to loving direction draws us together in a closeness that helps to keep us spiritually strong.

<sup>7</sup> The congregation is vital to our spiritual survival. It would be impossible to serve Jehovah acceptably apart from it. Let us, then, stay close to what Jehovah has provided. May we work in harmony with its goals and sincerely apply the counsel we receive there. It is only in this way that we can show how much the congregation means to us.—Ps. 27:4.



## Offer Magazines on Every Occasion

<sup>1</sup> We have good reason to appreciate *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* What other magazines have such international appeal? This month the magazines will be featured in our preaching activity, and what powerful information the October issues contain! Usually, we place most of our magazines in the house-to-house work; however, we will want to be prepared also to offer them on every other appropriate occasion.

<sup>2</sup> **When offering the October 1 "Watchtower," you might stimulate interest in the article "A World Without War—When?" by saying:**

■ "Many people wonder why a world without war seems to be unattainable in spite of all the efforts of men. What do you think about these statements on page 5 of the October 1 *Watchtower*? [Read the first sentence in each of the first two paragraphs under the subheading "Religion—A Great Hindrance," and allow for response.] Of course, this doesn't mean that there will always be wars. Notice God's promise here at Isaiah 9:6, 7." You may read this text from your Bible or as it is quoted in the *Watchtower* article. Ex-

plain briefly that *The Watchtower* advocates Jehovah's Kingdom as the only hope for a peaceful world, and encourage the person to read the article.

<sup>3</sup> **When presenting the October 22 "Awake!" you might say:**

■ "What do you think about the question on the cover of this magazine: 'Why Is Life So Short?' [Allow for response.] This series of articles calls attention to what modern scientists and others have to say about aging, and then it focuses on what our Creator has promised regarding prospects for everlasting life. I would be pleased to leave you this copy if you care to read it."

<sup>4</sup> **When you find people who are religiously inclined, why not feature an article from the October 15 "Watchtower"? This presentation may strike a responsive chord:**

■ "I'd like to get your opinion on this question: Is it possible to love God and fear him at the same time?" Allow for reply, and then read the caption text of the article "Why Fear the True God Now?" (Eccl. 12:13) Use one of the illustrations on page 199 of the *Reasoning*

book, and offer the magazine if interest is shown.

<sup>5</sup> **When working from house to house, do not pass up small stores and shops. Those who regularly call on stores describe this activity as enjoyable and productive. You could try a simple presentation like this when offering the October 8 "Awake!":**

■ "We know that businesspeople appreciate being kept up-to-date on issues that affect their community. I'm sure these articles will be of interest to you." Then briefly share a point from the article "One-Parent Families—How Successful Can They Be?"

<sup>6</sup> **If the person you approach is genuinely busy, you could display the magazines and say:**

■ "I know you weren't expecting a visitor today, so I'll be brief. I'd like to give you an opportunity to read something that is important." Point out an article you have selected, and offer the magazines.

<sup>7</sup> Keep a careful house-to-house record, and call back on all placements. If sincere interest is found on the return call, offer a subscription to one or both of the magazines. Let us be prepared and alert to offer our magazines on every appropriate occasion.

## Return Visits With a Purpose

<sup>1</sup> When making a return visit, you should endeavor to use a scripture that will add to the person's knowledge of the Bible subject you discussed previously.

<sup>2</sup> **One of the goals in making return visits on magazine placements is to establish a magazine route. A simple presentation like this might be effective:**

■ "I hope you enjoyed the *Watchtower* article I left with you that explained why we should be in fear of God. Today I brought an article in the *Awake!* magazine that asks, 'Why Is Life So Short?' That's a good question, isn't it?" You could continue by saying: "Jesus' well-known words at John 3:16 give promise of everlasting life. Please accept this magazine and be encouraged by the solid hope offered in God's Word." Then explain that you will be back to bring the next issues and perhaps discuss further what God has promised for obedient mankind. Remember that each time you deliver the magazines, you can report a return visit.

<sup>3</sup> **If you placed the article "A World Without War—When?" you might say:**

■ "What would life on this earth be like if there were no more wars? [Allow for response.] Let me show you what God has promised to do." Read Psalm 37:10, 11, and describe how things will be when God's will is done here on earth. Remind the person of what Jesus taught his disciples to pray for as recorded at Matthew 6:9, 10. Help him to reason on the meaning of Jesus' words. If there is genuine interest, you may offer a subscription to *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* and make arrangements to come back for further discussion.

<sup>4</sup> **If you returned for further discussion on the cover series "Why Is Life So Short?" you might begin this way:**

■ "The last time I called, we talked about human longevity. As you no doubt noted in the *Awake!* articles, scientists hold out little hope of helping us to live beyond 70 or 80 years. But what do you

think about what the Bible promises? [Allow for answer.] The Bible shows that God has something much better in mind for man." Then read John 17:3, and explain how taking in knowledge can lead to everlasting life. At this point you may be able to offer a home Bible study or arrange for another Bible discussion.

<sup>5</sup> **Starting a Bible study is an important goal in our ministry. Perhaps you have made several visits on a person who has accepted the magazines. Why not try this approach the next time you call?:**

■ "People have so many different ideas about religion and its value in modern living. There are conflicting beliefs about why God has permitted wickedness or why we grow old and die. Some people would like to know how to pray and be heard by God." Open one of our Bible study publications to a subject you feel will interest the householder, and briefly demonstrate how a study is conducted.

<sup>6</sup> Jehovah is a God of purpose. Let us imitate him during October by making return visits with a purpose.