



# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

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## STUDY EDITION

STUDY ARTICLES FOR THE WEEKS OF:

**February 1-7**

Make Your Advancement Manifest

PAGE 11 SONGS TO BE USED: 45, 97

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Maintain Joy in Times of Trouble

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The Messiah! God's Means of Salvation

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE, *The Watchtower*, is to honor Jehovah God, the Supreme Ruler of the universe. Just as watchtowers in ancient times enabled a person to observe developments from afar, so this magazine shows us the significance of world events in the light of Bible prophecies. It comforts people with the good news that God's Kingdom, which is a real government in heaven, will soon bring an end to all wickedness and transform the earth into a paradise. It promotes faith in Jesus Christ, who died so that we might gain everlasting life and who is now ruling as King of God's Kingdom. This magazine has been published by Jehovah's Witnesses continuously since 1879 and is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as 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*.

## PURPOSE OF STUDY ARTICLES

### **Study Articles 1, 2** PAGES 11-19

All Christians—men, women, and young ones—can make their spiritual advancement manifest. These articles discuss how we may do so. Our capacity for being joyful even in times of trouble will also be considered.

### **Study Article 3** PAGES 20-24

The Bible provides proof that Jesus is the promised Messiah. Jehovah sent his Son to earth to clear His name of reproach and to vindicate His sovereignty, as well as to redeem obedient mankind from sin and death. These realities should have a role in our ministry.

### **Study Article 4** PAGES 24-28

How can we cultivate love for Jehovah and Jesus? How can love endure all things? In what sense can we say that love never fails? This article on the yeartext for 2010 will answer these questions.

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

### **Do You Remember?**

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and Joyful  
in God's  
Service**

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PAGE 32

# Do You Remember?

Have you appreciated reading the recent issues of *The Watchtower*?

Well, see if you can answer the following questions:

- **In what sense can God make you rich?**

In the past, Jehovah blessed some, such as Abraham and Solomon, with material riches. But the riches that Christians need most and that God can help one find include faith, peace, contentment, and happiness.—9/1, pages 3-7.

- **What lesson can we learn from Jesus' saving Peter as he was sinking in the sea? (Matt. 14:28-31)**

If we note a brother's apparent lack of faith, we can figuratively stretch out our hand and help him to gain more faith.—9/15, page 8.

- **What did our deliverance cost Jehovah?**

Jehovah endured his Son's being tormented and ridiculed. And, as foreshadowed by Abraham's willingness to offer up his son, Jehovah endured his Son's being executed as a criminal.—9/15, pages 28-29.

- **Why is the Vatican Codex a treasure?**

It is a Greek manuscript dating from less than 300 years after the Bible was completed. It contains an almost complete text of the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Greek Scriptures. It is one tool that scholars use in determining what appeared in the original text of the Bible.—10/1, pages 18-20.

- **Proverbs 24:27 conveys what lesson about 'building up a household'?**

A man who wants to marry should prepare for that responsibility. This includes getting ready to provide materially for a family and to be the spiritual head of a household.—10/15, page 12.

- **Why is it improper to speak of Jehovah's Witnesses as a Protestant religion?**

Protestantism arose in 16th-century Europe in an effort to reform the Roman Catholic

Church. "Protestantism" applies to those adhering to the goals of the Reformation. Jehovah's Witnesses deny the universal authority of the pope and wholeheartedly support the primacy of the Bible, yet they reject many unscriptural teachings and practices common in Protestant religions.—11/1, page 19.

- **Does one need to learn Hebrew and Greek to understand the Bible?**

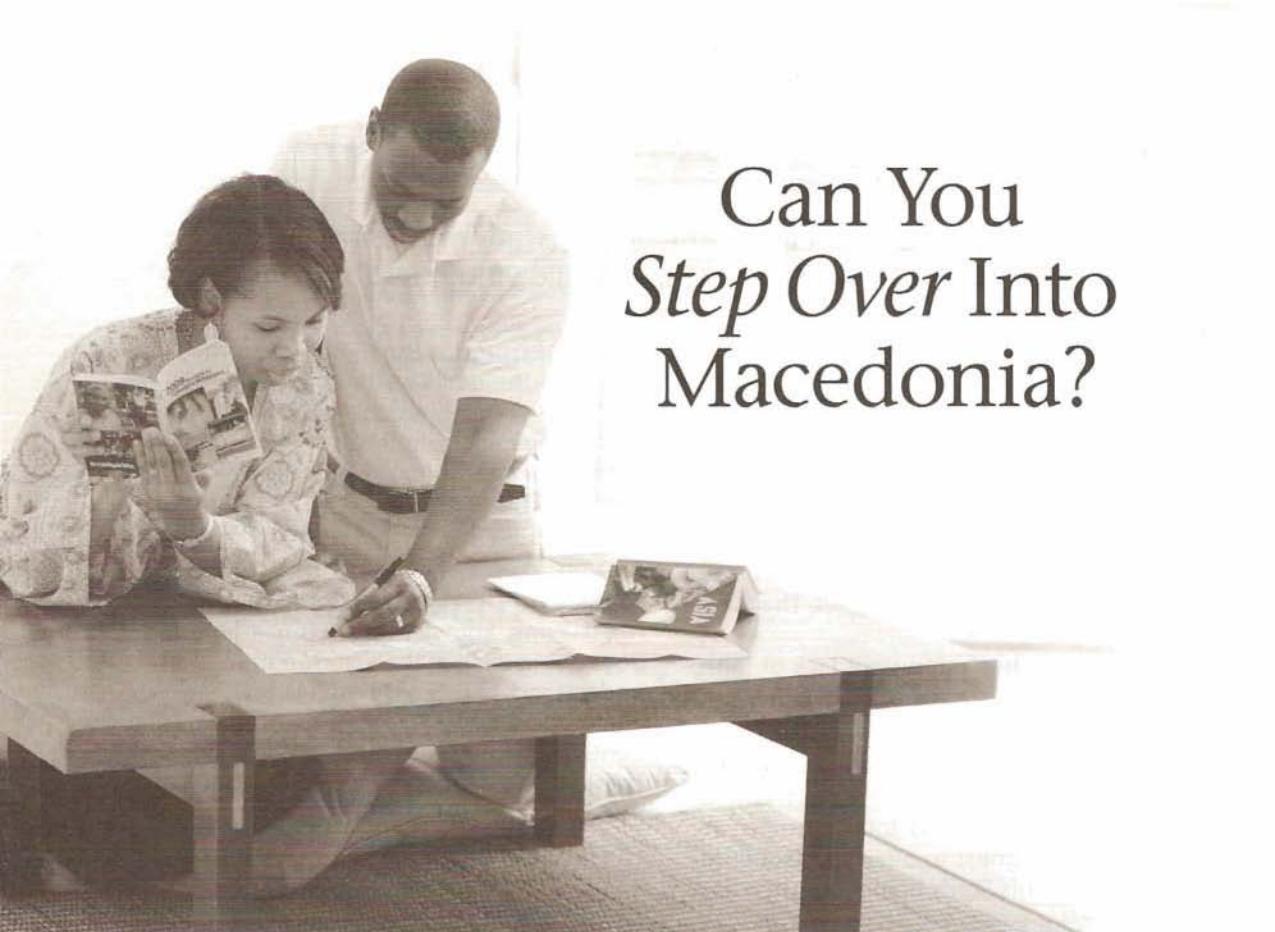
No. Having knowledge of those languages does not in itself make a person more likely to understand the Bible's message. One who has studied those languages is still dependent on dictionaries and grammar books. The fact that God inspired the preserving of the words of his greatest Servant only in translation shows that a person can use and learn the truth from Bible translations in current languages.—11/1, pages 20-23.

- **How did Jehovah and Jesus set examples for us in good manners?**

Despite Jehovah's high position, he treats humans with kindness and respect. He addressed Abraham and Moses using a Hebrew term often translated "please." (Gen. 13:14; Ex. 4:6) God also listens to humans. (Gen. 18:23-32) Jesus did too, and he was ready and willing to help those around him, often even using their names.—11/15, page 25.

- **Why do true Christians avoid celebrating Lunar New Year?**

Lunar New Year is an important festival on Asian calendars. The celebration often involves trying to ensure good luck and to show respect for the spirits. Christians honor and respect their parents, but they do not join in banquets focused on bonding with deceased ancestors for protection or on seeking the favor of household gods.—12/1, pages 20-23.



# Can You Step Over Into Macedonia?

AT THE seaport city of Troas in Asia Minor, the apostle Paul received a vision. A Macedonian man entreated him: "Step over into Macedonia and help us." As soon as Paul saw the vision, he and his traveling companions drew "the conclusion that God had summoned [them] to declare the good news" to the Macedonians. The result? At the principal Macedonian city of Philippi, Lydia and her household became believers. Others in that Roman province of Macedonia followed.—Acts 16:9-15.

A similar zealous spirit is observed among Jehovah's Witnesses today. Many have willingly moved at their own expense to areas where the need for Kingdom proclaimers is greater. For example, Lisa wanted to make

the ministry more of a focus in her life. She moved from Canada to Kenya. Trevor and Emily, who also are Canadians, went to Malawi with the goal of expanding their ministry. Paul and Maggie, from England, saw their retirement as a golden opportunity to do more in Jehovah's service and made their way to East Africa. Do you have a self-sacrificing spirit? Could you consider making such a move? If so, what Bible principles and practical suggestions may help you to succeed?

## Analyze Yourself

One thing you need to consider is your motives. The greatest commandment, Jesus said, is: "Love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and

## Know Yourself

To examine yourself to see if you might serve in a foreign field, consider the following questions and honestly and prayerfully evaluate realistically whether such a move is for you. Information from past issues of *The Watchtower* can help you to do so.



- Am I a spiritual person?—"Steps Toward Happiness" (October 15, 1997, page 6)
- Am I an effective minister?—"How to Succeed in the Pioneer Ministry" (May 15, 1989, page 21)
- Can I live away from family and friends?—"Coping With Homesickness in God's Service" (May 15, 1994, page 28)
- Can I learn a new language?—"Serving With a Foreign-Language Congregation" (March 15, 2006, page 17)
- Can I afford the move financially?—"Can You Serve in a Foreign Field?" (October 15, 1999, page 23)

with your whole mind." The reasons for serving in a foreign territory should be love for God and a desire to fulfill the commission of making disciples. Jesus continued: "The second, like it, is this, 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.'" Love of neighbor is manifested in a sincere desire to help. (Matt. 22:36-39; 28:19, 20) Serving in a foreign land usually involves much work and a spirit of self-sacrifice. It is not just an adventure. You have to be motivated by love. Remco and Suzanne, from the Netherlands, now serving in Namibia, sum it up this way, "What keeps us here is love."

Willie, who is a circuit overseer in Namibia, notes: "The ones who have stayed in the foreign field did not come with the expecta-

tion that the local brothers would take care of them. They came with the idea of serving along with the local brothers, helping them in the preaching work."

After examining your motives, ask yourself: 'What experience do I have that could be useful in a foreign field? Am I an effective minister? What languages do I speak? Am I willing to learn a new one?' Make it a matter of serious discussion with your family. Consult with the elders in your congregation. And certainly make it a matter of prayer to Jehovah. Such an honest self-examination should help you to see whether you really have the ability and determination to serve in a foreign field.—See the box "Know Yourself."

## Where to Serve

Paul was called to Macedonia in a vision. Today, Jehovah does not use supernatural means to direct us. Yet, through this magazine and other publications, God's people learn of many territories with much need. So start by making a list of such locations. If you are not ready to learn a new language or your stay in a foreign land will not be permanent, consider serving where you already speak the predominant language of the country. Then explore such issues as visa requirements, transportation, security, general cost of living, and climate. You may find it helpful to talk to those who have already made a similar move. Have a prayerful attitude in doing so. Remember that Paul and his companions had been "forbidden by the holy spirit to speak the word in the district of Asia." Although they tried to go into Bithynia, "the spirit of Jesus did not permit them" to do so. Similarly, it may take some time to determine where you can be of real help.—Acts 16:6-10.

By now you may have identified a few realistic options. If you are thinking of serving in a foreign land, write to the branch offices of Jehovah's Witnesses in the countries you have in mind. Outline your theocratic background as well as any specific questions you may have, such as about the cost of living, the type of accommodations you might be able to locate, available health facilities, and opportunities for secular work. Then give your letter or letters to the service committee in your congregation. They will add their letter of recommendation and send it directly to the branch

offices you specified. The replies will likely help you decide where you can be most effective.

Willie, quoted earlier, observed: "Those who have done well usually visited the country first and scouted out places where, realistically, they could be happy. One couple recognized that they would find it difficult to be in a remote area. So they settled in a small town where there was a need but where they could have a standard of living that would allow them to be happy."

## Facing New Challenges

Moving away from home and entering into a completely new environment will no doubt present some challenges for you. "Feelings of loneliness can be extremely difficult," says Lisa, mentioned earlier. What helps her? Staying close to the local congregation in her new home. She made it a goal to learn everyone's name. To accomplish this, she arrived early for the meetings and lingered afterward to talk with the brothers and sisters. Lisa worked with others in the

*A humble and willing attitude can have a positive effect on the local brothers*



ministry, invited many to her home, and made new friends. She says: "I do not regret the sacrifices. Jehovah has really blessed me."

After raising a family, Paul and Maggie moved out of their home of 30 years. He relates: "Getting rid of possessions was unexpectedly easy. Leaving family behind was the real challenge, much worse than we anticipated. We sobbed our hearts out on the plane. It's so easy to think, 'We just can't do this.' But we relied on Jehovah. Making new friends gives you added determination to carry on."

Greg and Crystal chose to move from Canada to Namibia because they spoke English, the country's official language. Later, though, they saw how useful it would be to learn a local language. "At times, we got discouraged. However, only after learning the local language did we understand the culture. Close association with the local brothers helped us to adjust to our new surroundings."

Such a humble and willing attitude can have a positive effect on the local brothers too. Jenny fondly remembers families who moved to Ireland, where she grew up. "They were the hospitable ones," she says. "They really came to serve, not to be served. They were so zealous and happy that I too had to try it." Jenny now serves with her husband as a missionary in the Gambia.

### The Blessing of Jehovah "Makes Rich"

How enriching Paul's experience in Macedonia was! Some ten years later, he wrote to the brothers in Philippi: "I thank my God always upon every remembrance of you." —Phil. 1:3.

Trevor and Emily, who served in Malawi before being invited to the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead, feel similarly. "Sometimes



*Those who come to serve  
are the ones who are successful*

we wondered if we were doing the right thing, but we were happy. We were closer to each other and felt Jehovah's blessing." Greg and Crystal, mentioned earlier, report, "There is nothing that we would rather be doing."

Admittedly, not everyone will be in a position to serve in a foreign land. Some may do better by moving within their own country to an area where the need is greater. Others can reach out for goals of serving in other congregations near their home. The important thing is to do all you can to serve Jehovah. (Col. 3:23) Thus, the inspired words will be true for you: "The blessing of Jehovah—that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it."—Prov. 10:22.

# Busy and Joyful in God's Service

JEHOVAH wants you to be joyful. (Ps. 100:2) As one of his servants, you are probably also busy. Perhaps you were not this busy when you dedicated your life to God, but now secular and spiritual responsibilities may cause you to feel under pressure. You may even feel guilty when you cannot accomplish all that you set out to do. How can you find the proper balance and maintain "the joy of Jehovah"?—Neh. 8:10.

You live in critical times and are subject to many pressures, so you need to be well organized. In this regard, some of the apostle Paul's inspired counsel is particularly relevant: "Keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves, because the days are wicked."—Eph. 5:15, 16.

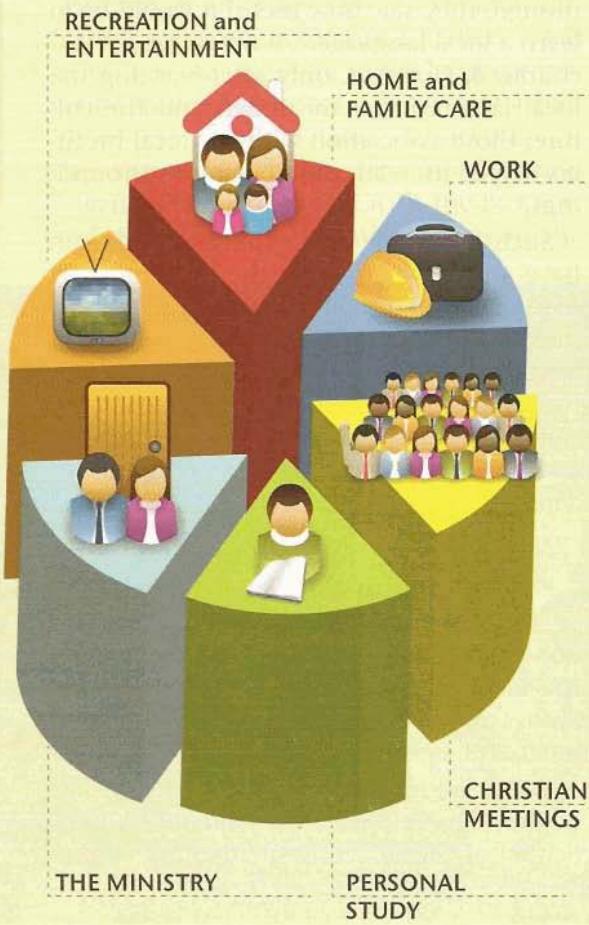
In view of that wise counsel, how can you set realistic goals for yourself and balance personal study, family care, field service, secular work, and other necessary activities?

Do you recall the joy you experienced when you dedicated yourself to God and were baptized? Joy came from knowledge about Jehovah and his purposes. It may have taken months of diligent study to gain that understanding and joy. But it was certainly worth the effort. That study changed your life for the better.

To maintain your joy, you need to keep on feeding spiritually. If you struggle to find time to read and study the Bible, examine your schedule. Even a few minutes of study and meditation a day will bring you closer to Jehovah, and that will surely contribute to your joy.

Most of God's servants can buy out some time for vital activities from time spent on less important things. Ask yourself, 'How much time do I spend reading secular magazines or newspapers, watching TV, listening to music, or pursuing a hobby?' Such activities can be pleasurable but only when kept in balance. (1 Tim. 4:8) If you realize that poor time-management is a problem for you, take steps to get a grip on your schedule.

*You may need to adjust how you apportion your time if you are to remain joyful*



Adam, a husband, father of three, and an elder, explains what helps him: "I strive to lead a simple life. I avoid time-consuming hobbies and belongings that demand much attention. It's not that I live a life of self-denial—I just enjoy uncomplicated recreation."

Meditating on the good results of your decisions can renew your joy and help you to maintain a positive outlook. For example, Mariusz, an elder who has three children, says: "When I started studying the Bible, I became an optimist. From time to time, I still face difficulties, many of which only Jehovah knows about. But thanks to his support, I look to the future with joy."

As in Mariusz' case, a positive attitude will not eliminate all feelings of anxiety. But it can help you to feel better and to deal more effectively with life's challenges. We read: "All the days of the afflicted one are bad; but the one that is good at heart has a feast constantly." (Prov. 15:15) Reflect, too, on the love God has already shown to you. Such meditation can build your love for him and deepen your godly joy.—Matt. 22:37.

Putting Jehovah and his interests first in life increases a family's joy. Displaying Christian qualities reduces friction and results in closer and more pleasant family interactions. Thus, your home will be a true haven of peace and unity for the entire family.

—Ps. 133:1.

Being involved in spiritual activities as a family adds to genuine joy. Mariusz explains: "I value the time we spend together as a family. My wife is very supportive. Whenever possible, she is by my side whether I am in the field ministry or I am cleaning the stadium before conventions, and she accompanies me when I deliver public talks in other congregations. I find this encouraging."

The Scriptures command Christians to provide for the material needs of their families. (1 Tim. 5:8) But if secular work consumes too much time and energy, it can rob you of joy in God's service. Take the matter to Jehovah in prayer. (Ps. 55:22) Some have concluded that putting first God's Kingdom has meant seeking different employment. No Christian should allow the financial benefits of a demanding job to blind him to the more important spiritual things.

—Prov. 22:3.

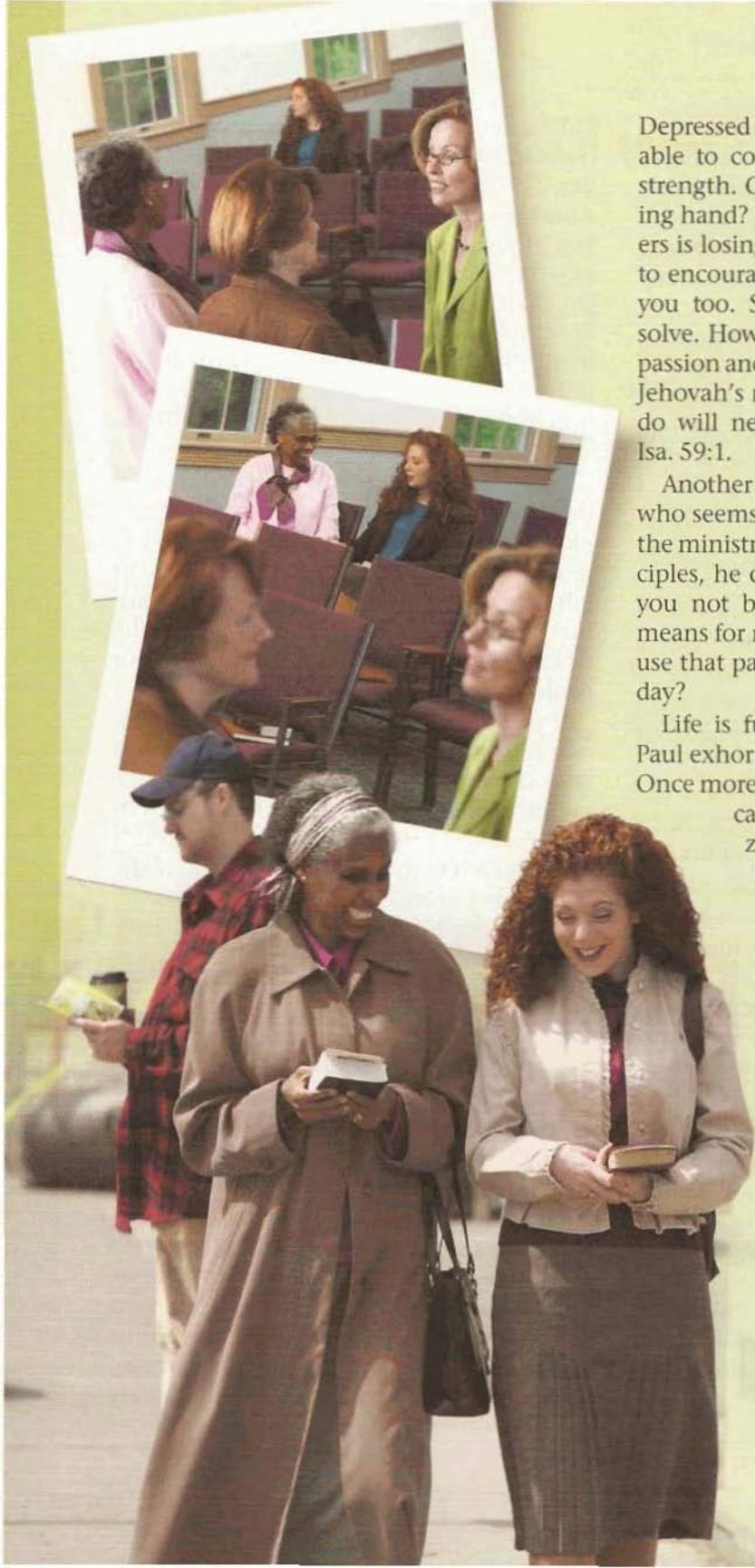
You may find it helpful to write down all the pros and cons of potential or current employment. Good pay and satisfying work are, of course, desirable. Yet, does your present job help you to promote your family's spiritual well-being? Objectively weigh all the factors, and make decisions that give your relationship with Jehovah priority.

If your current employment is not conducive to spiritual growth, you need to adjust your situation. Many Christians have made radical changes in order to find time for spiritual matters. A brother in Poland relates: "I once was left with no choice but to leave the company I worked for because I was often away on business trips. I did not have enough time to care properly either for spiritual matters or for my family." He now makes his living at a job that takes far less of his time and energy.

### Find Joy in Assisting Others

Jesus said that "there is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving." (Acts 20:35) Christians have many opportunities for such giving. At times, a warm smile, a handshake, or a sincere thank-you for someone's hard work in a theocratic assignment may be all that is needed to bring joy to both of you.

The apostle Paul encouraged fellow Christians: "Speak consolingly to the depressed souls, support the weak." (1 Thess. 5:14)



Depressed souls might feel that they are unable to cope with problems in their own strength. Could you give such ones a helping hand? If you see that one of your brothers is losing his joy in Jehovah's service, try to encourage him. Doing so will encourage you too. Some problems no human can solve. However, you can offer sincere compassion and can urge your brother to lean on Jehovah's never-failing support. Those who do will never be disappointed.—Ps. 27:10; Isa. 59:1.

Another practical step is to invite the one who seems to lack joy to accompany you in the ministry. When Jesus sent out the 70 disciples, he did so "by twos." (Luke 10:1) Do you not believe that he thus provided a means for mutual encouragement? Can you use that pattern to help some regain joy today?

Life is full of legitimate concerns. Still, Paul exhorts us: "Always rejoice in the Lord. Once more I will say, Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4) Because you love God, obey him, and zealously persevere in the work he has given you to do, your life has purpose. That brings you joy.

What is more, Jehovah helps you to deal with the pressures and problems that you face.

—Rom. 2:6, 7.

With eyes of faith, we perceive how close we are to Jehovah's promised new world. How many blessings and reasons for joy that will bring! (Ps. 37:34) So we can be of good cheer, not losing sight of how much Jehovah is blessing us even now. Thus we can "serve Jehovah with rejoicing."—Ps. 100:2.

*Are you in a position to help others regain their joy?*

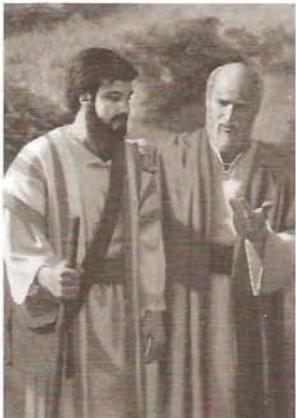
# MAKE YOUR ADVANCEMENT MANIFEST

*"Ponder over these things; be absorbed in them, that your advancement may be manifest to all persons."—1 TIM. 4:15.*

THE Roman province of Galatia, in what is now Turkey, was home to the boy Timothy. There, several Christian congregations were established in the decades after Jesus' death. At some point, young Timothy, his mother, and his grandmother embraced Christianity and became active in one of the congregations. (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14, 15) Timothy surely enjoyed his life as a young Christian amid those familiar surroundings. Suddenly, however, things began to change.

<sup>2</sup> It all started with the apostle Paul's second visit to the area. At the time, Timothy may have been in his late teens or early 20's. During Paul's visit, likely in Lystra, he took note of the fact that Timothy was "well reported on by the brothers" in the local congregations. (Acts 16:2) Young Timothy must have displayed a maturity beyond his years. Then, under the direction of the holy spirit, Paul and the local body of elders laid their hands upon Timothy, setting him apart for special work in the congregation. —1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6.

- <sup>3</sup> Timothy was presented with an unusual privilege of service. What do we know about Timothy's early life and the change that occurred when he was about 20 years old? What unusual privilege of service did Timothy receive?



*Young Timothy displayed maturity beyond his years*

al invitation—to become the apostle Paul's traveling companion! (Acts 16:3) Imagine how surprised and excited Timothy must have been! For years to come, Timothy would travel with Paul and at times with others, carrying out various missions on behalf of the apostles and older men. Paul and Timothy engaged in traveling work that contributed much to the spiritual upbuilding of the brothers. (*Read Acts 16:4, 5.*) Hence, Timothy became well-known to many Christians for his spiritual advancement. After

some ten years of working with Timothy, the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians: "I have no one else of a disposition like [Timothy's] who will genuinely care for the things pertaining to you. . . . You know the proof he gave of himself, that like a child with a father he slaved with me in furtherance of the good news."—Phil. 2:20-22.

<sup>4</sup> About the time when Paul wrote to the Philippians, he entrusted Timothy with a weighty responsibility—that of appointing elders and ministerial servants. (1 Tim. 3:1; 5:22) Clearly, Timothy had become a dependable and trustworthy Christian overseer. Yet, in the same letter, Paul exhorted

4. (a) With what weighty responsibility was Timothy entrusted? (b) What questions can be asked about Paul's words found at 1 Timothy 4:15?

Timothy to ‘make his advancement manifest to all persons.’ (1 Tim. 4:15) Had not Timothy already made his advancement manifest to an extraordinary degree? So, what did Paul mean by these words, and how can we benefit from his counsel?

### Spiritual Qualities Made Manifest

<sup>5</sup> Let us examine the context of 1 Timothy 4:15. (*Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.*) Prior to writing those words, Paul had journeyed to Macedonia but had asked Timothy to remain in Ephesus. Why? Some in that city were becoming a divisive influence in the congregation by introducing false teachings. Timothy was to protect the spiritual purity of the congregation. How was he to accomplish this? In part, by setting a good example for others to imitate.

<sup>6</sup> Paul wrote to Timothy: “Become an example to the faithful ones in speaking, in conduct, in love, in faith, in chasteness.” Paul added: “Ponder over these things; be absorbed in them, that your advancement may be manifest to all persons.” (1 Tim. 4: 12, 15) This advancement had to do with Timothy’s spiritual qualities rather than with any position of authority. This is the kind of advancement that every Christian should want to manifest.

<sup>7</sup> Today as in Timothy’s day, there are various positions of responsibility within the congregation. Some serve as elders or ministerial servants. Others engage in the pioneer service. Still others enjoy assignments in the traveling work, in Bethel service, or in the missionary field. Elders share in various teaching programs, such as at assemblies and conventions. However, *all Christians*—men, women, and young ones—have the

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5, 6. How was the spiritual purity of the Ephesian congregation threatened, and how could Timothy counteract the threat?

7. What is expected of all in the congregation?

potential for making their spiritual advancement manifest. (Matt. 5:16) In fact, as in Timothy’s case, even Christians who have special positions of responsibility are expected to make their spiritual qualities manifest to all.

### Become an Example in Speaking

<sup>8</sup> One of the areas in which Timothy was to set an example was in his speaking. How can we make our advancement manifest in that area? Our speech says much about us. Jesus aptly noted: “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matt. 12:34) Jesus’ half brother James also recognized the impact that our speech can have on our worship. He wrote: “If any man seems to himself to be a formal worshiper and yet does not bridle his tongue, but goes on deceiving his own heart, this man’s form of worship is futile.”—Jas. 1:26.

<sup>9</sup> Our speech can reveal to others in the congregation the degree to which we have progressed spiritually. Accordingly, instead of using speech that is undignified, negative, critical, or hurtful, mature Christians strive to build up, comfort, console, and encourage. (Prov. 12:18; Eph. 4:29; 1 Tim. 6:3-5, 20) Our readiness to discuss our moral convictions with others and to speak out in defense of God’s lofty standards can reveal our devotion to God. (Rom. 1:15, 16) Righthearted ones will surely observe how we use the gift of speech and may follow our example. —Phil. 4:8, 9.

### Exemplary in Our Conduct and Chasteness

<sup>10</sup> More than upbuilding speech is needed for a Christian to be a good example. Saying

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8. What impact does our speech have on our worship?

9. In what ways should our speech be exemplary?

10. Why is faith without hypocrisy vital to our spiritual advancement?



*Is your advancement manifest to others?*

the right things without doing the right things would make one a hypocrite. Paul was well-acquainted with the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the damaging result of their course. More than once, he cautioned Timothy against such insincerity and pretense. (1 Tim. 1:5; 4:1, 2) But Timothy was not a hypocrite. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul wrote: "I recollect the faith which is in you without any hypocrisy." (2 Tim. 1:5) Still, Timothy needed to make his genuineness as a Christian manifest to others. He was to be an example in conduct.

<sup>11</sup> In his two letters to Timothy, Paul provided exhortation on several areas of conduct. For instance, Timothy was to avoid the pursuit of riches. Paul wrote: "The love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things, and by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and

have stabbed themselves all over with many pains." (1 Tim. 6:10) The love of riches is a sign of spiritual deficiency. In contrast, Christians who find contentment in a simple life, "having sustenance and covering," manifest spiritual advancement.—1 Tim. 6:6-8; Phil. 4:11-13.

<sup>12</sup> Paul mentioned to Timothy how important it was for Christian women to "adorn themselves in well-arranged dress, with modesty and soundness of mind." (1 Tim. 2:9) Women who are modest and sound in mind in their choice of dress and grooming, as well as in other areas of their personal life, set excellent examples. (1 Tim. 3:11) This principle applies to Christian men too. Paul admonished overseers to be "moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly." (1 Tim. 3:2) When we display these qualities in our daily

11. What did Paul write to Timothy about riches?

12. How can we make our advancement manifest in our personal life?

activities, our advancement will be made manifest to all.

<sup>13</sup> Timothy was to be exemplary also in chasteness. In using this term, Paul was alluding to a very specific area of conduct, that of sexual morality. Especially in Timothy's dealings with women was his conduct to be above reproach. He was to treat "older women as mothers, younger women as sisters with all chasteness." (1 Tim. 4:12; 5:2) Even acts of immorality that might seem to be secret are known to God and are certain to become known to fellow humans eventually. But it is also true that a Christian's fine works cannot be kept hidden. (1 Tim. 5:24, 25) All in the congregation have the opportunity to make their advancement manifest in conduct and chasteness.

### Love and Faith Essential

<sup>14</sup> A major aspect of true Christianity is love. Jesus told his disciples: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves." (John 13:35) How do we manifest such love? God's Word entreats us to put up "with one another in love," to "become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another," and to be hospitable. (Eph. 4:2, 32; Heb. 13:1, 2) "In brotherly love have tender

13. Like Timothy, how can we be examples in chasteness?

14. How do the Scriptures emphasize the need for having love among ourselves?

### How Would You Answer?

- What can others learn about us from our speech?
- How is our advancement manifest in our conduct and chasteness?
- Why are Christians to be exemplary in love and faith?

affection for one another," wrote the apostle Paul.—Rom. 12:10.

<sup>15</sup> If Timothy had been harsh or unkind in dealing with his fellow Christians, that could have neutralized the good he accomplished as a teacher and an overseer. (*Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.*) On the other hand, Timothy's expressions of genuine affection for his brothers, accompanied by acts of hospitality and good works in their behalf, surely highlighted his spiritual advancement. It was fitting, then, that in his letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul specifically mentioned love as one of the qualities in which Timothy was to be exemplary.

<sup>16</sup> During his stay in Ephesus, Timothy's faith was put to the test. Certain ones were promoting doctrines that were not in harmony with Christian truth. Others were spreading "false stories" or researching ideas that contributed nothing to the congregation's spirituality. (*Read 1 Timothy 1:3, 4.*) Paul described such individuals as being "puffed up with pride, not understanding anything, but being mentally diseased over questionings and debates about words." (1 Tim. 6:3, 4) Could Timothy risk toying with the harmful ideas that were infiltrating the congregation? No, for Paul urged Timothy to "fight the fine fight of the faith" and turn away "from the empty speeches that violate what is holy and from the contradictions of the falsely called 'knowledge.'" (1 Tim. 6:12, 20, 21) There can be no doubt that Timothy followed Paul's wise advice.—1 Cor. 10:12.

<sup>17</sup> Interestingly, Timothy was told that in "later periods of time some [would] fall away from the faith, paying attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons." (1 Tim. 4:1) All in the congregation,

15. Why is love vital for all, especially Christian overseers?

16. Why did Timothy need to display strong faith?

17. How may our faith be put to the test today?

including those in positions of responsibility, need to be like Timothy in displaying strong, unwavering faith. By taking a strong stand and decisive action against apostasy, we can make our advancement manifest and be an example in faith.

### Strive to Make Your Advancement Manifest

<sup>18</sup> Clearly, a true Christian's spiritual advancement is not connected to his personal appearance, natural abilities, or prominence. And it may not necessarily be reflected in 18, 19. (a) How can you make your advancement manifest to all? (b) What will be considered next?

years of service in the congregation. Rather, true spiritual advancement is made manifest by our being obedient to Jehovah in thought, speech, and conduct. (Rom. 16:19) We should heed the mandate to love one another and to cultivate strong faith. Yes, let us ponder over Paul's words to Timothy and be absorbed in them so that our advancement may be manifest to all.

<sup>19</sup> Another quality reflected in our spiritual advancement and Christian maturity is joy, part of the fruitage of God's holy spirit. (Gal. 5:22, 23) The following article will discuss how we can cultivate and maintain joy during troublesome times.

## MAINTAIN JOY IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

*"All those taking refuge in [Jehovah] will rejoice; to time indefinite they will cry out joyfully."—PS. 5:11.*

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES are not immune to the calamities that befall mankind in general. Many of God's people have been victims of crime, war, and other injustices. Natural disasters, poverty, sickness, and death cause much distress. The apostle Paul aptly wrote: "We know that all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now." (Rom. 8:22) We are also victims of our own imperfection. Like King David of old, we may say: "My own errors have passed over my head; like a heavy load they are too heavy for me."—Ps. 38:4.

1, 2. (a) What are some things that cause much distress today? (b) Besides the calamities common to all, what must true Christians endure?

<sup>2</sup> Besides the calamities common to all humans, true Christians carry the figurative torture stake. (Luke 14:27) Yes, like Jesus, his disciples are hated and persecuted. (Matt. 10:22, 23; John 15:20; 16:2) Hence, following the Christ requires vigorous exertion and endurance while we await the blessings of the new world.—Matt. 7:13, 14; Luke 13:24.

<sup>3</sup> Does this mean that true Christians pursue a life devoid of joy and happiness? Should our lives be marked only by sadness and grief until the end comes? Clearly, Jehovah wants us to be happy as we await the fulfillment of his promises. Time and again,

3. How do we know that Christians need not experience a life of suffering to please God?

the Bible describes true worshippers as happy people. (*Read Isaiah 65:13, 14.*) “All those taking refuge in [Jehovah] will rejoice; to time indefinite they will cry out joyfully,” says Psalm 5:11. Yes, it is possible to experience considerable joy, peace of mind, and contentment even in the midst of calamities. Let us review how the Bible can help us to face our trials and still be joyful.

### Jehovah—“The Happy God”

<sup>4</sup> Consider Jehovah, for example. As God Almighty, he has the entire universe under his authority. He lacks nothing and needs no one. Despite his unsurpassed power, however, Jehovah must have felt some disappointment when one of his spirit sons rebelled and became Satan. God must have been affected later when some other angels joined in the rebellion. Think, too, of the pain felt by God when Adam and Eve, the masterpieces of his physical creation, turned their backs on him. Since then, billions of their descendants have rejected Jehovah’s authority.—Rom. 3:23.

<sup>5</sup> Satan’s revolt is still going strong. For some 6,000 years, Jehovah has observed acts of idolatry, violence, murder, and sexual perversion. (Gen. 6:5, 6, 11, 12) Furthermore, he has heard despicable lies and blasphemies. Even God’s own true worshippers have on occasion hurt his feelings. The Bible describes one such situation with the words: “How often they would rebel against him in the wilderness, they would make him feel hurt in the desert! And again and again they would put God to the test, and they pained even the Holy One of Israel.” (Ps. 78:40, 41) The pain that Jehovah feels when his people reject him is certainly great. (Jer. 3:1-10) Clearly, bad things happen, and Jehovah

feels deeply distressed when they do.  
—*Read Isaiah 63:9, 10.*

<sup>6</sup> Yet, Jehovah is not paralyzed by hurt and disappointment. When complications have arisen, Jehovah has promptly taken steps to minimize the bad consequences of what happened. He has also taken long-term measures so that in the end his purpose will be fulfilled. In view of these positive actions, Je-

6. How does God face distressing situations?

*Jehovah is distressed by the bad things that are happening*



4. How does God feel when his will is ignored?
5. What has especially distressed Jehovah?

hovah joyfully looks forward to the vindication of his sovereignty and to the resulting blessings for his loyal worshippers. (Ps. 104: 31) Yes, despite the reproach that has been heaped on him, Jehovah remains “the happy God.”—1 Tim. 1:11; Ps. 16:11.

<sup>7</sup> Granted, we cannot compare ourselves to Jehovah when it comes to our ability to solve problems. Still, we can imitate Jehovah as we confront our adversities. It is only normal to feel some dejection when things go wrong, but we need not remain in such a state. Because we were created in Jehovah’s image, we have thinking ability and practical wisdom, allowing us to analyze our problems and take positive action whenever possible.

<sup>8</sup> One important factor that can help us cope with life’s problems is to recognize that certain things are simply beyond our control. Agonizing over such matters may lead to added frustration and rob us of the many joys associated with true worship. After taking reasonable measures to resolve a problem, it is best to move on and focus on more productive endeavors. The following Bible accounts well illustrate this point.

### Reasonableness Is Vital

<sup>9</sup> Consider the example of Hannah, who eventually became the mother of Samuel the prophet. She was disheartened over the fact that she was unable to bear children. She was mocked and taunted on account of her barrenness. At times, Hannah was so discouraged that she would weep and not eat. (1 Sam. 1:2-7) During one of her visits to Jehovah’s sanctuary, Hannah became “bitter of soul, and she began to pray to Jehovah and to weep greatly.” (1 Sam. 1:10) After

Hannah poured out her feelings to Jehovah, Eli the high priest approached her and said: “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of him.” (1 Sam. 1:17) At this point, Hannah surely realized that she had done all she could. Her infertility was out of her control. Hannah displayed reasonableness. She then “proceeded to go on her way and to eat, and her face became self-concerned no more.” —1 Sam. 1:18.

<sup>10</sup> The apostle Paul manifested a similar outlook when faced with adversity. He had an affliction that caused him much distress. He called it “a thorn in the flesh.” (2 Cor. 12:7) Whatever its nature, Paul did what he could to remove this affliction, praying to Jehovah for relief. How often did Paul entreat Jehovah about the matter? Three times. After the third time, God revealed to Paul that the “thorn in the flesh” would not be removed miraculously. Paul accepted this fact and concentrated on serving Jehovah fully.  
—Read *2 Corinthians 12:8-10*.

<sup>11</sup> These examples do not mean that we should stop praying to Jehovah about distressing matters. (Ps. 86:7) On the contrary, God’s Word entreats us: “Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God.” How will Jehovah respond to such supplications and petitions? The Bible adds: “And the peace of God that excels all thought will guard your hearts and your mental powers by means of Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:6, 7) Yes, Jehovah may not take away our problem, but he can respond to our prayers by guarding our mental powers. After praying about

7, 8. When things go wrong, how may we imitate Jehovah?

9. How did Hannah display reasonableness?

10. Paul manifested what realistic outlook when faced with a problem he could not solve?

11. What role do prayer and supplication play in our coping with calamities?



*Jehovah has given us the means to maintain joy*

a matter, we may realize the danger of being consumed by anxieties.

### Find Delight in Doing God's Will

<sup>12</sup> Proverbs 24:10 acknowledges: "Have you shown yourself discouraged in the day of distress? Your power will be scanty." Another proverb says: "Because of the pain of the heart there is a stricken spirit." (Prov. 15: 13) Some Christians have become disheartened to the point of discontinuing their personal Bible reading and their meditation on God's Word. Their prayers have become perfunctory, and they may isolate themselves from fellow worshippers. Clearly, remaining in a state of dejection can be harmful.—Prov. 18:1, 14.

<sup>13</sup> On the other hand, a positive perspective will help us to focus on aspects of our lives from which we can derive delight and

12. Why can prolonged periods of discouragement prove harmful?

13. What are some activities that can help dispel discouragement and give us a measure of joy?

joy. David wrote: "To do your will, O my God, I have delighted." (Ps. 40:8) When matters go wrong in our lives, the last thing we should do is discontinue our healthy routine of worship. In fact, an antidote for sadness is to engage in activities that bring happiness. Jehovah tells us that we can find delight and happiness in reading his Word and in peering into it regularly. (Ps. 1:1, 2; Jas. 1:25) Both from the Holy Scriptures and from Christian meetings, we receive "pleasant sayings" that can buoy us up and make our hearts rejoice.—Prov. 12:25; 16:24.

<sup>14</sup> God gives us many reasons to be joyful. His promise of salvation is indeed a major source of happiness. (Ps. 13:5) We know that regardless of what is happening to us now, in the end God will reward those who earnestly seek him. (*Read Ecclesiastes 8:12.*) The prophet Habakkuk expressed such conviction beautifully when he wrote: "Although

14. What assurance from Jehovah brings us joy now?

the fig tree itself may not blossom, and there may be no yield on the vines; the work of the olive tree may actually turn out a failure, and the terraces themselves may actually produce no food; the flock may actually be severed from the pen, and there may be no herd in the enclosures; yet, as for me, I will exult in Jehovah himself; I will be joyful in the God of my salvation.”—Hab. 3:17, 18.

### **“Happy Is the People Whose God Is Jehovah!”**

<sup>15</sup> While we wait for the wonderful future in store for us, Jehovah’s will is that we enjoy the good things that he gives us. The Bible says: “I have come to know that there is nothing better for [mankind] than to rejoice and to do good during one’s life; and also that every man should eat and indeed drink and see good for all his hard work. It is the gift of God.” (Eccl. 3:12, 13) “To do good” includes performing good deeds in behalf of others. Jesus said that there is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving. Acts of kindness toward our mates, children, parents, and other relatives bring deep satisfaction. (Prov. 3:27) Being tender, hospitable, and forgiving toward our spiritual brothers and sisters also results in much joy, and it pleases Jehovah. (Gal. 6:10; Col. 3:12-14; 1 Pet. 4:8, 9) And accomplishing our ministry with a self-sacrificing spirit is truly rewarding.

<sup>16</sup> The above-quoted words in Ecclesiastes mention simple pleasures of life, such as eating and drinking. Yes, even while undergoing trials, we can find joy in whatever material gifts we have received from Jehovah. Furthermore, a breathtaking sunset, a majestic landscape, the antics of young animals, and other wonders of nature cost nothing, yet they can fill us with awe and

bring us joy. As we reflect on such things, we grow in our love for Jehovah, for he is the Giver of all good things.

<sup>17</sup> Ultimately, our love for God, obedience to his commandments, and faith in the ransom sacrifice will result in our complete relief from the adversities of imperfect life and lead us to lasting joy. (1 John 5:3) In the meantime, we find comfort in knowing that Jehovah is well-aware of all the things that afflict us. David wrote: “I will be joyful and rejoice in your loving-kindness, in that you have seen my affliction; you have known about the distresses of my soul.” (Ps. 31:7) Moved by his love for us, Jehovah will rescue us from calamity.—Ps. 34:19.

<sup>18</sup> While we wait for the fulfillment of his promises, may we imitate Jehovah, the happy God. May we avoid becoming spiritually paralyzed by negative feelings. When problems arise, may thinking ability and practical wisdom guide us. Jehovah will help us to control our emotions and to take whatever steps may be possible to minimize the bad effects of calamitous events. Let us find delight in the good things that come from him, both physical and spiritual. By staying close to God, we will be able to rejoice because “happy is the people whose God is Jehovah!”—Ps. 144:15.

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17. What will bring us complete relief from adversities, and in the meantime, what gives us comfort?

18. Why should joy predominate among God’s people?

### **What Have You Learned?**

- When coping with adversities, how can we imitate Jehovah?
- How can reasonableness help us to cope with adversities?
- In times of distress, how can we find delight in doing God’s will?

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15, 16. Name some of God’s gifts that we can enjoy while awaiting future blessings.

# THE MESSIAH! GOD'S MEANS OF SALVATION

*"For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive."—1 COR. 15:22.*

**“W**E HAVE found the Messiah,” Andrew told his brother Peter, convinced that Jesus of Nazareth was God’s Anointed One. Philip was persuaded and sought out his friend Nathanael, telling him: “We have found the one of whom Moses, in the Law, and the Prophets wrote, Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”—John 1:40, 41, 45.

<sup>2</sup> Are you thoroughly convinced that Jesus is the promised Messiah, Jehovah’s ‘Chief Agent of salvation’? (Heb. 2:10) Today, we have much more evidence of his Messiahship than his first-century followers had. From Jesus’ birth to his resurrection, the Word of God gives conclusive proof that he was the Christ. (*Read John 20:30, 31.*) The Bible also shows that Jesus would continue to fulfill from heaven his role as Messiah. (John 6:40; *read 1 Corinthians 15:22.*) In a spiritual sense, you too can say that you have “found the Messiah” today. But first consider how those early disciples rightly concluded that they had found the Messiah.

## “Sacred Secret” of the Messiah Revealed Progressively

<sup>3</sup> How could Jesus’ first-century followers say for sure that he was the Messiah? Through the prophets, Jehovah had pro-

1, 2. (a) How did Andrew and Philip respond upon meeting Jesus? (b) Why do we say that we have more evidence of Jesus’ Messiahship than did first-century Christians?

3, 4. (a) How could first-century disciples ‘find the Messiah’? (b) Why would you say that only Jesus could fulfill all the Messianic prophecies?

gressively revealed the identifying marks of the coming Messiah. One Bible scholar likened this process to the assembling of a statue made of individual pieces of marble. Imagine that many men who had never communicated with one another each brought a piece of marble into a room. If those pieces fit together to form a perfect statue, you would logically conclude that there must have been someone behind the scenes who had drawn the specifications and sent to each man his part. Like each piece of the statue, every Messianic prophecy would provide a vital piece of information about the Messiah.

<sup>4</sup> What, then, would be the likelihood that all the prophecies about the Messiah might be fulfilled by coincidence in one person? One researcher said that the odds that a person could fulfill all the Messianic prophecies *by chance* would be “so astronomical” that it must be ruled out. “Jesus—and only Jesus throughout all of history—managed to do it.”

<sup>5</sup> The focus of the Messianic prophecies is a “sacred secret” with many facets of universal importance. (Col. 1:26, 27; Gen. 3:15) Included in that secret was the judgment against Satan the Devil, “the original serpent,” who plunged humankind into sin and death. (Rev. 12:9) How would that judgment be executed? Jehovah foretold that a

5, 6. (a) How would the judgment against Satan be executed? (b) How did God progressively reveal the line to the promised “seed”?

"seed" to be produced by a "woman" would bruise Satan in the head. The foretold "seed" would crush the serpent's head, eliminating the cause of rebellion, sickness, and death. However, by God's permission, Satan would first inflict a symbolic heel wound on the woman's "seed."

<sup>6</sup> Jehovah progressively revealed who the promised "seed" would be. God swore to Abraham: "By means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves." (Gen. 22:18) Moses foretold that this One would be "a prophet" greater than Moses. (Deut. 18:18, 19) David was assured, and prophets later confirmed, that the Messiah would be a descendant of his and would inherit the Davidic throne forever.—2 Sam. 7: 12, 16; Jer. 23:5, 6.

#### **Jesus' Credentials as the Messiah**

<sup>7</sup> God sent forth his Son, his first creation, from His wifelike organization of spirit creatures in heaven to be the promised "seed." This required that God's only-begotten Son 'empty himself' of heavenly life and be born as a perfect human. (Phil. 2:5-7; John 1:14) Mary's being 'overshadowed' by holy spirit guaranteed that what was to be born would "be called holy, God's Son."—Luke 1:35.

7. In what way did Jesus come forth from God's "woman"?

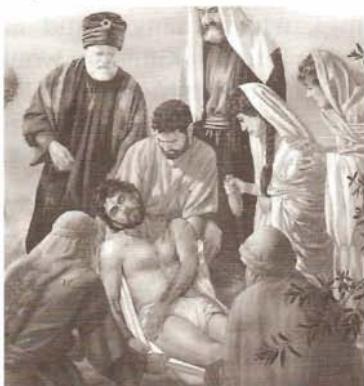
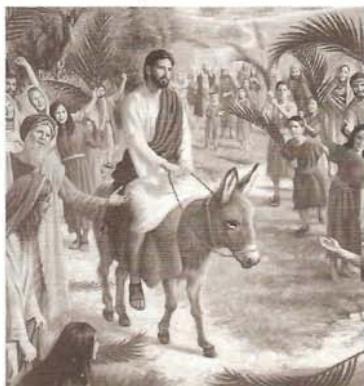
<sup>8</sup> The Messianic prophecies indicated where and when Jesus would appear. Jesus was born in Bethlehem as foretold. (Mic. 5:2) In the first century, the Jews' expectations ran high. Anticipating Messiah's appearance, some asked about John the Baptizer: "May he perhaps be the Christ?" But John answered: "One stronger than I am is coming." (Luke 3:15, 16) By coming to John in the fall of 29 C.E. to be baptized at 30 years of age, Jesus presented himself as the Messiah right on time. (Dan. 9:25) He then began his eventful ministry, saying: "The appointed time has been fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has drawn near." —Mark 1:14, 15.

<sup>9</sup> People's expectations, however, needed to be adjusted. Jesus was properly hailed as King, but that his rule would be future and from heaven would only later be fully understood. (John 12:12-16; 16:12, 13; Acts 2:32-36) Nevertheless, when Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" Peter unhesitatingly answered: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt. 16:13-16) Peter answered similarly when many turned away, stumbled over a teaching.—*Read John 6:68, 69.*

8. How was Jesus fulfilling Messianic prophecy when he presented himself for water baptism?

9. Though not having full details, Jesus' disciples had what firm conviction?

*How could people in the first century tell that Jesus was the promised Messiah?*



## Listening to the Messiah

<sup>10</sup> In heaven, God's only-begotten Son was a mighty spirit person. On earth, Jesus was "the Father's representative." (John 16:27, 28) He said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me." (John 7:16) Confirming Jesus' Messiahship during the transfiguration, Jehovah directed: "Listen to him." (Luke 9:35) Yes, listen to, or obey, this Chosen One. That required faith and good works—both absolutely essential to please God and gain everlasting life.—John 3:16, 35, 36.

<sup>11</sup> Although Jesus had overwhelming credentials proving that he was the Messiah, the vast majority of the first-century Jews did not acclaim him. Why? Because they had their own preconceived ideas about the Messiah, including that he would be a political messiah who would liberate them from Roman oppression. (*Read John 12:34.*) Thus, they could not accept the Messiah who fulfilled the prophecies that said he would be despised, avoided by men, meant for pains and for having acquaintance with sickness, and finally killed. (Isa. 53:3, 5) Even some of Jesus' loyal disciples were disappointed at his not providing political deliverance. But they remained loyal, and in time, accurate understanding was given them.—Luke 24:21.

<sup>12</sup> Another reason why people rejected Jesus as the promised Messiah was his teachings, which many found hard to accept. Entry into the Kingdom would require 'disowning oneself,' 'eating' Jesus' flesh and blood, being "born again," and being "no part of the world." (Mark 8:34; John 3:3; 6:

10. Why did Jehovah emphasize the need to listen to his Son?

11, 12. (a) The first-century Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah for what reasons? (b) Who put faith in Jesus?

53; 17:14, 16) The proud, the rich, and the hypocritical viewed these requirements as too difficult to fulfill. However, humble Jews accepted Jesus as the Messiah, as did some Samaritans who said: "This man is for a certainty the savior of the world."—John 4:25, 26, 41, 42; 7:31.

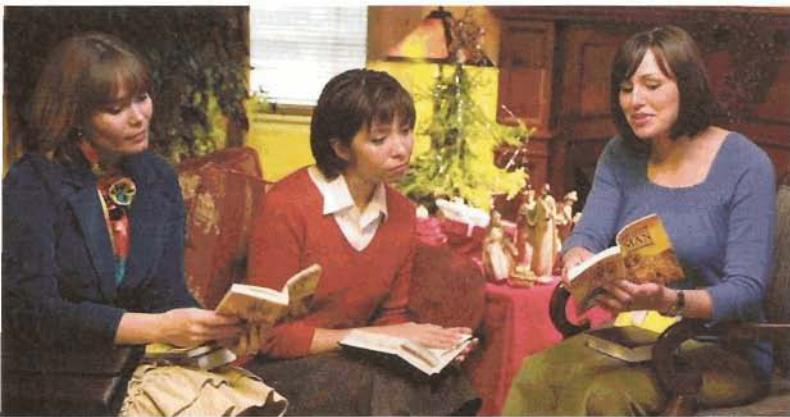
<sup>13</sup> Jesus foretold that he would be condemned by the chief priests and be impaled by Gentiles, but on the third day, he would rise. (Matt. 20:17-19) His affirmation before the Sanhedrin that he was "the Christ the Son of God" was judged to be blasphemy. (Matt. 26:63-66) Pilate found in him "nothing deserving of death," but because the Jews charged him also with sedition, Pilate "surrendered Jesus to their will." (Luke 23:13-15, 25) They thus "disowned" and contrived to kill "the Chief Agent of life," despite the overwhelming proof that he was sent by God. (Acts 3:13-15) The Messiah was "cut off" as foretold, being impaled on a stake on Passover Day of 33 C.E. (Dan. 9:26, 27; Acts 2:22, 23) By this cruel death, he suffered the "heel" wound foretold at Genesis 3:15.

## Why the Messiah Had to Die

<sup>14</sup> Jehovah allowed Jesus to experience death for two vital reasons. First, Jesus' faithfulness unto death resolved an important aspect of the "sacred secret." He proved to the ultimate degree that a perfect man can maintain "godly devotion" and uphold God's sovereignty despite the severest of tests imposed by Satan. (1 Tim. 3:16) Second, as Jesus said, "the Son of man came . . . to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many." (Matt. 20:28) This "corresponding

13. How did Jesus experience the symbolic heel wound?

14, 15. (a) For what two reasons did Jehovah allow Jesus to die? (b) What did Jesus do after being resurrected?



*When you talk to others, do you highlight Jesus' role as the Messiah?*

ransom" paid the penalty for sin inherited by Adam's offspring and made it possible to give everlasting life to all who accept Jesus as God's means of salvation.—1 Tim. 2:5, 6.

<sup>15</sup> After three days in the grave, Christ was resurrected, and for 40 days he appeared to his disciples, proving that he was alive and giving them further instructions. (Acts 1: 3-5) Then he ascended to heaven to present to Jehovah the value of his precious sacrifice and await the appointed time when his presence as Messianic King would begin. In the meantime, he had much to do.

### Completing His Role as the Messiah

<sup>16</sup> Throughout the centuries since his resurrection, Jesus has faithfully supervised the activities of the Christian congregation over which he has been ruling as King. (Col. 1: 13) At the appointed time, he would start wielding his power as King of God's Kingdom. Bible prophecies and world events confirm that his presence as King began in 1914, as did "the conclusion of the system of things." (Matt. 24:3; Rev. 11:15) Shortly thereafter, he led the holy angels in casting

16, 17. Outline Jesus' role as the Messiah after his ascension to heaven.

Satan and his demons from heaven.—Rev. 12:7-10.

<sup>17</sup> The preaching and teaching work that Jesus began in 29 C.E. is nearing its grand climax. Soon he will judge all the living. He will then tell sheeplike ones who accept him as Jehovah's means of salvation to "inherit the kingdom prepared for [them] from the founding of the world." (Matt. 25:31-34, 41) Those who reject Jesus as King will suffer destruction when he leads the heavenly armies against all wickedness. Then Jesus will bind Satan and cast him and his demons into "the abyss."—Rev. 19:11-14; 20:1-3.

<sup>18</sup> During his Thousand Year Reign, Jesus will fully live up to all his titles, such as "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9:6, 7) His Kingdom rule will lift humans to perfection, including those resurrected from the dead. (John 5:26-29) The Messiah will guide willing humans to "fountains of waters of life," enabling obedient mankind to enjoy a peaceful relationship with Jehovah. (*Read Revelation 7:16, 17.*) After the final test, all rebels, including Satan and his demons, will

18, 19. What does Jesus accomplish in fulfilling his role as the Messiah, bringing what results for obedient mankind?

### Can You Explain?

- How could the first-century disciples find the Messiah?
- For what two important reasons did Jesus die?
- What will Jesus yet do in fulfilling his role as the Messiah?

be “hurled into the lake of fire,” the crushing death blow to the head of the “serpent.” —Rev. 20:10.

<sup>19</sup> How wonderfully and flawlessly Jesus fulfills his role as the Messiah! A paradise earth will be filled with redeemed humans, who will live forever in perfect health and happiness. Jehovah’s sacred name will have been cleared of all reproach, and the rightfulness of his universal sovereignty fully vindicated. What a grand heritage lies just ahead for all who obey God’s Anointed One!

#### Have You Found the Messiah?

<sup>20</sup> Since 1914 we have been living in the period of Christ’s *pa·rou·si’ā*, or presence. Although his presence as King of God’s Kingdom is invisible, it is obvious from the fulfillment of prophecies. (Rev. 6:2-8) Never-

20, 21. What reasons do you have to tell others about the Messiah?

theless, just like the first-century Jews, most people today ignore the evidence of the Messiah’s presence. They too want a political messiah or at least one who will work through human political rulers. You, though, came to know that Jesus is now reigning as King of God’s Kingdom. Were you not thrilled to find that out? Just like the first-century disciples, you were moved to proclaim: “We have found the Messiah.”

<sup>21</sup> Today, when you talk about the truth, do you highlight Jesus’ role as the Messiah? Doing so will enhance your appreciation for what he has done for you, what he is doing now, and what he will yet accomplish. Like Andrew and Philip, you no doubt have talked to your relatives and friends about the Messiah. Why not approach them with renewed zeal and show them that Jesus Christ is indeed the promised Messiah, God’s means of salvation?

## CULTIVATE LOVE THAT NEVER FAILS

*‘Love endures all things. Love never fails.’—1 COR. 13:7, 8.*

MUCH has been publicized on the subject of love. This quality has been extolled and romanticized in song. Love is a basic human need. But books and movies have often featured it in made-up love stories, and a glut of such material floods the marketplace. Yet, genuine love of God and neighbor is woefully lacking. We see happening what the Bible foretold about these last days. Men are “lovers of themselves, lov-

ers of money, . . . lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God.”—2 Tim. 3:1-5.

<sup>2</sup> Humans have the ability to show love, yet God’s Word warns us against misguided love. And the Bible describes what happens when such love takes root in one’s heart. (1 Tim. 6:9, 10) Do you recall what the apostle Paul wrote about Demas? Though he was associated with Paul, Demas turned to loving what the world offered. (2 Tim. 4:10) The

1. (a) How is love often presented? (b) On whom and on what do many focus their love?

2. What warning does the Bible give about misguided love?

apostle John warned Christians against this very danger. (*Read 1 John 2:15, 16.*) Loving the world and its transitory things and ways is not compatible with loving God and what originates with him.

<sup>3</sup> We are no part of this world, though we are still living in it. Thus, we have the challenge of avoiding the world's distorted view of love. It is vital that we not let ourselves be trapped by misguided or perverted love. For whom, therefore, should we cultivate and demonstrate principled love? What provisions enable us to cultivate love that endures all things and never fails? How does this course benefit us now and affect our future? We need answers from God's standpoint so that we can be guided accordingly.

### Cultivating Love for Jehovah

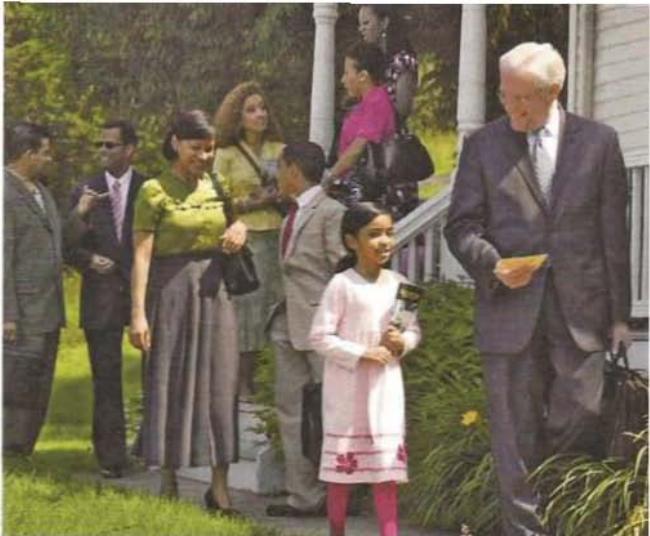
<sup>4</sup> To cultivate can imply to prepare and foster the growth of something. Think of a farmer who works hard to prepare the soil and plant the seeds. He expects the seeds to grow. (*Heb. 6:7*) Similarly, our love for God should grow. What is required for this to occur? We must work the good soil of our heart, where the seed of Kingdom truth was sown. We can do this through diligent study of God's Word so as to increase our knowledge of him. (*Col. 1:10*) Regularly attending and participating in congregation meetings will also help us increase in knowledge. Are we individually putting forth constant effort to gain a deeper knowledge?—*Prov. 2:1-7.*

<sup>5</sup> Through his Word, Jehovah reveals his personality. By studying the Scriptures and progressively taking in knowledge of Jeho-

3. We face what challenge, giving rise to what questions?

4. How does love for God grow?

5. (a) How can we learn about Jehovah's cardinal attributes? (b) What can you say about God's justice, wisdom, and power?



*Love of God motivates us to bear witness*

vah, we can grow in appreciation for his attributes—his justice, power, wisdom and, above all, superlative love. Jehovah manifests justice in all his ways and in his perfect law. (*Deut. 32:4; Ps. 19:7*) We can reflect on all of Jehovah's creative works and be in awe of his superior wisdom. (*Ps. 104:24*) The universe also gives proof that Jehovah is the Source of dynamic energy and inexhaustible power.—*Isa. 40:26.*

<sup>6</sup> What can be said about God's dominant quality, his love? It is expansive and affects us all. He expressed that love in providing the ransom for mankind's redemption. (*Read Romans 5:8.*) This provision is available to the whole world of mankind, but only those who respond to God's love and exercise faith in his Son will benefit from it. (*John 3:16, 36*) God's offering Jesus as a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins ought to stir love within us in return.

<sup>7</sup> How can we demonstrate our love of God in response to all that he has done for us? The inspired answer is significant:

6. How has God's love been expressed toward us, and how has it affected you?

7. 8. (a) What is required in order for us to show love for God? (b) Despite what do God's people observe his commandments?

"This is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3) Yes, love of Jehovah God motivates us to observe his commandments. That is one reason we bear witness about his name and Kingdom, which benefits others. Doing that out of our heart's abundance is an evidence that we observe God's commandments with a pure motive.—Matt. 12:34.

<sup>8</sup> Our brothers around the globe persevere in observing God's commandments despite facing apathy and outright rejection of the Kingdom message. They do not let up in their efforts to accomplish their ministry fully. (2 Tim. 4:5) Likewise, we are moved to share knowledge of God with others as well as to observe all his other commands.

### Why We Love Our Lord Jesus Christ

<sup>9</sup> In addition to loving God, there are many reasons why we cultivate love for his Son. Though we never saw Jesus, as we learn more about him, our love for him deepens. (1 Pet. 1:8) What are some of the things that Jesus endured? While he was doing his Father's will, Jesus was hated without cause, persecuted, falsely accused, and reviled. He also suffered other indignities. (*Read John 15:25.*) Jesus' love for his heavenly Father motivated him to endure those trials. And motivated by love, his sacrificial death provided a ransom for many.—Matt. 20:28.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus' course stimulates a response in us. As we think about what Christ has done for us, our love for him deepens. Being his followers, we should aim to cultivate and keep showing Christlike love so that we will endure in observing his commandment to

9. What did Christ endure, and what motivated him?

10, 11. In view of what Christ did for us, what is our aim?

witness about the Kingdom and make disciples.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

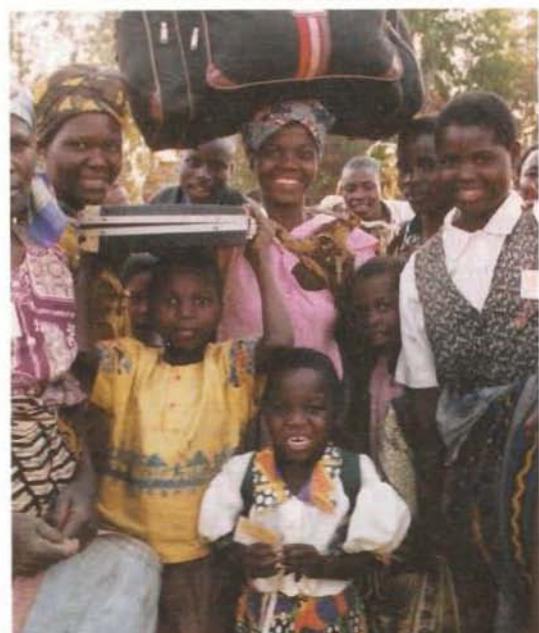
<sup>11</sup> In responding to Christ's love for all mankind, we feel compelled to finish our assignment before the end comes. (*Read 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15.*) The love Christ displayed was central to his accomplishing what God has purposed for mankind. And the model Christ left for us to follow closely enables each of us to have a part in that divine purpose. This requires that we successfully cultivate love of God to the fullest extent possible. (Matt. 22:37) By observing what Jesus taught and keeping his commandments, we show that we love him and are determined to uphold God's sovereignty at any cost, just as Jesus did.—John 14:23, 24; 15:10.

### Pursuing the Surpassing Way of Love

<sup>12</sup> The apostle Paul was an imitator of Christ. Because of following Christ's steps closely, Paul had freeness of speech in urging his brothers to become imitators of him. (1 Cor. 11:1) Although he urged Corinthian

12. What did Paul mean by the expression "a surpassing way"?

*Unfailing love enabled our brothers and sisters in Malawi to endure trials*



Christians to keep zealously seeking certain gifts of the spirit that were manifest in the first century, such as healing and speaking in tongues, Paul showed them that there was something better to pursue. At 1 Corinthians 12:31, he explained: "Yet I show you a surpassing way." The context in the verses that follow shows that this was the surpassing way of love. In what sense was

The yeartext for 2010  
will be: 'Love endures all  
things. Love never fails.'  
—1 Cor. 13:7, 8.

it surpassing? Paul proceeded to illustrate what he meant. (*Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.*) If he had certain outstanding abilities and accomplished great things but did not have love, what would he amount to? Nothing! Moved by God's spirit, he drove home this important point. What a powerful impression he made in getting this across to us!

<sup>13</sup> Paul next defines for us what love is and what it is not. (*Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.*) Now, take the time to examine how you measure up to what love requires. Focus mainly on the last phrase in verse 7 and the first sentence in verse 8: 'Love endures all things. Love never fails,' which will be our yeartext for 2010. Note that in verse 8, Paul said that gifts of the spirit, including prophesying and speaking in tongues—used in the infancy of the Christian congregation—would be done away with. They would end. But love will always be. Jehovah is the very essence of love, and he is eternal. So love will never fail, or end. It will continue to

13. (a) What is the yeartext for 2010? (b) In what sense does love never fail?

exist forever as a quality of our eternal God.  
—1 John 4:8.

### Love Endures All Things

<sup>14</sup> What enables Christians to endure no matter what trials, difficult situations, and problems they encounter? Basically it is love based on principle. Such love goes beyond just giving up something in a material way. It extends to the point of being willing to maintain our integrity and even to lose our life for the sake of Christ. (Luke 9:24, 25) Reflect on the faithful course of Witnesses who suffered in concentration camps, labor camps, and prisons during and after World War II.

<sup>15</sup> A young German Witness named Wilhelm well illustrates this. Rather than compromise, he remained loyal when facing death by a Nazi firing squad. In a farewell letter to his family, he wrote: "Above all we must love God, as our Leader Jesus Christ commanded. If we stand up for him, he will reward us." Later, in a *Watchtower* article, a member of his family wrote: "Through the turmoils of time, as a family we have seen to it that our love for God has always come first." Such is the spirit of many brothers presently enduring imprisonment in Armenia, Eritrea, South Korea, and other lands. These brothers are remaining steadfast in their love for Jehovah.

<sup>16</sup> In many places, trials of a different sort test the faith and endurance of our brothers. For 26 years Jehovah's Witnesses in Malawi endured governmental bans, severe opposition, and many atrocities. Their endurance was rewarded. When persecution broke out, there were about 18,000 Witnesses in that

14, 15. (a) How can love help us to endure trials? (b) Why did one young brother refuse to compromise?

16. What did our brothers in Malawi endure?

country. Thirty years later their number had more than doubled to 38,393. Similar results have been experienced in other lands.

<sup>17</sup> Frontal assaults against God's people in general are one thing. When opposition comes upon individual Christians from family members, it is quite different. Stress may be caused by members of the household or immediate relatives. Did not Jesus foretell that this would take place? Yes, and many have experienced the truthfulness of his words. (Matt. 10:35, 36) Teenagers have endured opposition from unbelieving parents. Some have even been ordered out of the home, but they were taken in by kindly Witnesses. Others have been disowned. What enabled such ones to endure mistreatment? Not just their love for the brotherhood but, above all, their genuine love for Jehovah and his Son.—1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 4:21.

<sup>18</sup> There are many other situations in life that call for the love that endures all things. Within the marriage union, love enables couples to respect Jesus' words: "What God has yoked together let no man put apart." (Matt. 19:6) When experiencing "tribulation in their flesh," married Christians should remind themselves that Jehovah is a key party in their marriage. (1 Cor. 7:28) His Word says that 'love endures all things,' and a husband and wife clothed with this quality

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17. What do some in divided households face, and why could they endure the mistreatment?
  18. How is the love that endures all things a help to married Christians?

### How Would You Answer?

- Why must we guard against misguided love?
- Love can help us to endure what?
- In what sense does love never fail?

are fortified to stick to each other and keep their marriage intact.—Col. 3:14.

<sup>19</sup> Love helps us to endure all things in times of natural disasters. This was the case when an earthquake hit southern Peru and Hurricane Katrina devastated portions of the Gulf area in the United States. Many of our brothers lost their homes or material possessions in those disasters. Love moved the worldwide congregation to provide relief supplies, and volunteers helped to rebuild homes and repair Kingdom Halls. Such acts prove that our brothers love and care for one another at all times and under any circumstances.—John 13:34, 35; 1 Pet. 2:17.

### Love Never Fails

<sup>20</sup> Among Jehovah's people today, we see the wisdom of pursuing the surpassing way of love. Truly, it excels in any and all situations. Note how the apostle Paul emphasized that truth. First, he pointed out that gifts of the spirit would pass away and that the Christian congregation would grow out of its infancy stage and reach maturity. Then he concluded: "Now, however, there remain faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."—1 Cor. 13:13.

<sup>21</sup> Eventually, things that we have faith in will become reality, and therefore the need for faith in them will end. Hope in promises we long to see fulfilled will no longer be entertained after all things have become new. But what about love? That will never fail, or end. It will remain. With everlasting life in view, we will surely see and understand ever more facets of God's love. By doing God's will in pursuing the surpassing way of love that never fails, you may remain forever.—1 John 2:17.

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19. What has occurred among God's people after natural disasters?
  - 20, 21. (a) Why is love of excelling value? (b) Why are you determined to pursue the way of love?

# The Bible Reaches the Big Red Island

LOCATED some 250 miles off the southeast coast of Africa, Madagascar is the fourth-largest island on earth. The Malagasy people have long been familiar with the name Jehovah, for Malagasy translations of the Bible containing God's name have been available for over 170 years. How the Malagasy translation was produced is a story of persistence and dedication.

Efforts to translate the Bible into Malagasy originally began on the nearby island of Mauritius. As early as 1813, Sir Robert Farquhar, the British governor of Mauritius, initiated a translation of the Gospels into Malagasy. He later encouraged Radama I, king of Madagascar, to invite teachers from the London Missionary Society (LMS) to the Big Red Island, as Madagascar is often called.

On August 18, 1818, two Welsh missionaries, David Jones and Thomas Bevan, arrived at the port city of Toamasina from Mauritius. There they found a society of deeply religious people, among whom ancestor worship and oral traditions were central to everyday life. The Malagasy people spoke a colorful language that is primarily of Malayo-Polynesian origin.

Shortly after opening a small school, Jones and Bevan brought their wives and children from Mauritius to Toamasina. Sadly, however, the entire group was stricken with malaria, and Jones lost his wife and

child in December 1818. Two months later the disease swept away the Bevan family. David Jones was the sole survivor of the group.

Jones did not allow tragedy to deter him. He was determined to make God's Word available to the people of Madagascar. After retreating to Mauritius to regain his health, Jones started the difficult task of learning the Malagasy language. Soon thereafter, he began preliminary work on the translation of John's Gospel.

In October 1820, Jones returned to Madagascar. He landed in the capital, Antananarivo, and soon set up a new missionary school. Conditions were crude. No textbooks, blackboard, or desks were available. But the curriculum was excellent, and the children were eager to learn.

After about seven months of working alone, Jones received a new partner to replace Bevan, a missionary named David Griffiths. These two tirelessly devoted themselves to translating the Bible into Malagasy.

## Translation Under Way

In the early 1820's, the only written form of Malagasy was called *sorabe*—Malagasy words written in Arabic characters. Only a handful of people could read that. So after the missionaries consulted with King Radama I, the king granted permission to adopt the Roman alphabet and use it in place of *sorabe*.

Translating started on September 10, 1823. Jones worked on Genesis and Matthew, while Griffiths took Exodus and Luke. Both men had amazing stamina. In addition to doing most of the translating themselves, they continued to teach school in the morning and afternoon. They also prepared and conducted church services in three different languages. Still, translating took precedence over everything else.

With the aid of 12 students, the two missionaries translated the entire Greek Scriptures and many books of the Hebrew Scriptures in just 18 months. The following year, a preliminary translation of the entire Bible was completed. Of course, corrections and refinements were needed. So two linguists, David Johns and Joseph Freeman, were sent from England to help.

### Enduring Setbacks

When the Malagasy translation was completed, the LMS sent Charles Hovenden to set up Madagascar's first printing press. Hovenden arrived on November 21, 1826. However, he contracted malaria and died within a month of his arrival, leaving no one who could operate the press. The following year, a skilled tradesman from Scotland, James Cameron, managed to assemble the press with the aid of a handbook found among the machinery. After much trial and error, Cameron managed to print a portion of Genesis chapter 1 on December 4, 1827.\*

Another setback came on July 27, 1828, following the death of Radama I. King Radama had been very supportive of the translation project. David Jones said at the time: "King Radama is exceedingly kind and affable. He is a great advocate for education, and

\* The Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, produced in Mauritius in about April/May 1826, were the very first portions of the Bible that were printed in Malagasy. However, copies were distributed only to King Radama's family and some government officials.

esteeems the instruction of his people in the arts of civilization more than Gold and Silver." However, the king was succeeded by his wife, Ranavalona I, and it soon became evident that she would not be as supportive of the work as her husband had been.

Shortly after the queen's enthronement, a visitor from England asked for an audience to discuss the translation work. He was refused. On another occasion, when the missionaries told the queen that they still had much to teach the people, including Greek and Hebrew, she said: "I do not care much about Greek and Hebrew, but I would like to know if you can teach my people something more useful, such as the making of soap." Realizing they might be forced to leave before the Malagasy Bible was completed, Cameron asked for a week to think about the queen's remark.

The following week, Cameron presented the queen's royal messengers with two small bars of soap made from local materials. This and other public works carried out by the missionary artisans appeased the queen long enough for them to finish printing all but a few books of the Hebrew Scriptures.

### A Surprise, Then Disappointment

Despite her initial rebuff of the missionaries, in May 1831 the queen issued a surprising decree. She would allow her subjects to be baptized as Christians! But this decision was short-lived. According to *A History of Madagascar*, "the number of baptisms alarmed the conservative elements at the royal court, who persuaded the queen that the communion service amounted to an oath of allegiance to the British." Thus, permission for Christian baptism was retracted at the end of 1831, just six months after it was granted.

The queen's vacillation, along with the evident growing influence of traditionalists

within the government, stimulated the missionaries to finish printing the Bible. The Christian Greek Scriptures had already been completed, and thousands of copies were in circulation. However, another impediment came on March 1, 1835, when Queen Ranavalona I declared Christianity illegal and ordered that all Christian books be turned in to the authorities.

The queen's edict also meant that the Malagasy apprentices could no longer work on the printing project. So with only a handful of missionaries to finish the job, work went on day and night until finally, in June 1835, the entire Bible was released. Yes, the Malagasy Bible had been born!

As the ban was in effect, the Bibles were quickly distributed, and 70 copies of the Scriptures were buried to save them from destruction. This was done none too soon, for within the year, all but two missionaries would leave the island. But the word of God was spreading in the Big Red Island.

### The Malagasy's Love for the Bible

What a joy it was for the people of Madagascar to be able to read God's Word in their own language! The translation contains in-

accuracies, and the language is now quite dated. Still, it is rare to find a house without a Bible, and many Malagasy read it regularly. Noteworthy about this translation is the extensive use of God's name, Jehovah, throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. In the original copies, the divine name is found in the Greek Scriptures as well. Consequently, most Malagasy are familiar with God's name.

Indeed, when the first copies of the Greek Scriptures rolled off his press, the press operator, Mr. Baker, saw the joy of the Malagasy and exclaimed: "I do not mean to prophesy, but I cannot believe that God's word will ever be exterminated from this country!" His words have proved true. Neither malaria nor the challenge of learning a difficult tongue nor the adverse decrees of a ruler could prevent God's Word from being made available in Madagascar.

Now the situation is further improved. How so? In 2008, the complete *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* in Malagasy was released. This translation represents a huge step forward because it is in modern, easily understood language. So God's Word is now even more strongly established on the Big Red Island.—Isa. 40:8.



*The "New World Translation" in Malagasy honors God's name, Jehovah*

