

The WATCHTOWER

Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**

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Semimonthly

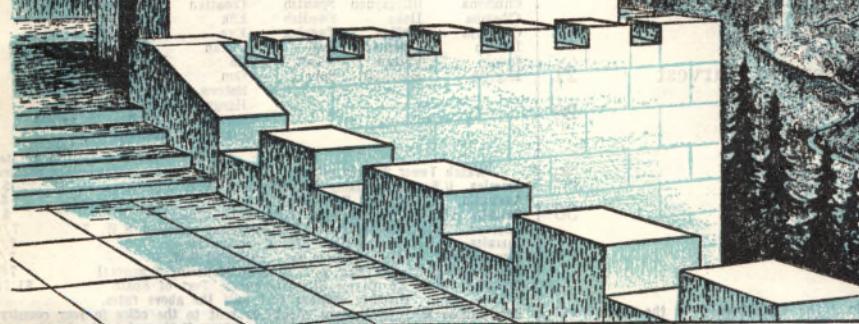
"THEY FOLLOWED HIM"

MODERN UNWILLINGNESS
TO HEAR GOD'S MESSAGE
LEADS TO CALAMITY

THE REPORT OF THOSE SENT
TO HARVEST

WHERE IS GOD?

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"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," SAYS JEHOVAH.—Isa. 43:12

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

Every watchtower has its purpose. It serves as an elevated place for a wide-awake person with sharp vision. It enables him to see far ahead into the distance and tell those below for whom he is a watchman what is drawing near, whether it is a danger against which to prepare or it is something good over which to be glad with strong faith and hope.

Because of having the name "The Watchtower" this magazine justly has to render a similar useful service to the people of all nations. This is an international magazine and makes no racial distinctions, for we are all facing a common world danger; we are all hoping for a common good.

Ever since "The Watchtower" began to be published in July of 1879 it has looked ahead into the future, always striving to aid its readers to advance in knowledge and to gain a clearer picture of the glorious new order of things that is in store for righteous mankind. No, "The Watchtower" is no inspired prophet, but it follows and explains a Book of prophecy the predictions in which have proved to be unerring and unfailing till now. "The Watchtower" is therefore under safe guidance. It may be read with confidence, for its statements may be checked against that prophetic Book.

Among the many nations of today there are hundreds of differing religions. Which one does this magazine present? Not the confused religions of Christendom, but the religion of the oldest sacred Book on earth. Which Book? The Sacred Bible of the Holy Scriptures, written by inspiration in the name of the Creator of heaven and earth, the only living and true God.

The sacred, nonpolitical purpose of "The Watchtower" is accordingly to encourage and promote study of the Holy Bible and to give our many readers the needed unsectarian help to understand that Book of true religion and infallible prophecy. Thus this magazine will be helping them to prove worthy of perfect life and happiness in God's promised new order under His everlasting kingdom of righteousness.

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"They will all be taught by Jehovah."—John 6:45; Isaiah 54:13

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Where Is God?

WAR in Vietnam. There soldiers and civilians die alike. The religious people pray for help. But where is God?

In Iran floods kill forty-two. Epidemics strike densely populated areas of the Congo, and thousands suffer and die. The religious people cry to heaven for mercy and help. Doctors respond in great numbers. Emergency agencies rush in aid. But where is God?

Two world wars have scarred this generation. Jews have been massacred by the millions. Christian witnesses of Jehovah have suffered in concentration camps and died. Crime is on the increase. Morals have broken down. These deplorable conditions prompt many to ask: If God is, then where is he?

Just because some claim that God is nonexistent, that does not make it so. We must look in the right places for things, even for God. Not having found Him does not alter the fact that God lives, that he is! It may be that many people have been looking in the wrong places for him.

People down through the ages have been accustomed to picture their gods as having the same needs as humans. This is because their gods were of their own invention, based solely upon an imaginary foundation. So the Chinese built joss

houses in which they housed their gods; the Arabians constructed mosques; the Japanese designed shrines and the people of Christendom built churches. But do they find God in these structures?

The Christian apostle Paul quite frankly told the Athenians that "the God that made the world and all the things in it, being, as this One is, Lord of heaven and earth, *does not dwell in handmade temples.*"—Acts 17:24, 25.

Think about those inspired words: We are not going to find God in handmade cathedrals, temples, churches, shrines or in other physical edifices of worship. The Great Creator of the universe is not to be confined to lifeless human structures, no matter how lavish they may be. King Solomon, at the time of the dedication of the temple he had built in Jerusalem, prayed: "Will God truly dwell upon the earth? Look! The heavens, yes, the heaven of the heavens, themselves cannot contain you; how much less, then, this house that I have built!" (1 Ki. 8:27) Solomon wisely recognized the relationship of God to earth and buildings.

Moreover, has it not become apparent that many religious institutions today have turned away from the Bible and have become increasingly worldly, even centers

for promoting social or political issues? How can God be found by going to these places?

Some religious leaders today in these institutions deny the very existence of God. A modern Jewish rabbi, a leader of a synagogue, quite boldly admits he is an atheist. Is this man capable of leading his parishioners to the true God? Are those who go to his place of worship going to find God? Hardly.

And many religious leaders, among them Protestants and Catholics, deny the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. Some clergymen, bishops and other prelates make light of the Bible account of Adam and Eve, discredit the Scriptural record of the Flood, scoff at the "virgin birth" of Jesus Christ, his resurrection from the dead, and so on *ad infinitum*. How can these men inspire faith or even point to God when, by their own admission, they themselves have no faith in God or his Word?—Jas. 3:11, 12.

GOD LIVES AND IS NEAR!

Nevertheless, the apostle Paul refreshingly assures us that God lives, that "he himself gives to all persons life and breath and all things" and that "he is not far off from each one of us." (Acts 17:25, 27) Yes, God lives, as his prophet stated: "Are you not from long ago, O Jehovah? O my God, my Holy One, you do not die." (Hab. 1:12) How unreasonable it would be to accept God's sun, rain and the air we breathe and then say he does not exist or is dead! Instead, we should do as Jesus Christ said: "Prove yourselves sons of your Father who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise . . . and makes it rain." (Matt. 5:45) And not only has the true God given us sun, rain, life and breath, but he has given us all things. Jehovah the Creator lives and is not far off.

But where is he? Jesus Christ said he

is "in the heavens." So God's dwelling place is in heaven: "The heavens are my throne." (Matt. 6:9; Isa. 66:1) Solomon stated that God is above the earth, that the heaven of heavens themselves cannot contain Him. How, then, can he be "not far off from each one of us," as the apostle said?

God is near because knowledge about him can be obtained near at hand, in his Word, the Holy Bible, the Only Book through which we can come to know him, with everlasting life in view. There we learn why the earth is filled with woe, why even God's servants are persecuted, and when it will end.—John 17:3.

God is near because God dwells with his people on earth. Not that he dwells personally in people. How could he, if the heaven of the heavens cannot contain him? But by means of his holy spirit or invisible active force, God motivates them to a living hope and to a course that is pleasing to him. He sustains them when they undergo trial. The apostle Paul reveals this fact, in these words: "Do you not know that you people are God's temple, and that the *spirit* of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16) "For we are a temple of a living God; just as God said: 'I shall reside among them and walk among them, and I shall be their God, and they will be my people.'"—2 Cor. 6:16.

So, it can be said that the dwelling place of God in earth is also with his anointed people, people who have his spirit and bring forth the fruitage of his spirit, which "is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness, self-control."—Gal. 5:22, 23.

So if anyone is interested in knowing where God is, the first thing to do is to determine who God's people are. There, in their lives, in their work, in their conduct, you will find the spirit of God at work. There you will find God.

"THEY FOLLOWED HIM"

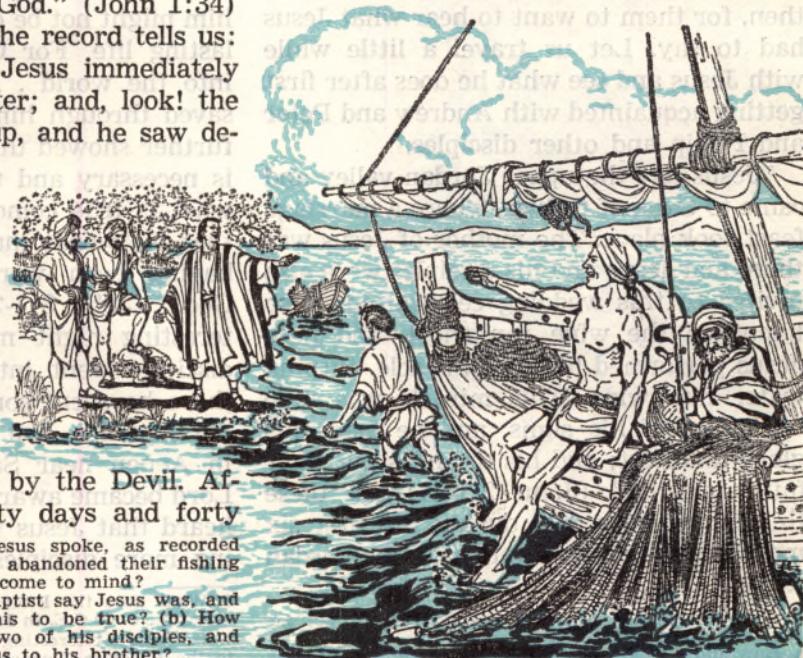
"He said to them: 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once abandoning the nets, they followed him." —Matt. 4:19, 20.

HERE must have been something about this man walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee to make four hardworking fishermen leave their occupation and follow him. Had these fishermen ever seen or heard of this man before? Did they know who he was? Indeed they did! They were well prepared to go when the call came: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." How was this?

This man, Jesus, had been baptized the preceding year (29 C.E.) by John the Baptist. At that time John saw the holy spirit coming down out of heaven and remaining on this Jesus. So later he told his hearers: "I have borne witness that this one is the Son of God." (John 1:34) John spoke right, for the record tells us: "After being baptized Jesus immediately came up from the water; and, look! the heavens were opened up, and he saw descending like a dove God's spirit coming upon him. Look! Also, there was a voice from the heavens that said: 'This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved.' Then Jesus was led by the spirit up into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty

nights, then he felt hungry." (Matt. 3:16-4:2) Now three temptations were cleverly put before Jesus by Satan. However, Jesus Christ remained true to his heavenly Father and finally said: "Go away, Satan! For it is written, 'It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.'" —Matt. 4:10.

Now after this experience Jesus came walking toward John the Baptist, and it was quite natural for him to point to Jesus and say: "See, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!" The next day two of these Galilean fishermen met Jesus. How? That day "John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he looked at



1. Because those to whom Jesus spoke, as recorded at Matthew 4:19, 20, at once abandoned their fishing nets, what questions logically come to mind?

2, 3. (a) Who did John the Baptist say Jesus was, and how could he have known this to be true? (b) How did John identify Jesus to two of his disciples, and how did Andrew identify Jesus to his brother?

Jesus walking he said: 'See, the Lamb of God!' And the two disciples [of John] heard him speak, and they followed Jesus." Fisherman Andrew was one of the two that said to Jesus: "Rabbi, . . . where are you staying?" "And they stayed with him that day." Andrew then "found his own brother, Simon, and said to him: 'We have found the Messiah' (which means, when translated, Christ). . . . When Jesus looked upon him he said: 'You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter)." The next day Jesus desired to depart for Galilee. "So Jesus found Philip." He was from the same city as Andrew and Peter.—John 1:29, 35-44.

⁴ From this we see that John's disciples wanted to get acquainted with Jesus and did. At least two of the fishermen, to whom Jesus later said, "I will make you fishers of men," met him first at the Jordan River. Many people knew what John had said about Jesus, that he was the Son of God, the Messiah. It was quite natural, then, for them to want to hear what Jesus had to say. Let us travel a little while with Jesus and see what he does after first getting acquainted with Andrew and Peter and Philip and other disciples.

⁵ Jesus left the upper Jordan valley and came to Cana of Galilee, where a marriage feast took place. The mother of Jesus was there and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to this wedding celebration. It so happened the wine ran short, and here Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine. This miracle was "the beginning of his signs, and he made his glory manifest; and his disciples put their faith in him." (John 2:1-11) All these things had happened during the first six months since Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River.

4. With whom did John's disciples wish to get acquainted, and why?

5. How did Jesus manifest his glory to his disciples at Cana in Galilee?

⁶ Now it is Passover time in the spring of the year 30, and Jesus goes to Jerusalem. In this holy city he showed his indignation toward those who were turning the house of his God into a business place. "He found in the temple those selling cattle and sheep and doves and the money brokers in their seats. So, after making a whip of ropes, he drove all those with the sheep and cattle out of the temple, and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he said to those selling the doves: 'Take these things away from here! Stop making the house of my Father a house of merchandise!' His disciples called to mind that it is written: 'The zeal for your house will eat me up.' "—John 2:13-17; Ps. 69:9.

⁷ Then one night Jesus received a visitor, Nicodemus, a Pharisee who was anxious to hear what this teacher from God had to say. Among other things, Jesus pointed out that "God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life. For God sent forth his Son into the world . . . for the world to be saved through him." (John 3:16, 17) He further showed that faith in the true God is necessary and that the one "that does what is true comes to the light, in order that his works may be made manifest as having been worked in harmony with God." (John 3:1-21) After this most interesting night meeting "Jesus and his disciples went into Judean country, and there he spent some time with them and did baptizing. But John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim." "When . . . the Lord became aware that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John—although,

6. What does the Bible record say Jesus did at Passover time of 30 C.E. in Jerusalem?

7. (a) What interesting information did Jesus relate to the Pharisee Nicodemus? (b) What is next reported as taking place in Judean country?

indeed, Jesus himself did no baptizing but his disciples did—he left Judea and departed again for Galilee.”—John 3:22, 23; 4:1-3.

⁸ The people and religionists observed this great activity because now Jesus' disciples were baptizing and John the Baptist was still baptizing. But they observed many more were now following Jesus. In fact, some of John's disciples said ‘all were going to Jesus.’ John very carefully explained that he was not the Christ but that he was sent forth in advance of the Christ. Then John made a very significant statement, which showed his real, true love for Jesus, the Christ or Anointed One: “He that has the bride is the bridegroom. However, the friend of the bridegroom, when he stands and hears him, has a great deal of joy on account of the voice of the bridegroom. Therefore this joy of mine has been made full. That one must go on increasing, but I must go on decreasing.”—John 3:25-30.

⁹ Jesus did increase his disciples and many Jews were following him. “Now after John was put under arrest Jesus went into Galilee, preaching the good news of God and saying: ‘The appointed time has been fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has drawn near. Be repentant, you people, and have faith in the good news.’” (Mark 1:14, 15) Matthew confirms this, for he says: “‘The people sitting in darkness saw a great light, and as for those sitting in a region of deathly shadow, light rose upon them.’ From that time on Jesus commenced preaching and saying: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.’”—Matt. 4:16, 17.

¹⁰ Now John's public work was done. He had announced the one who must go on increasing, and after John's imprisonment

Jesus immediately took up the message concerning God's kingdom. Then he went to Nazareth and read his commission from Isaiah, the sixty-first chapter, to all in the synagogue on the sabbath day. “So the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, and he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘Jehovah's spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare good news to the poor, he sent me forth to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed ones away with a release, to preach Jehovah's acceptable year.’ With that he rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were intently fixed upon him. Then he started to say to them: ‘Today this scripture that you just heard is fulfilled.’”—Luke 4:17-21.

¹¹ Not being accepted in his own territory, he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. “And he was teaching them on the sabbath; and they were astounded at his way of teaching, because his speech was with authority.” (Luke 4:31, 32) By this time in Jesus Christ's ministry there must have been many very attentive listening disciples, learners, but none as yet were called to do the work Jesus was doing. He was carrying on a real teaching program, instructing his disciples to be ready to take on responsibility. Now the time came to select and train certain ones for future work. Whom did Jesus choose first?

DID THEY KNOW WHO HE WAS?

¹² So Peter and Andrew and their companions had gone back to fishing. While Jesus was walking alone along the Sea of Galilee near Capernaum, well after Pass-

8, 9. How did John the Baptist testify that the followers of Jesus must go on increasing, and what important message did Jesus now begin proclaiming? 10. How did Jesus show the people in the synagogue of Nazareth what his work on earth was to be?

11. Up to this time, how many were doing the work Jesus was carrying on, and so what reasonably would be the next step?

12. (a) How does Matthew 4:18-22 relate the call of Jesus to certain ones to follow him? (b) What was the response of these men?

over of 30 C.E., 'he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, letting down a fishing net into the sea, for they were fishers. And he said to them: 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once abandoning the nets, they followed him. Going on also from there he saw two others who were brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. At once leaving the boat and their father, they followed him." (Matt. 4:18-22) There was not the slightest hesitation to respond on the part of these four fishermen. Like the prophet Isaiah, centuries previously, in their hearts they said: "Here I am! Send me." (Isa. 6:8) They were ready to go because they knew who Jesus was. This was not the first time they had seen him or heard his word.

¹³ Remember, Andrew and a companion stayed with him one evening, almost a year before, and Peter met him when Andrew his brother said to Peter: "We have found the Messiah." They could have been some of his disciples who were at the marriage feast in Cana. If not with him, surely they heard about Jesus' cleaning out the money changers in the temple at Jerusalem the following Passover season (30 C.E.). The news about his reading Isaiah's prophecy at Nazareth a little while before now and his being run out of town surely got to their ears. Without

doubt they listened to his teaching with authority at Capernaum. These four disciples knew who he was and were ready to follow him. They did not go into this new work as ministers of God without knowing what Jesus was preaching and without believing the kingdom of the heavens was at hand! They were ready and anxious to get into the ministry, as every man and woman should be today who has heard the Word of God and believes in the kingdom of God as the only hope for mankind. Do you have knowledge of God's Word and faith that qualifies you to be a minister? Have you responded to the call to service? You should if you have studied God's Word and associated with

Jehovah's witnesses for a year or more.

¹⁴ Many men and women today have seen the light of God's Word and, in effect, they have abandoned their nets and have followed him. Peter, Andrew, James and John stayed with Jesus in the full-time ministry because these men loved the truth and saw the great need to do the work



Jesus was doing. They had listened with ears anxious to hear when John the Baptist told them to repent and be ready for Messiah's coming. Now they had come to know the Messiah and believed that he was the one sent by God and was the Son of God. They had traveled with him from time to time, but now at the Sea of Galilee the big opportunity came. The question then was, Would they answer the call as Isaiah did and say: "Here I am! Send

13. (a) How could Andrew, Peter, James and John be sure of who Jesus was? (b) What thought-provoking questions now can be asked?

14. How had these first disciples of Jesus been prepared for taking up the call to follow Jesus?

me"? They did, and we today are grateful for it because we have their fine example to follow.

¹⁵ Jesus was still looking for sincere men even though these four fishers definitely accepted the call to be his followers. While Jesus was in Capernaum he saw a man "named Levi sitting at the tax office, and he said to him: 'Be my follower.' And leaving everything behind he rose up and went following him." (Luke 5:27, 28) Later Levi (or, Matthew) spread a big reception feast for Jesus, and reclining at the table with him were many other tax collectors. His disciples were there too and Jesus used this opportunity to give a fine witness to all present. He said: "I have come to call, not righteous persons, but sinners to repentance."—Luke 5:32.

¹⁶ Now, after a year and a half of preaching and teaching his disciples and after attending his second passover since his baptism, Jesus selected from his many disciples twelve to be his apostles. He made this matter of selecting men for such an important position a subject of prayer, and Luke tells us: "In the progress of these days he went out into the mountain to pray, and he continued the whole night in prayer to God. But when it became day he called his disciples to him and chose from among them twelve, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he also named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip and Bartholomew, and Matthew and Thomas, and James the son of Al'phae'u's, and Simon who is called 'the zealous one,' and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who turned traitor."—Luke 6:12-16.

¹⁷ How interesting all this information is! It took Jesus well over a year and a

half to select these twelve men as his apostles. He had gathered many disciples around himself, many followed him, many put faith in him, but out of all of these, after a year and a half of work, he decided on twelve men that he taught, called and prepared for a special work. He did not appoint them to this work of apostleship on his first calling them to follow him, even though they at once left their fishing or tax collecting work. First the implanting of knowledge was necessary!

¹⁸ So it is today. Jehovah's witnesses find many persons in their house-to-house work who become interested in the message of God's kingdom. Studies in the Bible are often started and conducted in the homes of the people, sometimes for a year or much longer. A Christian teacher should not be discouraged because some do not make their minds up to walk in the footsteps of Christ Jesus in a short period of time, say a year. Consider, if you are an active Christian, how long it took you to make up your mind to go from house to house in the ministry. If you are not an active Christian, ask yourself, 'Am I a Christian?' Maybe you are one in name only and, of course, then you do not even deserve the name.

¹⁹ In the case of the four fishermen, they already had a profession. It was fishing for fish in the Sea of Galilee. They probably were doing a very good business. James and John were working with their father Zebedee and they had hired men. So if they hired men to work along with them they must have had a big thriving business. But despite this fine, lucrative business, the two sons of Zebedee left their father and followed Christ. They wanted to be Christians! (Mark 1:19, 20) The fishing business is a very healthy, out-of-

15. Who else was now called to follow Jesus, and what was his occupation?

16. Outline the next important selecting work Jesus had to do, and how do we know this was a very serious work?

17. How much time was involved in selecting the twelve apostles, showing what to be necessary for them?

18. In our day, what view should we take of those with whom we study the Bible?

19. What better work than the fishing industry did Jesus have in mind for the disciples?

doors occupation. As for pleasant surroundings, what could be better than the Sea of Galilee? But Jesus had something much better in mind. That is why he told Peter: "From now on you will be catching men alive." (Luke 5:10) Jesus wanted live men, devoted men, to handle the message he had. They must truly love his Father in heaven, just as he did, and his followers must love one another.—John 13:34, 35.

²⁰ Jesus Christ was starting the Christian work, and these twelve men in their turn must make disciples of Jesus Christ, instructing them in Christ's teaching. He was opening up the only way of everlasting life for all mankind. At his last Passover celebration, the one he kept with his disciples, and at which time he introduced the Memorial of his death, he said, in his final prayer: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." (John 17:3) What a comprehensive statement! To get everlasting life for oneself it is necessary to take in knowledge, and get understanding of the works and purposes of Jehovah God and his Son, Jesus Christ. Where can you get such knowledge? In God's written Word, the Holy Bible. It takes time to read the Bible, but much more time to study it. It even takes more time to be a teacher. That is why these men at once abandoned everything and followed Jesus so as to be his full-time disciples and learn about God and Christ Jesus and so prove to be better teachers.

²¹ Now, after he had chosen the twelve apostles, Jesus continued to give them more knowledge of God and to show them the course of life that all men must faithfully follow if they would gain everlasting life. His twelve apostles along with great

crowds of people who followed him heard his sermon on the mount, as recorded in the fifth to the seventh chapters of Matthew. This was sound teaching.

TRAINING AS EVANGELIZERS

²² The apostles always stayed close to Jesus Christ now as learners, taking in knowledge, asking questions, observing the miracles he performed, traveling from city to city with him, always listening with open hearts and minds so as to take in the good news. Jesus knew that the apostles needed special training for their future work and that the best way to give it to them was to send them out on a speaking tour. After their tour, all on their own, and preaching the good news to others, "the apostles gathered together before Jesus and reported to him all the good things they had done and taught. And he said to them: 'Come, you yourselves, privately into a lonely place and rest up a bit.'" (Mark 6:30, 31; Luke 9:10) While Jesus was primarily interested in the twelve apostles and getting them ready to handle the great work that lay ahead of them, still he kept on making disciples of many others and with good success. Continually great crowds of people were coming to him. At one time he spoke to and fed 5,000 people on the northeast side of the Sea of Galilee.—Matt. 14:14-24; Mark 6:30-44.

²³ By the year 32 C.E., around the time of the festival of tabernacles in Jerusalem, people were truly amazed at this man, Jesus, because, "when by now the festival was half over, Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. Therefore the Jews fell to wondering, saying: 'How does this man have a knowledge of letters,

20, 21. (a) What opportunity was Jesus now opening up to his followers? (b) How could these followers learn about this wonderful gift?

22. Why did the apostles stay close to Jesus, and what was Jesus' primary interest as far as these men he had chosen were concerned?

23. (a) What caused those who heard Jesus speak to be amazed? (b) What were those who listened called upon to do, and is the same thing true in our day?

when he has not studied at the schools?" Jesus, in turn, answered them and said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me. If anyone desires to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching whether it is from God or I speak of my own originality." (John 7:14-17) So those people listening had to make decisions either to accept the message as from God or reject it. The same is true today. Some hearers put faith in Jesus' words and make progress and prepare themselves to preach the same message, namely, "The kingdom of the heavens is at hand." The least one can do is tell others what one hears about God, in one's daily conversations with other persons. All of us can do that much, can we not?

²⁴ In two years' time after Jesus began preaching, many more Jews had enough knowledge to go from house to house and preach. Luke tells us: "The Lord designated seventy others and sent them forth by twos in advance of him into every city and place to which he himself was going to come. Then he began to say to them: 'The harvest, indeed, is great, but the workers are few. Therefore beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest. Go forth. Look! I am sending you forth as lambs in among wolves.'" (Luke 10:1-3) His apostles and these seventy disciples, totaling eighty-two teachers, knew that for them to go out into the world and preach as they were now instructed to do would bring upon them many problems, persecution and trials, but they had faith in Jehovah and his Son, Christ Jesus, to take this forward step. These ministers sent to preach still had the time and opportunity of learning more from Jesus. The cry to Pontius Pilate to

kill Christ would not be heard until the Passover of the year 33 C.E. By that time, though, there were at least 120 who had full faith in Christ Jesus, and forty days after his resurrection Jesus gave to them through the apostles the orders: "Do not withdraw from Jerusalem, but keep waiting for what the Father has promised, about which you heard from me; because John, indeed, baptized with water, but you will be baptized in holy spirit not many days after this." (Acts 1:4, 5) Surely they would get further direction as to what they should do now that Jesus had died upon the torture stake and had been resurrected from the dead and had ascended to heaven. These 120 disciples, eleven of the original apostles and 109 other disciples, were awaiting in an upper room in Jerusalem for some sign from Christ Jesus. The sign came! "They all became filled with holy spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance." (Acts 2:4) These now spoke fearlessly about the things they learned in but a few years because they followed Jesus. As for Peter himself, he certainly would be made a fisher of men.

²⁵ On that day of Pentecost Peter stood up and raised his voice and spoke to a great crowd of people, thousands. When he finished, 3,000 embraced the word heartily and were baptized. Undoubtedly many of these three thousand had listened to Jesus and had been taught by him. Jesus was well known throughout Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee and all the land of Palestine, for he was a great preacher of truth.

²⁶ The life Christ led brought results. His preaching produced ministers of God. What has your ministry for God produced? Have you been a good student of the

24. (a) After two years, how many disciples could be sent forth to preach by Jesus? (b) By 33 C.E., how many had full faith in Christ? (c) What did Jesus promise his disciples, to ensure further instruction and guidance?

25. At Pentecost, how many embraced the word and were baptized?

26. What timely questions are asked for our consideration?

Scriptures and a hearer of the Word and thus equipped yourself to be a good teacher? If you call yourself a Christian, you should be doing what Jesus did or the disciples did. The early Christian congregation showed zeal for God and his kingdom and walked in Jesus' footsteps. How many men and women of the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant faiths today believe like Christ Jesus' followers? How many have ears even to hear? How many preach that the kingdom of God is at hand?

²⁷ In his zeal for the Jews' religion Saul, a Jewish Pharisee, "breathing threat and murder against the disciples of the Lord," opposed the work of the Christians. He was stopped by blindness on his way to Damascus by the heavenly resurrected Christ Jesus. Jesus chose this man, the worst persecutor of Christians, to be his follower and be used 'to bear his name to the nations as well as to kings and the sons of Israel.' Ananias, a Christian, was sent to the house where Saul was suffering blindness, and at Christ Jesus' direction he laid his hands on Saul "in order that you [Saul] may recover sight and be filled with holy spirit." Saul "recovered sight; and he rose and was baptized." He spent some days with the disciples at Damascus and, when he learned the truth and understood what his work was to be, "immediately in the synagogues he began to preach Jesus, that this One is the Son of God." He had the spirit of the prophet Isaiah, when he said: "Here I am! Send me." —Acts 9:1-22.

²⁸ Once Saul appreciated the truth he started to preach and kept at it. It was not a spasmodic matter with him. One time when he was traveling with his missionary companion Silas, he ordered a de-

mon to come out of a bothersome girl. He caused an uproar and both these Christians were jailed after being beaten. During the night they prayed and praised God with songs, and the prisoners heard them. Then suddenly a great earthquake occurred and the jailer feared that all his prisoners had escaped, but Paul assured him that such was not the case. Then Paul spoke to the jailer on what to do for the jailer to get saved. Here is what happened: "They spoke the word of Jehovah to him together with all those in his house. And he [the jailer] took them along in that hour of the night and bathed their stripes; and, one and all, he and his were baptized without delay." (Acts 16: 32-34) Any circumstance was a good occasion for Paul (the onetime Saul) to speak the word of Jehovah, and he got results.

²⁹ Please observe that the jailer and his family, after hearing the word of Jehovah, "without delay" took their stand for the truth. As far as one's becoming a Christian is concerned, things are no different today. A person must dedicate himself to the service of Jehovah God as Paul did and as the jailer did; then become baptized and take up Christian activity, if he wants everlasting life. Just as Paul walked in the footsteps of Christ Jesus and as the eleven other apostles chosen by Jesus did, so we must prove ourselves faithful to God's real worship. We cannot be like Judas Iscariot, who became a betrayer and put material gain first. We, today, must prove ourselves just as faithful as all the early disciples of Christ Jesus in taking up the ministry. This good news of the Kingdom would not have been spread throughout the world today if it had not been for Christians like these.

27. Describe the events leading up to Saul's conversion and what he did after becoming a follower of Christ.

28. How did Paul help a jailer, who had him and his companion under guard, to become a believer in Jesus?

29. What requirements for life today are the same as in the days of Christianity's beginnings?

UNWILLINGNESS TO HEAR GOD'S MESSAGE

Leads to Calamity

WHAT an advantage the world of mankind has today with the Word of God printed in many languages and distributed to the ends of the earth! And, in addition, Jehovah's Christian witnesses of today are anxious and willing to come into the homes of the people of all nations and help them study and understand their own Bibles. But by far those people in Christendom are just like the people in the prophet Isaiah's day; the more you speak to them about the goodness of God and the gift he gave to mankind in his Son, Christ Jesus, the more they prefer not to understand. Even though they see and hear Jehovah's witnesses again and again, they refuse to get any knowledge. They do not want to! So, like Isaiah, true Christians preaching the only worthwhile message, "The kingdom of the heavens is at hand," will "make the heart of this people unreceptive, and make their very ears unresponsive, and paste their very eyes together, that they may not see with their eyes and with their ears they may not hear, and that their own heart may not understand and that they may not actually turn back and get healing for themselves."

—Isa. 6:10.

When Jesus was on earth preaching, he said the same thing about the people of his day: "The heart of this people has grown thick." (Matt. 13:13-15) A few, like the apostles, listened and did something

about it, and "they followed him." The twelve apostles, the seventy evangelizers, and the 120 at Pentecost, and Paul and thousands of other Jews became active Christians in those early days of Christianity. These delighted to do the will of their God Jehovah and walk in the footsteps of Christ Jesus. But how about the millions upon millions of so-called Christians today? Are their ears and eyes shut?

Christendom of this twentieth century says that it is the follower of Christ Jesus, but do you believe it is? Listen to, and read, if you will, about the so-called representatives of Christ Jesus. They certainly do not show the faith in the Word of God that Jesus showed. Today many of the leaders of Christendom want to speak of their own originality and are drawing the greater number of people away from the faith in true Christianity, the faith that Jehovah God lives and faith in God's Son, Christ Jesus. They try to make the great message that Jesus taught concerning the kingdom of the heavens as of no account. And as for the Bible's moral code, they would make it as no guide for man today. The Pensacola *Journal* of Friday, December 3, 1965, reported: "The winds of change sweeping through the Roman Catholic Church are also buffeting the house of Protestantism. Frighteningly for many Protestants, the basic tenets of the Christian faith are being questioned—not by hard-core atheists but by theologians.

1. (a) What advantages do people have today when it comes to hearing the truth? (b) Yet what mood are most people found to be in?
2. Was the situation similar in Jesus' time on earth?

3. (a) Looking at Christendom today, do we find the faith in God's Word Jesus had? (b) How do many feel about the Bible's moral code?

For want of a better phrase, the new school of Christian humanism has become known as the 'God is Dead' movement."

⁴ We would like to ask: How can these theologians say that they are Christians, or even represent Christianity? Or, for that matter, how can there be a religion if there is no God or if God is dead? Some theologians think that by the flip of the tongue they can kill God, get rid of him, and wipe out the Bible, God's Book, where we learn what men have said to God and what God has said to them. Christian men and women with faith in their Creator, God, will not agree with Thomas J. J. Altizer, associate professor of religion at Atlanta's Emory University, a Methodist-owned school, who says, as also reported in the Pensacola *Journal* of December 3, 1965: "We must recognize that the death of God is a historical event."

⁵ Such theologians strongly encourage men and women who at one time may have had faith in God and in his beloved Son, Christ Jesus, to discard the Bible and make up their own religion, develop their own belief and do this without a God. They had better call it something other than religion, because Webster's *New International Dictionary* (1927 edition) says concerning religion: "The outward act or form by which men indicate their recognition of the existence of a god, or of gods having power over their destiny, to whom obedience, service and honor are due; the feeling or expression of human love, fear, or awe of some superhuman, overruling power, whether by profession of belief, by observance of rites and ceremonies, or by the conduct of life; a system of faith and worship; a manifestation of piety."

⁶ Under the heading, God, this same dic-

4. What does it appear that some theologians think about God?

5, 6. (a) What interesting information does Webster's *New International Dictionary* present for consideration by those who would do away with God? (b) What does the same source say in defining "God"?

tionary says: "The Supreme Being; the eternal and infinite Spirit, Creator and Sovereign of the universe; Jehovah. 'God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24).' " It also says: "A being of more than human attributes and powers; especially, a superhuman person, conceived as dominating nature . . . and to whom worship is due and acceptable."

⁷ These theologians who think they have killed God by teaching their theory should admit they are no longer representing a religion and that they are trying to destroy the worship of all people toward the true God of the universe. They have nothing to worship except themselves, and they surely are no gods. So if there is nothing to worship, there is no religion.

⁸ If anyone is going to practice religion he must believe in God; otherwise it is not a religion. Why not close down all the churches that have ministers who believe God is dead, because they surely do not want their parishioners to believe in God? Maybe their parishioners will turn to ancestor worship or self-worship, or perhaps they are gradually turning their minds over to the Buddhist religion, where people hope eventually to gain nirvana, the great nothing which they believe is God. Webster's *New Collegiate Dictionary* (1961 edition) defines "nirvana": "The dying out in the heart of passion, hatred, and delusion. This emancipation involves a beatific spiritual condition and freedom from the necessity of future transmigration. Oblivion to care, pain, or external reality." Are we to believe we came from nothing and go back to nothing?

⁹ Many of the leading religionists of
7, 8. (a) What should the "God is dead" theologians be honest enough to admit? (b) What might the adherents of such movement well come to worship and believe?

9-11. (a) What view does one theologian take of some Bible accounts? (b) What conclusion does one reach by carrying such arguments to their logical ends? (c) How does the apostle Paul outline the Christian view for us to follow?

Christendom are trying to destroy all faith in the Great God of the universe and in his written Word. One example of this is an Associated Press wire of February 13, 1961. It attributes this statement to the auxiliary Episcopal Bishop of California, the "Right Reverend" James A. Pike: "He spoke of the 'myth of the Garden of Eden,' which he said has value in explaining what he called the 'complicated truth' of the nature of man but added: 'Yet I do not know a single member of the Anglican Communion—Bishop, Presbyter, Deacon or Layman—who believes this story literally.' Continuing, in a pastoral letter which he ordered all rectors and vicars of his diocese to read today, he described the virgin birth as a myth which churchmen should be free to accept or reject."

¹⁰ If there was no creation of man and woman in the garden of Eden and the Great God of the universe, Jehovah, had nothing to do with putting man here, then there was no sin to be taken away by the second Adam, Jesus Christ. There was no need of a redeemer and the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. However, the apostle Paul did not agree with or teach this present-day skepticism. He was a great Christian evangelizer, a man of faith who said: "For, indeed, Christ, while we were yet weak, died for ungodly men at the appointed time." (Rom. 5:6) He knew that mankind needed a redeemer to save them from sin and death. That is why he said: "Just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned." (Rom. 5:12) But he also preached: "I have hope toward God, which hope these men themselves also entertain, that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous." (Acts 24:15) Do you believe these things? If you do, you will not agree with clergymen who say that they know which parts

of the Bible are myth and which are not. If Paul were here today he would say: "Let God be found true, though every man be found a liar."—Rom. 3:4.

¹¹ Paul believed there was an Adam who violated God's law in the garden of Eden, and he knew there was a need for a ransom sacrifice in order to take away the sin of the world, and he believed Christ Jesus was that one who did redeem man. So did all the apostles and the faithful followers of Christ Jesus back there 1,900 years ago. The question is, Do you?

¹² What do some of your clergymen say? "A rector told the government of the Anglican church of southern England Thursday the Old Testament contains passages of 'spiritual junk' and 'poison' for the people. Reverend J. C. Wansey of Woodford, near London, called the attention of the Convocation of Canterbury to some of the lessons set down for reading in church for daily use and on Sundays." (Reported from London by Reuters in the Ottawa Citizen of Friday, May 10, 1963.)

¹³ The Buffalo Courier Express of August 13, 1962, had a headline that read: "Minister Cites Need to Censor the Bible." The article reads, in part: "London (AP). Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, former president of the Methodist Conference, would like to censor the Bible. In an interview with correspondents of three London newspapers, he said he would like to go through the Bible and 'be very free with a blue pencil. . . . His main target was the Old Testament, which he described as 'completely outmoded.'"

¹⁴ The lack of faith in the Bible on the part of the clergy of Christendom is very noticeable. Mike Engleman, editorial staff writer of the Dallas Morning News, ex-

12, 13. How do two clergymen view the Bible, as reported by newspapers in Ottawa, Canada, and Buffalo, New York?

14. Give the substance of a report from the Dallas Morning News about the concern of many Protestant laymen regarding the Bible.

pressed himself in his column on Tuesday, May 31, 1966: "Within the United Presbyterian Church is a new organization called the Presbyterian Lay Committee—and behind it lies a fundamental worry of Protestant laymen throughout America: Is the Bible being stressed enough? Is there too much talk from the pulpit these days on social questions and politics, and not enough on the word of God? Declared one prominent Dallas Presbyterian layman recently: 'Most ministers are so misguided, so completely off base and so full of liberal and humanistic thought that they are proving more worthless to their parishioners each day.'" He went on to say in this article: "Modern man today is taking the Bible apart, discarding what it wishes to discard in the Hebrew Scriptures, and in the Greek Scriptures and so they will adjust God's moral code or law to please themselves."

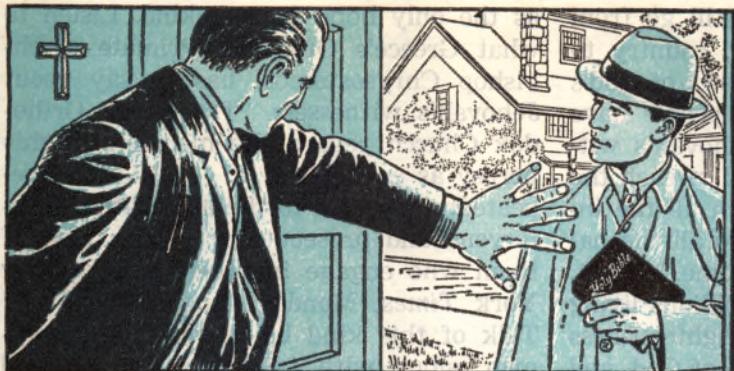
¹⁵This statement is so true. Prominent clergymen of Christendom are destroying the people's belief in the Bible. Is it a myth to you and do you think the Bible's code for moral conduct is outmoded? Are you gradually being weakened in your faith to a point where you will agree with such men as "Reverend" John W. Wood, a minister of the United Church of Christ, a body formed in the United States by a union of Congregational, Evangelical and Reformed churches, who said: "Homosexual love may reach a sacramental level and thus become as moral as heterosexual behavior. Is it proper for two of the same sex to enter the institution of marriage? This is an important question to which I must reply 'Yes'?" (Toronto Star of June 15, 1963) Of course, the "Reverend" John W. Wood is in full agreement with the Archbishop of Canterbury in this mat-

ter of homosexuality. The Associated Press gives this report from London, with the headline: "Cleric Asks Homosexual Legalization." "The Archbishop of Canterbury joined other members of the British House of Lords Wednesday in urging the legalization of homosexual practices between adult males."¹⁶

¹⁶Of course, these clergymen of Christendom think that, if they can stamp the immoral acts of man in the law books as lawful, that will make it moral even though it is contrary to God's moral law. The apostle Paul would not agree with the Archbishop, because Paul wrote: "What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men . . . will inherit God's kingdom." (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 1:24-32; Lev. 18:22) Why do you not follow the advice in God's Word? It says: "Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins."—Rev. 18:4.

¹⁷The Associated Press dispatch from Vancouver, B.C., of May 11 informs us: "A bishop of the church of England has said he believes there are circumstances when sexual intercourse outside marriage is not immoral. Such a circumstance could occur with a couple seriously contemplating marriage, the Rt. Rev. Wilfred A. Westall, Bishop of Crediton, Devon, England, told an interviewer. He said he could not condone promiscuity. 'I don't think that just because a boy and girl have had premarital intercourse they are unfit for marriage.' Of course, clergymen of Christendom with this view do not agree with the apostle Paul who said: "Neither fornicators . . . nor adulterers . . . will inherit God's kingdom." Paul constantly admonished Christians to "flee from fornication."—1 Cor. 6:18.

15-17. (a) To what extreme viewpoint have clergymen gone in their thoughts about morals and immorality? (b) What guiding principle in these matters does the apostle Paul give us?



¹⁸ There is plenty of evidence to read that shows that the clergy of Christendom are guiding the minds of the people away from the Word of God, the Bible. Here we find the teachings of Christ Jesus, which are the expressions of his Father's will. Jehovah God the Sovereign Ruler of the universe knows what is the best course for man to follow. He created man and gave him the correct moral code to live by. By their not following God's Word, look at the delinquent state men are in today.

¹⁹ The situation is very similar to that existing in the prophet Isaiah's day. Isaiah was a vigorous, faithful servant of God. He desired to prove his loyalty to his God when asked: "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah said: "Here I am! Send me." Jehovah told Isaiah: "Go, and you must say to this people, 'Hear again and again, O men, but do not understand; and see again and again, but do not get any knowledge.'" (Isa. 6: 8, 9) Isaiah, by his preaching and continually going to the people, certainly proved to "this people" that they did not want to understand. They did not want to have ears that would listen. The people were too self-centered, too selfish to want to understand. People forced themselves not to hear. They did not want news that disturbed their way of life. So they kept

¹⁸. Whom should we look to for guidance in living upright lives? ^{19, 20} How was Isaiah's day much like Jesus' day and our day?

their eyes shut and their ears deaf.

²⁰ The same things were true in Jesus' day. The Jews had become a delinquent nation. They were forgetting their God. John the Baptist tried to get them to repent. Some did, and Christ Jesus opened their hearts and minds to the truth. But it seems that the more he spoke to them about the real life the more people would close their eyes, and they would not hear. When there were loaves and fishes with which to feed them, multitudes followed Jesus; but, finally, even after Pentecost of 33 C.E. only three thousand showed faith in him. Jesus explained to his disciples what was happening due to his talking to the people:

²¹ "This is why I speak to them by the use of illustrations, because, looking, they look in vain, and hearing, they hear in vain, neither do they get the sense of it; and toward them the prophecy of Isaiah is having fulfillment, which says, 'By hearing, you will hear but by no means get the sense of it; and, looking, you will look but by no means see. For the heart of this people has grown thick, and with their ears they have heard with annoyance, and they have shut their eyes; that they might never see with their eyes and hear with their ears and get the sense of it with their hearts and turn back, and I heal them.'"—Matt. 13:13-15.

²² What an obstinate people they were with such a fine teacher! But Jesus did not stop preaching, even as Isaiah did not. This prophecy is being fulfilled today, for this same situation exists with Christian

21. What did Jesus say the attitude of people would be?
22. (a) Nevertheless, did Isaiah or Jesus quit preaching? Will Jehovah's witnesses today? (b) How do the majority of people feel about Jehovah's witnesses' calling at their doors?

witnesses of Jehovah. They still go from house to house, city to city, country to country declaring the good news of God's kingdom, but not too many people have an ear to hear. Even so, Jehovah's witnesses will do what Jesus said, preach the good news of the kingdom "in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14) A few people out of billions living are thirsting for truth and righteousness and are listening to the Word of God, and they believe. But the vast majority of mankind feel that this calling by Jehovah's witnesses at their doors regularly is not worthy of their time, and they 'hear with annoyance.' The more Jehovah's witnesses speak to them concerning the Word of God, doing this in all sincerity, the less the people want to hear.

"HOW LONG?"

²³ Jehovah's witnesses have asked God in prayer: 'How long must this unresponsive condition of the people toward the message of God's kingdom continue on, for they do not have ears to hear and their hearts have grown thick?' But they always get the same answer from God, namely, that the people will refuse to hear and soften their hearts till calamity comes, 'until the cities crash in ruin and the houses have no inhabitants.' So Jehovah's witnesses keep right on calling despite the unresponsive ears.

²⁴ Many, in fact, most, of the clergy, the priests, the bishops of Protestant, Greek Orthodox and Catholic religions, which make up Christendom, along with all the other so-called Christian organizations, have taken a definite stand against the work of Jehovah's witnesses because they are so zealous in preaching God's kingdom

as the only hope for mankind. Listen to what Greece's Orthodox Primate, Archbishop Chrysostomos, has to say about Jehovah's witnesses: "The Greek Orthodox Church regard the members of this heresy as enemy No. 1. . . . We have repeatedly appealed to the authorities to intervene and prosecute or arrest those of them who engage in proselytism." (New York Times, Monday, August 22, 1966) Talk of this kind by the leading clergymen, along with talk that God is dead and the Bible is a myth by the different divisions of Christendom, shows that they are trying to kill the preaching of true Christianity.

²⁵ Where do you readers stand? Will you listen to what the Christian witnesses of Jehovah have to say or will you make your ears unresponsive and paste your eyes together so you cannot see and your heart cannot understand the Bible? Just what kind of a Christian or person are you? Are most of you so self-satisfied with conditions in this world that you have no time to study God's Word so as to hear what God has to say about present conditions and the future? Paul found an indifferent attitude like that in this day. He tried diligently to preach the good news to all sorts of people, but it seems the more that he did the more people would not listen. That is why Paul said to Jewish unbelievers: "The holy spirit aptly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your forefathers, saying, 'Go to this people and say: "By hearing, you will hear but by no means understand; and, looking, you will look but by no means see. For the heart of this people has grown unreceptive, and with their ears they have heard without response, and they have shut their eyes; that they should never see with their eyes

23. How long will the people prove unresponsive to the preaching of Jehovah's witnesses? ²⁴ What view do Christendom's clergy have toward Jehovah's witnesses?

25. (a) What personal questions are now asked of readers of this magazine? (b) What does Paul say on the matter of those preached to about the truth of God's Word, and thus what can logically be asked of all?

and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn back, and I should heal them."'"—Acts 28:25-27.

²⁶ Is that the way most of the people want to be, not healed? Or do you want to know God's will, be healed and gain life everlasting? If so, study your Bible with Jehovah's witnesses.

²⁷ The terrible situation existing in Christendom today is due to the clergy. They are responsible because they have turned the hearts and minds of their parishioners away from the true teaching of Jehovah God the Creator of man. Many religionists no longer believe in the need of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and now they are trying to make people believe that God is dead. Furthermore, they are trying to remove the fine high standard of morality set out in the Bible and make the Bible of no account. Is it any wonder, then, as Jehovah's witnesses go from house to house, that they are having a hard time trying to establish the peoples' faith in the Bible again? The majority of people today do not want to see the light of God's message; so the people are pasting their eyes shut, and with their ears they no longer hear.

²⁸ What are Jehovah's witnesses going to do about it? Quit? Slow down? Not at all! Their eyes are not pasted shut and they have heard the call, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." From 1919 C.E. till now over a million of Jehovah's witnesses have responded, and "they followed him." It is very important that Jehovah's witnesses continue to declare this good news of God's kingdom, because, when the full end of this system of things comes, "this people" who do not hear will have put themselves in such a definite position against God that "they may not

hear, and that their own heart may not understand and that they may not actually turn back and get healing for themselves." (Isa. 6:10) They do not want to be healed, even if healing were offered to them on a golden platter. Christendom has hardened its heart against God. People want this world, and they think they can preserve it by loving and showing affection for the United Nations organization.

²⁹ The clergy of Christendom are helping to gather the kings of the entire inhabited earth together to the "war of the great day of God the Almighty." (Rev. 16:14) The Devil, who is "the god of this system of things," along with his demons will see to it that mankind in the great majority will line itself up on the side of the unholy organizations of the world and that he has gathered them together "to the place that is called in Hebrew Har-Magedon." (Rev. 16:16) Surely those who refuse to hear the message of God's kingdom and put faith in Jehovah God and his Word now are hardening their hearts so much that they will not be able to turn back, but will be completely destroyed when "the cities actually crash in ruins, to be without an inhabitant." (Isa. 6:11) Why not break away from Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, and study God's written Word?

³⁰ The religious leaders of Christendom seldom agree among themselves as to how the wonderful message of Christ is to be presented to the people of Christendom. Even high-ranking church officials admit that evangelistic methods employed by some are not having much success. The New York Times of Wednesday, September 28, 1966, made this report: "Billy Graham Evangelism Deplored by Canter-

27. Who is to blame for today's situation in Christendom, and why?

28. Why is it important that Jehovah's witnesses continue preaching the Kingdom good news?

29. What is Satan the Devil's purpose at this time, and who help him in this work?

30, 31. (a) How did one clergyman feel about certain kinds of emotional evangelistic preaching carried on in England? (b) What is it time for peoples of all nations to do?

bury, Vancouver B.C., Sept. 27 (AP)—The Rev. Dr. Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury, said yesterday that the Christian church needs some updating, but not the type practiced by the Rev. Billy Graham. 'The recent Graham crusade in England won some converts, yet it made no significant changes in basic English religious habits,' Dr. Ramsey said after stepping off a plane from Kamloops. 'The Billy Graham type of evangelism is not the kind we need in these trying times. We need an intellectual, thoughtful approach—not bursts of emotionalism.' Asked if the church is out of date, the Archbishop replied: 'Not generally speaking. I have seen that in both Canada and England there are aspects that are antiquated, others that are virile and growing. In many cases, there is less conventional church-going yet stronger convictions among those who do go.'

³¹ It is good to hear that the Archbishop admits that these are "trying times" in which we live. But he also points out that his fellow workers are not doing much to help the situation with their "bursts of emotionalism." It is interesting to note that he says Billy Graham won 'some converts, but made no significant change in basic English religious habits.' The Archbishop's observations of England and Canada are that there are 'aspects in the church that are antiquated.' This is undoubtedly true. Their doctrines and theories are based on creeds brought over from heathen religions that existed from even before the time of Christ. If the updating of religion is what other clergymen are doing by calling many parts of the Bible a myth and by saying that we must accommodate the present generation, then the Bible standard is no longer satisfactory to such clergymen. With such thinking, is there any wonder that most people are no longer

going to church? Why should there be churchgoing when all one gets there are men's theories, such as God is dead, the ransom sacrifice of Jesus is of no value and the Bible is not the Word of God? This is the time for peoples of all nations to wake up, tear away from false teachers and listen to the message of Christ Jesus and his true Christian witnesses of Jehovah who believe the Word of God and are happy to spend time teaching God's Word to others.

RESPOND TO THE CALL

³² If you still have a love for God and believe he lives and have a desire to know the truth as set out in his written Word, then study it. Remember, Jesus taught his apostles for some time before "they followed him." But when they learned they responded. Christ Jesus then made them "fishers of men." Jehovah's witnesses are happy to arrange home Bible studies with anyone who is seeking the truth from God's Word. If you are not already studying with one of Jehovah's witnesses or attending the Kingdom Hall meetings with Jehovah's witnesses, then for your own good get in touch with them. If you cannot find someone to teach you, write to the Watch Tower Society, 117 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York, and we will arrange for someone to conduct a Bible study with you in your own home. Now is the time to learn about God and his will concerning you.

³³ Jehovah's witnesses know the call was not to follow Jesus in his ministry for a short duration. Yet, they feel like Isaiah, who said: "Here I am! Send me." He was not sent for a short period of time, but had to keep preaching for the rest of his

32. How can one who wants to love and serve God do so, and what help is offered by Jehovah's witnesses?
 33, 34. How do Jehovah's witnesses feel about the ministry, and for how long do they desire to preach about God's Word?

life despite the unresponsiveness of his own people.

³⁴ How long do Jehovah's witnesses think they must serve Jehovah God so as to gain life everlasting? Is it for just a few years of their lives? No! They want to serve like the apostles and the early Christians who followed Christ Jesus, and that meant being faithful until death. They want to work and continue to "catch men" and gather them together into God's congregation so they, too, can follow Christ Jesus and bring eternal praise and honor to the Creator of man, Jehovah God. No finer work than being a minister of God has ever been offered to any human creature. Seize it! Do not be like the man to whom Jesus said: "Be my follower." The man said: "Permit me first to leave and bury my father." But he said to him: "Let the dead bury their dead, but you go away and declare abroad the

kingdom of God." And still another said: "I will follow you, Lord; but first permit me to say good-by to those in my household." Jesus said to him: "No man that has put his hand to a plow and looks at the things behind is well fitted for the kingdom of God." After these things "the Lord designated seventy others and sent them forth by twos in advance of him into every city and place to which he himself was going to come. Then he began to say to them: 'The harvest, indeed, is great, but the workers are few. Therefore beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest. Go forth. Look! I am sending you forth as lambs in among wolves.' " (Luke 9:59-62; 10:1-3) Would you not rejoice to be like the seventy others who followed him and were sent by the Master of the harvest? You still have time to do so.

IT MAY be we are getting near the end of the harvest years, but while there is yet time we should all work zealously. Jehovah's witnesses around the world have worked diligently during the 1966 service year. They spent millions of hours trying to make disciples of men and women of all nations, peoples and tongues, and with good success. Those who studied the truth in home Bible studies for a period of time, even several years, and who finally appreciated the wonderful work that Jehovah wants done in the earth in these "last days" have expressed their willing-

1. Even though the harvesttime may be nearing its completion, what have Jehovah's witnesses continued doing?



ness to share in the work Jehovah's witnesses are doing. They have declared themselves publicly as wanting to be harvester, working under the Master, Christ Jesus.

² In the 199 lands where Jehovah's witnesses have been preaching during the past service year, 58,904 individuals have dedicated their lives to the doing of Jehovah's will and symbolized this dedication by water immersion. It is true, there were 5,489 fewer individuals who dedicated their lives to Jehovah in 1966 than the year before, but when one stops to think that 58,904 persons made

2. How many were baptized during the past year, and what will they now be doing?

the big step in their lives, it is marvelous. From now on they, too, will be ministers going from house to house preaching that the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near, just as Jesus did. They will also be giving the warning concerning the destruction of this devilish world and of the incoming new order of things under Christ Jesus. What an opportunity is theirs of now teaching the truth to others concerning everlasting life gained through the merits of Christ's sacrifice! These new Christian ministers have now joined the many other harvesters so that the last great gathering of people who are seeking meekness and righteousness might take place. Remember, Noah gathered his family into the ark, and they were saved. Do you want to be saved?

³ Were you one of the more than a million Christian witnesses of Jehovah who devoted his time and energies to the preaching of this good news? How many of the 170,664,897 hours devoted to preaching last year did you devote to the spreading of the good news by going from house to house and conducting Bible studies in the homes of the people? Or, were you one of those who, after putting his hand to the plow, 'looked back at the things behind'? Or, did you find some excuse for not being one of Jesus' disciples? It is evident from the year's report that a number of persons who used to be Jehovah's witnesses found reasons sufficient to convince themselves that they need no longer worship and serve Jehovah and attend meetings at the house of their God. Such ones drifted away. However, there is still an opportunity before one dies to ask for forgiveness and share in God's goodness by returning to the ministry.

3. (a) What interesting questions are asked of Jehovah's witnesses about their ministerial activity? (b) What sobering conclusion is reached with regard to some who have put their 'hand to the plow'?

⁴ If all those who dedicated their lives to the Most High God Jehovah in former years had stayed in his organization right up to and during the year 1966, there would have been a greater increase in the number of regular publishers than we have had. While the annual report shows there were 1,058,675 regular Kingdom publishers engaging in the field ministry each month of the past service year, still this is an increase of only 24,407 over last year. But 58,904 were baptized. Where were the other 34,497 that cannot be accounted for? Allowing for one percent of the population dying in a year's time would mean a drop of about 10,000 persons. But where are the others? Has materialism attracted them? Has the loose living and immoral conduct of the world ensnared some of them? Where is that love for Jehovah's organization and his service that they once had?

⁵ As we analyze the report for the world, as set forth in the chart on pages 24-27, you will see that some countries had no increase at all. Are we to believe that the harvest is over in such countries? No! Because there were some persons being baptized. Even if that baptism were not the case, Jehovah's witnesses cannot stop preaching, because Christ Jesus said: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14) This means we are not done yet with the preaching work, and, furthermore, in many nations there is still a tremendous ingathering going on. Check the report on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Congo (Kinshasa), Dominican Republic, Japan, Nicaragua, Portugal, Puerto Rico and Spain. Even some of the

4. While 58,904 were baptized, what facts are brought to our attention?

5. (a) Just because some countries report no increase, are we to conclude that the harvest is finished in such places, and why? (b) What has been happening in some countries, showing that the harvest still continues at a rapid pace?

countries behind the Iron Curtain had 3- or 4-percent increases. Of course, we have not published the figures of how many publishers are in these nations, due to the heavy hand of persecution upon Jehovah's witnesses there. But the ingathering is on and the harvest must continue. It is not yet completed.

⁶ Because Jehovah's people believe the

harvesttime continues everywhere they have devoted 170,664,897 hours to the field service, preaching to as many persons as possible, and with good success.

In fact, people are so interested in their message that it was necessary for 60,902,000 back-calls, or return visits, to be made to help those who wanted to know more about the Bible. There were 802,473 regular Bible studies conducted in the homes of the people each week. This means that there were over 31,000 more Bible studies conducted in 1966 than during the previous year. What are Jehovah's witnesses going to do with all the people attending these 802,473 Bible studies?

⁷ We do well to ask ourselves this question: 'If we are conducting a home Bible study, with what kind of material are we building?' In teaching the truth to these people, are we building with good solid materials, like gold, silver and precious stones? Or, are we, rather, careless, indifferent, in our teaching and are we using building materials like wood, hay or stubble? A good Christian will not build with combustible materials because then his works would go up in smoke in the

day of fiery trials. Paul said: "The day will show it up, because it will be revealed by means of fire; and the fire itself will prove what sort of work each one's is." (1 Cor. 3:12, 13) It would be most disappointing to a harvester to see his ingathered crop going up in smoke. What kind of builder are you? Do you try to produce real Christians?

⁸ Jehovah's Christian witnesses certainly want to present the truth clearly when conducting their Bible studies and show the people the responsibility

that goes with being a Christian, so that, when they do dedicate their lives to God and symbolize it by water baptism, they will continue in the truth, firm to the very end. What joy this brings to faithful followers of Christ Jesus!

⁹ The printing of the book "*Things in Which It Is Impossible for God to Lie*" in many languages made it possible for Jehovah's witnesses to place 5,382,371 bound volumes. The interest Jehovah's witnesses showed in distributing this book took away some from the time normally spent in obtaining new subscriptions for the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. So, while the distribution of bound books increased by more than 900,000 copies, the new subscriptions obtained for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* dropped by about 140,000. However, by the end of the service year the Society found it necessary to print more copies of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines than during the previous year. The total production amounted to 230,175,323 magazines, of which 118,770,627 were copies of *The*

6. What shows that Jehovah's people world wide have a great interest in the harvest work?

7, 8. How important is a solid foundation in our spiritual building work, and so what do Jehovah's witnesses want to do?

9. How active were Jehovah's witnesses in distributing Bible literature?

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Making Grateful Use of a "Penny."
- The Modern Fulfilment of the "Penny."
- Heavens and Earth Declare:
"God Is Alive!"
- How to Be a Wife Your Husband Loves.

1966 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLD WIDE

Country	1965 Av. Pub. s	1966 Av. Pub. s	% Inc. over 1965	Peak 1966	Av. Plo. Pub. s	No. Public Meet gs	Total Cong's Literature	Total Hours	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Av. Bible Back-Calls Studies	
U.S. of America	302,450	305,481	1	318,559	14,323	269,495	5,242	6,733,119	48,647,551	56,191,950	16,874,977	233,588	
Bermuda	98	97	-1*	107	4	158	2,302	12,229	410	19,302	5,312	114	
Guam	54	50	-8*	55	4	28	1	2,007	9,406	13,858	3,021	43	
Ponape	2	4	100	10	2	136	1	547	10	2,253	1,551	28	
Salipan	3	4	33	6	3	3,203	2	1,437	2	1,207	1,207	14	
Truk	2	2	7	594	3	13	1	148	2,414	2	719	1,149	
Alaska	508	545	7	11,951	635	7,367	13	10,850	1,652	91,689	30,886	424	
Argentina	16,648	11,475	8	17,449	758	13,306	400	276,128	2,149,858	18,014	2,044,667	11,461	
Australia	16,156	16,588	3	8,205	4,806	4,806	176	271,680	2,842,055	23,686	2,764,438	903,357	
Austria	7,505	7,762	3	294	23	211	7	10,775	59,263	1,208	75,556	23,177	
Bahamas	280	295	5	759	20	599	14	6,283	87,150	561	60,883	31,015	
Barbados	719	705	-2*	21	3	36	2	239	1,167,814	13	2,760	2,556	
Bequia	17	22	23	24	2	13	1	173	6,803	9	1,763	2,474	
Carriacou	9	15	2	179	11	81	5	1,513	29,317	110	13,688	9,726	
Grenada	156	159	5	95	10	11	1	133	2,520	244	20,002	9,328	
St. Lucia	86	82	103	88	9	503	2	1,127	21,350	78	7,006	118	
St. Vincent	82	87	7	8,996	288	4,655	157	152,829	1,284,996	10,709	1,539,259	456,383	
Belgium	536	566	6	624	75	599	20	24,838	1,167,814	1,380	1,236,191	56,908	
Bolivia	33,267	37,546	13	40,340	1,464	28,787	811	528,191	5,885,326	35,726	3,950,372	2,122,145	
Brazil	348	49,073	25	50,599	385	34	12	8,438	79,972	508	82,989	26,424	
British Honduras	48,982	49,073	5	41,042	1,578	43,123	6	25,446	7,804,437	41,316	8,840,122	2,946,668	
British Isles	18	23	28	9	5	23	1	844	8,193	46	1,139	3,250	
Aden	243	245	1	252	51	466	9	16,719	102,893	733	90,975	39,851	
Malta	7,209	7,476	4	8,181	474	5,491	196	50,078	1,924,919	1,228	170,749	742,225	
Burma	7,476	7,476	15	18	18	5,491	196	804,735	7,804,437	41,316	8,840,122	2,946,668	
Cameroun	7,113	39,554	1	41,042	1,578	35,271	897	495,080	6,107,650	50,949	5,665,186	1,950,899	
Tchad	237	255	8	836	45	1,066	25	5,369	178,520	116	1,229	1,289	
Central Afr. Rep.	691	755	9	1,088	44	1,180	8	9,030	88,290	1,738	70,200	23,880	
Ceylon	237	255	8	1,153	37	744	20	78,554	953,982	3,342	567,920	370,306	
Chile	3,370	3,776	12	4,112	230	2,276	93	135,160	725,956	5,116	688,520	285,702	
Colombia	3,504	3,805	9	4,002	362	3,643	101	6,810	199,118	168	18,523	4,633	
Congo (Brazzaville)	951	981	3	1,101	8	128	2	6,606	28,705	83	17,772	76,686	
Gabon	73	84	15	101	8	151	1	58,316	1,07,933	2,649	166,514	9,864	
Congo (Kinshasa)	3,737	4,777	28	5,958	181	5,953	58	1,079	11,244	60	15,589	381,191	
Costa Rica	2,644	2,581	-2*	2,665	106	1,194	86	19,231	413,093	413	151,854	146,599	
Cyprus	399	394	14	2,438	17	1,142	13	3,819	61,307	283	26,362	24,018	
Dahomey	951	1,088	14	1,234	106	1,965	25	10,208	389,980	3,342	448,872	236,075	
Denmark	10,264	10,225	10	10,572	317	9,367	219	79,438	1,262,645	3,119	33,018	82,019	
Faroé Islands	27	25	-7*	30	30	49	20	5,159	20	230,492	1,431	1,534,349	532,181
Greenland	20	23	15	2,665	4	52	1	2,002	5,220	55	4,405	2,578	
Dominican Republic	605	2,040	27	2,254	205	1,514	44	68,965	535,389	4,321	2,210	152,698	
Ecuador	1,301	1,421	9	1,575	180	1,667	39	37,540	388,481	368	278,352	3,050	
Eire	238	254	7	268	96	1,354	25	10,687	164,977	1,431	61,886	39,481	
El Salvador	892	959	8	995	75	1,159	20	19,869	230,492	60	188,044	86,279	
Fiji	243	258	6	276	25	246	9	14,959	63,069	479	45,741	20,625	
American Samoa	283	26	-7*	28	5	18	1	3,533	11,388	272	10,059	4,223	
Cook Islands	7	9	1	1	6	1	1	339	1,084	1	630	454	
New Caledonia	6	9	104	4	70	1	5,767	793	17,641	5	207	437	
Gilbert & Ellice Isls.	94	15	104	8	70	1	1	1	1,084	1	7	451	
New Hebrides	12	13	8	25	17	12	1	372	2,042	25	894	804	
Niue	226	211	100	96	8	12	1	7,208	26,876	525	1,746	14,649	
Tahiti	87	93	100	98	8	55	1	7,166	26,876	525	27,451	14,649	
Tonga	4	59	67	6	67	13	1	1	1,469	1	1,469	14,649	
Western Samoa	59	59	59	59	59	59	6	1,469	14,649	38	5,998	4,606	

Finland	9,100	9,005	-1*	9,692	372	8,083	324	111,517	1,227,845	12,897	1,565,693	483,900	5,162	
France	21,281	22,264	-5	23,827	630	11,804	442	512,256	3,437,582	41,685	3,761,040	1,433,712	15,964	
Algeria	51	47	-8*	54	7	57	2	7,874	19,117	613	24,578	7,160	85	
Tunisia	31	28	-10*	32	1	9	1	3,641	1,658,259	49	1,070	1,798	24	
Germany, West	76,393	76,693		78,637	1,974	47,676	1,032	10,275,523	22,747	11,195,924	4,032,003	38,831		
West Berlin														
Ghana	5,358	5,290	-1*	5,401	106	2,510	44	103,404	1,802,631	1,659	475,253	276,350	2,439	
Ivory Coast	8,153	8,941	-1	9,800	425	7,157	264	124,344	3,682	1,659	629,268	7,619		
Togo	146	146	4	1,178	13	116	4	3,977	1,453,140	397	40,159	17,587	245	
Greece	506	505	10*	589	16	635	62	9,662	1,889,916	465	187,628	66,453	784	
Guadeloupe	10,475	10,849	4	11,459	276	3,516	376	79,093	1,459,508	5,256	1,105,435	835,377	5,151	
French Guiana	337	633	18	657	42	236	13	18,995	126,265	941	130,334	52,611	610	
Martinique	185	45	205	11	64	2	20	1,925	9,513	286	10,294	3,810	57	
Guatemala	1,274	1,346	6	1,414	118	1,708	114	4	10,784	45,885	51,885	17,138	289	
Guyana	866	896	3	944	77	602	27	34,395	317,306	1,549	237,870	107,743	1,641	
Haiti	1,080	1,088	1	1,300	111	1,110	31	6,530	300,008	1,234	59,902	110,041	1,959	
Hawaii	2,074	2,152	6	2,306	219	2,244	43	58,665	534,564	7,810	545,409	190,030	2,653	
Marshall Islands	8	6	-23*	4	9	9	9	492	4,457	4,4	700	2,437	61	
Honduras	729	780	7	900	65	731	16	20,149	185,694	1,529	141,118	65,046	989	
Hong Kong	234	247	6	259	31	302	7	6,708	70,643	1,608	73,882	26,126	374	
Macao	5	6	20	7	2	2	2	158	3,797	28	802	1,371	20	
Iceland	80	92	15	98	17	72	3	9,004	32,312	437	33,841	11,679	127	
India	1,982	2,046	3	2,226	196	1,050	68	67,420	481,956	8,206	253,297	160,823	1,936	
Indonesia	1,134	1,232	9	1,426	273	1,689	54	345,491	526,418	2,750	50,283	180,679	2,175	
Israel	89	99	11	112	9	28	2	22,716	22,716	257	10,779	8,132	100	
Italy	9,039	9,798	8	10,278	358	6,693	275	340,945	1,562,063	17,052	1,838,708	686,629	8,236	
Libya	4,444	4,40	-9*	4,43	165	4,030	155	46,904	665,545	2,612	494,632	241,719	25	
Jamaica	4,855	4,910	-1	5,324	165	1,025	25	69	1,568	7	1,167	1,035	3,830	
Cayman Islands	13	112	13	14	1	1	25	309,998	1,309,837	37,160	1,829,225	525,682	3,744	
Japan	3,639	4,111	4	4,336	580	5,721	157	309,998	1,309,837	37,160	1,829,225	525,682	3,744	
Kenya	209	258	23	294	24	244	3	14,250	76,164	597	37,823	27,588	438	
Burundi	8	167	11	167	11	41	141	76,164	3,105	1,703	229	694	18	
Seychelles	3	4	167	11	6	2	2	69	7,703	273	472	472	16	
Sudan	41	35	-15*	39	2	2	1	1,736	7,822	34	1,088	2,487	35	
Tanzania	829	783	-6*	836	76	1,244	27	14,522	209,431	354	16,000	67,439	944	
Uganda	37	37	2	40	10	5,75	1	5,487	19,594	228	10,076	7,795	106	
Korea	5,494	5,602	2	6,005	515	5,763	193	69,675	1,235,204	6,919	627,966	414,791	6,718	
Iran	855	870	12	8*	918	40	1,187	21	38,618	156,654	6	329	64,248	830
Iraq	1	2	100	2	14	2	9	1,090	2,312	117	2,057	1,259	23	
Jordan	74	56	-24*	69	7	101	4	1,23	13,824	1	75	5,375	57	
Kuwait	6	4	-33*	6	5	1	7	7	1,23	1,273	1,273	2,027	27	
Saudi Arabia	112	111	-100	123	3	30	5	325	10,010	8	76	1,321	156	
Syria	110	114	-1*	121	17	191	3	5,07	33,365	486	21,223	11,581	141	
Leeward Islands (Antigua)														
Anguilla	9	11	22	14	2	24	1	420	4,534	25	2,373	9,91	2	
Dominica	138	149	8	159	20	158	2	2,183	41,195	119	13,271	13,743	140	
Montserrat	14	14	17	3	21	21	2	391	3,762	13	2,291	1,326	67	
Nevis	32	36	13	38	5	36	2	20,557	123,268	883	50,770	41,542	615	
Seba	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8,867	67,382	15	3,186	3,831	53	
St. Eustatius	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	287	156	14,468	9,694		
St. Kitts	82	88	7	93	9	148	4	1,496	23,965	162	6,622	5,237		
St. Martin	41	40	-2*	43	5	422	2	8,848	11,714	13	2,291	1,326		
Liberia	328	365	11	391	43	421	176	11	20,557	123,268	883	50,770	41,542	
Luxembourg	367	392	7	432	21	176	11	8,867	67,382	15	3,186	3,831	53	
Malagasy Republic	158	194	23	214	37	136	4	21,872	74,796	2,615	76,715	29,268	382	
Malawi	13,229	15,075	14	16,144	895	13,746	396	71,047	3,477,359	104,806	1,225,014	11,614		
Mozambique	893	1,150	28	1,369	61	1,039	19	8,643	291,830	148	10,816	108,908	1,179	
Mauritius	124	10	142	16	16	133	4	5,457	40,135	260	24,590	20,590	14,597	
Réunion	183	241	32	274	16	133	4	6,603	52,654	316	24,487	24,487	239	

Country	1965 Av. Pubs.	1966 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1965	Peak Pubs. 1966	Av. Pub. 1966	No. of Cong's Meetings	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Avg. Bible Studies		
Rodrigues	3	3	-25*	5	1,705	2	224	3,687	2	1,243	1,190	25		
Mexico	29,332	30,261	-11*	33,518	16,386	1,080	359,205	5,094,855	24,905	3,039,412	1,561,930	25,178		
Morocco	114	101	-34	108	108	6	6,596	31,469	996	32,044	1,186	108		
Gibraltar	13,579	13,758	1	14,570	439	10,885	223	599	3,852	2,155	2,604	46		
Netherlands	13,579	13,758	1	14,570	439	10,885	223	98,720	1,742,861	7,013	1,556,203	637,334	6,414	
Neth. Ant. (Curacao)	211	224	6	247	11	173	4	6,075	39,273	1,111	41,115	16,084	194	
Aruba	137	138	1	151	14	118	3	2,058	21,055	668	7,084	193		
Bonaire	20	20	1	24	2	32	1	4,051	4,051	58	3,294	1,938	17	
Newfoundland	609	604	-1*	660	40	705	34	11,219	11,719	1,574	134,815	36,225	414	
New Zealand	4,335	4,391	-1	4,730	158	3,831	116	53,654	627,737	5,063	760,883	211,398	2,558	
Nicaragua	636	755	21	822	64	527	18	18,438	182,613	839	155,651	64,661	976	
Nigeria	37,392	39,751	6	43,738	2,643	36,908	851	294,580	9,441,999	9,363	961,245	2,762,099	38,185	
Niger	2	132	67	178	9	26	5	1,803	38,830	117	4,161	16,827	196	
Rio Muni	7	7	250	13	4	26	337	5,682	26	477	2,066	20		
Norway	3,886	3,894	210	3,225	4054	150	2,088	129	9	1,799	10	24	490	
Okinawa Gunto	15	15	-3*	19	19	7	38	13,277	1,217	1,217	132,997	29,823	349	
Sakishima Gunto	148	146	-1*	154	16	118	4	3,120	12,690	525	21,891	5,197	60	
Pakistan	5	5	5	1	17	1	17	3,687	37,674	1,068	27,350	14,774	176	
Afghanistan								90	960	21	792	313	1	
Panama	1,336	1,365	3	1,519	122	1,348	44	27,451	313,919	1,307	242,738	113,336	1,719	
Papua	385	383	-1*	426	20	362	11	4,660	68,943	28	20,368	23,784	357	
Manus Island	7	7	10	10	4	4	2	66	66	144	144	263	10	
New Britain	59	72	22	92	3	90	2	2,527	16,333	13	7,028	6,395	128	
New Guinea	247	271	10	294	28	311	8	3,481	75,223	60	16,631	36,179	371	
Solomon Islands	403	371	-8*	443	26	766	9	1,400	91,049	763	102,878	44,208	413	
Paraguay	502	528	5	595	55	55	19	9,254	128,632	763	575,880	40,898	466	
Peru	2,293	2,406	5	2,530	233	3,658	63	135,394	639,612	6,230	296,985	22,997		
Philippines	33,607	33,787	1	36,295	2,742	20,073	1,233	162,044	6,521,275	18,624	2,589,948	1,675,533	23,540	
Portugal	2,539	2,968	17	36,292	82	1,701	56	36,672	505,976	1	2,974	240,421	3,587	
Angola	101	88	-13*	118	94	6	30	1	141	12,174	3,071	3,226	171	
Azores	88	88	-6*	94	2	2	4	979	17,583	2	4	8,039	111	
Cape Verde Isl.	45	47	-33*	52	2	35	1	846	7,476	21	300	3,674	46	
São Tomé	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	979	17,583	109	300	54	4	
Puerto Rico	3,050	3,368	10	3,594	161	3,056	70	164,806	611,788	17,606	853,250	223,117	3,657	
Tortola	16	15	-6*	17	2	31	1	484	3,160	444	3,112	1,042	116	
Virgin Islands (U. S.)	138	140	1	155	5	110	6	8,155	22,682	1,170	35,284	9,387	151	
Rhodesia	9,471	9,498	33	11,273	488	13,573	338	91,492	1,885,306	3,514	252,131	589,297	8,217	
Senegal	66	88	11	98	16	41	2	6,931	36,385	678	34,759	15,040	186	
Gambia	8	8	8	8	4	52	1	1,149	6,750	74	6,171	3,027	40	
Mali	5	5	-20*	7	2	4	405	4,426	37	828	958	958		
Mauritania	511	511	14	572	90	1,197	24	21,609	195,393	1,786	106,452	68,187	854	
Sierra Leone	51	61	10	76	16	118	3	2,730	30,393	53	6,301	9,616	117	
Singapore	174	178	2	191	16	110	4	7,774	39,933	1,239	48,853	14,376	223	
Malaysia	134	136	2	149	25	109	7	62,580	51,005	1,140	5,284	1,032		
South Africa	18,652	18,497	-1*	20,407	1,264	17,150	528	371,007	4,023,495	27,617	1,763,018	1,212,106	16,666	
Ascension Island	9	7	New	1	266	29	176	9	4,500	72,638	95	5,581	19,591	272
Baoutoland	204	204	17	266	29	176	9	8,249	8,249	88	8,738	15,732	277	
Bechuanaland	220	203	-8*	248	24	241	6	285	60,999	29	2,997	1,751	33	
St. Helena	37	44	3	166	8	127	5	7,354	586	33,080	8,268	125		
South-West Africa	150	152	1	566	47	805	12	7,056	149,098	276	36,272	41,431	588	
Swaziland	495	545	13	6,644	250	3,406	80	85,889	913,255	16	351,881	443,948	6,148	
Spain	3,810	4,302	13	4,644	250	3,406	80	85,889	913,255	16	351,881	443,948	6,148	
Andorra	4	7	75	166	9	101	4	114	905	31,949	2,388	475	10	
Canary Islands	133	154	13	514	46	395	3	2,388	15,538	987	12,054	15,157	237	
Surinam	440	455	3	514	46	395	3	2,388	104,698	887	87,620	34,541	432	

Sweden	9,866	9,866	10,175	110	9,926	228	172,637	1,430,085	17,467	2,091,588	609,748	6,398
Switzerland	6,138	3	6,341	127	3,183	129	129,530	788,051	8,805	1,140,902	348,783	4,347
Liechtenstein	8	5	-38*	7	13	69	480	171,043	9	107	206	5
Taiwan	1,068	1,023	1,096	81	667	40	22,306	74,662	3,163	88,755	48,981	616
Thailand	265	1	-1*	279	40	19	11,208	33	2,593	73,200	23,718	297
Cambodia	3	1	-67*	2	20	6	52	1	3,599	10,270	214	1
Laos	15	19	27	24	8	4	11,016	11,638	6	6,359	3,652	50
Vietnam	15	19	27	1,919	94	1,402	38	25,702	2,160	243,734	118,939	59
Trinidad	1,717	1,799	5	56	6	49	2	1,359	104	11,355	5,560	1,831
Tobago	53	50	2,212	4	2,347	208	1,834	48	535,277	248,606	192,633	2,761
Uruguay	2,177	2,177	4	43*	2	2	79	29,766	6	130	261	2,961
Falkland Islands	Venezuela	3,879	26,377	28,300	7	4,395	165	2,317	78	92,084	485,740	263,434
Zambia	26,377	28,300	7	30,738	619	25,315	726	113,610	4,875,097	5,362	264,663	3,895
187 Countries	915,758	940,153	2,7	986,062	45,743	766,917	20,407	17,199,361	4,764	133,054,439	56,693,844	726,635
112 Other Countries	118,510	118,522	0	122,603	1,349	70,124	4,503	385,363	10,300,310	114	683,805	4,208,156
GRAND TOTAL	1,034,268	1,058,675	2,4	1,118,665	47,092	837,041	24,910	17,584,724	170,684,897	1,472,866	133,738,244	60,902,000
										1965	1,933,089	802,473
										11,550	1,977,107	
										11,179	3,885	

* Percentage of decrease.
† Work banned and reports are incomplete.

Watchtower and 111,404,696 were copies of *Awake!* ¹⁰ Jehovah's Christian witnesses had a very delightful year in spite of the fact that it was more difficult to convince people to take a definite stand on the side of Jehovah's kingdom and enter into the ministry. In many lands, like Cuba, Spain, Portugal and especially countries behind the Iron Curtain, the Witnesses had to put up with much persecution and harassment, but they are thankful for their opportunity to serve Jehovah God. In Burma all the missionaries were ordered to leave the country. But none of these happenings discouraged God's servants. They have continued to press on with joy in all these lands. But it is more and more difficult to find people with ears to hear and eyes to see and with hearts that can be turned back to Jehovah. The time of decision is here and it appears that a definite decision is being made by the majority of the people world wide. Even though they have ears with which to hear, they will not do so, and though they have eyes with which to see, they refuse to see, because they do not want their own hearts to understand, and they do not want actually to turn back and get healing for themselves from Jehovah. But even though this be the attitude of mind of the majority of people who make up the many nations, tribes and tongues of the world, Jehovah's witnesses have the responsibility of going forth as God's workers into the harvest. They remember Jesus' words: "Look! I am sending you forth as lambs in among wolves." (Luke 10:3) They do not flinch and turn back. It is their prayer that during the 1967 service year they will find more persons who want to know what Jehovah's will is concerning them and who will want to get out of this wicked system of things. Millions of people know that the situation cannot continue to exist as it is, for, if it goes on this way, mankind will destroy itself. The witnesses of Jehovah want to aid all those they can to know what the Bible has to say on the vital subjects of life and death in order to help men to choose life.

10. (a) Outline some of the difficulties Jehovah's witnesses have met in their worldwide preaching work. (b) What does it appear that most of the people of the world are doing as regards hearing God's truth?

¹¹ Those of you who have read this report and who want to know what the Bible says about our times should feel free to write to the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in your own country and ask that one of Jehovah's witnesses be sent to talk to you about God's Word. Or, if you know where Jehovah's witnesses meet in your city or village, why not get acquainted with them and study the Bible? Throughout the world there are 24,910 congregations of Jehovah's witnesses. The work being done by them in all the earth today

11. (a) What steps can one take to get acquainted with the Bible's message? (b) What conclusion have Jehovah's witnesses come to in this time of harvest?

is similar to the work that was carried on by Jesus. Jesus went about the land teaching and preaching the truth and he found disciples who wanted to learn the truth. In those days, too, many people believed what they heard but did nothing about it. What will you do? Will you investigate? The time must come in each one's life for him to make a decision, especially after reading and studying the Holy Scriptures. When you hear the call, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men," what will your answer be? All of Jehovah's baptized witnesses have made this decision; they want to be fishers of men, and they will be if 'they follow him.'—Matt. 4:19.

Have You Read Your Copy?

"**R**EAD my copy of what?" you ask. Why, your copy of *Life Everlasting—in Freedom of the Sons of God!* It has been four to six months since most of you in the United States, Canada and Great Britain received your copies. If you have not already read it, do so now.

Why? Well, if you do not, you are missing out on a spiritual treasure. That Bible-study aid contains a wealth of Scriptural information designed to aid you as one of Jehovah's witnesses both in facing the problems of life and in instructing others. True, in due time it will be a textbook for congregational studies, but do not wait until then to gain this precious information. Get an overall, bird's-eye view of it, as it were, right away by reading it from cover to cover.

Of course, this book is not only for Jehovah's witnesses. Are you studying the Bible with one of Jehovah's witnesses? Then you will want to read it through on the side, so to speak; it will hasten your progress in learning God's will. Really, reading this book is strongly recommend-

ed for all before they dedicate themselves and get baptized.

A WEALTH OF INFORMATION

This new Bible-study aid contains a wealth of information. Typical is the chapter "Heaven's Way of Ruling the 'Congregation of God.'" To mention but one point: By reading it carefully you will appreciate that in the Christian congregation *epískopos* [overseer] and *diákonos* [ministerial servant] are mutually exclusive terms, whereas *presbýteros* [older man] can apply to either an *epískopos* or a *diákonos*.

In particular have many expressions of appreciation been heard and received for the chapter "The Lord's Evening Meal—A Liberation Supper." For, in addition to treating the subject doctrinally in all its aspects, it makes clearer than it has ever been made before just who should partake of the Memorial emblems and how one can judge with certainty for himself.

In other chapters the book makes clear just what Jesus Christ meant by saying

that Christians "are no part of the world," also what is meant by Paul's saying that Christians 'present their bodies to God,' and how these principles should affect choice of employment and your attitude toward political activities in your community as well as conflicts between nations.—John 17:16; Rom. 12:1.

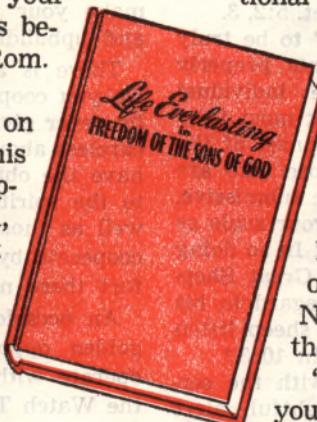
Among the many fine points on which new light is shed in this new Bible-study aid is the proper application of 1 Peter 3:21, which reads, in part: "That which corresponds to this is also now saving you, namely, baptism." What is the baptism to which this refers?

What is the salvation? Is it being saved at Armageddon?

Then, again, why is it not correct to say that Jesus' baptism symbolized his dedication to do his Father's will? And did Jesus' going down into the water and coming out of it picture his death and resurrection? If not, why not? Read the book and find out.

But, without a doubt, nothing has created more interest in this textbook than the first chapter with its chart and fine information regarding the 7,000 years of God's rest day. The observation that 1975 may well mark the beginning of mankind's great Jubilee has intrigued many.

The question, however, remains: How can you find time to read this fine Bible-study aid? It may be said to be largely a matter of appreciation and organization. Some managed to read the book through on their vacations this past summer. For others the problem may be solved simply by buying out time from watching television for reading the *Life Everlasting* book. (Eph. 5:15, 16) Or it



may be that you can make better use of certain time in your busy schedule. For instance, do you travel to and from work each day by bus, subway or train, or several times a week to and from congregational meetings? Then why not take a pocket-sized edition of *Life Everlasting* with you and read it?

Or could you and your family spend ten or fifteen minutes right after the evening meal each day reading it? Regarding this, the president of the Watch Tower Society, N. H. Knorr, recently received the following letter:

"My family and I wish to thank you for the wonderful suggestion you gave this summer at our District Assembly in Montreal, concerning reading the *Life Everlasting* book while still seated at the supper table. This new-found time enabled us to finish the book in two months, giving us a wealth of knowledge, and being more fully equipped for our ministry. We are now using this time reading other publications of the Society, which have been neglected by us in the past. Thank you, Brother Knorr, for having brought this new-found time to our attention—time which was otherwise idled away."

Time is precious, use it wisely. If you have a copy of *Life Everlasting—in Freedom of the Sons of God* you have a marvelous book in your possession. Time used to give it at least a quick preliminary reading is time well spent. When you come to something new to you, you may want to slow down and make it your own, but do not put off your first reading of the book for lack of time to study it thoroughly. Make time to read it now!

COOPERATE AS A FLOCK WITH SERVANT LEADERSHIP

WHAT many responsibilities fall to the shepherds comprising the servant leadership in the congregations of God's people! These shepherds have the obligation of taking the lead in the field ministry, of setting a fine example in conduct and in caring for their families; and they have the obligation to feed and protect the flock of God.—1 Pet. 5:2, 3.

For both shepherds and "sheep" to be truly happy, not only must the servants properly discharge their duties, but the individual "sheep" of the congregational flock must fully cooperate. They must heed the counsel of the apostle Paul: "Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will render an account." In so doing you are showing regard for the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who said in regard to his followers' response to him: "The sheep listen to his voice."—Heb. 13:17, 20; John 10:3.*

How can you fully cooperate with the servant leadership? By being thoughtful, alert and ready to do your part. For example, there is the simple matter of coming to meetings on time, also preparing for meetings in advance and then giving others the benefit of your preparation by freely speaking up as opportunity affords. Willingness to cooperate is also shown by engaging regularly in the field ministry and reporting promptly. Nor to be overlooked is contributing financially to the upkeep of the Kingdom Hall, as well as helping to keep it clean.—Heb. 13:7.

* For details see *The Watchtower*, March 1, May 1, 1966.

Do You Remember?

How carefully have you read recent issues of *The Watchtower*? Do you recall these outstanding points?

- If someone gets involved in an act of serious sin, why should he seek mature Christian help?

Primarily because the Bible wisely counsels him to do so. Additionally, if he fails to do this he may become irreformable or may, out of fear of being discovered, draw away from Jehovah's organization.—Pp. 540, 541.*

- What type of sins definitely ought to be

Then there is the opportunity to cooperate in the matter of assignments for parts on the program for the various meetings, the theocratic ministry school, service meetings and others. When scheduled to have a part, are you always on hand or do you fail to show up at times? Do you do your best to make your part on the program interesting and upbuilding?—1 Tim. 4:13-16.

There is also the matter of your conduct. Do you cooperate with the servant leadership by never giving them concern because of being careless about your morals? Since the servants have the obligation to give personal attention to the spiritually weak, immature or sick, as well as those physically incapacitated, do you cooperate by doing your part to aid and comfort these needy ones?—Rom. 15:1, 2.

An occasion in which there especially is a golden opportunity for all the flock to cooperate with the servant leadership is when the Watch Tower Society's traveling representative, the circuit servant, visits the congregation. Do you give him full cooperation? Do you volunteer to work with him in the field? Do you volunteer to extend to him Christian hospitality? Do you attend all the meetings?—1 Pet. 4:9.

Love, as well as empathy, will enable you to do these things. In all such ways the individual members of the congregational flocks can cooperate with servant leadership, to Jehovah's praise and to the mutual happiness of all.

brought to the attention of the congregation committee, even though some counsel has already been given by another mature Christian brother?

Any sin of the type mentioned at 1 Corinthians 5:11, if it has been committed repeatedly. Sexual immorality involving other persons, whether committed by adults or baptized minors, even if committed only once. Any serious sin that has become public knowledge.—P. 541.

- Who were foreshadowed by the ancient patriarch Job?

As his name showed, Job was an "object

* All references are to *The Watchtower* for 1966.

of hostility." Jesus Christ, the Greater Job, became the object of hostility from religious groups in his day. The modern-day remnant of spiritual Israel, because of their integrity to God, have come under similar reproach from religious enemies.—Pp. 553, 554.

- In the modern-day fulfillment, who are pictured by Job's three false comforters?

The religious clergy and leaders of Christendom who have misrepresented and opposed God's servants.—P. 557.

- Who bears the primary responsibility for making decisions as to activity in which minors may or may not engage?

God has assigned that responsibility to the father; if there is no father in the home, then the mother bears that load. Of course, what God's Word says about right conduct should always be followed.—P. 573.

- What fine results can come about when a Christian endures under persecution?

It can strengthen the individual spiritually, be a source of strength to fellow believers and serve to honor Jehovah's name.—Pp. 598, 599.

- What has God's kingdom been doing since 1914?

It has taken action against its heavenly enemies, resulting in Satan's ouster from

heaven; it has caused worldwide proclamation of its installation to be made and protected the anointed ambassadors making that proclamation; it has gathered willing subjects who have joined in preaching the good news of the Kingdom.—Pp. 620-625.

- What are the precious fire-resistant materials with which Jehovah's witnesses endeavor to build true Christians?

They are godly qualities such as spiritual discernment, devotion to Bible principles, respect for Jehovah's laws, and fearless willingness to witness about the Messianic kingdom.—P. 661.

- What "truth" is it that Jesus meant when he said, "The truth will set you free," and in what way could people be free?

It is not truth in general, but it is the truth that comes from Jehovah through Jesus. The freedom he spoke about was freedom from sin and death.—Pp. 716, 717.

- What did Isaiah want to know when he asked, "How long, O Jehovah?"

He was not asking as to how long he must preach, but, rather, how long Jehovah would permit the bad spiritual condition of Israel to continue. The answer was, "Until the cities actually crash in ruins."—Pp. 750, 751.



- What qualifications should a person have in order to qualify as a book study conductor in a congregation of Jehovah's witnesses?
—A. S., U.S.A.

The Bible sets the standard. Whenever a brother is being recommended by the congregation service committee as a servant, they ought to open the Bible and view the individual in the light of what it says. First Timothy chapter 3, verses 1 through 7, discusses the overseer; then, starting in verse 8 is information about "ministerial servants," who include the congregation book study conductors.

Notice what it says: "Ministerial servants should likewise be serious, not double-tongued,

not giving themselves to a lot of wine, not greedy of dishonest gain, holding the sacred secret of the faith with a clean conscience." If, as the apostle Paul says here, the man is "serious" and holds "the sacred secret of the faith with a clean conscience," he will be a person who is conscientious about the ministry, one who manifests exemplary spirituality. This is important, because it is the responsibility of the book study conductor to help build up the spirituality of each one in the group to which he is assigned.

In verse 10 the apostle Paul goes on to say: "Also, let these be tested as to fitness first, then let them serve as ministers, as they are free from accusation." It is not wise to be in a hurry about recommending anyone about whom there is any doubt. Let him "be tested as to fitness first"; before he is appointed, let him show that his decisions are always firmly based on the Scriptures. If there is some doubt about whether his secular work sets a good example for others, or if there is some other situation that raises questions, it is not neces-

sary to write to the Watch Tower Society to ask if it is permissible to recommend him. Just follow the Scriptural admonition that he should be "free from accusation." If he is not, then he should not be recommended for appointment by the Society to shepherd the flock of God.

The next verse says: "Women should likewise be serious, not slanderous, moderate in habits, faithful in all things." Not that they were the ones who would be appointed as ministerial servants, however; because in the twelfth verse Paul says that the ministerial servants, if married, would be husbands. So this comment in verse 11 is simply pointing out that the sisters in the congregation too should endeavor to measure up to this fine Bible standard. While sisters are not appointed as ministerial servants, they may be asked to serve as substitutes until such time as there are qualified men available in the congregation.

Continuing in verses 12, 13, we read: "Let ministerial servants be husbands of one wife, presiding in a fine manner over children and their own households. For the men who minister in a fine manner are acquiring for them-

selves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus."

So, you see, a high standard is set for these ministerial servants. When a brother is being recommended, then, it is evident that the committee is obligated to do more than simply review the report on his Publisher's Record card and have a casual chat about the individual. God's Word must light the way. It is a fine thing to keep the congregation book study groups moderate in size, but mere numbers in attendance are not the primary consideration in determining whether a new group should be formed. It is of far greater importance to be sure that there is a Scripturally qualified brother available to care for the new group. For a time the group may be larger than we might prefer, but the time can be well used to train as assistants those who show good potential until they meet the Bible's standard. Though there are a variety of factors to consider in organizing the congregation book studies, what the Bible says about who is qualified to serve always outweighs other considerations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIELD MINISTRY

Jehovah's witnesses carry on their ministry in an organized way, under the direction of their Fine Shepherd and Jehovah's Principal Servant, Jesus Christ. In harmony with Jesus' own instructions, those in the congregations of Jehovah's witnesses who take the lead are not an exalted clergy class, but the servants of their Christian brothers. Together, as a united group, they cooperate in announcing Jehovah's kingdom. During January they will be doing this from house to house by offering to interested persons this Bible magazine, *The Watchtower*, which, as its front cover shows, is devoted to "Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom." A year's subscription, along with three Bible booklets, will be offered for \$1.

ARE YOU GATHERED TO THE RIGHT HAND?

Did you know that Jehovah's judgments are filling the earth in our day? All individuals are being gathered to the right hand of favor of his King-Son or are being abandoned at his left for destruction. Those who have re-

ceived favorable estimate are commissioned to share in the program of proclaiming Jehovah's judgment message. You will want to know how far this dividing work has progressed and what still lies ahead for us. Send for the report of worldwide activity of Jehovah's witnesses as contained in the 1967 *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*. Send for the 1967 calendar colorfully depicting the response to Jesus' call for preachers. *Yearbook*, 50c; calendar, 25c. Send today.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

- January 29: "They Followed Him," ¶1-25. Page 5. Songs to Be Used: 3, 4.
- February 5: "They Followed Him," ¶26-29, and Modern Unwillingness to Hear God's Message Leads to Calamity, ¶1-22. Page 11. Songs to Be Used: 10, 9.
- February 12: Modern Unwillingness to Hear God's Message Leads to Calamity, ¶23-34, and The Report of Those Sent to Harvest. Page 18. Songs to Be Used: 24, 11.