

## Hail Jehovah's Firstborn!

<sup>1</sup> On Sunday, Nisan 9, 33 C.E., a great crowd with palm branches in their hands hailed Jehovah's firstborn Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as "the One coming as the King in Jehovah's name!" (Luke 19:38; Heb. 1:6) On Monday and Tuesday, Nisan 10 and 11, Jesus was intensely occupied with his public ministry, making those final days among the busiest of his earthly life.

<sup>2</sup> Today, an even greater crowd with figurative palm branches in hand cry out with a loud voice: "Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Rev. 7:9, 10) On March 26, we will meet to celebrate the Memorial of Christ's death. As that date approaches, can we intensify our efforts in the ministry and thus add to this global shout of praise?

<sup>3</sup> **Increase Field Activity:** Many publishers have already enrolled as auxiliary pioneers during March. Would you like to join them? If so, turn in your application without delay. One of the elders will be happy to answer

any questions you may have about the work.

<sup>4</sup> Whether you can serve as an auxiliary pioneer or not, you will want to have a full share in the ministry during March. The congregation may be able to arrange for group witnessing every day during the month. Sufficient territory should be set aside for that purpose.

<sup>5</sup> All congregations should arrange for a special meeting for field service for Saturday, March 26. Although there is much to do in preparation for the Memorial, it is recommended that everyone who is able to do so engage in the field ministry on Saturday morning. In addition to working from house to house, be sure that those you have invited to attend the Memorial have transportation and that they have the time and place of the meeting clearly in mind.

<sup>6</sup> **Invite and Encourage Others:** Jesus commanded his followers: "Keep doing this in remembrance of me."

(1 Cor. 11:24) As Jesus' anointed footstep followers obey that command, every servant of Jehovah is invited to attend and observe the Memorial celebration. Among others, you should invite Bible students, relatives, those with whom you have had Bible discussions, unbelieving mates, and business acquaintances. Make a list so that no one is overlooked.

<sup>7</sup> There will be additional opportunities for encouraging interested people at the Memorial itself. Be sure to arrive early so that you can greet new ones who are attending for the first time. If several of your Bible students attend, it may be practical for another publisher to sit with some of them during the meeting. Invite newcomers to attend the congregation's regular Public Meeting. The elder selected to present the public talk should be well prepared to deliver a stimulating discourse.

<sup>8</sup> At the conclusion of the Memorial celebration, as we join our voices in singing song 105, "Hail Jehovah's Firstborn!" may we be able to look back with satisfaction on a zealous month of theocratic activity to Jehovah's praise!

## Fully Support Your Congregation's Public Meeting Program

<sup>1</sup> Some years ago a young man found a handbill advertising the meetings of the local congregation. Since he was looking for the truth, he decided to attend the Public Meeting that very Sunday, arriving at the hall well in advance. A publisher warmly greeted him and, during the course of the conversation, offered him a Bible study, which he declined. However, he was so impressed by the well-prepared public talk that he changed his mind, and after the meeting he accepted the study. This young man made rapid progress and was baptized several months later. We can learn at least three helpful lessons from this experience.

<sup>2</sup> First, the Public Meeting had been advertised. Do you use printed handbills to advertise your congregation's meeting program? As the chairman announces the title of the public talk to be delivered the following week, think of those in your territory who

may be especially interested in the subject, whether they are currently reading our literature or not. Some people do not like to read, or they read with great difficulty, but they may be willing to listen to a talk on a Scriptural topic.

<sup>3</sup> Second, the newcomer was given a warm welcome. If you plan to arrive at the hall as early as possible, you can greet your brothers and sisters as well as any interested ones. (Heb. 10:24) If a newcomer is attending for the first time, he may not know what to expect. Explain that our meetings begin with song and prayer, and tell him how the meeting will be conducted. If appropriate, invite him to sit with you so that you can share your Bible and songbook with him. Invite him to discuss with you any questions he may have once the meeting has been concluded.

<sup>4</sup> Third, the talk was well prepared. Those who are privileged to represent

the congregation as public speakers spend many hours preparing and rehearsing the material in order to incite the audience to greater love and fine works. All of us are under pressure today, and the refreshing truths from God's Word are just what we need to help us endure. Of course, no matter how informative the public talk may be, it will be of little value to us personally unless we pay close attention to what is said. Do you occasionally have difficulty concentrating during the talk? It may be helpful to make brief notes, just as we often do during our conventions. Be sure to follow along in your Bible as each Scripture text is read and explained.

<sup>5</sup> The Society has provided public talks on a wide variety of Scriptural subjects. Working through the presiding overseer or a brother designated by him, the body of elders coordinates the congregation's Public Meeting program. Subjects outlined by the Society are selected to address current local needs. Do not miss any of this vital information, and fully support your congregation's weekly Public Meeting.



## SERVICE MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

### Week Starting February 7

Song 131

**15 min:** Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Feature magazine presentation based on current issues. Review main points in Question Box.

**18 min:** "Develop Interest in God's Kingdom of Peace." Discussion of article with audience. Two demonstrations. After considering paragraph 2, show how to offer tract to householder who is busy. Have publisher respectfully ask question that will lay foundation for return visit. Demonstrate presentation in paragraph 3 in which householder shows interest and publisher uses brochure. Again, groundwork should be laid for return visit.

**12 min:** Benefit From 1994 Yearbook. Drawing upon information in 1994 Yearbook, pages 10-18, elder and ministerial servant discuss points of encouragement that can be used to build up appreciation for theocratic organization. Song 137 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting February 14

Song 126

**10 min:** Local announcements. Ac-

counts report. Relate Society's expressions of appreciation for donations sent, and commend congregation for loyal support of local congregation needs. Encourage participation in weekend field activity, and outline any special field service arrangements for holiday on February 21.

**20 min:** "Stimulate Growth Through Meaningful Return Visits." Question-and-answer discussion. Have demonstration of return visit based on presentation in paragraph 3. Highlight need for discernment in not covering too much material during visit, and stress importance of instilling interest in future visit.

**15 min:** "Objects of Hatred by All the Nations." Talk by experienced elder. Song 122 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting February 21

Song 198

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

**15 min:** "Hail Jehovah's Firstborn!" Question-and-answer coverage of article. Warm, enthusiastic presentation by elder, encouraging all to make list of individuals they will invite to attend Memorial and next regular public talk.

in agreement that something needs to be done, one of the elders, perhaps a member of the Congregation Service Committee, should prepare a written resolution for presentation at the Service Meeting.

The elder acting as chairman should briefly but clearly explain the need that exists and what the body of elders recommends to care for it. The congregation is then given opportunity to ask pertinent questions. If the matter is complicated, it may be best to delay the vote until the next Service Meeting to give everyone time to think about it. The actual vote is taken by a show of hands.

Voting on the resolution is limited to dedicated and baptized members of the congregation unless legal requirements direct otherwise, as may be the case when corporation matters or Kingdom Hall loans are involved. It would not be appropriate for visitors from other congregations to participate.

After the resolution has been approved, it should be dated, signed, and placed in the congregation file.

Demonstrate points made in paragraph 7. Have publisher approach person who enters Kingdom Hall and looks around. Publisher learns that man was encouraged to attend by relative who lives in another city. Publisher invites man to sit with him and his family so that they can share Bible and songbook. Publisher offers to answer any questions that man might have after the meeting. Conclude part by announcing time congregation will celebrate Memorial.

**10 min:** The Bible—Our Best Source of Encouragement. *Reasoning* book, pages 117-21. Talk by elder. Many inside and outside the congregation are in need of encouragement. Show how each publisher in congregation can use God's Word to encourage others.

**15 min:** "How Beneficial to Recount What Jehovah Has Done!" Question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 1-11 of this article in insert. Have two prepared comments by brothers who have personal or family program for reading book. Ask them to mention something they appreciated learning. Song 208 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting February 28

Song 219

**5 min:** Local announcements. Outline literature offer for March.

**15 min:** "How Beneficial to Recount What Jehovah Has Done!" Question-and-answer consideration of paragraphs 12-20 of insert. Have two prepared expressions from publishers who have benefited from reading book.

**15 min:** "Fully Support Your Congregation's Public Meeting Program." A talk, but may include one or two questions directed to audience. Explain how interested people attending Public Meeting for first time can be made to feel welcome. Have one prepared comment from publisher expressing how he has benefited from attending the Public Meeting regularly.

**10 min:** "Guard Against Mistaken Kindness." A talk.

Song 197 and concluding prayer.

## QUESTION BOX

■ What procedure should be followed when presenting resolutions to the congregation?

A resolution is required when a decision must be made about important matters such as purchasing property, remodeling or building a Kingdom Hall, sending special contributions to the Society, or caring for the circuit overseer's expenses. It is usually best to present a resolution for approval each time congregation funds are dispensed.

As an exception, the congregation might resolve once to contribute a specific amount each month to the Society in addition to what each individual is contributing toward the worldwide preaching work already. Also, normal Kingdom Hall operating expenses, such as utilities and cleaning supplies, do not require a resolution.

When a need becomes evident, the body of elders should discuss the matter thoroughly. If the majority are

## THEOCRATIC NEWS

**Estonia:** There were 1,753 publishers reporting service for September. This was a 24-percent increase over last year's monthly average.

**Turkey:** The "Divine Teaching" District Convention was attended by 1,510, and 44 symbolized their dedication. There was a fine report on local television about the convention.



# "Objects of Hatred by All the Nations"

<sup>1</sup> In recent years all of us have rejoiced to hear thrilling reports about marvelous blessings experienced by Jehovah's people around the world. Legalization of the work in Malawi after 26 years of brutal oppression moved us to tears of joy. We heaved a sigh of relief when we witnessed the collapse of godless Communism in Eastern Europe that resulted in the freeing of literally thousands of our brothers from its oppressive yoke. We watched with anxious concern as our freedom of worship was challenged in Greece; we were elated when we won a resounding victory in the highest court in Europe. We have been delighted to hear reports about the large-scale expansion of the Society's branches that has made possible the production of massive quantities of literature for truth seekers. We could not help but marvel when we learned that more than 7,400 were baptized at the convention in Kiev, Ukraine. Yes, these dramatic advances in the Kingdom work have lifted our spirits to new heights!

<sup>2</sup> While our cause for rejoicing is great, we have to guard against becoming overly elated. A series of favorable reports could cause us to conclude that opposition to the good news is crumbling and that Jehovah's people are gaining acceptance around the world. Such thinking can be deceptive. While we have won some satisfying victories and achieved a measure of success in lowering barriers to the good news in some lands, we must not forget that our fundamental relationship with the world remains unchanged. As followers of Jesus, we are "no part of the world." As such, we are sure to be "objects of hatred by all the nations." (John 15:19; Matt. 24:9) As long as this system of things remains, nothing is going to change the basic rule that "all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted." —2 Tim. 3:12.

<sup>3</sup> The pages of history attest to the truthfulness of this warning. While Jesus, the Founder of Christianity, gave marvelous testimony before powerful rulers and their subjects, he suffered daily abuse and was in constant danger of being put to death. Even though his apostles helped many become disciples, shared in writing the Christian Greek Scriptures, and manifested miraculous gifts of the spirit, they were likewise hated and mistreated. In spite of their good conduct and love of neighbor, all Christians were viewed by the majority as a contemptible "sect" that was 'spoken against everywhere.' (Acts 28:22) While the worldwide Christian congregation today has been used by Jehovah in a

marvelous way to accomplish his will, it has been continuously opposed and maligned by every element of this wicked system of things. There is no reason to expect that opposition to cease.

<sup>4</sup> In the first century, Satan persecuted Jesus' disciples in a variety of ways. Hateful opposers told outright lies that misrepresented them. (Acts 14:2) There were vicious threats in an attempt to intimidate them. (Acts 4:17, 18) Angry crowds tried to silence them. (Acts 19:29-34) They were imprisoned without just cause. (Acts 12:4, 5) Persecutors often resorted to physical violence. (Acts 14:19) In some cases innocent ones were deliberately murdered. (Acts 7:54-60) The apostle Paul personally endured virtually all these forms of abuse. (2 Cor. 11:23-27) Opposers were quick to exploit any opportunity to interfere with the preaching work and to inflict suffering on these faithful workers.

<sup>5</sup> Today Satan is using similar tactics. Outright lies have been told, falsely portraying us as a misguided sect or cult. In some lands, authorities have judged our literature to be disruptive and have banned it. Our respect for the sanctity of blood has been publicly ridiculed and challenged. In the 1940's, angry mobs incensed over the flag-salute issue attacked our brothers, inflicted injuries, and destroyed their property. Thousands have been sent to prison over the neutrality issue. In totalitarian lands our brothers have been falsely accused of being subversive, resulting in hundreds being brutally tortured and killed in prisons and concentration camps. The pressure has been relentless, clearly showing that we are objects of hatred without just cause.—See *Proclaimers*, chapter 29.

<sup>6</sup> **What Does the Future Hold?** While Jehovah's people may achieve a breakthrough from time to time to relieve the pressure in some part of the world, the overall situation remains the same. The Devil continues to be angry over his debasement in 1914. He knows his time is short. His rage is sure to intensify as the great tribulation draws near. He is totally committed to his war against the enthroned King, Christ Jesus, and he is determined to fight to the finish. He and his demons can vent their anger only on Jehovah's people here on earth, who faithfully "observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness to Jesus."—Rev. 12:12, 17.

<sup>7</sup> So as we look to the future, we need to be realistic in what to expect. There is no reason to think that the Devil will back down or give up. The hatred of us that he has instilled in this world can flare up at any time and in any place. In many lands our freedom to preach has been secured only after a long struggle. That freedom may be very fragile, maintained only by some current sympathetic ruler or unpopular law. Dramatic upheavals can occur



overnight, bringing chaos and wanton abuses of human rights.

<sup>8</sup> The present prosperity and freedom that we enjoy in some lands could end abruptly, subjecting our brothers to the same abuses they have suffered in the past. We dare not allow ourselves to be lulled into a spirit of apathy or indifference, thinking that our adversaries have been subdued. This world's hatred may not always be fully manifested, but it remains intense. Everything in God's Word shows that the world's opposition will intensify rather than subside as the end approaches. So we have to be on guard, showing ourselves to be "cautious as serpents and yet innocent as doves." (Matt. 10:16) We should realize that we will have "a hard fight" right to the end, and endurance is the key to our survival.—Jude 3; Matt. 24:13.

<sup>9</sup> In the part of the world where we live, the work may be prospering without any noticeable hindrance by opposers. This could make us skeptical about there being any cause for serious concern. Nevertheless, there is a need to be vigilant. Circumstances can change quickly. Without warning, opposers can exploit some issue and use it against us. Apostates are constantly searching for some cause for complaint.irate clergymen who feel threatened by our work may publicly denounce us. Our plans to construct a Kingdom Hall in our community may spark a controversy that upsets the whole neighborhood. Inflammatory statements may appear in print, casting us in a bad light. Prominent local figures may purposely misrepresent us, causing our neighbors to be hostile when we call. Even loved ones in our own household may become resentful and persecute us. So there is a need to be on guard, realizing that the enmity of the world is very much alive, and it can surface at any time.

<sup>10</sup> **How Should This Affect Us?** All of this rightly affects our thinking and our outlook for the future. In what way? Should this make us apprehensive, fearful about what we may have to endure? Should we slow down in our preaching work because some in our community may be disturbed by it? Is there a valid reason to feel agitated when we are unjustly maligned? Is it inevitable that harsh treatment will rob us of our joy in serving Jehovah? Is there any uncertainty about the outcome? No, never! Why not?

<sup>11</sup> We must never lose sight of the fact that the message we proclaim originates, not with us, but with Jehovah. (Jer. 1:9) We are under obligation to heed the exhortation: "Call upon his name. Make known among the peoples his dealings . . . in all the earth." (Isa. 12:4, 5) He has tolerated the mistreatment of his people for a specific purpose, namely, 'to have his name declared in all the earth.' (Ex. 9:16) We are doing a work decreed by Jehovah, and

he is the one who gives us the courage to speak out with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31) This is the most important, beneficial, and urgent work that can be done in these final days of the old system.

<sup>12</sup> This knowledge gives us the courage to take a firm stand in direct opposition to Satan and this world. (1 Pet. 5:8, 9) Knowing that Jehovah is with us makes us "courageous and strong," dispelling any cause for fear before our persecutors. (Deut. 31:6; Heb. 13:6) While we will always try to be tactful, reasonable, and discreet when threatened by opposers, we will make it clear that we are determined to "obey God as ruler rather than men" when our worship is challenged. (Acts 5:29) When there is reasonable opportunity to speak out in our defense, we will do so. (1 Pet. 3:15) However, we will not waste our time disputing with hardened opponents who are only interested in discrediting us. Rather than become incensed or try to retaliate when they malign or falsely accuse us, we simply "let them be."—Matt. 15:14.

<sup>13</sup> Our endurance through trials is pleasing to Jehovah. (1 Pet. 2:19) What price must we pay for that approval? Must we resign ourselves to serving without joy because we are hated and opposed? Far from it! Jehovah promises to reward our obedience with "joy and peace." (Rom. 15:13) In the face of intense suffering, Jesus remained happy because of "the joy that was set before him." (Heb. 12:2) The same is true of us. Because the reward for our endurance is so great, we are moved to "rejoice and leap for joy" though we suffer grievous trials. (Matt. 5:11, 12) Even in times of adversity, this joy is, in itself, a cause for giving praise and honor to Jehovah in support of the Kingdom message.

<sup>14</sup> Is there any uncertainty about the final outcome, giving us reason to be apprehensive or indecisive? No, the outcome of the conflict between Jehovah's organization and Satan's world was decided a long time ago. (1 John 2:15-17) Regardless of the intensity or magnitude of the opposition, Jehovah will give us the victory. (Isa. 54:17; Rom. 8:31, 37) Even though we are fully put to the test, nothing can prevent us from receiving the reward. We have no cause to "be anxious over anything," because Jehovah has granted us peace in response to our supplications.—Phil. 4:6, 7.

<sup>15</sup> So we thank Jehovah every time we hear reports about our brothers being rescued from persecution or given freedom to preach in areas where they have been restricted in the past. We rejoice when changing circumstances open up new opportunities for thousands of sincere people to come in contact with the Kingdom message. We are truly grateful when Jehovah chooses to give us the victory in confrontations with hateful opposers. We know that he will bless and prosper our work in whatever way is necessary in order to exalt his



house of true worship and give the “desirable” ones from all the nations an opportunity to enter.—Hag. 2:7; Isa. 2:2-4.

<sup>16</sup> At the same time, we are fully aware that our enemy, Satan, is very powerful, and he is going to oppose us vigorously right down to the end. His attacks may be open and flagrant, or they may be subtle and deceptive. Persecution may erupt suddenly in places where we have known only peace in the past. Wicked opposers may be vicious and un-

## How Beneficial to Recount What Jehovah Has Done!

<sup>1</sup> The inspired writer of Psalm 48 urged those in Israel to “march around Zion, count its towers, inspect its dwelling towers, in order that they might recount it to the future generation.” Moved by love for Jehovah, they would be keenly interested in every detail of that earthly center of theocratic rule. How precious these details would be because this was the city upon which Jehovah had placed his own name! They would talk about it, and especially were they to be sure that their offspring heard about all the things they had treasured up in their own hearts.—Ps. 48:12, 13.

<sup>2</sup> We now live in the time when the theocratic rule of Jehovah’s Messiah is centered no longer in earthly Zion but in heavenly Jerusalem. (Heb. 12:22) Jehovah’s Kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ has been ruling since 1914. (Rev. 12:10) Its activity is of the greatest interest to us. We are also keenly interested in the way in which Jehovah has led his servants on earth so that they might accomplish his will as visible representatives of that Kingdom. Fascinating details concerning this are set out in our new book *Jehovah’s Witnesses—Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom*. How delighted we were to receive it at our recent “Divine Teaching” District Convention!

<sup>3</sup> By September 1, the book had already been released in 20 languages, and translation and publication were under way to fill the needs of those speaking 13 other tongues. Has your household obtained a copy? Are you reading it? Are you talking about the things you learn from it?

<sup>4</sup> After looking at the pictures and reading the captions, as suggested at the convention, many brothers and sisters quickly got into the meat of the material. What have been their comments? Here are just a few.

<sup>5</sup> A sister wrote: “It is the only book that I have ever received that I can’t wait to finish so I can read it

relenting in efforts to oppress us unjustly. In due time it will become clear to all such ones that they are “fighters actually against God,” and he will annihilate them. (Acts 5:38, 39; 2 Thess. 1:6-9) In the meantime, regardless of what we must endure, we are determined to remain steadfast in loyally serving Jehovah and preaching the Kingdom message. We are the happiest people on the face of the earth, knowing that ‘on becoming approved we will receive the crown of life.’—Jas. 1:12.

again. I am on chapter 25 now. The more I read, the more the tears come and my heart is filled with love for Jehovah. The book is so encouraging and faith strengthening.”

<sup>6</sup> A brother who has been serving Jehovah for over 40 years said: “Little did I realize how absorbing this book would be. I stayed up late and rose early and completed the reading in two weeks. It truly is one of the most moving books I have ever read. It is a masterpiece of research but also a masterpiece of encouragement.”

<sup>7</sup> **A Regular Program of Reading:** Some who quickly read the entire book have determined to read it again but this time at a slower pace.

<sup>8</sup> If there is more than one member of your household in the truth, you may want to use portions of the book in your family study. Some families started to do that within a few days after they received a copy at the convention. This does not mean that other things, such as preparation for the *Watchtower* Study, should be set aside. But you may find it very beneficial to use another 15 or 20 minutes for reading and discussing material from the *Proclaimers* book.

<sup>9</sup> Other families are reading two or three pages—perhaps a subheading or two—each evening before leaving the supper table. Individually they may already have read most of the book, but they are benefiting from a slower coverage along with the opportunity to discuss the material. Some who are doing this have been serving Jehovah for many years. As they read, many fond memories are stirred up. It warms their hearts as they discuss together their own share in the events about which they read.

<sup>10</sup> Because of circumstances in your home, you may find that you do your reading alone. One sister who wrote to the Society said: “I have been reading this book a little at a time each night before going to bed. This book is building in me a deeper appreciation and love for the truth, and I feel closer to Jehovah and so thankful that I am a part of his organization. I am truly savoring each page I read.”

<sup>11</sup> Although the book is large, the individual sections are not. The opening section is a fast but fascinating coverage of events from the days of Abel down through the year 1992—in just 108 pages.



Other sections range from 13 to 150 pages. Each of these sections is divided into a number of chapters. Instead of rushing through them, take one section, one chapter, or one subheading at a time; enjoy it; and get the good from it.

**12 Take Time to Think About What You Read:** What is going to be your objective as you read? Merely covering pages—completing the book—should not be your aim. The *Proclaimers* book contains a record of your spiritual heritage. You ought to know it well. Take time to think about the implications of what you read. As you review the activity of ancient witnesses of Jehovah, consider how you can imitate their faith. (Heb. 12:1, 2) When you read about the development of the great apostasy, take special note of the pitfalls that ensnared those who turned away, with a view to safeguarding your own spirituality. And as you review our modern-day history, observe the spiritual qualities of those who were used by God, how they demonstrated that the doing of God's will was the most important thing in their lives, and how they reacted to situations—some of them very difficult—that God permitted.—Heb. 13:7.

**13** You will find it faith strengthening to explore details showing how Jehovah has led his people to the clear understanding of Bible truth that we now enjoy. Your appreciation of the visible arrangement that Jehovah is using will grow as you become better acquainted with the development of the organization. You will surely feel excitement as you read how, in fulfillment of prophecy, the good news has reached the most distant part of the earth. Your heart will be warmed by the experiences of faithful ones in all parts of the world who have worked zealously to proclaim the Kingdom. You will be fortified to deal with personal trials as you read what faithful brothers and sisters have already endured because of their love for Jehovah.

**14** After you have read a portion of material, take time to discuss together its value and to review the details. If you have young children, get them involved in explaining the pictures and telling you what they know about the people shown. Even if you are reading alone, endeavor to share with others what you are learning. As appropriate, use the material on return visits and when conducting home Bible studies. Your repeating it will impress it on your own mind and heart, and it will benefit others too.

**15 Take an Interest in the Details:** The periods that you devote to reading the *Proclaimers* book should be both enjoyable and profitable.

**16** Would you like your family to visit the world headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses? Pages 208-9 show the facilities used by the Society a century ago in the Pittsburgh area. Pages 216-17 acquaint you with buildings used later in Brooklyn. The pictures on pages 352-6 can help you to visualize the world headquarters today. Chapters 26 and 27 fill in details

about the work done at Bethel, and pages 295-8 give further information about Bethel life.

**17** Most of us are not able to visit many of the Society's branches. Pages 357-401 of the *Proclaimers* book take you on a world tour. There is no need to rush through it. Spend a little time in each land and enjoy it. Use the world map on pages 415-17 to locate each place. Read the comments that accompany each branch picture. Through the index you can also find other fascinating information about each country. Use this opportunity to get to know members of your spiritual family in other lands.

**18** When people get together socially, they sometimes play games that involve knowledge of secular facts. Would it not be far more beneficial to get to know the noteworthy dates and events in the modern-day history of Jehovah's people? You will find many such facts listed on pages 718-23 in the *Proclaimers* book. That list provides a basic framework; you can add to it from the details found in the rest of the book. Use these as a basis for review. Young ones in the family will probably memorize them quickly. Some of us older ones may be a bit slower. But these are details of theocratic history that we can all benefit from knowing. After you learn the dates and basic facts, build on that foundation. See how many details you can recall concerning each event. Then talk about the part that each event had in the accomplishing of God's will. Next, discuss how it has affected your own life and how you fit into what Jehovah is doing.

**19 See the Opportunities Open to You:** As you read and discuss *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*, you will find unfolding to your view the grand fulfillment of Isaiah 60:22. The book states on page 519: "Fulfillment of the promise that 'the little one would become a thousand' has surely come to pass, and abundantly so! In each of more than 50 lands where there was not even a 'little one'—where there were none of Jehovah's Witnesses back in 1919, where they had done no preaching at all—there are today more than a thousand praisers of Jehovah. In some of these lands, there are now *tens of thousands*, yes, even *more than a hundred thousand*, of Jehovah's Witnesses who are zealous proclaimers of the Kingdom of God! Worldwide, Jehovah's Witnesses have become 'a mighty nation'—more in number as a united global congregation than the individual population of any one of at least 80 self-governing nations of the world."

**20** That work of Kingdom increase has by no means ended. On the contrary, Jehovah has speeded it up to an unprecedented degree. To what extent will you share in it? Are you really aware of all the opportunities that are open to you? As you learn what others are doing, may your own heart be moved to make yourself available to share to the full in the grand work that our loving God is directing by means of Jesus Christ in our day.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **February**: *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. **March**: *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **April and May**: *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines, as well as any brochure (except the *School* brochure). Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **NOTE**: Congregations that will need the above-mentioned campaign items should request them on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S(d)-14).

■ The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the requirement of hours, elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review Society's letters (S-201) of October 1, 1993, and October 1, 1992. Also, see paragraphs 12-20 of the August 1986 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

■ The Memorial celebration will be held Saturday, March 26, 1994. Although the talk may start earlier, please remember that the passing of the Memorial bread and wine *should not begin until after sundown*. Check with local sources to determine when

sundown occurs in your area. No meetings other than for field service are to be held on that date. If your congregation normally has meetings on Saturday, you may want to switch those to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available.

■ Publishers who wish to serve as auxiliary pioneers in March and April should make their plans now and turn in their application early. This will help the elders to make necessary field service arrangements and have sufficient literature on hand.

■ On Saturday, May 14, 1994, the Brooklyn Bethel Home and factory, as well as Watchtower Farms buildings, will be closed for spring cleaning, so there will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that day.

■ Another release on computer diskette is available: *GetVerse*. This new program allows a user to insert Bible texts directly into most DOS word processors. This is helpful in preparing talks or in making lists of scriptures. *GetVerse* is available only in English on one 5 1/4-inch 360-kilobyte or 3 1/2-inch 720-kilobyte diskette. To use this program, you must have a copy of the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References* or the

*New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References/Insight on the Scriptures* installed and working on your computer.

### CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Making Your Family Life Happy*.

February 7: **Pages 106\*-113**

February 14: **Pages 114-122\***

February 21: **Pages 122\*-130**

February 28: **Pages 131-138\***

\* To or from subheading.

### NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bt.St.
Sp'l Pios.	185	124.2	63.4	51.2	5.5
Pios.	75,944	78.9	26.7	23.8	2.5
Aux. Pios.	25,914	58.1	20.7	15.2	1.4
Pubs.	786,430	9.7	4.9	3.6	0.5
TOTAL	888,473			Baptized: 2,278	

## Guard Against Mistaken Kindness

<sup>1</sup> Jehovah's people are known for their kind and generous spirit. Often this manifests itself in a material way when we imitate the neighborly Samaritan that Jesus spoke about in his touching parable. (Luke 10:29-37) Yet, some who are not worthy of material assistance may endeavor to take advantage of our kindness. Thus, our love for others must be balanced with "accurate knowledge and full discernment."—Phil. 1:9.

<sup>2</sup> **Within the Congregation:** For example, someone may say that he is out of work or give other reasons for requesting assistance. At times these individuals are not actively seeking employment but simply wish others to provide them with life's necessities. Of such ones the apostle Paul ordered: "If anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat."—2 Thess. 3:10.

<sup>3</sup> "Time and unforeseen occurrence" befall us all, so if we are in material need, lacking "our bread for

this day," we should not feel overly anxious, since Jehovah provides for those who love him and are doing his will. (Eccl. 9:11; Matt. 6:11, 31, 32) A needy one may find it beneficial to speak with one of the elders. The elders may be aware of government programs that are set up to provide assistance and may be in a position to help complete the paperwork or understand the requirements for such programs. In any event, the elders can evaluate the circumstances of each one requesting assistance and determine what can be done.—Compare 1 Timothy 5:3-16.

<sup>4</sup> **Traveling Impostors:** The Society continues to receive reports that some in the congregations have been defrauded of money and material things by traveling impostors. This should not surprise us, since the Scriptures warn that "wicked men and impostors will advance from bad to worse, misleading and being misled." (2 Tim. 3:13) Often these impostors claim that they are stranded and need money in order to obtain transportation and food for a

return trip home. Although they may sound sincere, in most cases they are not Jehovah's Witnesses at all but are only pretending to be.

<sup>5</sup> If a stranger asks for assistance, it is wise to consult one of the congregation elders, who can take the lead in determining whether this person is our brother. A telephone call should usually be made to one of the elders in that one's congregation so that the person's standing may be confirmed. Genuine brothers and sisters who find themselves unexpectedly in need will understand that this type of inquiry is being made for the protection of all concerned. On the other hand, impostors will be exposed by this sort of scrutiny. There is no need to be unduly suspicious of all who are not known to us, but we must be on guard against wicked impostors.—km 9/80 p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Wise King Solomon advised: "Do not hold back good from those to whom it is owing, when it happens to be in the power of your hand to do it." (Prov. 3:27) By our wise discernment, we can continue to be merciful while guarding against mistaken kindness.



# Develop Interest in God's Kingdom of Peace

<sup>1</sup> During the month of February, we will be featuring the book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. Our aim should be to help honesthearted people develop an appreciation for God's Kingdom and what it will accomplish. Viewpoint questions can help us to this end.

**2 After a friendly greeting, we might say something like this:**

■ "Startling changes in government are taking place earth wide, and the goal of peace is often mentioned. Do you feel that true peace will ever be achieved? [Allow for comment.] Although many look hopefully to human rulers to bring about peace, note how God promises to bring peace as mentioned at Psalm 46:9. [Read.] What changes on earth do you think God's action will bring? [Listen to householder's response, and then show tract *Life in a Peaceful New World*.] Can you visualize what is pictured here? Consider the information under the subheading 'Life in God's New World.' If the situation allows, further information from the *Reasoning* book,

pages 227-32, under the question 'What will God's Kingdom accomplish?', can be considered. We may conclude the discussion by asking: 'Do you think that a government by God would bring about these changes?' If the householder shows interest, arrangements should be made for a return visit.

**3 Or we might say:**

■ "Much concern is expressed about disturbing problems that all of us have to deal with on a daily basis. Do you feel there is any hope for relief from these problems? [Allow for comment.] Some might feel that God is indifferent to our plight. Note, though, what he promises at Revelation 21:3, 4." Read the verses. At this point the *Live Forever* book, a current magazine, or the tract *Will This World Survive?* may be featured. If the tract is offered, consideration can be given to the material on pages 2 and 3 under the heading 'The Future of This World.' If interest is shown, you may decide which other item of literature to offer. If you offer the brochure *Does God Really Care About Us?*, the ques-

tion may be raised: 'Why has God permitted suffering?' Point out part 6 in the brochure, and arrange to discuss this on the next visit.

<sup>4</sup> You may choose to feature an article from one of the current magazines by making a comment on a specific point in a selected article.

**If the householder expresses interest, introduce the magazine, perhaps by saying:**

■ "This article goes into more detail on the subject. [Read a previously selected sentence or two.] The article provides additional thoughts that will prove encouraging to you and your family. Since you seem to be interested in this subject, we would be pleased to leave this issue and its companion magazine with you." If the householder accepts the magazines, it may be appropriate to mention the donation arrangement.

<sup>5</sup> People today are often confused when it comes to knowing where to turn for answers to the problems facing mankind. We have the privilege of sharing with them a clear hope for the future. (Acts 17:27) May we, then, diligently direct people's attention to God's Kingdom, the true source of peace.

## Stimulate Growth Through Meaningful Return Visits

*It does not take to do this interest in person*

<sup>1</sup> To help those who have shown interest, it is vital that we continue to provide them with a flow of spiritual food by regular return visits. Our visits will progressively help to stimulate their spiritual growth. (1 Cor. 3:6-9) For our visits to be meaningful, though, it is necessary that we prepare ahead of time, having that person in mind.

**2 Calling Back on Those With Whom We Left a Tract:** Perhaps the *Peaceful New World* tract was placed on the initial call.

**After briefly reviewing what was discussed, we might ask something like this:**

■ "What government can bring about these changes? [Allow for comment.] No doubt you too would enjoy living in conditions like this. How can we personally enjoy such conditions? Then consideration may be given to the material under the subheading 'How It Is Possible for You.' If interest is shown,

attention can be drawn to the *Live Forever* book, chapter 15, 'Becoming a Subject of God's Government.' We may discuss the first two paragraphs and then ask the question: 'How should learning about God affect us?' Arrangements may be made to answer the question and to discuss more of the chapter on the next visit.

**3 When calling back on those with whom we left the brochure 'Does God Really Care About Us?,' we might say:**

■ "The last time I called, we discussed the many problems facing mankind and what God promises to do about them. Why, though, has God permitted suffering for so long? The interesting answer is found in part 6 of the brochure we looked at." Ask the householder to get his copy if convenient. After considering a few paragraphs, we might ask: 'What do we need to do to benefit from God's promises?' The

material under section 11, 'The New World's Foundation Now Being Formed,' on pages 28-31, may be highlighted for discussion at the next visit.

**4 Calling Back on Those With Whom We Left Magazines:** If you selected a specific article that interested the householder, develop additional points from the article when you return, focusing your comments on one key scripture and the material discussing it. If there is continuing interest, the benefits of the magazines may be discussed. Also, attention may be drawn to the next issue of the magazine if it contains an article that discusses the same subject. Otherwise, we may direct attention to material in the *Live Forever* book on that subject and make arrangements to discuss it at our next visit.

<sup>5</sup> Our showing personal interest in following through with meaningful return visits will demonstrate our love for people and for Jehovah. (John 13:34, 35) May we continue to stimulate the spiritual growth of those in our territory by regularly making meaningful return visits. *Teach a subject*