

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MAY 1990

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FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meetings for Field Service

MAY 7-13

How can we effectively

1. Make return visits?
2. Start magazine routes?
3. Cover our territory?

MAY 14-20

How may a Bible study be started

1. With a householder on your magazine route?
2. In territory where much literature has been placed?
3. By just using the Bible?

MAY 21-27

How might we reply if householder says:

1. "I am familiar with your work?" (rs p. 20)
2. "Why don't you get involved in helping the community?" (rs p. 207-8)
3. "Why does God permit such wickedness?" (rs p. 430)

MAY 28-JUNE 3

When speaking to a householder, how can

1. Questions be used to draw him into a conversation?
2. Illustrations be used to awaken his interest?
3. We show discernment and respect for his time?

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

What God's Kingdom Will Do.

Ps. 72:7—Christ the King brings peace to earth.

Ps. 37:10—Wicked destroyed at Armageddon.

Ps. 37:11—Meek will live. Dead will be resurrected.

Share Spiritual Riches With Others

¹ Like faithful Moses, modern-day Witnesses of Jehovah know that the material treasures of this world cannot compare in value with spiritual riches. (Heb. 11:26) Money may buy houses, cars, and other possessions, but it cannot buy life, peace of mind, or the approval and blessing of Jehovah God.

² Knowledge and understanding of God's Word and purpose are true spiritual riches. (Col. 2:3) These unique riches can bring genuine happiness now, along with a solid hope for the future. How favored we are to have received such spiritual riches!

HOW TO MAKE OTHERS RICH

³ We can help make many others spiritually rich by introducing them to *The Watchtower*, since it can lead them to 'hidden treasures' of godly wisdom. (Prov. 2:4) During May, we will offer the *Watchtower* subscription on every appropriate occasion. If we keep in mind how *The Watchtower* has enriched our lives, we will not hold back but will seek out ways to offer it to as many people as we can. (Prov. 3:27) Make notations of addresses where individual magazines and brochures are placed, with a view to following up and regularly supplying magazines by having your own route.

⁴ In a spiritual sense, how can we be like the God-fearing man of Psalm 112 who distributed widely his valuable things? (Ps. 112:1, 3, 9) We need to search for sheeplike people

and help them fill their spiritual need. (Matt. 5:3) This requires that we take advantage of every opportunity to witness formally and informally.

⁵ In some areas, evening witnessing has been very productive because more people are likely to be home then. Have you tried working door to door an hour or so before your Congregation Book Study or on another evening during the week? Why not make definite arrangements to do this? It may prove to be very rewarding for you.

⁶ Can you find appropriate times to witness at your place of work? One sister laid several magazines on her desk so that fellow employees could see them as they passed by. Before the morning was over, all the magazines were placed. Quite a number of her coworkers showed genuine interest, and she was able to place 18 subscriptions.

⁷ Silver, gold, and all other material treasures cannot compare to the spiritual riches of knowledge and understanding that we have gained through Jehovah's organization and our study of the Bible. Genuine happiness, ways of pleasantness, peace, "length of days"—even eternal life—all become possible to those who seek spiritual riches. (Prov. 3:13-18) By sharing our spiritual riches with others, we show our appreciation for what we have received and we gain Jehovah's continued blessing. —Prov. 19:17.

Bear Witness to the Truth

¹ Jesus made it clear that he had come into the world to bear witness to the truth. He declared: "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth." —John 18:37.

² By his zealous preaching, Jesus honored Jehovah's name. He also showed genuine love for the people in recognition of their sad spiritual state. Matthew wrote concerning his activity: "And Jesus set out on a tour of all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news of the kingdom . . . On seeing the crowds he felt pity for them, because they were skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd." (Matt. 9:35, 36) Like Jesus, our devotion to Jehovah along with our love for others should move us to preach.

OUR VITAL ASSIGNMENT

³ Genuine love for people and for Jehovah motivates us to take advantage of every opportunity to teach people the truth about Jehovah and his wonderful works. (Ps. 96:2, 3;

145:10-13) However, the pressures of daily living, the anxieties of life, and the abundance of distractions could easily divert us from our witnessing activity. Therefore, we need to keep in focus the urgency of bearing witness to the truth about God and his Kingdom. We must not allow ourselves to be sidetracked from this all-important lifesaving work that we have been assigned to do. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) Keeping busy in Jehovah's service is a protection for us, and it can bring lasting benefits to those who are in need of hearing the message of truth. —1 Cor. 15:58.

⁴ Can you serve as a regular or an auxiliary pioneer? Why not consider your circumstances to see if you can enlarge your service in this way. Are you retired from secular work? Why not use your time more fully in preaching? Many young ones still in school have auxiliary pioneered regularly. These have found it refreshing both spiritually and physically, bringing joy of heart.

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

Meetings to Help Us Make Disciples

WEEK STARTING MAY 7 (10)

Song 67

5 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Review weekday and weekend group witnessing arrangements.

20 min: "Share Spiritual Riches With Others." Question-and-answer discussion. Warmly encourage generosity in our spiritual giving. As time allows, have selected experiences related on placing *Watchtower* and *Awake!* subscriptions.

20 min: "Use Our Literature Wisely." Question-and-answer discussion. After discussing paragraph 7, present two or three brief demonstrations using some of the suggestions offered in paragraphs 4-7.

Song 19 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 14 (17)

Song 28

8 min: Local announcements, Theocratic News, and accounts report. Include any donation acknowledgments. Warmly commend congregation for their financial support of Kingdom interests.

15 min: "What Is Your Custom?" Question-and-answer discussion. Highlight appreciation for meetings and need to avoid the custom of missing meetings. Brother handling this part can include information on how

Bear Witness

(Cont'd)

5 Effectively bearing witness to the truth requires careful scheduling of our time. (Eph. 5:15, 16) Auxiliary pioneering requires an average of only two hours a day for the month. Some choose to rise an hour earlier so they can go out in service before going to school or work. Many congregations have helped auxiliary pioneers by arranging for evening witnessing. Also, you may be encouraged and get helpful suggestions by talking with others who have done well in scheduling their time to auxiliary pioneer.

6 Jehovah God has always shown goodness to his servants. Those serving him in faithfulness have received blessings in great abundance. Jehovah's goodness is still being exercised toward those loving him. He is pleased to accept whatever our circumstances allow us to do as we bear witness to the truth.—Heb. 6:10.

local congregation is doing as to meeting attendance. *ALW*

22 min: "Come to the 1990 'Pure Language' District Convention." —Part One. Audience discussion of paragraphs 1-15 and a brief review of "District Convention Reminders." Song 65 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 21 (24)

Song 133 *PS*

5 min: Local announcements. Briefly highlight one or two talking points from the current magazines. Outline local arrangements for field service on May 28. *CM*

15 min: "Presenting the Good News — Through Bible Studies." Question-and-answer coverage. Commend publishers conducting studies and kindly encourage those who do not to consider what they can do to improve the situation. Briefly demonstrate suggestions in paragraphs 4 and 5.

25 min: "Come to the 1990 'Pure Language' District Convention." —Part Two. Discuss with audience paragraphs 16 to 36 of insert. Emphasize the Scriptural principles that should govern our conduct at conventions. Encourage brothers to review the insert with Bible students and

help them make arrangements to attend.

Song 127 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 28 (31)

Song 29

13 min: Local announcements and Question Box. Discuss with audience offer of *Survival* book during June. Point out how survival of God's impending war is vital question today and that we must keep in expectation of this war, according to Zephaniah 3:8. To survive, we must practice God's judicial decisions. (Zeph. 2:2, 3) This book shows what God requires for survival into new world.

17 min: "Bear Witness to the Truth." Question-and-answer consideration of article. Interview publishers who have been able to arrange their schedule so as to share in the auxiliary pioneer work.

15 min: "Winning the Battle Against Depression." Talk by elder, based on article in the March 1, 1990, *Watchtower*, pages 5-9. Introduce talk by referring to the roots of severe depression listed on page 4. This material should be presented with compassion and understanding. Encourage brothers to benefit from information and share it with others. Song 30 and concluding prayer.

Question Box

• What schedule should be followed in the special meeting that includes the Congregation Book Study during the week of the circuit overseer's visit?

During the visit of the circuit overseer, arrangements are made for the entire congregation to assemble at the Kingdom Hall for a special meeting that includes the Congregation Book Study, a consideration of Scriptural and organizational information entitled "Continue in the Things That You Learned," and a service talk by the circuit overseer. This meeting is preferably held on Thursday or Friday night.

The meeting begins with song and prayer, and then one of the elders conducts a 45-minute Congregation Book Study. Effort should be made to cover all the material assigned for the week, having all the paragraphs read, just as is customarily done in the regular weekly study. The Congregation Book Study is followed by the singing of another Kingdom

song. The circuit overseer then uses 30 minutes to conduct the portion "Continue in the Things That You Learned." After that, he delivers a 30-minute service talk adapted especially to the needs of the congregation being served. In the service talk, he gives appropriate commendation and counsel designed to build up the congregation and encourage the brothers to remain steadfast in Kingdom service.

The meeting is concluded with song and prayer. All the songs used are to be selected by the circuit overseer. The entire program, including songs and prayers, should not exceed two hours.

This arrangement initiated in 1977 has contributed much to making the visit of the circuit overseer something special for the enjoyment and benefit of the whole congregation and for the individual publishers who attend and participate in this fine provision of Jehovah's organization.

Come to the 1990 "Pure Language" District Convention

¹ The 1990 district conventions will have the theme "Pure Language," and you are invited to attend. In the United States, 142 conventions are scheduled. They will commence on June 7 and will run for nine consecutive weeks. Although most will be in the English language, there will also be conventions held in Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. Additionally, sign-language interpretation will be featured at 16 conventions. —See pages 30-1 of *The Watchtower* of February 15, 1990.

² Jehovah's prophetic word at Zephaniah 3:9 says: "Then I shall give to peoples the change to a pure language, in order for them all to call upon the name of Jehovah, in order to serve him shoulder to shoulder." The convention this year not only will identify what the "pure language" is but will also help us to appreciate why learning it and speaking it fluently are so vital and how our ability to use it strengthens the unity of the worldwide brotherhood.

³ **ARRIVE EARLY:** Jehovah's organization is inviting us to feed at his spiritual table. It is a sign of respect and appreciation to arrive on time. Actually, this means that we should arrive early each day and be seated before the program begins. This requires allowing sufficient time to care for matters that need attention, such as parking our vehicle and finding suitable seats for our family. —1 Cor. 14:40.

⁴ Delegates to the conventions in Poland last year were impressed by the godly devotion, love, and unity of their brothers. Deep appreciation for the spiritual provisions the convention would bring was evident. Each morning, the brothers were at the convention sites early, seated and ready for the opening song and prayer. They stayed for the closing song and prayer, and they lingered after the program so as to fellowship with their brothers.

⁵ The orderliness of the brothers was exemplary. They had come to listen and to learn. Even rain falling on the open stadiums at Poznan and Chorzów could not divert their attention from the program. The younger ones present, including small children, were well-disciplined, quiet, and attentive to the program. Families were seated together. They were exemplary in their display of deep respect for Jehovah's table. How can we benefit from their example?

⁶ It is Scriptural to imitate the good example of others. (2 Thess. 3:7) While our personal circumstances may be different, we too want to get the most out of our conventions. To prevent anxiety and frustration because of getting a late start to the assembly site, some families find it beneficial to set a reasonable time for retiring. By strictly adhering to a schedule, they are more likely to get a good night's sleep and be ready for an early start the next day. This avoids arriving while the program is in progress, which is distracting and can be an annoyance to those already seated. Our thoughtfulness in this regard is a reflection

of our reverence and respect for Jehovah and of our love and consideration for our brothers.

⁷ **A FOUR-DAY CONVENTION:** The "Pure Language" District Convention will last four days. It will begin on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and will conclude about 5:10 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. On Friday through Sunday the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. Each day will be filled with vital information related to speaking the pure language. There will be talks, demonstrations, experiences, symposiums, and two Bible dramas.

⁸ Make it your resolve not to miss even one session. This may require personal sacrifices and adjustments in your schedule. Some may find it necessary to make special arrangements with their employer. Many even forgo financial advantages in order to attend all sessions. However, think of what many of our brothers sacrificed and had to go through in order to attend the conventions in Poland last year. Does it not incite you all the more to be present at your convention for every session? Jehovah will certainly bless those who make the matter a subject of sincere prayer and put forth heartfelt effort to attend. —Heb. 10:24, 25.

⁹ Consider the joy expressed by a family from the Midwest after attending last year's district convention. They said: "It was a wonderful program of instruction, which we all appreciated. One outstanding new feature that really touched our hearts was the way you released the new publications. My wife and I were moved to 'really open up' and give far more than we ever have at any assembly throughout the many years we have been associated. We were not alone. There was just something about the new arrangement that motivated us to do more than usual. Of course, none of us could ever give enough to Jehovah for all he has done for us and continues to do."

¹⁰ **LISTEN INTENTLY:** At Psalm 50:7 Jehovah says: "Do listen, O my people, and I will speak." Therefore, during the convention program, do not be distracted by sights and sounds unrelated to the material being presented from the platform. Our desire to speak the pure language fluently should motivate us to comply fully with Jehovah's request at Isaiah 55:2: "Listen intently to me."

¹¹ All the material to be presented at this convention is for our spiritual well-being and will serve to strengthen our resolve to remain steadfast in our service to Jehovah and at unity with our brothers. The convention will bring us up-to-date with the current needs and help us to keep pace with Jehovah's organization. Inattentiveness will result in our being left behind. We must keep ourselves absorbed in the program in order to derive full benefit from it and thereafter put what we learn into practice. —Jas. 1:25.

¹² Is there something we can do so as to pay better attention to the program and remember the information presented? Yes, there is. Many convention delegates have developed the useful habit of taking notes

during the program. Appropriate note-taking materials should be included with Bibles and songbooks as standard equipment when attending a convention. If you have viewed note-taking with skepticism, why not try it during the "Pure Language" Convention? You may find that it is a good way to keep your attention riveted on what is being said and that it protects you from allowing your mind to wander.

¹³ Notes need not be extensive or elaborate. Usually a phrase or two will suffice for a key point. Elders find it advantageous to have neatly arranged notes for conducting a meaningful review of the convention program on the Service Meeting. Also, they may wish to incorporate many of the points presented at the convention in their teaching and shepherding work.

¹⁴ **SONG AND PRAYER:** We honor Jehovah by singing his praises. It is a part of our worship. Jehovah is also pleased when his people approach him in earnest prayer. (Prov. 15:8b) District conventions afford us a unique opportunity to be united with thousands of our brothers and sisters in praising Jehovah in both song and prayer. However, some have shown a lack of respect for these important parts of our worship. How? By unnecessarily arriving at the convention during or after the opening song and prayer. Or at the conclusion of the program, some leave their seats during the song and before the prayer. Why? On rare occasions there may be good reason for doing this. However, is proper respect and appreciation being shown for Jehovah's table when some relinquish the privilege of singing and joining in prayer just so they can get an early start to their cars or to eat?—Matt. 6:33.

¹⁵ Care must be exercised that in the pursuit of personal convenience, we do not allow the worldly me-first attitude or ungodly traits such as greed and selfishness to hamper our spiritual progress. May we show the same spirit of appreciation for sacred things as our brothers did at the conventions in Poland last year, and may we walk shoulder to shoulder with them by showing appropriate respect for such lofty features of our worship, namely, prayer and the singing of praises to Jehovah.—Ps. 69:30.

¹⁶ **OUR CHRISTIAN MANNERS:** Our Christian manners and appearance at conventions have earned us a good reputation as Jehovah's Witnesses. This is because we are serious in our worship of Jehovah and because we do not view attending a convention as a mere social outing. When coming together for such special occasions, we should maintain Christian dignity and a spiritual frame of mind, conducting ourselves as ministers at all times.—1 Cor. 10:31-33.

¹⁷ However, it is disturbing to see that a few attending the conventions have become unduly casual in their attitude, dress, speech, and conduct. What can be done when such things become evident in the local congregation or at a convention? Those who have spiritual qualifications should offer loving counsel with a view to readjustment. (Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:11, 12) Speaking the pure language should incite us to uphold our good reputation and high standards of conduct.

A visitor at one of the conventions left the following note in a contribution box: "I enjoyed your program very much. I will now study the Bible with one of [the] brothers. This was my first visit to any of your assemblies. I planned to come only on Saturday, for Sunday is my church day. But so impressed was I that I came today and brought my entire family with me. But I was disappointed by the adults talking loudly while the speaker was speaking."

¹⁹ It has also been observed that at some conventions a few teenagers sit in upper portions or remote areas of the auditorium, pass notes, whisper, and generally do not pay attention to the program. Conduct of this nature indicates that they still need parental supervision and should be seated with the family. Responsible parents will give attention to these matters and provide the guidance needed by their children. (Eph. 6:4) Brothers, sisters, and young ones should appreciate that when the program is on, it is a time to be listening, not talking.—Deut. 31:12.

²⁰ Another area where consideration and courtesy should be displayed is in connection with our place of lodging. We are acquiring good motel rooms at significantly reduced rates. We should show appreciation and be considerate of motel personnel, being courteous and not overly demanding. (Gal. 6:10) Good counsel has been given regarding proper conduct at motels. Many have responded favorably and are earnestly striving to cooperate fully with motel personnel. Despite such cooperation, a negative attitude toward the Witnesses persists in some places. Why?

²¹ Most of the brothers have displayed a fine attitude about the articles "To Tip—Or Not" and "Tips on Tipping," on pages 24-7 of the June 22, 1986, issue of *Awake!* This information was referred to in the insert for last year's district conventions. It still deserves our attention. Please reread these articles, as they specifically define who expect tips and how much, according to the custom in different countries.

²² Additionally, the above-mentioned *Awake!* articles stress that when "attending a convention, what you do personally reflects on the whole group. People will judge the group by your behavior." So regardless of your personal views about tipping, when you visit a city as a delegate to a convention of Jehovah's Witnesses, use good judgment and discernment and be ready to "do all things for the sake of the good news."—1 Cor. 9:19-23.

²³ After attending last year's district convention, a sister received a letter from the maid who cleaned her hotel room. It said, "I would just like to thank you for leaving your booklet and tip for me. . . . Thanks to you, I am now having Bible studies and learning to appreciate our Father Jehovah and his Only-Begotten, Jesus Christ. . . . I am happy you enjoyed your stay at our hotel. I hope to see you at the next convention." The maid had underlined the words "booklet" and "tip" in her letter.

²⁴ Although the vast majority of the brothers bring honor to God's name, we must admit that a few fami-

lies attending conventions have given reason for complaint. For example, after renting a room with the rated capacity of no more than four or five persons, including children, some have brought in up to ten persons, and that is dishonest. To accommodate them, mattresses were taken off the beds and placed on the floor so that some could sleep on the mattresses while others slept directly on the box springs. Then extra linen was requested from the management. In addition, sleeping bags were used for children to sleep in.

²⁵ There are motels that no longer want to rent their rooms to Jehovah's Witnesses because some have violated regulations prohibiting the cooking of food. Another complaint is that brothers have checked out of motels, leaving their rooms in an unsightly condition. Cleanliness and consideration should be manifested not just in our dress and conduct but also in the way we treat the property of others. Is there any reason why a rented room should not be left neat and clean? Inconsiderate behavior mars our good name. During the coming district conventions, let all of us strive to conduct ourselves so as to "adorn the teaching of our Savior, God, in all things."—Titus 2:10.

²⁶ **FOR PARENTS:** Young children and teenagers are among those invited to the "Pure Language" District Convention. They too must speak the pure language fluently. How fine it is to see young ones who have learned to pay close attention at all Christian meetings and who are intently interested in the convention program! (Ps. 148:12, 13) But much depends on the example and supervision of the parents. Many young ones have been well-trained to take notes. If as a parent you have not as yet taught your children how to take notes, why not use the time remaining before your convention to do so? Even the very young can be encouraged to write down Scripture citations and related key words they hear expressed by the speakers. Some parents arrange to review main points from the day's program after returning to their place of lodging or while traveling home.

²⁷ Of course, most parents appreciate that the natural inclination of children is to be playful. They lack experience in life, and they are immature. Therefore, they have to be taught when to pay attention and how to conduct themselves at meetings. This calls for good supervision by their parents. Some parents have been lax in this area. At times, although parents may be showing proper reverence to Jehovah during a prayer, their children are playing and distracting others. Parents should know what their children are doing even during prayers. Also, what are they doing when they leave their seats during the program? Are children left unsupervised during or after the convention program?—Prov. 29:15.

²⁸ In some cases children have been left unsupervised in motel swimming pools while the parents are in the room, out to dinner, or involved in other activity. This is not proper. Some children have acted in an undisciplined and unruly manner and even have been

disrespectful to older brothers and sisters who have tried to correct them in a kindly way. Such unruliness and conduct unbefitting Christians is often the result of permissiveness and a lack of discipline in the home. It certainly should be corrected. All Christian parents should give close supervision to their children at all times as they bring "them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah."—Eph. 6:4.

²⁹ **YOUR FULL COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED:** Considerable planning and work have been done to see that sufficient seating, literature, food, and other provisions are available for everyone attending the convention. To ensure the effectiveness of these arrangements, each congregation has been specifically assigned to a particular convention. Your full cooperation is vital in order to prevent overcrowding. Of course, there may be circumstances that make it necessary for a few to attend a convention in another area. However, most should be able to attend the convention at their assigned location.—1 Cor. 13:5; Phil. 2:4.

³⁰ Your full cooperation is requested in the matter of saving seats. Please keep in mind that SEATS MAY BE SAVED ONLY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY WHO MAY BE TRAVELING WITH YOU IN YOUR OWN CAR. Please do not reserve seats for others. At times, extra seats are reserved for no one in particular. This is unloving and is misleading to the attendants and others looking for available seats. In harmony with the Bible counsel, we should strive to display brotherly affection and cooperate fully with the approved arrangement for saving seats.—2 Pet. 1:5-8.

³¹ It is suggested that good judgment be used in bringing personal items to the convention site. In the past, some have brought large coolers or other bulky items that could not be placed under their seats. These were placed in the aisle or on seats. This resulted in depriving others of a seat, and sometimes it violated fire and safety codes. We need to show consideration in such matters.

³² The use of video cameras and audio recording equipment is permitted at the convention site. However, those who use such equipment must exercise care to avoid disturbing or distracting others. Such equipment should not be set up in aisles or exits. No such equipment should be connected to the public address system or electrical outlets. Floodlights will not be permitted. Those who are causing a distraction or ignoring any of the above guidelines should without hesitation correct the matter when it is brought to their attention. Attendants and others in charge will be alert to correct any violation of these guidelines, and they should receive full cooperation from those using such equipment.

³³ **LITERATURE AND FOOD SERVICE:** As was done last year, all literature items will be distributed without charge. In addition, this year the Society will adjust and simplify the food service arrangements,

making all food items available at no charge to those attending the convention, in the same way as the literature. What fine provisions these are, making the work lighter and much faster for the benefit of everyone! No doubt such generosity on the part of God's organization will move us with gratitude to express our appreciation in practical ways.—Prov. 11:25.

³⁴ Certainly, Jehovah's people appreciate being able to meet together at fine facilities each year in order to benefit from the delightful spiritual program that has been prepared. We also appreciate the many services and conveniences provided at such gatherings. With much care and at considerable expense to the Society, arrangements are made for adequate seating, installing expensive sound systems, operating an efficient food service, and handling a number of other arrangements and services that make attending the convention enjoyable and spiritually refreshing.

³⁵ These expenses are covered by your voluntary contributions in support of the Society's worldwide

work. For your convenience, clearly marked contribution boxes are located throughout the convention facility. All contributions are very much appreciated, and the Society wishes to thank you in advance for your generous and unified support of Kingdom interests in this way. We are confident that all will be moved to sense their individual responsibility with regard to the changes here mentioned and will cooperate fully by sharing to the extent their circumstances allow.—Luke 6:38.

³⁶ **COME TO THE "PURE LANGUAGE" DISTRICT CONVENTION:** By attending the "Pure Language" District Convention and paying close attention to the program, you will appreciate even more fully why Jehovah has given us the pure language and why we must always be on guard against any selfish tendencies that could interfere with our being at unity with our brothers. Make your plans now to be on hand for the opening song and to attend all sessions until the concluding prayer on Sunday afternoon.

District Convention Reminders

ROOMING: Your cooperation in using the listing of accommodations provided by the convention is very much appreciated. If you are planning to stay overnight in the convention city and have not already confirmed a reservation, please do so immediately. If you find it necessary to cancel your reservation, you should write or phone the motel directly, doing so as far in advance as possible so that the room can be made available to someone else.

Congregation secretaries should be sure that Special Needs Room Request Forms have been promptly forwarded to the appropriate convention address. If you must cancel an accommodation made through the special needs arrangement, you should immediately notify both the landlord or motel and the convention Rooming Department so that the room can be reassigned.

BABY STROLLERS: In many locations, baby strollers may not be used in places of public assembly. Fire regulations prohibit parking them in corridors, aisles, or between rows of seats. Since larger crowds may cause congested conditions, baby strollers are potentially dangerous not only to the baby but also to any who may stumble over them. So please do not bring them to the convention site. However, infant or car seats are permissible, since these can be secured in seats next to the parents. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

BAPTISM: Baptismal candidates should endeavor to be in their seats in the designated section before the program begins on Saturday morning. A modest bathing suit and a towel should be brought by each one who plans to be baptized. After the baptism talk and prayer by the speaker, the session chairman will give brief instructions to baptismal candidates and then call for a song. Beginning with the last verse, the attendants will direct the baptismal candidates to the immersion site or to vehi-

cles that will take them there, while the rest of the audience completes the singing of the song. Since baptism in symbol of one's dedication is an intimate and personal matter between the individual and Jehovah, there is no provision for so-called partner baptisms in which two or more baptismal candidates embrace or hold hands while being baptized.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE: Volunteer help is needed for the smooth operation of a district convention. Even if you may be able to work for only a part of the convention, your services will be appreciated. If you can assist, please report to the Volunteer Service Department when you arrive at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also contribute to the success of the convention, but they are required to work with a parent or other responsible adult.

BADGE CARDS: Please wear the specially designed badge card at the convention and while traveling to and from the convention site. This often makes it possible for us to give a fine witness while traveling. Being identified as a convention delegate by a clearly inscribed badge card will facilitate the operation of the simplified food service arrangement. Badge cards should be obtained through your congregation, as they will not be available at the conventions.

WORDS OF CAUTION: Regardless of where you park, you should lock your vehicle at all times and never leave anything visible inside. Keep your belongings locked inside the trunk, if possible. Also, guard against thieves and pickpockets, who are attracted by large gatherings. This includes not leaving anything of value unattended on seats at the conventions. Please be careful.

It has been reported that some motels provide easy access to television movies with immoral content or even of pornographic nature. This highlights the need to avoid unsupervised TV watching by children at these places of lodging.

Announcements

● Literature offer for **May: Watchtower** and **Awake!** subscriptions. **June: Survival Into a New Earth.** **July and August:** Any 32-page brochure, except the *School* brochure.

● It is important that brothers planning charters to visit Brooklyn Bethel or Watchtower Farms first correspond by mail with the office at each location. Please provide information on the number coming and the dates for each location. The Society will provide directions and the route charter buses should take. Address your mail to Watchtower, Bethel Office, 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201, and Route 1, Box 300, Walkkill, NY 12589.

● The dates for the first New York, N.Y., district convention have been changed from June 21-24 to June 7-10, 1990, two weeks earlier than previously announced.

● New Publications Available:

Making Your Family Life Happy

—Russian

United in Worship of the Only True God

—Russian

Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Tshwa

Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing

—Arabic

School and Jehovah's Witnesses

—Samoan

(Continued on page 8, col. 3)

What Is Your Custom?

¹ Christian meetings are an essential part of our worship of Jehovah. The apostle Paul fittingly urges us not to forsake the gathering of ourselves together, "*as some have the custom.*"—Heb. 10:25.

² Do you have similar sentiments about associating with your brothers at Christian meetings? What does your custom reveal in this regard? Do you regularly attend all the meetings, including the Congregation Book Study? Or do you find that you customarily miss meetings? What place do meetings have in your life? Are you encouraging others to attend meetings regularly? Have you been encouraging Memorial attendees to be regular in their meeting attendance?

³ Regardless of our daily routine, Paul's advice cannot be minimized. Although it is understood that from time to time a Christian may have to miss a meeting because of poor health or other circumstances beyond his control, it certainly should not be his custom. (Rom. 2:21) With so many obligations to take care of, which may include a number of theocratic activities, a Christian needs to make sure

of the more important things. (Phil. 1:10) Meetings are included among the more important things for a Christian and are essential for our spiritual well-being.

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

⁴ When Paul wrote the Romans, he said that he was longing to see them. Why? In order to impart some spiritual gift so that they would "be made firm." (Rom. 1:11) He felt that association was important, yes, needed, since he continued, saying: "That there may be an interchange of encouragement." Or as the footnote in the *Reference Bible* states: "To be encouraged together." (Rom. 1:12) Even Paul, an apostle, recognized his need for encouragement through Christian association.

⁵ In like manner, at our meetings we should incite one another to love and fine works. A friendly smile and a warm greeting can have a positive effect on others. Upbuilding comments, well-prepared parts on the program, seeing others progress spiritually, and just being among the brothers there at the meetings can be very encouraging. Even if we are tired at the end of the day, usually we will find that we feel much better after attending the meeting. Christian friendship and the love our brothers express for us will encourage us to "run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Heb. 12:1) By listening attentively to God's Word, we can be prepared to hold fast the public declaration of our hope without wavering. Truly, there are many blessings that come from being at the meetings.

⁶ Now as never before, we must hold fast our faith and incite others to love and fine works. We do not want to fall into the custom or habit of forsaking the gathering of ourselves together. We should make a conscientious effort to encourage and help others, including Memorial attendees, to be at the meetings regularly. In this way, we will show our love for others and our appreciation for Christian meetings.

Use Our Literature Wisely

¹ Our organized use of literature began with distribution of 6,000 copies of the July 1, 1879, issue of the *Watchtower* magazine. Since then, a great variety of literature items have been printed and distributed in vast quantities.

THE COMPLETE-DONATION ARRANGEMENT

² At the end of February 1990, it was explained that magazines and literature will be provided to publishers and to the interested public on a complete donation basis, that is, without asking or suggesting that a specific contribution be made as a precondition to receiving an item. When literature is offered, voluntary donations will be accepted to support the worldwide work of publishing the good news. We have faith that Jehovah will bless this arrangement.—Compare Matthew 6:33.

HANDLING SITUATIONS IN THE FIELD

³ We will continue to use Topics for Conversation to stimulate interest. Where no interest is shown, there is no need to offer the literature. We do not want to waste any of our literature by offering it to those with no interest. On the other hand, where interest is shown and the household agrees to read the literature, it may be offered. We want to use our literature wisely.

⁴ The following are some remarks you might make after showing the literature: "If you would enjoy reading this publication, I would be happy to leave it with you." Likely the household will ask: "How much does it cost?" You could reply: "We are not engaged in a commercial work. We are not selling this literature. The work we are doing in your neighborhood today is being done voluntarily in 212 lands around the world to help people learn the way to everlasting life. If you would care to make a donation toward this work, I would be glad to accept it."

⁵ When offering the magazines, you could raise questions about a specific article and then say: "I would like you to note the details in this article. If you would like to read these two magazines, I would be happy to leave them with you." If they are accepted, you could add: "I am glad to be able to make this information available to you. I think you will find the subject truly informative. In fact, I would like to come back next week to get your viewpoint. You will note that *The Watchtower* is published in 107 languages and distributed in nearly 14,000,000 copies around the world. This work is all supported by voluntary donations. If you also care to make a small donation toward this

(Continued on page 8, col. 2)

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.
Sp'l Pios.	228	127.0	82.7	54.2	5.7
Pios.	64,192	77.1	33.8	25.8	2.7
Aux. Pios.	23,123	57.5	25.5	16.7	1.6
Pubs.	732,036	9.2	5.8	3.6	0.5
TOTAL	819,579				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 2,472

February's new peak of publishers exceeds last August's peak by 1,698. This reflects increased zeal for Jehovah's service.

Through Bible Studies

¹ This past service year in the United States, over 535,000 Bible studies were conducted each month. Perhaps half of the 817,000 publishers in this country had some share in this joyful activity. Of course, if about half of the publishers shared in this activity, it would mean that the other half did not share in it. How can more of us enjoy the special satisfaction that comes from teaching someone else the truth?

² Because we love God and neighbor, we want to share the truth with others. But we need help from Jehovah in our ministry. (1 Cor. 3:6, 7) Hence, would it not be good to approach Jehovah in prayer and ask him to help us to start a home Bible study? (1 John 5:14, 15) Then we must act in harmony with our request and participate in the field ministry as fully as our circumstances will allow, offering a home Bible study whenever the opportunity presents itself.

MANY OPPORTUNITIES

³ Over the past few years, we have placed millions of books, booklets, and brochures with people in the territory. *Live Forever*, *True Peace*, and *Truth* books, among others, can be found in the homes of thousands of people who are not Jehovah's Witnesses. This represents a vast field of opportunity for starting new Bible studies.

⁴ When a householder informs us that he is familiar with our work or that he already has our literature, we should tell him how pleased we are. (See *Reasoning*, page 20.) If he has a publication, we could kindly suggest that he get it and let us point out some interesting features that would be of benefit to him and his family. If the response is positive, we could offer a home Bible study.

⁵ A variation of the foregoing would be for us to take the initiative and inquire if the householder has our literature. This may be especially effective in territory where we have placed much literature. After a friendly introduction, we could say that because of our frequent visits, many of the neighbors have some of our literature. We are interested in seeing people benefit from the information published. We could then ask the householder if he has any of our literature. If he does, we could kindly ask if we may see it and then offer to show him how we study it. A short demonstration may result in a home Bible study. If he does not have our literature, we can present the current offer

or ask him directly if his family would like to have a free home Bible study.

USE DISCERNMENT

⁶ Since people are busy, it is wise to be discerning and not overstay our welcome. It may be that the first few studies could be limited to about 15 minutes. If the householder knows that a great deal of his time will not be taken, he may be willing to receive regular visits from us. Once the study is established and the householder's interest has developed, a longer period of time may be spent on the study. Of course, some will want to study for a longer period right from the beginning.

⁷ There are sheeplike ones in the field who need our help, and many of them have our literature. Undoubtedly, some are sighing and groaning over the detestable things being done on earth today. (Ezek. 9:4) It is our privilege not only to distribute literature about the Kingdom that will remedy mankind's woes but also to reach honesthearted ones with the truth through Bible studies.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

Literature

(Cont'd) educational work, we will be happy to accept it."

⁶ In some cases, the subject of donations for our worldwide work may be awkward to discuss. For example, an interested householder may ask: "Are you giving it away?" We might reply: "If you want to read the publication and would like to have it, yes, it's yours. I would like to stop by next week to discuss what we have talked about and to tell you more about our worldwide work." On subsequent visits the householder may be informed as to how our work is financed.

⁷ Or the householder may immediately accept the literature and reply, "Thank you." You could respond by saying: "You are welcome. I know you will enjoy it. Many wonder how this work is financed, since we do it worldwide. Many who accept our publications have expressed appreciation for what they will learn and have volunteered a small donation to make further distribution possible. If people do that, we are pleased to accept it."

IS THERE GENUINE INTEREST?

⁸ It is obviously not our purpose to distribute literature at random. We want the literature to achieve its intended purpose, namely, to help sincere people learn more about Jehovah's marvelous purposes. It could be wasteful to leave literature with individuals who have no appreciation for

♦ On March 14, 1990, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) issued a document granting religious freedom to Jehovah's Witnesses in that land and legalizing their work. Thanks to Jehovah, our brothers there are happily and zealously participating openly in the ministry.

♦ The Zambia branch reports that the *Young People Ask* book is moving very well in the field. There is even a radio program with a similar title, and they announce that their material is from the book and *Awake!*

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

May 7: Pages 290^a to 295^a
May 14: Pages 295^a to 300^a
May 21: Pages 301 to 305^a
May 28: Pages 305^a to 310^a

^a To or from second subheading.

^b To or from chapter heading.

^c To or from first subheading.

Announcements (Cont'd)

- New Cassette Recordings Available:
Daniel (single cassette) —French
The First of Kings (set of two cassettes) —Italian
Joshua (set of two cassettes) —Spanish

spiritual things. (Heb. 12:16) Productive distribution of literature depends upon your ability to identify genuine interest. How might such interest be shown? A kindly willingness to converse with you is a good sign. Or paying attention while you speak, responding to questions, and expressing an opinion indicate involvement in the discussion. Speaking to you in a respectful, neighborly manner suggests a kindly disposition. Following along as you read from the Bible implies a respect for God's Word. Often, it is helpful to ask if they would read the literature being offered. Also, you might suggest a return visit to continue the conversation. A positive response is further evidence of their interest. When you observe such evidences of sincere interest, likely the individual will make good use of any literature received.

⁹ This adjustment in our method of work provides further evidence that "we are not peddlers of the word of God." (2 Cor. 2:17) It also proves we are separate from the world.—John 17:14.

¹⁰ With the destruction of Babylon the Great drawing near, there are growing pressures against all religious elements. Our main concern is that the vital worldwide Kingdom-preaching work continues to move ahead without hindrance, bringing many more to salvation.—Matt. 24:14; Rom. 10:13, 14.