

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



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INDONESIA

COVER: Offering *Awake!* magazine in the house-to-house ministry on the island of Bali while enjoying warm Indonesian hospitality

POPULATION

237,600,000

PUBLISHERS

24,521

REGULAR PIONEERS

2,472

There are

369

special pioneers
serving on

28

different islands

STUDY ARTICLES

- **Imitate Jesus' Humility and Tenderness**
- **Imitate Jesus' Courage and Discernment**

The Bible encourages us to follow Jesus' steps closely. (1 Pet. 2:21) As imperfect humans, can we follow the perfect example of Jesus? The first of these two articles considers how we can copy his humility and tenderness. The second article shows how we can imitate his courage and discernment.

- **Preparing the Nations for "the Teaching of Jehovah"**
- **Jehovah Guides Our Global Teaching Work**

The first of these two articles shows how Jehovah enabled Jesus' first-century disciples to proclaim the good news. In the second article, we consider some recent developments that make it possible for us to take the Kingdom message to honesthearted people throughout the earth.

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THE **WATCHTOWER**®
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A SURPRISE GIFT FOR JAPAN

AT A special meeting held in Nagoya, Japan, on April 28, 2013, Anthony Morris of the Governing Body surprised the audience with a thrilling announcement—the release of a new publication in Japanese entitled *The Bible—The Gospel According to Matthew*. The over 210,000 present in person or via Webcast responded with prolonged applause.

Reprinted from the *New World Translation* in Japanese, this 128-page edition of Matthew's Gospel is unique. Brother Morris explained that it was designed “to meet the needs of the Japanese field.” What features does this Bible book have? Why was it prepared? And how has it been received?

WHAT FEATURES DOES IT HAVE?

The format of *Matthew* was a surprise to the audience. Japanese characters can be set vertically or horizontally, and quite a few printed items—including our recent publications—have been set horizontally. However, the text in this new publication is set vertically, using a layout style popular in Japanese newspapers and literary works. Many Japanese readers consider this to be an easy-to-read style. Additionally, the page headings were moved into the text as subheadings so that the readers can easily see the main points.

The brothers and sisters in Japan promptly took advantage of the features of *Matthew*. “I have read the book of Matthew many times before,” said a sister in her 80's, “but the vertical style and the subheadings helped me to understand the Sermon on the Mount more fully.” One young sister wrote: “I read through *Matthew* in one sitting. I am used to the horizontal style, but many Japanese people prefer the vertical composition.”



DESIGNED FOR THE JAPANESE FIELD

Why would this single Bible book especially meet the needs of the Japanese field? Though many Japanese people are unfamiliar with the Bible, they are willing to read it. This version of Matthew's Gospel will give those who have never seen a Bible an opportunity to hold a portion of this sacred volume in their hands and read it.

Why was the book of Matthew chosen? To most Japanese, the word “Bible” calls to mind Jesus Christ. So the book of Matthew was selected because it contains a record of Jesus' genealogy and birth, his famous Sermon on the Mount, and his dramatic prophecy about the last days—subjects that will interest many Japanese people.

Kingdom publishers in Japan zealously began distributing this new publication from house to

house and on return visits. “I now have more opportunities to place God’s Word with the people in our territory,” wrote one sister. “In fact, I was able to place a copy of *Matthew* on the very afternoon of the special meeting!”

HOW HAS IT BEEN RECEIVED?

How do publishers introduce *Matthew*? Many Japanese householders are familiar with such expressions as “the narrow gate,” “pearls before swine,” and “never be anxious about the next day.” (Matt. 6:34; 7:6, 13) They are surprised to learn that these are the words of Jesus Christ. On seeing these words in *Matthew’s Gospel*, many respond: “I have always wanted to read the Bible at least once.”

When publishers make return visits on those who accepted *Matthew*, householders often say that they immediately read some, if not all, of it.

A man in his 60’s told one publisher: “I read it many times over and was comforted. Please teach me more about the Bible.”

Matthew is being featured in public witnessing. While sharing in that activity, a Witness gave her e-mail address to a young woman who accepted *Matthew*. One hour later, the woman e-mailed the sister, saying that she had read part of the Bible book and wanted to know more. One week later, she had her first Bible study, and she soon started attending meetings.

Over 1,600,000 copies of *The Bible—The Gospel According to Matthew* have been shipped to congregations in Japan, and each month, the Witnesses are placing tens of thousands of them. The foreword to this edition expresses the sentiments of its publishers by stating: “We sincerely hope that reading this volume will deepen your interest in the Bible.”





Imitate Jesus' Humility and Tenderness

“Christ suffered for you, leaving a model for you to follow his steps closely.” —1 PET. 2:21.

WE TEND to imitate those whose personality and ways we admire. Of all the humans who have walked the earth, no one is more worthy of imitation than Jesus Christ. Why is that? Jesus himself once said: “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father also.” (John 14:9) Jesus reflects his Father’s personality so perfectly that observing the Son is like seeing the Father. Therefore, as we imitate Jesus, we draw closer to Jehovah, the greatest Personage in the universe. What a reward for imitating the qualities and ways of his Son!

² How, though, can we know what Jesus is like? Thankfully, we have an inspired written portrait of Jesus. Jehovah provided that record, as found in the Christian Greek Scriptures, because he wants us to become acquainted with his Son so that we can imitate him. **(Read 1 Peter 2:21.)** In the Bible, the example Jesus left is compared to “steps,” or footprints. In

1. Why will imitating Jesus draw us closer to Jehovah?
- 2, 3. (a) Why did Jehovah provide us with a written portrait of his Son, and what does Jehovah expect us to do? (b) What will we discuss in this article and in the next?

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

Why is Jesus worthy of imitation?

How can you imitate Jesus in showing humility?

How can you imitate Jesus in showing tenderness?

effect, Jehovah is telling us to walk behind Jesus and match our steps to his. Of course, Jesus left a perfect example for us, and we are far from perfect. But Jehovah does not expect us to follow Jesus' steps perfectly. Rather, the Father expects us to imitate his Son to the best of our ability as imperfect humans.

³ Let us, then, consider some of Jesus' appealing qualities. In this article, we will discuss his humility and tenderness; in the next, we will examine his courage and discernment. Regarding each quality, we will answer three questions: What does it mean? How did Jesus exemplify it? How can we imitate him?

JESUS IS HUMBLE

⁴ What is humility? In this proud world, some may think that humility suggests weakness or lack of confidence. Often, though, just the opposite is true. Showing humility calls for strength and courage. Humility has been defined as "the attitude opposite of pride and arrogance." In the Christian Greek Scriptures, the word translated "humility" may be rendered "lowliness of mind." (Phil. 2:3, ftn.) Humility begins with the way we think about ourselves. "Humility is to know how lowly we really are before God," says one Bible dictionary. If we are truly humble before God, we will also refrain from estimating ourselves to be above our fellow humans. (Rom. 12:3) It is not easy for imperfect humans to cultivate humility. But we can learn to be humble if we reflect on our standing before God and follow in the footsteps of his Son.

4. How would you define humility?

⁵ How did Jesus demonstrate humility? God's Son has a long record of humility, showing it both as a powerful spirit creature in heaven and as a perfect man on earth. Consider a few examples.

⁶ *His attitude.* The Bible writer Jude recorded an example from Jesus' pre-human existence. (**Read Jude 9.**) As Michael the archangel, Jesus "had a difference with the Devil" and "was disputing" with that wicked one. The issue involved "Moses' body." Recall that after Moses died, Jehovah buried the body in an unknown location. (Deut. 34:5, 6) Perhaps the Devil wanted to use Moses' remains to promote false worship. Whatever evil purpose the Devil had in mind, Michael took a courageous stand. One reference work notes that the Greek terms rendered "had a difference" and "disputing" are "also used in relation to a legal dispute" and may suggest "that Michael 'challenged the Devil's right' to take Moses' body." Yet, the Chief Angel recognized that it was not his place to bring judgment. Rather, he referred the case to the Supreme Judge, Jehovah. Michael thus refrained from overstepping his authority, even under provocation. What a humble attitude!

⁷ During his earthly ministry, Jesus spoke and acted in ways that revealed genuine humility. *His speech.* He never called undue attention to himself. Instead, he directed all glory to his Father. (Mark 10:17, 18; John 7:16) He never

5, 6. (a) Who is Michael the archangel? (b) How did Michael show a humble attitude?

7. How did Jesus show humility in his speech and in his actions?

talked down to his disciples or made them feel inferior. Rather, he dignified them, praising them for the good he saw in them and expressing his confidence in them. (Luke 22:31, 32; John 1:47) **His actions.** Jesus chose to live in humble circumstances unencumbered by many material things. (Matt. 8:20) He willingly performed the most menial of tasks. (John 13:3-15) He outstandingly showed humility by his obedience. **(Read Philippians 2:5-8.)** Unlike arrogant individuals who disdain obedience, Jesus humbly submitted to God's will for him, becoming "obedient to the point of death." Is it not clear that Jesus, the Son of man, was "lowly in heart"? —Matt. 11:29.

IMITATE JESUS' HUMILITY

⁸ How can we imitate Jesus in demonstrating humility? **Our attitude.** Humility restrains us from overstepping our authority. If we recognize that we are not authorized to sit in judgment, we will not be quick to criticize others for their faults or question their motives. (Luke 6:37; Jas. 4:12) Humility helps us to avoid being "overly righteous," looking down on those who may not have the abilities or privileges that we have. (Eccl. 7:16) Humble elders do not view themselves as superior to fellow believers. Rather, such shepherds "consider others superior" and conduct themselves as lesser ones.—Phil. 2:3; Luke 9:48.

⁹ Consider W. J. Thorn, who served as a pilgrim, or traveling overseer, starting in 1894. After many years in that work, he was called to Kingdom Farm in

upstate New York and worked in the henhouse. He said: "Whenever I get to thinking a great deal of myself, I take myself into the corner, so to speak, and say: 'You little speck of dust. What have you got to be proud of?'" **(Read Isaiah 40:12-15.)** A humble attitude indeed!

¹⁰ **Our speech.** If we are truly lowly in heart, our words will reflect humility. (Luke 6:45) In conversations with others, we will avoid focusing on our own achievements and privileges. (Prov. 27:2) Instead, we will look for the good in our brothers and sisters and commend them for their positive qualities, abilities, and accomplishments. (Prov. 15:23) **Our actions.** Humble Christians are not interested in seeking prominence in this system. They would rather lead a simple life, even doing what the world might consider menial work so that they can serve Jehovah to the fullest extent possible. (1 Tim. 6:6, 8) Above all, we can show humility by our obedience. It takes lowliness of mind to "be obedient to those who are taking the lead" in the congregation and to accept and follow the direction we receive from Jehovah's organization.—Heb. 13:17.

JESUS IS TENDER

¹¹ What is tenderness? The word "tender" is defined as "marked by, responding to, or expressing the softer emotions." Tenderness is a facet of love and is akin to such "softer emotions" as compassion and mercy. The Scriptures

¹⁰. How can we show humility in our speech and in our actions?

¹¹. Explain the meaning of tenderness.

⁸, ⁹. How can we demonstrate humility?

refer to “tender compassion,” “tender mercies,” and “tender affection.” (Luke 1:78; 2 Cor. 1:3; Phil. 1:8) Regarding the Scriptural call for compassion, one Bible reference work says: “That call is more than an appeal for us to feel with and for the needy. It is a call to care enough to become involved and to help by taking some action that will set others’ lives on a fresh, new course.” Tenderness is a motivating force. A tender person is moved to make a difference in the lives of others.

¹² How did Jesus show tenderness? *His tender feelings and actions.* Jesus felt tender compassion for others. When he saw his friend Mary and those with her weeping over the death of her brother, Lazarus, Jesus openly “gave way to tears.” (**Read John 11:32-35.**) Then, likely stirred by heartfelt pity—just as when he raised a widow’s son—he resurrected Lazarus. (Luke 7:11-15; John 11:38-44) By means of that tender act, Jesus may have put Lazarus in line to receive life in heaven. On an earlier occasion, Jesus “felt tender affection” for a crowd that came to him. Impelled by compassion, “he started to teach them many things.” (Mark 6:34; *Kingdom Interlinear*) What a life-changing experience that was for any who responded to his teachings! Note that Jesus’ tenderness was more than a feeling; it moved him to take the initiative to help others.—Matt. 15:32-38; 20:29-34; Mark 1:40-42.

¹³ *His tender words.* Jesus’ tender

12. What shows that Jesus felt tender compassion for others, and what did his tenderness move him to do?

13. In what way did Jesus speak tenderly to others? (See opening image.)

heart moved him to speak tenderly to others, especially to the downtrodden. The apostle Matthew applied to Jesus these words of Isaiah: “No crushed reed will he break, and no smoldering wick will he extinguish.” (Isa. 42:3; Matt. 12:20) Jesus spoke in a way that lifted the spirits of those who were figuratively like a bruised reed or the wick of an oil lamp about to go out. He preached a message of hope “to bind up the brokenhearted.” (Isa. 61:1) He invited those who were “toiling and loaded down” to come to him, reassuring them that they would “find refreshment” for themselves. (Matt. 11:28-30) He assured his followers that God had tender concern for each of His worshippers, including the “little ones”—those who may seem unimportant from the standpoint of the world.—Matt. 18:12-14; Luke 12:6, 7.

IMITATE JESUS’ TENDERNESS

¹⁴ How can we imitate Jesus in showing tenderness? *Our tender feelings.* Such emotions may not come naturally to us, but the Bible urges us to work at cultivating them. “The tender affections of compassion” are part of the new personality that all Christians are expected to put on. (**Read Colossians 3:9, 10, 12.**) How can you cultivate tender feelings for others? Open your heart wide. (2 Cor. 6:11-13) Listen carefully when someone shares his feelings and concerns. (Jas. 1:19) Use your imagination and ask yourself: ‘If I were in his situation, how would I feel? What would I need?’—1 Pet. 3:8.

14. How can we cultivate tender feelings for others?



Do you have genuine concern
for fellow believers?
(See paragraph 15)

15 Our tender actions. Tenderness moves us to want to make a difference in the lives of others, especially those who may be like a bruised reed or a smoldering wick. How can we help them? “Weep with those who weep,” says Romans 12:15. Downhearted ones may need empathy more than answers. One sister who felt comforted by fellow believers after the loss of her daughter says: “I appreciated it when friends came over and just cried with me.” We can also show tender affection by doing kind deeds. Do you know of a widow who needs help with repairs on her home? Is there an elderly Christian who needs transportation to get to the meetings, to go out in the ministry, or to go to the doctor? Even a small act of kindness can make a big difference in the life of a fellow worshipper in need. (1 John 3:17, 18) Above all, we can show tender concern for others by having a full share in the ministry. There is no greater way to make a difference in the lives of nonesthearted ones!

15. What can we do to help those who may be like a bruised reed or a smoldering wick?

16 Our tender words. Our tender affection for others moves us to “speak consolingly to those who are depressed.” (1 Thess. 5:14) What can we say to encourage such ones? We can lift their spirits by expressing our genuine care and concern for them. We can offer sincere commendation to help them see their positive qualities and abilities. We can remind them that Jehovah drew them to his Son, so they must be precious in his eyes. (John 6:44) We can reassure them that Jehovah deeply cares for his servants who are “broken-hearted” or “crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18) Our tender words can have a healing effect on those who need comfort. —Prov. 16:24.

17 Elders, Jehovah expects you to treat his sheep with tenderness. (Acts 20:28, 29) Remember, it is your responsibility to nourish, encourage, and refresh his sheep. (Isa. 32:1, 2; 1 Pet. 5:2-4) Hence, an elder who is tenderly compassionate does not try to control the sheep, making rules or using guilt to pressure them to do more when their circumstances do not permit them to. Rather, he endeavors to bring joy to their hearts, trusting that their love for Jehovah will move them to serve him as fully as possible.—Matt. 22:37.

18 As we reflect on Jesus’ humility and tenderness, we are surely moved to keep on walking in his footsteps. In the next article, we will discuss two more aspects of Jesus’ appealing personality—courage and discernment.

16. What can we say to encourage those who are depressed?

17, 18. (a) Jehovah expects the elders to treat his sheep in what way? (b) What will we discuss in the next article?



Imitate Jesus' Courage and Discernment

"Though you never saw him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet you exercise faith in him."

—1 PET. 1:8.

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?

What can help you to stay on course on your journey to salvation?

How can you imitate Jesus in showing courage?

How can you imitate Jesus in showing discernment?

WHEN we become disciples of Christ, we embark on a journey. That journey can lead us to life, whether in heaven or on earth. Jesus said: "The one who has endured to the end [the end of his present life or the end of this wicked system of things] will be saved." (Matt. 24:13) Yes, if we stick to a life course of faithfulness, we can come in line for salvation. Along the way, however, we must be careful not to get distracted or lost. (1 John 2:15-17) How can we stay on course on our journey?

² Our Exemplar, Jesus, led the way. His journey was recorded in the Bible. By studying that record, we learn what Jesus is like. We can come to love him and exercise faith in him. **(Read 1 Peter 1:8, 9.)** Recall that the apostle Peter said that Jesus left us a model for us to follow his steps closely. (1 Pet. 2:21) If we carefully follow his steps, we will reach

1, 2. (a) How can we come in line for salvation? (b) What can help us to stay on course on our journey to salvation?

“the goal” of our faith—salvation.* In the preceding article, we discussed how we can imitate Jesus’ example in being humble and tender. Let us now examine how we can follow his steps in showing courage and discernment.

JESUS IS COURAGEOUS

³ Courage is a kind of confidence that can strengthen and sustain us. Being courageous has been described as “persevering in the face of adversity,” “standing up for what is right,” and “facing suffering with dignity or faith.” Courage goes hand in hand with fear, hope, and love. How so? Godly *fear* gives us the courage to rise above fear of man. (1 Sam. 11:7; Prov. 29:25) Genuine *hope* helps us to see beyond present trials and to face the future with confidence. (Ps. 27:14) Self-sacrificing *love* impels us to show courage even at great personal risk. (John 15:13) We get courage by trusting in God and following the steps of his Son.—Ps. 28:7.

⁴ Even as a 12-year-old boy, Jesus courageously stood up for what was right. Note what happened when young Jesus was “in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers.” (**Read Luke 2:41-47.**) Those teachers were well-versed not only in the Mosaic Law but also in the man-made traditions that undermined it. But Jesus was not intimidated into keeping quiet; he was “asking them

questions.” Surely he was not asking the typical questions of a curious boy. We can imagine Jesus asking thought-provoking questions that made those learned teachers sit up and take notice. And if the teachers tried to trip Jesus up by asking him controversial questions, they failed. Why, everyone listening—including the teachers—were in “amazement at his understanding and his answers”—answers that no doubt upheld the truth of God’s Word!

⁵ During his ministry, Jesus showed courage in various ways. He boldly exposed the religious leaders for misleading the people with false teachings. (Matt. 23:13-36) He stood firm against the world’s contaminating influence. (John 16:33) He continued to preach despite pressure from opposers. (John 5:15-18; 7:14) Twice, he fearlessly cleansed the temple, driving out those who were defiling the worship there. —Matt. 21:12, 13; John 2:14-17.

⁶ It is faith-strengthening to trace Jesus’ courageous steps in the face of suffering. Consider the courage he showed on the final day of his earthly life. He knew the chain of events that would be set in motion by his betrayer. Yet, at the Passover meal, Jesus told Judas: “What you are doing, do it more quickly.” (John 13:21-27) In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus fearlessly identified himself to the soldiers who came to arrest him. Although his own life was in danger, he spoke up to protect his disciples. (John 18:1-8) When questioned before

* First Peter 1:8, 9 was written to Christians with the heavenly hope. In principle, however, those words also apply to individuals who have the earthly hope.

3. What is courage, and how do we get it?

4. How did Jesus show courage “in the midst of the teachers” in the temple? (See opening image.)

5. In what ways did Jesus show courage during his ministry?

6. How did Jesus show courage on the final day of his earthly life?

the Sanhedrin, he boldly affirmed that he was both the Christ and the Son of God, even though he knew that the high priest was looking for an excuse to have him killed. (Mark 14:60-65) Jesus steadfastly kept his integrity down to death on an execution stake. About to take his last agonizing breath, he called out in triumph: "It has been accomplished!" —John 19:28-30.

IMITATE JESUS' COURAGE

⁷ How can we imitate Jesus in showing courage? *At school.* Young ones, you prove yourselves courageous when you readily identify yourselves as Witnesses of Jehovah, even if doing so means being teased by classmates or others. You thereby show that you are proud to bear Jehovah's name. **(Read Psalm 86:12.)** You may face pressure to accept evolution as a fact. But you have sound reasons to be confident of your Bible-based belief in creation. You can use the brochure *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking* to give a convincing answer to those who want to know "a reason for the hope you have." (1 Pet. 3:15) Then you will find satisfaction in knowing that you have upheld the truth of God's Word.

⁸ *In our ministry.* As true Christians, we need to keep "speaking with boldness by the authority of Jehovah." (Acts 14:3) What reasons do we have to preach with boldness, or courage? We know that what we preach is the truth because it is based on the Bible. (John

7. Young ones, how do you feel about bearing Jehovah's name, and how can you prove yourselves courageous?

8. We have what reasons to preach with boldness?

17:17) We recognize that "we are God's fellow workers" and that we have the backing of holy spirit. (1 Cor. 3:9; Acts 4:31) We understand that by witnessing zealously, we demonstrate our devotion to Jehovah and our love for our neighbor. (Matt. 22:37-39) Imbued with courage, we will not be silenced. On the contrary, we are determined to expose the religious lies that blind people to the truth. (2 Cor. 4:4) And we will persevere in preaching the good news despite apathy, ridicule, or opposition.—1 Thess. 2:1, 2.

⁹ *In the face of suffering.* Trusting in God gives us the faith and courage to face adversities. If a loved one dies, we grieve, but we do not lose hope. We confidently look to "the God of all comfort" for strength. (2 Cor. 1:3, 4; 1 Thess. 4:13) If we face serious illness or injury, we may suffer pain, but we do not compromise. We refuse any treatment that conflicts with Bible principles. (Acts 15:28, 29) If we become depressed, "our hearts may condemn us," but because we trust in the God who "is close to the brokenhearted," we do not give up.*—1 John 3:19, 20; Ps. 34:18.

JESUS IS DISCERNING

¹⁰ Discernment is good judgment—the ability to tell right from wrong and then choose the wise course. (Heb. 5:14) It has been defined as "the ability

* For examples of courage in the face of suffering, see *The Watchtower*, December 1, 2000, pages 24-28; *Awake!* April 22, 2003, pages 18-21; and January 22, 1995, pages 11-15.

9. How can we show courage in the face of suffering?

10. What is discernment, and how does a discerning worshipper of Jehovah speak and act?

to make sound judgements in spiritual matters.” A discerning worshipper speaks and acts in ways that please God. Such a person chooses words that help others rather than hurt them. (Prov. 11:12, 13) He is “slow to anger.” (Prov. 14:29) He “walks straight ahead,” sticking to the right course on his journey through life. (Prov. 15:21) How can we acquire discernment? We must study God’s Word and apply what we learn. (Prov. 2:1-5, 10, 11) It is especially helpful to consider the example of Jesus, the most discerning man who ever lived.

¹¹ Jesus showed discernment in all he said and did. *In his speech.* He used good judgment when he preached the good news, choosing “gracious words” that amazed his listeners. (Luke 4:22; Matt. 7:28) He often let God’s Word speak for him—reading, quoting, or referring to just the right scriptures to make his point. (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; 12:1-5; Luke 4:16-21) Jesus also explained the Scriptures, doing so in ways that moved the hearts of his listeners. After his resurrection, when speaking to two disciples on their way to Emmaus, he “interpreted to them things pertaining to himself in all the Scriptures.” The disciples later said: “Were not our hearts burning within us . . . as he was fully opening up the Scriptures to us?”—Luke 24:27, 32.

¹² *In his spirit and attitude.* Discernment helped Jesus to control his spirit, making him “slow to anger.” (Prov. 16:32) He was “mild-tempered.” (Matt. 11:

29) He was always patient with his disciples despite their failings. (Mark 14:34-38; Luke 22:24-27) He remained calm even when he was treated unjustly.—1 Pet. 2:23.

¹³ Discernment also enabled Jesus to be reasonable. He saw beyond the letter of the Mosaic Law; he perceived the spirit behind that Law and acted accordingly. For example, consider the account at **Mark 5:25-34. (Read.)** A woman with a flow of blood made her way through a crowd, touched Jesus’ garment, and was healed. She was unclean under the Law, so she should not have touched anyone. (Lev. 15:25-27) But Jesus—who discerned that “the weightier matters of the Law” included “mercy and faithfulness”—did not chastise her for touching his garment. (Matt. 23:23) Instead, he kindly said: “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed from your grievous sickness.” How touching that Jesus’ discernment moved him to show such kindness!

¹⁴ *In pursuing his life course.* Jesus showed discernment in choosing the right course and then sticking to it. He devoted himself to the preaching of the good news, making it his lifework. (Luke 4:43) Jesus also stayed on course, making decisions that enabled him to remain focused on the work and to see it through to a successful completion. He wisely chose to keep his life simple so that he could devote his time and energy to the ministry. (Luke 9:58) He discerned the need to train others to carry on the work after his death. (Luke

11. How did Jesus show discernment in his speech?

12, 13. What examples show that Jesus was slow to anger and reasonable?

14. Jesus chose to do what, and how did he stay on course?



Discern the interests of people, and choose your words according to their needs
(See paragraph 15)

10:1-12; John 14:12) He promised his followers that he would remain involved in this work “until the conclusion of the system of things.”—Matt. 28:19, 20.

IMITATE JESUS’ DISCERNMENT

¹⁵ Consider another way that we can imitate Jesus. *In our speech.* In conversations with fellow believers, we use words that build up rather than tear down. (Eph. 4:29) When we talk to others about God’s Kingdom, we season our words “with salt.” (Col. 4:6) We try to discern the needs and interests of householders and then choose our words accordingly. We remember that gracious words may open doors—and hearts. In addition, when explaining our beliefs, we try to let the Bible speak for us. Hence, we cite it as an authority and read from it whenever possible. We recognize that the Bible’s message is far more powerful than anything we

15. How can we show discernment in our speech?

could possibly say on our own authority.—Heb. 4:12.

¹⁶ *In our spirit and attitude.* Discernment enables us to control our spirit, making us “slow to anger.” (Jas. 1:19) When others offend us, we try to discern what is behind their words or actions. Such insight can melt anger and help us to “overlook an offense.” (Prov. 19:11) Discernment also helps us to be reasonable. We thus try to be realistic in what we expect of our fellow believers, remembering that they may be facing challenges that we do not fully understand. We are willing to listen to their opinions and when appropriate yield to their viewpoint.—Phil. 4:5.

¹⁷ *In our course of life.* As followers of Jesus, we discern that we could have no higher privilege than that of sharing in the work of preaching the good news. We keep on track by making decisions that enable us to stay focused on our ministry. We choose to keep spiritual things in first place and maintain a simple life so that we can devote ourselves to the all-important preaching work before the end comes.—Matt. 6:33; 24:14.

¹⁸ Has it not been delightful to reflect on some of Jesus’ appealing qualities? Imagine how rewarding it would be to make a study of his other qualities and learn how we can be more like him. Let us, then, be determined to follow his steps closely. By so doing, we will stay on course on our journey to salvation and we will draw closer to Jehovah, the One whom Jesus perfectly imitated.

16, 17. (a) How can we show that we are slow to anger and reasonable? (b) How can we stay focused on our ministry?

18. How can we stay on course on our journey to salvation, and what is your determination?



Maintain Your Zeal for the Ministry

PREACHING the good news is the most important work being done on earth today. As one of Jehovah's servants, you surely view it as an honor to participate in the disciple-making activity. You will no doubt agree, however, that pioneers and publishers occasionally face challenges in maintaining their zeal for the ministry.

Some publishers have a hard time finding anyone to hold a conversation with in the house-to-house ministry. In fact, the majority of the local residents may not be at home. When householders *are* contacted, their reaction to the Kingdom message may be apathetic or even hostile. Other publishers feel overwhelmed because they have a vast and productive field in which to preach but fear that they will never complete the task. And some members of the congregation have been preaching for years—longer than they ever expected—and have become discouraged.

Should it surprise us that all of Jehovah's people face challenges that could dampen their zeal for the preaching work? No. After all, would any of us expect it to be easy for us to proclaim God's lifesaving message of truth in a world dominated by "the wicked one," Satan the Devil?—1 John 5:19.

Whatever challenges you personally face in declaring the good news, be assured that Jehovah can help you to overcome them. What, though, can you do to enhance your zeal for the Christian ministry? Let us examine some suggestions.

HELP LESS EXPERIENCED ONES

Every year, thousands are baptized as new Witnesses of Jehovah. If you have recently symbolized your dedication to God by water baptism, you would no doubt appreciate benefiting from the experience of those who have been

preaching longer than you have. And if you have been a Kingdom publisher for many years, would it not be appropriate and rewarding to help train newer ones?

Jesus knew that his disciples needed direction in order to become effective evangelizers, and he demonstrated how the work should be done. (Luke 8:1) Today, too, there is a need to train others to be effective ministers.

We should not assume that a new publisher will acquire teaching skills simply by participating in the ministry. He or she needs personal instruction from a kind and loving trainer. Such training would include showing the less experienced publisher how to (1) prepare and practice a presentation, (2) engage a householder or a passerby in conversation, (3) offer literature, (4) follow up interest, and (5) start a Bible study. Very likely, good results will be obtained if the trainee observes and imitates the methods used in the ministry by the one who is helping him. (Luke 6:40) The new publisher will undoubtedly appreciate having someone with him who can listen and help out if the need arises. The less experienced publisher will also benefit from receiving commendation and helpful suggestions.—Eccl. 4:9, 10.


CONVERSE WITH YOUR PREACHING PARTNER

Despite all your efforts to have discussions with householders, on some days the best conversation you have in the field service is with your preaching partner. Remember that Jesus sent his disciples out “by twos” to preach. (Luke 10:1) As they worked together, they could stimulate and motivate each other. So time spent in the field with a fellow believer offers a fine opportunity for “an interchange of encouragement.”—Rom. 1:12.

What are some things you might talk about? Has either of you recently had an encouraging experience? Have you discovered an interesting point in your personal or family study? Were you built up by something you heard at a meeting? At times, the publisher you are working with may not be your regular preaching partner. Do you know how he came into the truth? What convinced him that this is Jehovah’s organization? What privileges or experiences has he had? Perhaps you can share some of your experiences. Whatever the response from the field turns out to be, working with someone in the ministry provides a fine opportunity to “keep . . . building one another up.”—1 Thess. 5:11.

WHY MAINTAIN YOUR ZEAL FOR THE MINISTRY?

- The preaching work contributes to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.—Mark 13:10.
- We prove ourselves obedient by participating in the disciple-making activity.—Matt. 28:19, 20.
- Jehovah wants the wicked to be warned about the consequences of their course.—Ezek. 3:19.
- We owe it to people to share the good news with them.—Acts 20:26, 27; Rom. 1:14, 15.
- Participating in the preaching work protects us from bloodguilt.—Ezek. 3:18.
- Teaching Scriptural truth is a requirement for our own salvation, and it saves others too.—1 Tim. 4:16.
- Speaking about Jehovah and praising him publicly are important features of our worship.—Heb. 13:15.
- We demonstrate our love for Jehovah and Jesus by obediently doing this work.—John 14:15; 1 John 5:3.
- Our ministry helps to counteract the lies that Satan promotes regarding Jehovah.—Isa. 43:10-12; 2 Cor. 4:4.



Converse with your
preaching partner

Be open-minded
about suggestions

Stick to your
good study habits

Help one who is less
experienced

What can help you to maintain your zeal for the ministry?

STICK TO YOUR GOOD STUDY HABITS

Essential to maintaining zeal for the ministry is cultivating and sticking to good study habits. “The faithful and discreet slave” publishes information on a wide range of topics. (Matt. 24:45) So the subjects that you can study in order to take in spiritual food are extremely varied. Let us consider an example of a good subject for personal study: Why is the Kingdom-preaching work of great importance? The accompanying box sets out some of the reasons.

Considering the points listed in the box can motivate you to keep on preaching zealously. Why not make it a study project to see how many other reasons you can list? Then meditate on the reasons and the scriptures that support them. Doing so will no doubt strengthen your zeal for the ministry.

BE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT SUGGESTIONS

Jehovah’s organization regularly offers suggestions designed to help us improve our ministry. In addition to our house-to-house work, for example, we might engage in letter writing, telephone witnessing, preaching on the street or in other public places, and sharing the good news with people informally and in business territory. We may also be able to arrange our affairs so that we can witness in seldom-worked territory.

Are you open-minded about these suggestions? Have you tried to put some of them into practice? Many who have done so have been overjoyed with the results. Consider three examples.

The first example involves the effect of something said in one of the *Kingdom Ministry* articles on how to start Bible studies. It moved a sister

named April to offer a study to three of her coworkers. She was surprised and thrilled when all three accepted her offer and also began to attend congregation meetings.

The second example has to do with placing our magazines. We have been encouraged to search out people who are likely to respond to specific articles in our journals. A circuit overseer in the United States reported that he had offered an *Awake!* article on tires to the managers of all the tire stores in a certain area. He and his wife also took a series on “Understanding Your Doctor” to over 100 doctor’s offices in the circuit. He says: “Such visits have been very useful in introducing ourselves and the literature. After getting on friendly terms with individuals in these places, we have been able to increase our contact with them.”

The third example involves witnessing by telephone. A sister named Judy wrote to world headquarters to express appreciation for the encouragement to do telephone witnessing. She

reported that her 86-year-old mother, who had many health problems, regularly shared in this form of sacred service and was gaining great joy from conducting a Bible study by telephone with a 92-year-old!

The witnessing suggestions made in our publications really work. Use them! They can help you to maintain your joy and your zeal for the ministry.

SET REASONABLE GOALS

Success in our preaching work is not measured primarily in terms of how many publications we distribute, how many Bible studies we conduct, or how many people we help to become Jehovah’s servants. After all, how many people outside his immediate family did Noah help to become Jehovah’s worshippers? Yet, he was certainly a successful preacher. What counts is that we serve Jehovah faithfully.—1 Cor. 4:2.

Many Kingdom publishers find that in order to stimulate their own enthusiasm for the preaching work, they need to set reasonable goals. What might some of these be? A few ideas are presented in the accompanying box.

With Jehovah’s help, seek ways to make your service rewarding and productive. When you reach your goals, you will have the joy of accomplishment and the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing all you can to preach the good news.

True, preaching the good news can be a challenge. Yet, there are things you can do to be a zealous Kingdom proclaimer. Enjoy an interchange of encouragement with your preaching partner, cultivate and stick to good study habits, put into practice the faithful slave’s suggestions, and set reasonable goals. Above all, remember that God has granted you the inestimable privilege of declaring the good news as one of his Witnesses. (Isa. 43:10) What joy you will experience as you continue to maintain your zeal for the ministry!

SET REASONABLE GOALS

- Establish a weekly schedule for field service, and strive to stick to it.
- Offer a Bible study at every opportunity.
- If possible, read at least one scripture during each conversation with a householder.
- Increase magazine distribution.
- Make return visits on all who listen to the Kingdom message.
- Engage in various forms of the ministry.
- Create more opportunities to witness informally.



Preparing the Nations for “the Teaching of Jehovah”

“The proconsul . . . became a believer, for he was astounded at the teaching of Jehovah.”—ACTS 13:12.

JESUS CHRIST gave his followers no small commission. He commanded them: “Go . . . and make disciples of people of all the nations.” As they did that work, eventually the “good news of the Kingdom [would] be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations.”—Matt. 24:14; 28:19.

² The disciples loved both Jesus and the good news. Yet, they might well have wondered just how they could possibly carry out their commission. After all, they were few in number. Jesus, whom they proclaimed to be the Son of God, had been put to death. His disciples were viewed as “uneducated and ordinary.” (Acts 4:13) But they were to deliver a message that ran counter to the teachings of the prestigious religious leaders, who were schooled in traditions that dated back to ancient times. In their own homeland, the disciples were not held in esteem. And compared to the rest of the

1-3. Jesus’ disciples faced what obstacles to preaching the good news in “all the nations”?

CAN YOU ANSWER?

How did Jesus’ disciples benefit from the *Pax Romana*, or Roman Peace?

In what ways did the early Christians make good use of the relative ease of travel and the widespread knowledge of Greek?

How was the work of Christ’s disciples affected by Roman law and the Jewish dispersion?

glorious Roman Empire, what was the nation of Israel?

³ Moreover, Jesus had warned his disciples that they would be hated and persecuted and that some of them would be killed. (Luke 21:16, 17) They would have to contend with betrayal, false prophets, and the increasing of lawlessness. (Matt. 24:10-12) Even if their message would be well-received everywhere, how could they possibly take it “to the most distant part of the earth”? (Acts 1:8) Such challenges must have seemed daunting!

⁴ Whatever concerns they may have had, the disciples got busy preaching the good news not only in Jerusalem and Samaria but throughout the then-known world. Although the disciples experienced difficulties, within 30 years the good news was being “preached in all creation under heaven” and was “bearing fruit and increasing in all the world.” (Col. 1:6, 23) To illustrate: Because of what the apostle Paul said and did on the island of Cyprus, the Roman proconsul Sergius Paulus “became a believer, for he was astounded at the teaching of Jehovah.”—**Read Acts 13: 6-12.**

⁵ Jesus’ disciples knew that they could not accomplish the preaching work on their own. Jesus had said that he would be with them and that the holy spirit would assist them. (Matt. 28:20) In some respects, circumstances existing in the world of that day may have

been favorable for Kingdom preaching. The book *Evangelism in the Early Church* states: “Probably no period in the history of the world was better suited to receive the infant Church than the first century AD . . . By the second century Christians . . . began to argue that it was a divine providence which had prepared the world for the advent of Christianity.”

⁶ To what extent God maneuvered first-century developments to make extensive preaching work possible, the Bible does not say. But this much is certain: Jehovah wanted the good news to be preached, and Satan did not. In this article, we will consider some factors that may have made the preaching work easier in the first century than it might have been during other times in history. In the next article, we will examine modern-day developments that help us to proclaim the good news to the ends of the earth.

HOW THE *PAX ROMANA* MAY HAVE HELPED

⁷ In some ways, the first-century Roman world brought benefits to Christians. For instance, there was the *Pax Romana*, or Roman Peace. The vast Roman Empire imposed stability on people in its realm. At times, there were “wars and reports of wars,” as Jesus had foretold. (Matt. 24:6) Roman armies destroyed Jerusalem in 70 C.E., and there were skirmishes on the frontiers of the empire. For about 200 years from

4. How successful were the first-century disciples in their preaching activity?

5. (a) What assurance did Jesus give his disciples? (b) In considering first-century circumstances, what have some concluded?

6. What will we examine (a) in this article? (b) in the next one?

7. What was the *Pax Romana*, and why was it remarkable?

the time of Jesus, however, the Mediterranean world was comparatively free of strife. One reference book states: "Never in human history had there been so long a span of general tranquility, and never again was peace to be maintained so steadily among so many people."

⁸ Expressing his viewpoint, third-century theologian Origen wrote: "It would have hindered Jesus' teaching from being spread through the whole world if there had been many kingdoms . . . because men everywhere would have been compelled to do military service and to fight in defence of their own land. . . . Accordingly, how could this teaching, which preaches peace and does not even allow men to take vengeance on their enemies, have had any success unless the international situation had everywhere been changed and a milder spirit prevailed at the advent of Jesus?" Kingdom proclaimers were persecuted in the Roman world, but they were peaceable and apparently benefited from the somewhat peaceful climate of those times.—**Read Romans 12:18-21.**

HOW RELATIVELY CONVENIENT TRAVEL PROVED HELPFUL

⁹ Christians made good use of the Roman system of roads. To secure and maintain control over its subjects, Rome had a strong and efficient army. To move troops quickly, good roads were needed, and the Romans were skilled at building them. Roman engineers constructed over 50,000 miles

(80,000 km) of roads that linked nearly every province. The roads cut through forests, crossed deserts, and scaled mountains.

¹⁰ In addition to their system of roads, the Romans could take advantage of some 17,000 miles (27,000 km) of navigable rivers and canals. Roman ships traveled some 900 sea routes that linked hundreds of ports. Christians could therefore travel throughout the Roman world. There were difficulties, but the apostle Paul and others could journey throughout the realm without passports and visas. There were no immigration and customs checks. Outlaws feared Roman punishment, so roads were relatively safe. Travel by sea was similarly safe because Rome's navies kept sea lanes free of piracy. Although Paul experienced shipwreck several times and there were dangers at sea, the Scriptures do not specifically say that his voyages were troubled by pirates.—2 Cor. 11:25, 26.

HOW LANGUAGE HELPED

¹¹ The common, or Koine, Greek language helped to promote good communication and unity among the Christian congregations. Because of the conquests of Alexander the Great, Greek was widely spoken and understood. Thus, God's servants could communicate with all kinds of people, and this contributed to the spread of the good news. Moreover, Jews living in Egypt had translated the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. People were familiar with this *Septuagint* version, and the early

8. How did the climate of peace benefit the early Christians?

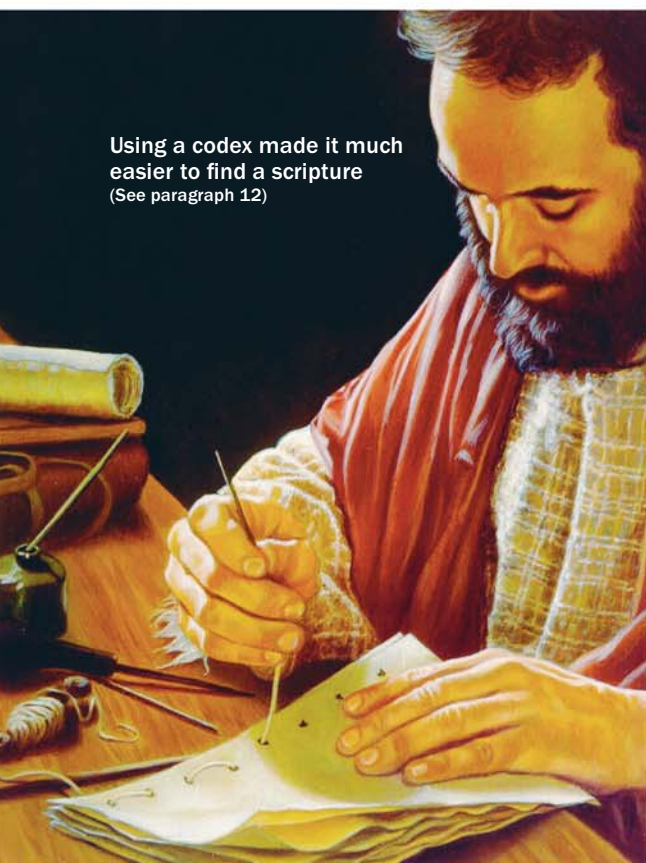
9, 10. Why was it relatively convenient for the disciples to travel in the Roman Empire?

11. Why did the disciples make use of the Greek language?

followers of Christ quoted freely from it. Christians also found Greek to be ideal for their writings. It had an extensive vocabulary and was rich in terms that were useful when spiritual matters had to be explained.

¹² How could Christians use the Scriptures in their ministry? Scrolls were cumbersome, for they had to be rolled and unrolled, and usually there was writing on only one side of the parchment. The Gospel of Matthew

12. (a) What is a codex, and what advantages did it have over a scroll? (b) When did the codex become widely used by Christians?



Using a codex made it much easier to find a scripture
(See paragraph 12)

alone would fill an entire scroll. But then came the codex—the earliest form of a book. It was a collection of pages bound together. A reader could open a codex and easily locate a passage of Scripture. Though it is not known exactly when Christians began to use the codex, one reference work states: “So universal is the Christian use of the codex in the second century that its introduction must date well before A.D. 100.”

HOW ROMAN LAW WAS HELPFUL

¹³ Roman law was in force throughout the empire, and Roman citizenship offered valuable rights and immunities. Paul made use of his Roman citizenship on several occasions. Faced with scourging in Jerusalem, the apostle asked a Roman officer: “Is it lawful for you to scourge a Roman who has not been condemned?” It was not. When Paul pointed out that he was a Roman citizen by birth, “the men who were about to interrogate him under torture backed away from him; and the military commander became afraid when he realized that [Paul] was a Roman and that he had bound him in chains.”—Acts 22:25-29.

¹⁴ Paul’s citizenship under Roman law affected how he was treated in Philippi. (Acts 16:35-40) In Ephesus, the city recorder referred to the Roman legal system after he had calmed an angry mob. (Acts 19:35-41) Paul’s legal appeal while in Caesarea opened the way for him to make a defense of his faith before Caesar. (Acts 25:8-12) Thus, Roman

13, 14. (a) How did Paul make use of his Roman citizenship? (b) How did Roman law benefit Christians?

law made possible “the defending and legally establishing of the good news.”—Phil. 1:7.

THE EFFECT OF THE JEWISH DISPERSION

¹⁵ In some respects, Christians may have found their evangelizing work easier because Jewish communities were scattered throughout the Roman world. Centuries earlier the Assyrians and later the Babylonians had exiled the Jews from their homeland. As early as the fifth century B.C.E., there were Jewish communities in the 127 provinces of the Persian Empire. (Esther 9:30) When Jesus was on earth, there were communities of Jews in Egypt and other parts of North Africa, as well as Greece, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia. It has been estimated that of the 60,000,000 people in the Roman Empire, about 1 in 14 was Jewish. Wherever the Jews went, they took their religion with them.—Matt. 23:15.

¹⁶ Because the Jews were so widely dispersed, many non-Jews became familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures. They learned that there is only one true God and that those who serve him are held to high ethical and moral standards. Moreover, the Hebrew Scriptures were filled with prophecies concerning the Messiah. (Luke 24:44) Both Jews and Christians understood that the Hebrew Scriptures were the inspired Word of God, which made it possible for Paul to establish common ground with those whose

hearts were inclined toward righteousness. Accordingly, the apostle customarily entered synagogues of the Jews and reasoned with them from the Scriptures.—Read Acts 17:1, 2.

¹⁷ The Jews had established a pattern of worship. They regularly met together in synagogues or at open-air meeting places. They sang songs, prayed, and discussed the Scriptures. Similar practices are followed in Christian congregations today.

POSSIBLE WITH JEHOVAH'S HELP

¹⁸ So it was that a remarkable set of circumstances contributed to the successful preaching of the good news. *Pax Romana*, relatively convenient travel, a universal language, Roman law, and the dispersion of the Jews helped Jesus' disciples to carry on their God-given preaching work.

¹⁹ Four centuries earlier, the Greek philosopher Plato had one of his literary characters say: “It would be a hard task to discover the maker and father of this universe of ours, and even if we did find him, it would be impossible to speak of him to everyone.” However, Jesus said: “The things impossible with men are possible with God.” (Luke 18:27) The Creator of the universe wants people to find him and get to know him. Furthermore, Jesus told his followers: “Make disciples of people of *all* the nations.” (Matt. 28:19) With Jehovah God's help, fulfilling that commission is possible. The following article will show how that work is being done in our day.

15. How widespread were first-century Jewish communities?

16, 17. (a) In what ways did the dispersion of the Jews benefit many non-Jews? (b) What practices of the Jews did the disciples adopt?

18, 19. (a) What did first-century circumstances make possible? (b) How does the foregoing information make you feel about Jehovah?



Jehovah Guides Our Global Teaching Work

“I, Jehovah, am your God, the One teaching you to benefit yourself, the One guiding you in the way you should walk.”—ISA. 48:17.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN?

How have Jehovah’s servants participated in Bible translation?

How have we made use of peaceful conditions and convenient transportation?

What inventions have we used in preaching the good news?

THE Bible Students* of the late 19th and early 20th centuries faced many obstacles. Like the first-century Christians, they proclaimed a largely unpopular message. They were few in number, and the world in general did not consider them highly educated. Moreover, they would in time face the “great anger” of Satan the Devil. (Rev. 12:12) And their preaching work would take place during “the last days,” an era characterized by “critical times hard to deal with.”—2 Tim. 3:1.

² Yet, Jehovah purposed that his people proclaim the good news on an unprecedented scale in our day, and nothing can prevent him from accomplishing that purpose. Just as he delivered the ancient nation of Israel from Babylon, Jehovah has rescued his present-day servants from “Babylon the Great,”

* The Bible Students adopted the name Jehovah’s Witnesses in 1931.—Isa. 43:10.

1. What obstacles to the preaching work have Christians in modern times faced?
2. What has Jehovah been doing to advance the preaching work in our day?

the world empire of false religion. (Rev. 18:1-4) He has taught us for our own good, has blessed us with peace, and has helped us to impart his teaching to others. **(Read Isaiah 48:16-18.)** This does not mean that Jehovah exercises his foresight so that he knows and then influences every development on earth in order to advance the Kingdom-preaching work. Some conditions have favored our witnessing activity, but only with Jehovah's help have we been able to endure such situations as persecution and other hardships that make it difficult to carry out our commission in this world that is lying in Satan's power.—Isa. 41:13; 1 John 5:19.

³ Jehovah inspired the prophet Daniel to foretell that "true knowledge" would become abundant in the time of the end. **(Read Daniel 12:4.)** Jehovah helped the Bible Students to understand fundamental Scriptural truths that had long been obscured by Christendom's doctrines. He is now using his people to make the true knowledge known throughout the earth. Today, we see the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy. Nearly 8,000,000 people have embraced Bible truth and are now declaring it worldwide. What are some of the factors that have made this global proclamation possible?

HOW BIBLE TRANSLATION HAS HELPED US

⁴ One factor that has favored our proclamation of the good news is the widespread availability of the Bible. For centuries, the clergy of Christendom discouraged and opposed the reading of the

Bible, even being responsible for the death of some who translated it. During the 19th century, however, Bible societies made the Bible available, in whole or in part, in some 400 languages. By the end of that century, many people owned a Bible but lacked accurate knowledge of Scriptural teachings.

⁵ The Bible Students knew that they had to preach, and they tirelessly explained what the Bible taught. In addition, Jehovah's people have used and distributed various versions of the Bible. Since 1950, they have published the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*, in whole or in part, in over 120 languages. The 2013 English edition of the *New World Translation* will make the rendering of it into other languages less challenging. In turn, using a clear, easy-to-read Bible helps us to carry out our preaching work.

HOW PEACE HAS HELPED US

⁶ You may wonder, 'How much peace has there been in the world?' In the 20th century, for example, millions of people died as a result of warfare, especially during the two world wars. But as World War II was raging in 1942, Nathan Knorr, who was then taking the lead among Jehovah's Witnesses, delivered the convention discourse "Peace—Can It Last?" That talk presented evidence from Revelation chapter 17 that the war then raging would lead, not to Armageddon, but to a time of peace.—Rev. 17:3, 11.

⁷ The conclusion of World War II did

3. How has "true knowledge" become abundant?

4. How extensive was Bible translation in the 19th century?

5. What have Jehovah's Witnesses done in the field of Bible translation?

6, 7. (a) How widespread has modern-day warfare been? (b) How has relative peace in some lands benefited our preaching work?



We are making Bible literature available to people around the earth



The Harp of God

5,800,000 COPIES

[36 languages]



“Let God Be True”

18,400,000 COPIES

[56 languages]

not bring total peace. According to one count, there were 331 episodes of armed conflict between 1946 and 2013. Millions died. During those years, however, many countries enjoyed relative peace, and Jehovah’s people took advantage of that situation to proclaim the good news. What has been the result? In 1944, there were fewer than 110,000 Kingdom publishers worldwide. Today, there are some 8,000,000! (**Read Isaiah 60:22.**) Are we not thankful when we can preach the good news under peaceful conditions?

HOW CONVENIENT TRAVEL HAS HELPED US

⁸ Advancement in the field of transportation has facilitated the preaching work. In 1900—about 21 years after the first *Watch Tower* was printed—only 8,000 automobiles were registered in the entire United States, and there were just a few hundred miles of roads good enough to drive them on. Worldwide, there are now more than one and a half billion registered motorized vehicles

8, 9. What developments have there been in the field of transportation, and how have they helped us in our work?

and millions of miles of good roads. Cars and roads enable many of us to take the good news to people who live in remote areas. However, even if we lack convenient means of travel and must walk great distances, we put forth the effort needed to make disciples.—Matt. 28: 19, 20.

⁹ Various other forms of transportation have also been helpful in our work. Trucks, ships, and trains make it possible to transport Bible-based literature to very remote regions within weeks. Airplanes allow circuit overseers, Branch Committee members, missionaries, and others to travel swiftly to conventions or to care for theocratic assignments. Additionally, members of the Governing Body and other brothers from world headquarters fly to many countries to encourage and instruct fellow believers. Advancements in transportation thus help to promote unity among Jehovah’s people.—Ps. 133:1-3.

HOW LANGUAGE HAS HELPED US

¹⁰ During the first century, common,

10. Why can it be said that English is an international language?



The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life

107,300,000 COPIES

[120 languages]



What Does the Bible Really Teach?

237,600,000 COPIES

[272 languages]



or Koine, Greek was widely spoken in the Roman Empire. Is there a language as widely spoken today? Many would say that English is such a language. The book *English as a Global Language* says: “About a quarter of the world’s population is already fluent or competent in English.” The most widely taught foreign language is English, which is used to communicate internationally for commercial, political, scientific, and technological purposes.

¹¹ The widespread use of English has helped to advance pure worship. For years, *The Watchtower* and other Bible-based publications were printed first in English. It is the official language at the world headquarters of Jehovah’s Witnesses. And it is generally used when teaching students at the Watchtower Educational Center in Patterson, New York, U.S.A.

¹² Because we have the privilege of preaching the good news of the King-

11. How has English had an impact on the advancement of pure worship?

12. To what extent have Jehovah’s servants translated Bible-based literature, and how has technology made this possible?

dom to people of all nations, we have translated our literature into some 700 languages. Advances in computer technology, including the development of MEPS (Multilanguage Electronic Publishing System), have assisted us in this vast endeavor. These efforts have helped us to spread the Kingdom message and have promoted unity among us worldwide. But we are especially unified because we speak the more important “pure language” of Scriptural truth.

—**Read Zephaniah 3:9.**

HOW LAWS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL

¹³ As noted in the preceding article, the early Christians benefited from Roman law, which was in force throughout the empire. Similarly, present-day Christians benefit from legal provisions. For example, in the United States—the location of our world headquarters—the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, speech, and assembly. This has given brothers in the United States freedom to meet and discuss the Bible openly and to share with others what they are learning.

13, 14. How have present-day Christians benefited from laws and legal decisions?

However, freedom to exercise certain rights had to be legally established in the courts. (Phil. 1:7) When legal action was brought against Jehovah's people in the United States, appeals to higher courts repeatedly upheld their right to be Kingdom proclaimers.

¹⁴ Courts of other countries have also upheld our freedom of worship and the right to preach publicly. In some lands, we have lost court battles, but we have applied to international courts. For example, as of June 2014, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled in our favor in 57 cases that are binding on all nations of the Council of Europe. Even though we are "hated by all the nations," the courts of many countries have ruled that we have the right to practice true worship.—Matt. 24:9.

HOW OTHER FACTORS HAVE AFFECTED OUR TEACHING WORK

¹⁵ Advances in the printing industry have contributed to the worldwide preaching of the good news. For centuries the flatbed platen printing press invented by Johannes Gutenberg about 1450 changed little. During the past two centuries, however, noteworthy changes have taken place in the printing industry. Presses have become larger, faster, and more sophisticated. Paper production and bookbinding have become less expensive. Offset printing has replaced the letterpress method, speeding up the production process and improving the quality of artwork. What has all of this meant for our work? Consider this: The first *Watch Tower* (July 1879) had a printing of 6,000 copies, without illustrations,

and in only one language—English. Today, 136 years later, over 50,000,000 copies of each issue of *The Watchtower* are being printed and distributed. It is beautifully illustrated in full color and is available in more than 200 languages.

¹⁶ Consider some inventions of the past 200 years that God's people have used in preaching the good news. We have mentioned trains, cars, and airplanes, but there have also been bicycles, typewriters, Braille devices, the telegraph, telephones, cameras, audio and video recorders, radio, television, motion pictures, computers, and the Internet. In various ways, such things have helped us to accomplish our commission to make disciples. In fulfillment of the prophecy that Jehovah's people would "drink the milk of nations," we have made wise use of resources of the nations, such as modern technology, in order to produce the Bible and Bible literature in many languages.—**Read Isaiah 60:16.**

¹⁷ Clearly, we have strong evidence of God's blessing. Of course, Jehovah does not rely on our help to accomplish his purposes. Yet, our loving heavenly Father allows us to be his "fellow workers," thus enabling us to show our love for him and for our neighbor. (1 Cor. 3:9; Mark 12:28-31) May we take advantage of our opportunities to proclaim the Kingdom message, the most important work on earth. By all means, let us show how thankful we are that Jehovah has guided and blessed our global teaching work!

16. What inventions have aided us in preaching earth wide? (See opening image.)

17. (a) The evidence points to what conclusion? (b) Why does Jehovah allow us to be his "fellow workers"?

15. What advances have been made in printing, and how have these helped us?

What can be done to assist brothers and sisters who suffer from adverse reactions to fragrances?

■ Any who are sensitive to fragrances face a difficult challenge. Very likely, they have little control over their exposure to fragrances in day-to-day interactions with strangers. Yet, some have inquired whether it would be possible to request that the brothers and sisters refrain from using perfumes and colognes at Christian meetings, assemblies, and conventions.

Certainly, no Christian would knowingly want to make it difficult for another person to attend Christian gatherings. All of us need the encouragement that our meetings provide. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Consequently, any who suffer from fragrance sensitivity that is so severe that it hinders their meeting attendance may wish to discuss the matter with the elders. While it would not be Scriptural or appropriate to make rules about the use of fragrances by those attending meetings, the elders may be able to provide information to help congregation members understand the issues that others face. Depending on the circumstances, the elders may decide to consider previously published information in a local needs part during the Service Meeting, or they may choose to make a tactful announcement on the subject.* However, the elders cannot constantly be making announcements of this kind. At our meetings, there will always be newly interested people and visitors who are unaware of the problem, and we want such ones to feel welcome. No one should be made to feel uncomfortable because of his or her moderate use of fragrances.

* For a review of this topic, see "Helping Those With MCS," in *Awake!* of August 8, 2000, pages 8-10.

Where the problem exists and local circumstances allow, it might be possible for the body of elders to arrange for those who are sensitive to fragrances to sit in a somewhat isolated area in the Kingdom Hall. For example, there may be a conference room equipped with sound where they could sit in order to benefit from the meetings. If the matter cannot be resolved reasonably and some are still suffering severely, the congregation may be in a position to record the meetings for these ones or to arrange for a telephone hookup to their home, as has been done for others who are confined to their homes.

In recent years, *Our Kingdom Ministry* has encouraged brothers and sisters to show special consideration in this matter while attending regional conventions. In view of the fact that most conventions are held in enclosed areas with mechanical ventilation, attendees have been asked to limit their use of strong fragrances at these events. Special consideration has been urged particularly in regard to regional conventions, since it is generally not possible to provide fragrance-free areas at the venues used. However, it was never intended that this direction become a general rule for congregation meetings, and it should not be interpreted as such.

While we live in this system of things, all of us suffer the consequences of inherited imperfection. How we appreciate the efforts of others to alleviate our suffering! It may represent a sacrifice for some to refrain from using perfume or cologne in order to make it easier for a brother or a sister to attend Christian meetings. Yet, love may prompt us to choose to do so.

Do secular sources support the existence of Pontius Pilate?

■ Pontius Pilate is known to Bible readers because of his role in Jesus' trial and execution. (Matt. 27:1, 2, 24-26) However, his name also appears a number of times in other contemporary historical records. According to *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, the dossier of secular historical references to him is "larger and more detailed than that of any other Roman governor of Judea."

Pilate's name appears most frequently in the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus, who chronicled three specific incidents relating to the difficulties Pilate experienced while governing Judea. A fourth incident was added by the Jewish historian Philo. The Roman writer Tacitus, who recorded the history of Rome's emperors, confirmed that Pontius Pilate ordered Jesus' execution during the reign of Tiberius.

In 1961, archaeologists working in the ancient Roman theater in Caesarea, Israel, found that a

reused stone slab clearly bore Pilate's name in Latin. The inscription (shown here) is fragmentary but is thought originally to have read: "To the honorable gods (this) Tiberieum Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judaea, had dedicated." The building referred to was likely a temple honoring the Roman Emperor Tiberius.



This stone slab was inscribed with Pilate's name in Latin

Photograph © Israel Museum, Jerusalem; courtesy of Israel Antiquities Authority

Does a female Kingdom publisher need to wear a head covering if she conducts a Bible study in the presence of a male publisher?

■ In a "Questions From Readers" item published in *The Watchtower* of July 15, 2002, it was stated that a sister should cover her head if she conducts a Bible study in the presence of a male publisher, whether he is baptized or not. Further consideration of the matter suggests that a modification to this direction is appropriate.

If the male publisher who accompanies the sister while she conducts an established Bible study is baptized, the sister would certainly want to wear a head covering. She thus shows respect for Jehovah's arrangement of headship within the

Christian congregation because she is fulfilling a role that would normally be the responsibility of the brother. (1 Cor. 11:5, 6, 10) Alternatively, she could ask the brother to conduct the study if he is qualified and able to do so.

On the other hand, if a sister is accompanied on an established Bible study by an *unbaptized* male publisher who is not her husband, she would not Scripturally be required to wear a head covering. Nevertheless, the conscience of some sisters may move them to wear a head covering even in such circumstances.

"A Very Precious Season"

IN 1870 a small group in Pittsburgh (Allegheny), Pennsylvania, U.S.A., began searching the Scriptures. Led by Charles Taze Russell, they studied the subject of Christ's ransom and soon realized its central place in Jehovah's purpose. How thrilled they were to learn that the ransom opens up the way to salvation, even for those who had not yet heard of Jesus! They appreciatively felt moved to commemorate Jesus' death each year in remembrance of him.—1 Cor. 11:23-26.

Brother Russell went on to publish *Zion's Watch Tower*, which championed the doctrine of the ransom as a foremost expression of God's love. The *Watch Tower* called the time of the Memorial of Christ's death "a very precious season" and urged readers to commemorate it either in Pittsburgh or elsewhere in private groups. "Even if there be but two or three of like precious faith"—or just one—they would be "in heart communion with the Lord."

Each year, more and more came to Pittsburgh for the Memorial. "Warm hearts here will make you welcome," stated the invitation. Indeed, local Bible Students willingly housed and fed their spiritual brothers and sisters. In 1886, "A Gener-

al Meeting" took place for several days during the Memorial season. "Come," urged the *Watch Tower*, "with your own heart overflowing with love for the Master and for his brethren and for his truth."

For several years, the Bible Students in Pittsburgh hosted conventions for believers in the ransom who came there for the Memorial. As the ranks of the Bible Students grew, so did the number and size of Memorial gatherings worldwide. Ray Bopp of the Chicago ecclesia (congregation) recalled that in the 1910's, it took several hours to pass the emblems among the hundreds of attendees because almost all were partakers.

What emblems were used? Although noting that Jesus had used wine during the Lord's Supper, for a time the *Watch Tower* recommended instead the juice of fresh grapes or cooked raisins, so as not to tempt those "weak in the flesh." However, wine was provided for those who felt that "fermented wine was meant to be used." The Bible Students later understood that unadulterated red wine is the proper symbol of Jesus' blood.

Memorializing Jesus' death afforded an opportunity for serious reflection. In some

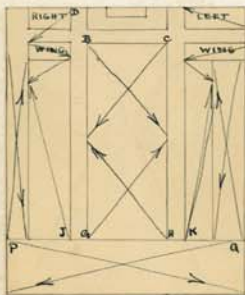


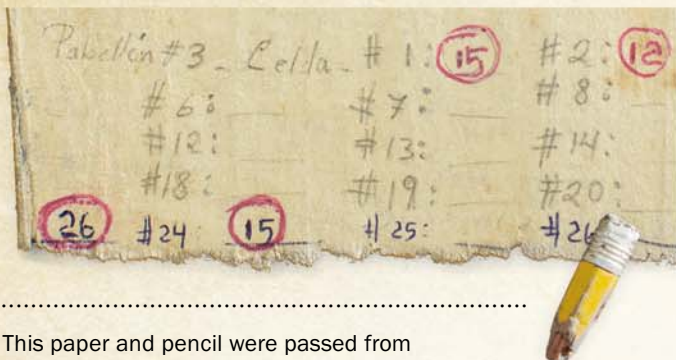
Chart for passing Memorial emblems at the London Tabernacle

Vessel for the wine used at the Memorial in Pittsburgh



While in solitary confinement, Harold King wrote poems and songs about the Memorial





This paper and pencil were passed from cell to cell to record Memorial attendance in a prison in Nicaragua

Brothers gathered in the Mordvinia, Russia, labor camp to observe the Memorial in 1957



congregations, however, a mournful atmosphere prevailed, and when the program concluded, all left barely saying a word. The 1934 book *Jehovah*, though, said that the Memorial should be held, not “in sorrow” over Jesus’ painful death, but “in joy” over his rulership as King since 1914.

The year 1935 marked a dramatic change that affected future Memorial observances, for the meaning of the “great multitude” (KJ), or “great crowd,” of Revelation 7:9 was clarified. Until then, Jehovah’s servants had viewed this group as consecrated Christians who were less zealous. Now this vast throng was identified as faithful worshippers who hope to live on a paradise earth. Following this clarification and after some careful self-examination, Russell Poggensee acknowledged: “The heavenly hope had not been awakened within me by Jehovah through his holy spirit.” Brother Poggensee—and many loyal ones like him—stopped partaking of the emblems but continued to attend the Memorial.

During this “very precious season,” special preaching campaigns provided a fine way for all to show appreciation for the ransom. A 1932 *Bulletin* urged Christians not to be “Memorial

saints,” ones who were partakers but not “actual workers,” preaching the message of truth. In 1934, the *Bulletin* called for “auxiliaries,” asking: “Will there be 1,000 enrolled by Memorial time?” Regarding the anointed, the *Informant* commented: “Their joy can be complete only by sharing in the Kingdom witness.” In time, the same would be true of those with the earthly hope.*

To all of Jehovah’s people, the Memorial is the most sacred night of the year. They observe it even under difficult circumstances. In 1930, Pearl English and her sister, Ora, walked some 50 miles (80 km) to attend the Memorial. While in solitary confinement in a prison in China, missionary Harold King wrote poems and songs about the Memorial and made the emblems from black currants and rice. From Eastern Europe to Central America to Africa, courageous Christians have braved wartime conditions or bans to commemorate Jesus’ death. No matter where we are or what our situation is, we gather together to honor Jehovah God and Jesus Christ during the precious Memorial season.

* The *Bulletin* was later called *Informant*, now *Our Kingdom Ministry*.



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