

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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For United States of America

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Praise Jehovah Daily

¹ Our God, Jehovah, is a marvelous, loving Creator, the Source of all life and happiness. In view of his greatness, he truly is deserving of praise from all his creation. Individually, we wish to say as did the psalmist: "I will add to all your praise. My own mouth will recount your righteousness, all day long your salvation." (Ps. 71:14, 15) To do this, we must seek ways to praise Jehovah day by day and be motivated to speak well of him, his righteousness, and his provisions for salvation.

² The early Christians set a fine example in praising Jehovah. In reference to the 3,000 baptized at Pentecost, we read at Acts 2:46, 47: "Day after day they were in constant attendance at the temple with one accord, . . . praising God and finding favor with all the people. . . . [And] Jehovah continued to join to them daily those being saved." They were learning wonderful truths about Jehovah and his Messiah. Their joy was contagious, encouraging still others to listen and learn and to praise Jehovah.

³ Opportunities Are Available Every Day: Today many find that they can praise Jehovah daily by informal witnessing. Advance planning helps them to be more productive. A sister who had resolved to share in informal witnessing found that someone had smashed two windows and broken into her car. She called a repair service and then prepared to witness to the serviceman. Her preparation included praying for Jehovah's direction. As it turned out, she witnessed to the serviceman for an hour and placed the *Live Forever* book with him.

⁴ Another sister regularly met a neighbor while they were walking their dogs. During one encounter, they had a serious conversation about life's problems, and that led to more discussions. In time, a Bible study was started. Interestingly, the neighbor later confessed that she would not have listened to Jehovah's Witnesses if they had called at her door, since she did not believe in God or the Bible.

⁵ Some find it possible to give a witness when salesmen or others call at their door. A sister in Ireland received a call from a man selling life insurance. She explained that she is looking forward to enjoying everlasting life. This was an entirely new thought to this man, who had been raised as a Roman Catholic. He accepted the *Live Forever* book, attended a meeting the following week, and agreed to have a Bible study. Now this salesman is a baptized brother.

⁶ All of us should be alert to opportunities to praise Jehovah daily. It is helpful to keep a few magazines or tracts where they can be seen and can be readily offered to visitors. In some areas a little time spent on a park bench might give you several chances to witness to others who stop to relax for a few minutes. Some Witness youths in school keep Bible literature on their desk as a way to initiate a conversation with someone who notices it and asks questions. Have in mind one or two Scripture references that you can use. Ask Jehovah to help you. You will be blessed for doing so.—1 John 5:14.

Prepare for and Enjoy Congregation Meetings

¹ As an association of brothers, we wisely congregate regularly for our weekly meetings. (1 Tim. 4:15, 16) How can we enjoy and derive the most benefit from them?

² Time should be set aside on a regular basis to prepare for the meetings. Some may be able to spend more time in preparation than others. However, no matter how busy we are, it is wise to find some time to prepare for meetings. Preparing together as a family is especially beneficial.—Eph. 5:15, 16.

³ For the Theocratic Ministry School: Strive to keep up with the weekly Bible reading schedule. (Josh. 1:8) Review the material that will be covered, and bring the necessary publications so that you can follow along with the speakers. Think about ways you can use this information in your ministry.

⁴ For the Service Meeting: Look over the program outlined in *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Read the articles that will be

discussed. If material from a *Watchtower* article or some other publication will be considered, look that up and read it too. If field service presentations will be demonstrated, review these in advance so that you will be ready to use them in your ministry.

⁵ For the Watchtower Study: Read over the lesson in advance, noting the answers to the questions. Looking up the cited scriptures will help you to get a better understanding. Meditating on how the lesson fits in with what you already know will broaden your knowledge. Plan to participate during the study by preparing brief comments on at least one or two paragraphs. This is an important way to make "public declaration of our hope."—Heb. 10:23.

⁶ For the Congregation Book Study: First, survey the material; consider the chapter title and subheadings. Then, as you read, take note of the key ideas. Review the supporting Bible verses. Try

to answer the questions in your own words. When you have prepared the lesson, review it in your mind. Try to recall the main points and lines of reasoning.—2 Tim. 2:15.

⁷ Enjoy the Meetings: To enjoy the meetings to the full, it is important to be on time in order to share in the opening prayer, asking for Jehovah's spirit. You also benefit from the refreshing Kingdom songs. If you do not have young ones or some other reason for sitting in the back of the hall, likely you will find that if you sit toward the front, there will be fewer distractions and you will get more out of the program. Parents with little ones who may have to be taken out during the meeting can minimize the distraction by sitting close to the aisle and toward the rear.

⁸ Endeavor to look up the scriptures that are read. This will help you remember what you hear. Talking to your family and friends about what you learn will impress the information on your mind. Applying these suggestions will make the meetings more meaningful and enjoyable, and they will truly "incite [us] to love and fine works."—Heb. 10:24, 25.

Week Starting December 4

Song 181

10 min: Local announcements. Select-
ed Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

15 min: "Praise Jehovah Daily." Questions and answers. Have paragraphs read. Have one or two publishers relate encouraging experiences enjoyed while witnessing informally.

20 min: "Offering the Book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*." Enthusiastically recommend offering the new book, especially to those who have manifested interest in the past. Review the suggested presentations, and have one or two of these demonstrated. Include appropriate explanations of how householder can make donation to worldwide work.

Song 224 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 11

Song 201

13 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Briefly review some reasons why we should plan for a full and meaningful share in field service. Rather than limit ourselves to an hour or so when we go out, why not arrange to stay out for two hours or more if possible? Success usually depends on lining up re-

turn visits in advance and arranging to work with others who plan to stay out for two hours or more.

15 min: Local needs. Or a talk based on the article "The Rewards of Persistence," from the August 1, 1995, *Watchtower*, pages 25-9.

17 min: "Prepare for and Enjoy Congregation Meetings." Talk and discussion. Invite one or two publishers to relate what they do that helps them to enjoy the meetings and get the full benefit from them.

Song 28 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 18

Song 139

10 min: Local announcements. Offer some suggestions on how to respond tactfully to holiday greetings. Announce special witnessing arrangements for December 25.

15 min: "Make Your Advancement Manifest." Questions and answers.

20 min: "Return to Those Who Showed Interest." Review suggested presentations, and have two brief demonstrations. Encourage all to make return visits with the goal of starting studies in the *Knowledge* book.

Song 44 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 25

Song 88

5 min: Local announcements. If your meeting times are due to change January 1, give encouragement for all to give full support by making any needed adjustments. (See December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 2.) Announce special witnessing arrangements for January 1.

15 min: Question Box. Two elders discuss value of health-care power of attorney (proxy) forms used locally, which the congregation received from the Society last year. Use information from the December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* announcement; the November 15, 1994, letter to all congregations; and the question-and-answer folder that accompanies the power of attorney form in use in your area. Highlight the headings, some of the questions and answers, and the checklist with references from the question-and-answer folder. (All bodies of elders should follow the instructions in the September 20, 1995, letter from the Society about supplying copies of these materials to the publishers.)

25 min: "Letting Our Light Shine Continuously." Base brief introduction on paragraphs 1-5. Paragraphs 6-16 to be covered by questions and answers. Read paragraphs 6-9, 15, and 16. Use paragraphs 17-19 for conclusion. Handled by service overseer if possible.

Song 3 and concluding prayer.

Make Your Advancement Manifest

¹ Think back to the time when you first heard the Kingdom message. Simple truths stirred your desire for knowledge and understanding. Soon you were able to see a need to make adjustments in your way of life because Jehovah's ways are so much higher than your ways. (Isa. 55:8, 9) You made advancement, dedicated your life, and got baptized.

² Even after making some spiritual progress, there were still weaknesses that had to be overcome. (Rom. 12:2) Perhaps you had fear of man, which made you reluctant to share in field service. Or perhaps you were falling short in displaying the fruitage of God's spirit. Rather than hold back, you were determined to make advancement by setting theocratic goals for yourself.

³ Several years may now have passed since you made your dedication. In looking back, what advancement can you see in yourself? Have you achieved

some of your goals? Do you have the same zeal you "had at the beginning"? (Heb. 3:14) Timothy was already a mature Christian with years of experience when Paul urged him: "Ponder over these things; be absorbed in them, that your advancement may be manifest to all persons."—1 Tim. 4:15.

4 Personal Examination Needed: When we ponder over our past course, do we find that we continue to have some of the weaknesses we had when we started? Have we failed to reach some of the goals we set? If so, why? Even though we had good intentions, we may have procrastinated. Perhaps we have allowed the anxieties of life or the pressures of this system to hold us back.—Luke 17:28-30.

⁵ While we can do little about the past, we can certainly do something about the future. We can make an honest appraisal of ourselves, determine where we are lacking, and then put forth a concentrated effort to improve.

We may need to do better in displaying the fruits of God's spirit, such as self-control, mildness, or long-suffering. (Gal. 5:22, 23) If we have difficulty getting along with others or cooperating with the elders, it is important that we cultivate humility and lowliness of mind.—Phil. 2:2, 3.

⁶ Can we make our advancement manifest by reaching out for privileges of service? With extra effort brothers may be able to qualify as ministerial servants or elders. Some of us may be able to enroll as regular pioneers. For many more, auxiliary pioneering may be a reachable goal. Others may strive to improve personal study habits, become more active participants in congregation meetings, or be more productive as congregation publishers.

⁷ It is, of course, up to each one of us to decide where we need to make advancement. We can be sure that our sincere effort to "press on to maturity" will add greatly to our joy and make us more productive members of the congregation.—Heb. 6:1.

Letting Our Light Shine Continuously

¹ What is light? The dictionary defines it as “something that makes vision possible.” But really, despite his advanced technology, man still does not fully know the answer to the question Jehovah raised as recorded at Job 38:24. Can we get along without light? Without light we could not exist. Light is essential for physical sight, and the Bible tells us that in a spiritual sense, “God is light.” (1 John 1:5) We are totally dependent upon the One who “gives us light.”—Ps. 118:27.

² This is true in a physical sense but even more so in a spiritual way. False religion has misguided the masses of people, leaving them in spiritual darkness, “groping for the wall just like blind men.” (Isa. 59:9, 10) Prompted by his unsurpassing love and compassion, Jehovah “sends out his light and truth.” (Ps. 43:3) Literally millions of appreciative ones have responded, coming “out of darkness into his wonderful light.”—1 Pet. 2:9.

³ Jesus Christ plays a vital role in bringing this light to the world. He said: “I have come as a light into the world, in order that everyone putting faith in me may not remain in the darkness.” (John 12:46) All his time, energy, and resources were directed toward making the light of truth known. He traveled the length and breadth of his homeland, preaching and teaching in virtually every city and village. He endured relentless persecution from every side, but he remained steadfast in his commission to spread the light of truth.

⁴ Jesus concentrated on selecting, training, and organizing disciples, with a specific goal in mind. At Matthew 5:14-16 we read his instructions to them: “You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light shine before men, that they may see your fine works and give glory to your Father who is in the heavens.” Just like Jesus, they were to be “illuminators in the world,” disseminating the light of truth far and wide. (Phil. 2:15) They gladly accepted that responsibility, viewing it as their primary purpose in life. A short time later, Paul was able to say that the good news “was preached in all creation that is under heaven.” (Col. 1:23) The entire Christian congregation was united in accomplishing that great work.

⁵ We today should be thankful that we have come to be among those who have “put off the works belonging to darkness.” (Rom. 13:12, 13) We can show our appreciation by imitating the example set by Jesus and the faithful Christians in the past. The need for others to hear the truth is more urgent and critical now than at any time in human history. No other activity can begin to compare with this work in its urgency and far-reaching benefits.

⁶ **How Can We Shine as Illuminators?** The primary way to let our light shine is to share in the Kingdom-preaching work. Every congregation has regular, organized arrangements for preaching in its assigned territory. Huge quantities of literature are made available in great variety and in many languages. Extensive education is provided through the meetings, and assistance in training others personally is offered by those who are experienced. Opportunities to participate are open to men, women, older ones, and even children. Every individual in the congregation is invited to participate at whatever level his abilities and circumstances permit. All the functions of the congregation are focused on preaching, with provisions to help every member share in some way. Regular, close association with the congregation is the best way to ensure that our light keeps shining.

⁷ We can shine in ways that may not involve a verbal witness. We can attract the attention of others simply by our conduct. That is what Peter had in mind when he urged: “Maintain your conduct fine among the nations, that . . . they may as a result of your fine works of which they are eyewitnesses glorify God.” (1 Pet. 2:12) Many judge a work or an organization by the conduct of those associated with it. When observers note people who are morally clean, honest, peaceable, and law-abiding, they view such people as different and conclude that they live by standards that are on a much higher level than those followed by the majority. So a husband is letting his light shine when he honors and cherishes his wife in a loving manner; the wife does the same by respecting her husband’s headship. Children stand out as different when they obey their parents and avoid sexual immorality and the use of drugs. An employee who is conscientious about his work, honest, and considerate of others is highly valued. By demonstrating these Christian qualities, we are letting our light shine, recommending our way of life to others.

⁸ Preaching is talking to others about what we have learned from God’s Word. That is done from the public platform or at the doors, but it is by no means limited to such occasions. Our daily activities put us in contact with scores of people. How many times a day do you speak to your next-door neighbors? How often does someone knock at your door? How many different people do you rub shoulders with when you do your shopping, ride the bus, or work at your secular job? If you are a young person in school, can you count the number of individuals you speak to each day? The opportunities to speak to others are virtually unlimited. All you need to do is to get a few Scriptural thoughts in mind, keep a Bible and some tracts

handy, and take the initiative to speak up when you get the chance.

⁹ Even though informal witnessing is quite simple, some feel reluctant to try it. They may be reticent, insisting that they are too shy or too nervous to approach strangers. They may feel apprehensive about drawing attention to themselves or getting a harsh response. Those who are experienced in informal witnessing can tell you that there is rarely any cause for anxiety. Others are basically just like us; they have the same needs, feel the same concerns, and want the same things for themselves and their families. Most will respond in a kindly manner to a cheerful smile or a friendly greeting. To get started, you may have to 'muster up boldness.' (1 Thess. 2:2) Once you get going, however, you may be surprised and delighted with the results.

¹⁰ We Are Blessed When We Let Our Light Shine:

Here are some examples of refreshing experiences resulting from informal witnessing: A 55-year-old lady was attempting to cross the street. Just as a car was about to hit her, a sister grabbed her arm and pulled her to safety, saying: "Please take care. We are living in perilous times!" She then explained why the times are so dangerous. The lady asked, "Are you one of Jehovah's Witnesses?" Having obtained one of our books from her sister, the lady wanted to meet one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and this encounter made it possible.

¹¹ A sister started a conversation with a woman in a waiting room at the doctor's office. The woman listened attentively and then said: "For some time, Jehovah's Witnesses have been crossing my path; but if sometime in the future I actually become one of Jehovah's Witnesses myself, it will be because of what you just told me. Listening to you is like starting to see light in a dark place."

¹² An act of kindness can be a stepping-stone to helping others learn the truth. While walking home from field service, two sisters noticed an elderly woman who appeared to be ill as she got off the bus. They stopped and asked the lady if she needed help. She was so surprised that two complete strangers would show interest in her that she insisted on knowing what it was that sparked such a kind gesture. This opened the door for a witness. The lady readily gave her address and warmly invited them to visit her. A study was started. Soon the lady began attending meetings and is now sharing the truth with others.

¹³ An elderly sister takes advantage of early-morning witnessing on the local beach. She meets housemaids, baby-sitters, bank clerks, and others who take their morning stroll on the boardwalk. She conducts Bible studies, sitting on the benches. Several people have learned the truth from her and are now Jehovah's Witnesses.

¹⁴ At her secular job, a sister heard a fellow worker talk about a political party that she believed could solve the world's problems. The sister spoke up, relating promises about what God's Kingdom will do. This discussion at work led to a regular Bible study in the home, and eventually the lady and her husband became Witnesses.

¹⁵ **Never Forget You Are a Witness!** When Jesus described his disciples as "the light of the world," he reasoned that they should be helping others to benefit from the spiritual enlightenment of God's Word. If we apply Jesus' counsel, how will we view our ministry?

¹⁶ When searching for employment, some people choose a part-time job. They put limits on how much time and effort they will put into it because they prefer to use most of their time pursuing activities they find more rewarding. Are we taking a similar view of our ministry? Even though we might feel obligated and even be willing to set aside some time for the ministry, should our primary interests be elsewhere?

¹⁷ Realizing that there is no such thing as a part-time Christian, we made our dedication, 'disowning ourselves' and agreeing to follow Jesus "continually." (Matt. 16:24) Our desire is to continue being "whole-souled," taking advantage of every opportunity to let our light shine in order to reach people wherever they are. (Col. 3:23, 24) We must resist worldly attitudes, maintain our zeal as in the beginning, and make sure that our light continues to shine forth brilliantly. Some may have allowed their zeal to cool off and their light to become only a faint glow, hardly visible a short distance away. Such a one may need help to recover lost zeal for the ministry.

¹⁸ Some may tend to hold back because our message is unpopular to many. Paul said that the message about the Christ was "foolishness to those who are perishing." (1 Cor. 1:18) No matter what others said, however, he forcefully declared: "I am not ashamed of the good news." (Rom. 1:16) One who is ashamed feels inferior or unworthy. How could we possibly feel ashamed when we speak about the Supreme Sovereign of the universe and the marvelous provisions he has made for our eternal happiness? It is unthinkable that we would feel inferior or unworthy when we speak these truths to others. Instead, we should feel compelled to do our utmost, displaying our conviction that we have "nothing to be ashamed of."—2 Tim. 2:15.

¹⁹ The light of truth that is now shining in lands all around the earth warmly offers the hope of everlasting life in a paradise new world. Let us show that we have taken to heart the admonition to let our light shine continuously! If we do, we will have cause to rejoice just like the disciples who every day "continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus."—Acts 5:42.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 4 to December 18, 1995. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Jehovah's Witnesses have no leader. [jv p. 117 par. 4]
2. Isaiah 38:5 helps us to appreciate that sincere supplications may move Jehovah to do what he might not otherwise have done. [Weekly Bible reading; see w95 4/1 p. 15.]
3. Puny man on earth can make the Creator of the universe feel hurt or joy. (Isa. 63:10) [Weekly Bible reading; see w93 6/15 p. 15.]
4. N. H. Barbour claimed to believe in the ransom, that Christ died *for* us. He rejected the idea of "substitution"—that Christ died *instead of* us. [jv p. 131 pars. 3, 4, footnote]
5. Isaiah 53:5, 12 foretold that Jesus Christ would die as a ransom sacrifice to cover the sins of others. [Weekly Bible reading; see w92 10/1 p. 14.]
6. Through his study of the Scriptures, Russell came to realize that Christ would not only *return* invisibly but also *remain* invisible, even when manifesting his presence by judgment upon the wicked. [jv p. 133 par. 3]
7. Although Jehovah's Witnesses take no part whatsoever in political activities, they do not interfere with what others do as to joining a political party, running for office, or voting in elections. [uw p. 166 par. 12]
8. Faithful servants of God prior to the time of Christ had no knowledge about the new world that we hope for. [Weekly Bible reading; see w95 2/15 p. 11.]

9. Cyrus became Jehovah's "anointed one" even though there is no evidence that literal oil was poured on him. (Isa. 45:1) [Weekly Bible reading; see w92 11/15 p. 30.]
10. In order to serve God with full devotion, Christians need to know the day and the hour when Jehovah will execute Satan's earthly system. [uw p. 176 par. 2]

Answer the following questions:

11. When should a Christian talk to his doctor about his decision to abstain from blood? [uw p. 158 par. 9] *Before he*
12. In what way was Jesus no part of the world? [uw p. 161 par. 2] *neutral*
13. What does speaking God's Word boldly not mean? [uw p. 175 par. 13] *being loud*
14. Who is the real "Israel of God," and in what year was it identified? (Gal. 6:16) [jv p. 141 pars. 3, 4]
15. What principle was clearly discerned back in 1962 that clarified our understanding of submission to "the superior authorities"? (Rom. 13:1-7) [jv p. 147 par. 3] *Higher powers = gov.*
16. Although we were known in 1931 as Christians and as Bible Students, why was there a need to embrace the distinctive name Jehovah's Witnesses? [jv p. 150 par. 5-p. 151 par. 2] *a people of his name*
17. What belief in connection with the earth and the text at Matthew 5:5 has set Jehovah's Witnesses apart from all Christendom? [jv p. 161 par. 3] *Earth must inherit the approval*
18. In which books and chapters do three of the Gospels provide information about the composite sign identifying "the conclusion of the system of things"? [uw p. 178 par. 5] *mat 24, mark 13 Luke 21*

19. Why is the name Jehovah's Witnesses not just a label? [jv p. 158 par. 4]
20. Why is there no question among Jehovah's Witnesses as to how adultery, fornication, or homosexuality should be viewed? [jv p. 173 par. 1, p. 174 par. 3]

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. When a Christian is checked into a hospital, he should request in writing that no blood be used, and he should talk about it personally to the doctor who will be handling his case. [uw p. 158 par. 9]
22. Two ways that we show our reliance on Jehovah are by regularly attending meetings and by regularly turning to him in prayer. [uw pp. 170-1 pars. 5-7]
23. From 1976 to 1992, volunteer Const. workers helped with building new Branch facilities in some 60 lands, over 29,000 new KH were formed worldwide, and the organization nearly doubled in size to over 4,470,000 Kingdom publishers. [jv p. 114 par. 1, p. 115 par. 1, and p. 117 par. 2]
24. In June 1882, Zion's Watch Tower declared that Jeh and J.C. are separate and not one being, that they are one only in the sense of being in unity, and that the spirit is no more a person than is the spirit of the world. [jv p. 123 par. 4]
25. On June 22, 1977, two weeks after Brother Knorr's death, E. F. Rhy became president of the Watch Tower Society. [jv p. 109 par. 3]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. Early Christians were derided as haters of the human race because they (would not speak to unbelievers; did not worship idols; shunned violent and immoral entertainment). [uw p. 163 par. 7]

27. In Jesus' illustration at Matthew 13:36-43, the wheat represents (the faithful men of old; the great crowd; anointed Christians), whereas the weeds represent (all nonbelievers; imitation Christians; the scribes and Pharisees). [uw p. 179 par. 7]
28. God's chief purpose is the (salvation of man; destruction of the Devil; vindication of his sovereignty). [jv p. 167 par. 1]
29. An organizational change that began in October 1, 1972, stipulated that (an overseer; a congregation servant; a body of elders) be appointed to care for each congregation. [jv p. 106 par. 2]
30. We possess a more complete biography of Jeremiah than of any of the other ancient prophets with the exception of (Daniel; Isaiah; Moses). [si p. 124 par. 5]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Lev. 17:11, 12; Isa. 43:10; Jer. 7:31; John 10:16; Acts 4:13

31. A limited secular education does not disqualify one from becoming a fearless proclaimer of the good news. [uw p. 172 par. 8]
32. The only Scriptural use to which blood could be put highlights its sacredness and emphasizes the value of Christ's sacrifice. [uw p. 159 par. 11]
33. There is no rivalry between the anointed class and the great crowd, nor is there any reasoning that because of hope or position, one is superior or inferior to the other. [jv p. 171 par. 2]
34. Jehovah has no predecessor; no god existed before him, and there will be none after him because he is eternal, the Supreme Sovereign. [Weekly Bible reading; see w92 1/15 p. 22.]
35. Most adults today would not even think of offering their children as sacrifices to idols, yet untold millions of babies are purposely destroyed by abortion, and millions of youths have been offered up on the altar of war. [Weekly Bible reading; see w88 1/15 p. 31.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **December**: *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to follow up all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. Congregations that do not have this publication may use the *Live Forever* book. **January**: *Making Your Family Life Happy*, *Worldwide Security Under the "Prince of Peace,"* or *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* Congregations that have on hand any 192-page books published prior to 1982 should offer such books first. **February**: Either *Making Your Family Life Happy* or *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **March**: *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 1995 with their December literature request. (See the *Watchtower Publications List*, paragraphs 6-8, 10.) The bound volumes will be available in Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Pol-

ish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to the congregation when this has been done.

■ The Memorial for 1997 will be on Sunday, March 23, after sundown. This advance notice of the date for the 1997 Memorial celebration is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and they must find other facilities.

■ Beginning on April 29, 1996, the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* will be considered at the Congregation Book Study.

■ Beginning with the August 1, 1995, issue of *The Watchtower*, a simultaneous, monthly edition is being produced in Punjabi.

■ Albanian has been added to the languages in which *Awake!* is available. This is a quarterly edition and begins with the January-March 1996 issue. Distributor copies may be requested

through the congregation. Please note that there is no subscription arrangement for this quarterly magazine.

■ Work is almost finished on a new CD-ROM, which is *Watchtower Library—1995 Edition*. This will contain a revised program and will add publications released during 1995, 1994, and 1979-1970. There will also be versions in German, Italian, and Spanish. Specific details have been provided in a letter from the Society to all congregations, dated November 25, 1995. Requests for this CD in one or more languages should be submitted by the congregation no later than January 15, 1996.

■ New Publications Available:
Does Fate Rule Our Lives?—Or Does God Hold Us Responsible? (Tract No. 71)
—Persian
Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Russian
Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom —Polish
Listening to the Great Teacher —Russian

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures —Finnish
Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry —Vietnamese

The Bible—God's Word or Man's? —Czech
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Romanian

The Greatest Name (Tract No. 72) —Persian

Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1990 —Italian

When Someone You Love Dies —Punjabi

QUESTION BOX

■ Should all baptized publishers fill out the health-care power of attorney (proxy) forms that the Society sent to all congregations last year?

"Time and unforeseen occurrence" can suddenly thrust us into situations that test our integrity to Jehovah. (Eccl. 9:11) Preparing for such challenges ahead of time will minimize Satan's opportunity to get us to compromise. (Prov. 22:3; 1 Pet. 5:8) Unforeseen medical emergencies that challenge our resolve to "keep abstaining . . . from blood" are an example of such Satan-inspired attacks on our integrity.—Acts 15:28, 29.

To help us in such medical situations, all congregations in the United States received a supply of health-care power of attorney (proxy) forms from the Society's Legal Department in December 1994. Using pertinent state and federal law, these forms anticipate the type of medical emergency described above and re-

fer to legal authority for judges and hospital lawyers who may question or challenge our refusal of blood. In addition, these forms set forth detailed medical information about minor blood fractions, alternative non-blood management, and end-of-life decisions.

Should all baptized publishers fill out a health-care power of attorney (proxy) form? As the December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* announcement said, "publishers are not obliged to prepare these forms." Thus, it is a personal decision each one of us must make. However, to make an informed decision about this provision from the Society, we should seriously consider whether we have done all we reasonably can to keep ourselves free from a God-dishonoring blood transfusion.—Prov. 9:9.

As stated in the December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, publishers may obtain these power of attorney (proxy) forms and the explanatory question-and-answer folder from their congregation secretary.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

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

	From:	To:
December 4:	p. 237, ¶ 6	p. 243, ¶ 21
December 11:	p. 243, ¶ 22	p. 248, ¶ 9
December 18:	p. 249, ¶ 10	p. 253, ¶ 7
December 25:	p. 253, ¶ 8	p. 258, ¶ 22

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	176	124.3	82.7	53.4	4.7
Pios.	75,801	79.6	41.4	23.9	2.3
Aux. Pios.	25,291	59.6	30.8	14.8	1.2
Pubs.	809,479	9.7	6.3	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	910,747			Baptized: 2,434	

Offering the Book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*

¹ We were delighted when the new book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*, was released! It is designed to help people to come quickly to an accurate knowledge of the truth. In December we will have the first opportunity to offer this book in our territory. What can we say to stimulate interest?

² *Here is a presentation that might appeal to the person whose faith in God has become weak:*

■ "Many people grew up believing in God, but now they have found that their faith is not what it used to be. What do you think may be the reason for that? [Allow for response.] Our faith in God is strengthened by considering the marvels of the universe. [Read Psalm 19:1.] The One whose laws govern these heavenly bodies has also provided valuable direction for us. [Read Psalm 19:7-9.] These verses stress how important it is to learn all we can about God and his purposes. [Call attention to the illustration on pages 4 and 5, and read the

caption.] If you would like to benefit from this special knowledge, I would be pleased to leave this book with you."

³ *Having some recent distressing news event in mind, you might say:*

■ "Likely you heard about [mention the event]. Have you ever wondered if God is really concerned about the injustice and suffering that we see about us or even experience ourselves? [Allow for response.] The Bible assures us that God loves us and that he will help us through times of distress." Read portions of Psalm 72:12-17. Open the book to page 70, and point out that this book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*, answers a question that millions have asked, Why does God permit suffering? "You will find the Bible's answer to that question very comforting. I would like to leave this book with you so that you can read about it yourself."

⁴ *If you meet a parent, you might focus on the family:*

■ "Most parents agree that there are

many problems in trying to maintain a happy family life. What do you observe to be serious obstacles? [Allow for response.] Most of us do the best we can, but we usually appreciate assistance that will help us achieve better results. The Bible gives excellent advice. [Read portions of Colossians 3:12, 18-21.] The Bible has a lot more to say on this subject, as outlined in chapter 15 of this book, entitled 'Building a Family That Honors God.' It reviews counsel given in the Bible showing how to relieve marital stress and how to cope with the problems facing our children. I am sure you would enjoy reading it."

⁵ *If you prefer something brief, you might try this:*

■ "Have you ever wondered why we grow old and die? Chapter 6 in this book explains the cause of death and how God will remove it. The Bible tells us that God has promised everlasting life for those who love him. [Read John 17:3.] If you would like to read about this, you will find the book most enlightening."

⁶ If we are well prepared, we may be able to use this book to 'open up the Scriptures' to others in a way that will bring them great joy!—Luke 24:32.

Return to Those Who Showed Interest

¹ When releasing the new book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*, the convention speaker explained that "honesthearted students should be able to learn enough through a study of it to take a stand for Jehovah and get baptized." The book is designed to teach the truth quickly. It concisely provides specific information that can motivate students to make spiritual progress. It presents the truth in a positive way without dwelling on false doctrines. To have success in using this new instrument, we must make return visits on those who showed interest.

² *If you spoke to a person who lacked faith in God yet demonstrated some interest, you might begin by opening the book to the illustration on pages 4 and 5 and saying:*

■ "When I was here previously, we looked at this lovely illustration of beautiful surroundings. The caption asks, 'What must you do to enjoy them?' How would you answer that? [Allow for response.] The Bible clearly identifies one of the basic requirements. [Read John 17:3.] Knowledge is essential to our faith

in God. An excellent way we can learn what we need to know is by systematically studying the Bible." Turn to chapter 1 and point out some of the encouraging thoughts in paragraphs 1 to 5. Explain how a Bible study is conducted, and offer to return for more discussion.

³ *If you return to continue your discussion on why God permits suffering, you might say:*

■ "The last time I was here, we talked about [whatever the event was]. The question came up as to why God permits so much suffering in the world. What conclusion did you come to? [Allow for response.] It is encouraging to know that God is not responsible for such distressful conditions." Turn to pages 71-2 in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*, and discuss some of the Scriptural thoughts covered in paragraphs 3 to 5. Offer to return again to explain why we can be sure that God's permission of suffering will soon come to an end.

⁴ *If you are returning to visit a parent who is concerned about family problems, you might say this:*

■ "I know that you, as a parent, want the best for your children. Since it is impossible to shield them from everything that is bad, you have to teach them how to cope with life's problems. How do you think that can be done? [Allow for response.] One of the most important things a parent can provide is training." Turn to pages 145-6 in the *Knowledge* book, and call attention to the Bible's practical counsel, emphasizing its importance and how following it can be a blessing. Offer to return again to demonstrate how to use this book to learn more about acquiring a happy family life.

⁵ *If you are making a call where you used a brief presentation, you could say:*

■ "It was never God's purpose that we grow old and die. He intended that we live forever in a paradise earth." Display the illustration on pages 188-9. Read paragraph 11 on page 184. Make arrangements for another return visit.

⁶ Surely this new book is another provision from Jehovah to 'speed up' the ingathering work in these last days. (Isa. 60:22) If we use it effectively, we can impart knowledge that may help someone toward gaining everlasting life.