

Frank Jr.

KINGDOM MINISTRY

FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SEPTEMBER 1973

"But we, for our part, shall walk in the name of Jehovah our God to time indefinite, even forever."—Mic. 4:5.

VOL. XVI NO. 9

Dear Publishers:

What pleasure we at Bethel felt recently on hearing the final figures for the "Divine Victory" assemblies in North America! In the continental United States, a grand total of 665,945 attended the nineteen assemblies and 15,851 were baptized. And at the five Canadian assemblies, 155,788 attended and 3,838 were immersed. It was a marvelous spiritual feast! Having benefited from it, we should all feel strengthened and invigorated for a full share in the work that lies ahead.

What have you done with the new books that you received? We were encouraged to read and discuss with our families the new book *True Peace and Security—From What Source?* Many of us have been doing just that. If you have, you know why the suggestion was given. What is in that book is information that we need in our field ministry now, and if we are acquainted with it we can make the best use of it. Also, the counsel it contains affects our own lives and will aid us greatly in our efforts to put on the new personality.

No doubt many of you are also reading the book *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*. What a wealth of spiritual meat it contains! It will be a pleasure to get an overall view of it in public talks later this year, and then we will begin using it at our congregation book studies early in December. We certainly have good things ahead of us.

If your order was sent in early, then by the time you get this *Kingdom Ministry* you will no doubt have received a shipment of the new books. Feel free to start using them in your field ministry. Although they are not the regular offer yet, we encourage you to carry copies with you and to offer them when you meet someone that you feel would benefit from them. Some people may ask what you have that is new. Bible students and others on whom you make return visits will

Intensive Tract Distribution

130,000,000 copies being readied for use

¹ Early in June, *The Watchtower* stimulated our anticipation for the forthcoming assemblies by telling us that instructions would be given there concerning "a special work" in which all of us would be privileged to share. Before the first day of the assembly had ended we knew what it was—intensive distribution of a special tract on an unprecedented scale. One hundred and thirty million copies are being supplied by the Society for use world wide. Forty-five million have been shipped out for use here in the United States alone. About a hundred of these are for you personally to use in your ministry.

² This is just what we need to reach many honest-hearted ones in the final portion of the "last days." Compared with the world's population, we are 'few workers.' The field is huge; "the harvest is great." (Matt. 9:37) Often many of us have wondered how we might get to people who have received only a limited witness. Even in territories that are worked often, many still do not really know the purpose of our calling because they have not taken time to listen. How grateful we can be to Jehovah for making available an instrument that will enable us to reach people quickly with a vital message from his Word!

doubtless appreciate it if you make copies available to them.

Before us now, in the latter part of September, is the special work with *Kingdom News* No. 16. Our brothers and sisters everywhere are organizing for this activity. We are anxious to get started. May Jehovah bless you as you share whole-souled in delivering this timely message, and thus prove that you are indeed for Divine Rulership—with its Chief Agent.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

³ Right on the front of the tract an urgent question is posed: "Is Time Running Out for Mankind?" It is a question that people everywhere need to face. The answer is set out in a style that is designed to catch the attention even of people who are inclined to be indifferent. Anyone who picks up the tract will quickly have impressed on his mind the main ideas, which are set out in bold, eye-catching style. The large type and brevity of the message invite reading. Here in concise form is a forceful presentation of an urgent message.

TEN-DAY DISTRIBUTION

⁴ The distribution is scheduled to be accomplished in just ten days, from September 21 through 30. Apart from your use of the packet that you received at the assembly, it is requested that none of the tracts be distributed before September 21. And by the time that you complete your field service on September 30, it is hoped that every last one will be in the hands of the public. Why is the distribution being done in such an intensive manner? Because of the impact that this will have on the public. People talk to one another, and they will soon realize that nearly everyone they know was served with the same urgent message. This will make a far deeper impression than would a gradual distribution over many months. Furthermore, we realize that the time remaining for this wicked world is greatly reduced. Opportunity for people to learn the truth and take their stand on Jehovah's side is fast running out. Because of our deep love and concern for people, we want to give them every possible opportunity, and at the same time accomplish a grand witness that brings honor to Jehovah.

(Continued on page 7, col. 1)

For Divine Rulership—with Its Chief Agent!

Your Service Meetings

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 9
 15 min: Song 69. Family group briefly comment on text. Then parents discuss with the children opportunities to use the "Evolution" book in school to give a witness. Discuss how to go about offering it to teachers, and when; use of it in class discussion.

15 min: "Do You Qualify for Congregational Responsibility?" August 1, 1973, "Watchtower," from start through material on "Not newly converted."

Partially a talk, but involve audience freely.

20 min: "Intensive Tract Distribution." Questions and answers. Discuss thoroughly without reading paragraphs. Tell publishers that they may obtain their supply of tracts after the meeting, but not to distribute them until September 21.

10 min: Concluding comments. Include accounts report, also announcement about writing to Turkey. Song 72.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 16
 10 min: Song 80. Introduction. Invite audience to comment on text.

15 min: "Do You Qualify for Congregational Responsibility?" August 1, 1973, "Watchtower," from paragraph before material on "Serious" to the end. Several brothers may discuss it together.

25 min: Tract Distribution.

(5 min.) Briefly analyze with the congregation what the tract contains. Some people will simply pick it up and thumb through it without reading everything. What impression will it make? Let audience point out the few key ideas that are made to stand out on each page.

(15 min.) "Presenting the Good News—With Kingdom News No. 16." Cover with audience participation. Have at least two demonstrations showing how to offer the tracts.

(5 min.) Outline special arrangements for group witnessing to distribute tracts. Encourage publishers to put forth special effort to distribute all their tracts. However, if some are unable to do so, request that they give the extras to their book study conductor or turn them in at the Kingdom Hall no later than the next service meeting.

10 min: Concluding comments. Comment on Branch Letter. Encourage all to prepare for discussion of organization on next service meeting. Song 74.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 23
 15 min: Song 87. Introduction, text and comments. Arrange ahead of time for the ones in charge of various groups that met for witnessing during the week to tell how the publisher support was, progress in territory coverage, also any notable experiences.

15 min: "Does It Matter Who Your Friends Are?" July 15, 1973, "Watchtower." Discussion among youths.

20 min: How Well Do You Know the Organization?

There are many persons newly associated with the congregation; this discussion should build up their appreciation for how the organization functions. The following questions may be used as a basis for discussion, with the audience answering; use scriptures as time permits.

(1) What position does Jehovah occupy in relation to his organization?

(Rev. 4:9-11) (2) What evidence is there that the heavenly angelic organization of Jehovah actually takes an interest in us here on earth? (Rev. 14:6, 7; 7:10-12; Heb. 1:14) (3) Who is the head of the Christian congregation? (Eph. 1:22, 23) (4) How do we show that we really recognize his headship? (Heb. 12:1-3; John 15:14; Phil. 2:1-8; w72 p. 755) (5) What is the "faithful and discreet slave"? (Matt. 24:45; Luke 12:32, 42; "Organization" book, p. 9) (6) Who are the "domestics" referred to at Matthew 24:45? ("or" p. 9) (7) What is the governing body? ("or" p. 10; w72 pp. 703, 704) (8) Which brothers are the appointed elders in our local congregation? What are their positions of oversight? (9) How do we personally benefit from their services? (10) How do we show that we really recognize Jehovah's organization and are in full harmony with it? (1 John 5:3; Eph. 5:1; Heb. 13:7, 17; Matt. 24:14)

10 min: Concluding comments. Remind publishers that goal is to complete tract distribution by Sunday night. Request any who have more tracts than they can use to turn them in so that others can distribute them. Mention that early in October we will go right back into the same territory with the special "Awake!" Song 90.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 30

15 min: Song 95. Introduction, text and comments. Also "Question Box."

15 min: Discuss the obtaining of "Awake!" subscriptions. Ask publishers how many have personal subscriptions for "Watchtower," how many for "Awake!" What advantage? Why do we distribute "Awake!" and what purpose does it serve in our ministry? How is that purpose served especially well if people subscribe? Draw attention to first two paragraphs of the article "Using the Special Magazines."

15 min: A Month of Special Magazine Distribution.

Discuss talking points from the October 8 "Awake!" Encourage working with the group on Magazine Day.

Show value of magazine as a follow-up to tract distribution. Encourage publishers to go right back into the same territory that was covered during the last ten days of September, rather than to go on to other areas. Discuss benefits of doing this. Demonstrate how to approach people, making mention of the tract. Show how to use special "Awake!" if householder says he did not see the tract or did not read it. Also demonstrate how to use it if householder voices doubts or objections about the message. Show how to work into a Bible study where there is genuine interest. Carry with you the new book advertised on the tract; some people may ask for it.

15 min: Concluding comments. Include remarks on the article "Resist the Tendency to Envy," in the August 15, 1973, "Watchtower." Encourage all to prepare well for discussion next week on "The Issue." Song 85.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 7

10 min: Song 101. Introduction, text and comments. (Might have several school-age publishers discussing text together in school cafeteria and applying it to their lives.)

10 min: Use of Special Magazines.

Comment on points from the fourth paragraph of the article "Using the Special Magazines." Demonstrate how to offer the October 22 issue to a schoolteacher who previously obtained the "Evolution" book. (Teacher says he enjoyed book; so, when offering "Awake!", student says he can have it for a full year for \$1.50.)

Demonstrate house-to-house magazine offer, featuring the October 15 "Watchtower."

30 min: How Clearly Do We See the Issue?

At the outset briefly set forth what the issue of universal sovereignty is: In attacking God's law, Satan called into question the rightfulness, righteousness and deservedness of God's sovereignty. And the rebellion of Satan and the first humans raised yet another question: Would all other intelligent creatures ignore God's law if that seemed to be to their advantage? When we see this issue clearly, we recognize disregard of God's law as rebellion against him as Ruler. By rebelling against him a person sides with Satan. Does appreciation of these facts influence our daily conduct?—"True Peace and Security," pp. 52, 53.

Discuss the following questions with the audience, making sure that in each instance it is shown how the issue of sovereignty is involved and that what one does shows where he stands in relation to that issue. Encourage publishers to comment freely; read scriptures and bring in fine points from "True Peace and Security" book as time permits. (1) When would a husband's actions toward his wife and family reveal that he needed to let recognition of the issue be a greater force in his life? (Eph. 5:28-31; 6:4; Col. 3:19, 21; tp p. 168 ¶5; p. 175 ¶22; p. 139 ¶17) (2) How does a wife, even if her husband may be unreasonable or demanding, prove that she sees the issue clearly? (Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Pet. 3:1-6; tp pp. 140, 141; p. 176 ¶24) (3) What attitude and actions on the part of children toward their parents would show that they do appreciate the issue? Why? (Col. 3:17, 20; Rom. 15:2, 3; tp pp. 132, 133, 140, 141) (4) Since disregard for traffic laws (speed limits, parking, etc.) has become "acceptable" in the world, why would our seeing the issue clearly prevent us from imitating the world in this respect? (Eph. 2:2, 3; 1 John 5:19; tp p. 137 ¶14) (5) Why would one's littering and sharing in other similar acts reveal the need to consider more seriously one's attitude toward the issue? (Matt. 7:12; tp p. 169 ¶8) (6) How can real appreciation for the issue prevent one from being influenced by racial, social or national prejudice? (Acts 17:26; Rom. 3:23; Jas. 2:1-9; tp p. 171 ¶12 to p. 172 ¶16) (7) What aspects about the settlement of the issue make it urgent that we zealously share in Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making? (Matt. 24:34; 2 Thess. 1:6-9; 2 Pet. 3:9, 15; tp pp. 173-175) In concluding, reemphasize the importance of seriously reflecting on our conduct and activity. Are we working hard to make advancement in living in ever fuller recognition of Jehovah's sovereignty?—tp p. 143 ¶25; p. 144 ¶26.

10 min: Concluding comments. Song 77.

Our Early Harvest from the Book "God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached"

In ancient Israel harvesttime was a period of great rejoicing. That happiness spread over some months, as there was an early harvest of flax, barley and wheat, followed by the later harvest of grapes, dates, figs and olives. We might use that to illustrate two provisions for rejoicing in connection with our new book *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*.

As announced at the recent assemblies, during the first week in December we will begin to study the book in the congregation book studies. But even before we begin in that way to reap the fine spiritual things from the new book, we will be able to gain much from it. This is because an early harvest, as it were, is being arranged. We will soon be moving quickly through the entire book in a series of seven public talks during November and December.

You will benefit greatly from these seven talks. Maybe you just do not foresee being able to sit down and study the entire book during the next few months. So what better way could you find to get the overall picture than to move rapidly through it during these talks? And won't that "bird's-eye view," as it were, lay a fine groundwork for your detailed consideration of it at the book study starting in December? This will make the book study more meaningful for you.

Another benefit you will get from these seven talks involves your field service. We will be placing the new book in the house-to-house work during November. Can't you see, then, how even the first few of these talks are going to help you to be more confident and enthusiastic about offering the book? You will know some of the subjects it considers and will appreciate how important it is for persons to have this information. You will even be able to mention specific parables and Bible chapters that the book treats.

Though you may not be assigned to deliver the discourses, there is something you can do in advance that will aid you to gain the most benefit from this "early harvest," the seven talks. Each one of them will discuss a specific portion of the Bible, maybe a certain parable or chapter. Why not plan to read this over during the week before the talk, perhaps as your own personal Bible reading or together with the family? Then the talk dealing with that portion will be ever so much more valuable to you. Some may even be able to read the chapters in the new book that will be covered in the talk. Do so if you can. The Bible portions and chapters of the book to be covered are listed with each of the following outlines. Each week the *chairman* should announce what will be covered the following week. Bring your copy of the book to the talks, so you can follow along.

Speakers

You will note from the following outlines that each of the talks covers quite a bit of material, from two to four chapters of the new book. Do not attempt to include in your discourse all of the points in the chapter assigned to you. Of course, it will be beneficial to read through the chapters to get the overall view. But the outline calls attention to key sections, and in your talk you are to concentrate on these.

Since the audience has been alerted to read in advance a certain portion of the Bible, be sure to work with that portion in your talk. Help the brothers to understand it and to be in position to explain the essential meaning of that portion. You can read, or have read, what seems advisable in that Bible portion. Also, there is no objection to calling attention to, or even reading from the new book, certain choice parts of the chapters you have been assigned.

You will find with each outline a theme and some indications as to the direction the talk should take. Bear these in mind in preparing the talk, as they will help to make your talk distinct. Some talks cover material dealing basically with anointed Christians. In accord with the suggestions given, help the audience to see how ones with an earthly hope are involved in the matter, how they can apply the principles in their dealings or how this should affect their outlook.

Elders, we recommend that the talks be given during November and December, if possible. In some instances other talks may already have been lined up for those months. But would it be possible to readjust previously arranged talks so that these seven can be given in those two months, thus accomplishing the greatest possible good? If your congregation has the visit of the circuit overseer, or has a circuit assembly, during November or December, then these seven talks should be fitted around such events.

Naturally, it is best if elders in the local congregation or in nearby congregations deliver these talks. (See or pp. 66, 95; km 6/73 p. 4.) Last year in arranging for talks of this nature based on the *Paradise-Theocracy* book many congregations were able to exchange speakers, and that can be done again. For example, the talks might be divided up between two or three congregations. The brother who prepares the first talk would deliver it in congregation A, the next week in congregation B, and finally in congregation C. He would be followed a week later in each congregation by the brother who prepares the second talk in the series. And so on in the proper sequence.

The elders in the congregation can work out the arrangements for these talks when they meet during September. When details have been settled, handbills may be ordered; the sooner the better.

1. A Thousand Years of Peace Has Approached (ka chapters 1-4; read Revelation 19:11-20:6.)

Look to God's, not men's, promise of thousand-year ruler. (Chap. 1; 10 min.) Promises of lasting, peaceful rule for mankind so common that few believe them any longer; Christians may be able to cite texts about coming peaceful rule, but why believe such? What is basis for believing? Will consider matter today. No human ruler or government has proved permanent, able to bring lasting peace. Hitler boasted he would, but failed. (Pars. 1-5) Should look to God, as his will is irresistably done. (Pars. 6, 7, 11; Dan. 4:34-37) He foretells thousand-year rulership, mentioning it six times in Revelation 19:11 through 20:10. Evidence that Kingdom was established in heaven in 1914 C.E. and that seventh millennium of human history will soon begin shows why we have reason to believe millennial rule has approached. (Pars. 11-14, 17, 18)

God will prepare the way for peaceful rule by ridding earth of peace disturbers. (Chap. 2; 10 min.) Human efforts to secure peace by treaties, pacts and negotiations have repeatedly failed. God foretells his way of providing peace on earth—eliminating peace disturbers from earth. Bible depicts enthroned Son as one leading war to accomplish this. (Rev. 19: 11-16; pars. 1-3) Is a war from God, not between nations; those destroyed have no burial with honors. (Rev. 19: 17, 18; par. 5) Will even eliminate world system of political rule. (Rev. 19: 19-21; pars. 14, 15)

144,000 qualified rulers will help mankind from heaven. (Chap. 3; 15 min.) God assures us that there will be survivors on earth and in heaven; we can be among them and enjoy resulting peace. How? Revelation shows peace disturbers in heaven will also be removed. (Rev. 20: 1-3) Will not be around to mislead people—this suggests some will survive. Earlier, Revelation 7: 9-15 had indicated that great crowd would survive tribulation. (Par. 4) Who will rule mankind? God provides rulers in heaven. (Rev. 20: 4-6; pars. 8, 11) In contrast to humans who will progress gradually to perfection and life, these are resurrected immortal. (Pars. 16-19) This resurrection is first in time and importance. (Par. 33) Would you like to have such rulers? The more we know about them, the more we want them as rulers. (Par. 42)

God's rulers have proved to be promoters of real peace. (Chap. 4; 20 min.) God has selected rulers who are and will be lovers of God and of peace. (Par. 4) They are not like human rulers who tend to divide up mankind, retarding peace. (Par. 6) Mankind will be united under their rule, even have one language. (Par. 8; read pars. 11, 12.) Easy to see how this would contribute to peace. Are we already striving for international unity as Christians? (Par. 15) Anointed Christians who will be heavenly rulers promote peace in their preaching. (Isa. 2: 4; par. 17) They follow pattern of Jesus, Prince of Peace. (Isa. 9: 6, 7; pars. 21, 43) He avoided human politics, stressed heavenly kingdom. (Pars. 47, 49) Can display your real desire to live during approaching thousand-year peace, by sharing in peaceful work he commanded. (Pars. 51-54) One thus aligns self with peace-promoting rulers, and manifests one's confidence that this thousand-year peace has approached.

2. Rulership from Heaven—Will You Accept It?

(ka chapters 5, 6; read Hebrews 5: 1-10; 6: 19-10: 25.)

Jesus and his associate kings serve to the benefit of those who accept heaven's rulership. (Chap. 5; 15 min.) Most persons were born into a nation; never had to decide to accept this rulership. Many are apathetic or critical of government because of obvious deficiencies; rulers may be greedy or dishonest. Divine provision for government is vastly different. But do we take it for granted or do we show real interest in it? Are we eager to learn about it? God's king, Jesus, unselfishly gave life for those who accept heaven's rulership; do we? (Pars. 1-3) Even David will have to acknowledge Jesus' position; will we? (Par. 6) Christ will have associate kings ruling with him. (Rev. 20: 4; pars 8, 10) They pattern selves after his image, so will be loving, righteous, worthy of our respect. (1 Pet. 4: 1; par. 12) This ensures harmonious government, no rivalry. (Pars. 15, 16) While on earth they, as ambassadors, strive to reconcile individuals to God. (2 Cor. 5: 18-6: 1; pars. 19, 21, 23) As ambassadors loyal to God, on earth they are not identified with or supporters of human political arrangements. (Pars. 24-27) Will be able to benefit mankind during rulership of thousand years. (Par. 29)

Rulership from heaven—if we accept it—also performs priestly services in our behalf. (Chap. 6, pp. 83-93; 20 min.) These associate rulers will also be priests with Christ. (Rev. 20: 6) You may have had bad experience with corrupt priests. Priests often have deceived, misled people. (Relate Acts 14: 8-19; pars. 2, 5-7.) We cannot imagine Jesus' associate rulers, with their fine qualities, being like that. Of what value is a priest? (Heb. 5: 1-3) Because of man's sinfulness, we need service of perfect priest. God made Jesus a righteous and perpetual priest. (Heb. 5: 4-6; pars. 15, 18, 19) Is far superior even to priesthood of Aaron's family. (Heb. 7: 15, 16, 23-8: 1; pars. 20, 24) Do we appreciate that, realizing what a blessing rulership from heaven thus provides for us?

Priestly service in our behalf carries right into very presence of God. (Chap. 6; pp. 93-116; 20 min.) Aaron and associate priests served in typical sanctuary. (Describe, using illustration on p. 93.) Was typical of heavenly things. (Heb. 8: 4, 5; 9: 9, 11) When Jesus was baptized, becoming High Priest, area of God's presence came to be Most Holy of True Temple. (Pars. 30, 39, 40) As spiritual Son on earth, Jesus was in Holy of spiritual temple, able to enjoy spiritual light and food. (Pars. 45-48) Anointed ones, like Aaron's sons, are priests. (Rev. 1: 5, 6; pars. 52, 61, 62) Because of being spirit-begotten, are in Holy and can enjoy spiritual enlightenment and food. (Par. 64) Upon death they pass beyond curtain-like barrier of flesh and enter very presence of God. (Heb. 10: 19-22) As with Christ, from heaven they will be sympathetic, understanding priests. (Pars. 73-76, 81) Surely is desirable rulership. You are not forced to submit to it; up to you if want to accept it. Can indicate acceptance by accepting their instruction and sharing in their work today.

3. How God Will Prepare Mankind to Live Forever

(ka chapters 7-9; read Revelation 20: 7-21: 4.)

Millennium is loving provision to help us qualify for eternal life. (Chap. 7; 25 min.) If someone spends time, effort helping us to qualify for job or other desirable thing, natural to respond with appreciation. Associated with millennium are provisions to help us to qualify to live forever. Millennium may also be referred to as Judgment Day, thousand-year period of judging. Follows end of wicked system. (Rev. 20: 4; pars. 3, 4) Jehovah has committed judging to Jesus; anointed ones share with him. Not something for Christian to fear, for judging will be in righteousness. (Acts 17: 31) Even "unrighteous" can benefit. (Pars. 10, 11) Resurrected ones still not perfect, so thousand-year judgment day provides for *deliverance* from sin for those who want to serve God. (Pars. 12, 13, 20, 21) "Righteous" ones resurrected have advantage of already having displayed integrity, love for God. Will "unrighteous" put away bad habits? Provision of millennium allows for that. (Pars. 25, 26) Will give all first real "chance" at eternal life; heavenly judges will help. (Par. 32) God will provide instruction to help us. (Rev. 20: 11-15; pars. 34, 35) Earthly "princes" will also aid. (Ps. 45: 15, 16) Jesus' faithful ancestors and other men of integrity will thus serve. (Pars. 38, 43-46)

Transforming personalities with eternity in view. (Chap. 8; 15 min.) More is needed than righteous administrative arrangements; we need to be right kind of persons. To find permanent place in New Order, we must learn righteousness. (Isa. 26: 9; par. 1) Chief Judge, Jesus, will lead in executing just decisions. (Isa. 11: 1-5; pars. 4, 5) This will aid humans to transform their personalities, abandoning beastly qualities and characteristics. (Isa. 11: 6-9; pars. 9, 10)

Can expect corresponding literal fulfillment in the animals coming to be at peace with one another and with humans. (Pars. 13, 14) Do you have jealousy, wrath, envies, prejudices?

The post-millennium test as to who qualify for life. (Chap. 9; 15 min.) Question remains, Will we meet Jehovah's standard for eternal life? At end of millennium, Jesus will turn things back to Father. (1 Cor. 15: 24-28; pars. 3, 4) God will permit Satan one final opportunity to test mankind's support of Jehovah's sovereignty. (Rev. 20: 7-10; pars. 5-7) Some will rebel, choosing group sovereignty. (Pars. 11-14) "Nations" that attack representatives of New Jerusalem will be like Gog of Magog who led attack on Christians during great tribulation. (Pars. 15-17) Satan, demons and rebels will be cast into second death, second type of death that entered realm of creation. (Rev. 20: 10, 14, 15; pars. 25-28) Surviving mankind will then be acknowledged as worthy of eternal life, coming to life. (Rev. 20: 5; pars. 31-33) Then all mankind will joyfully praise God. (Ps. 150: 1-6) Jehovah's witnesses invite individuals to do that with them now.

4. Are You Wise or Foolish Regarding Christ's Presence? (ka chapters 10-13; read Matthew 25:1-30.)

An aspect of Jesus' "sign" that should move us to be alert, discreet. (Chap. 10; 15 min.) One of most frequent subjects of our preaching is "sign" of Matthew 24. Often refer to features of it to establish we are in "last days." But Jesus' "sign" covered Matthew 25 also; parables there, in addition to being part of sign, have vital meaning for us. (Read Matthew 25:1-13.) Reply was to question about time of his "presence." *Parousia* meant, not his first coming, but future presence. (Matt. 24:3; pars. 8-14) Fulfillment of parable was an evidence of presence. Bible likens Jesus to bridegroom; anointed ones are compared to chaste virgins. (John 3: 28-30; Eph. 5: 23-27; pars. 18, 21-23) From the start, Christians were obliged to maintain selves as virgins awaiting marriage in heaven. (Pars. 26-28) Would be identified by "oil" or being filled with God's enlightening Word and spirit. (Matt. 5: 16; pars. 31, 36-38) Bridegroom was to be 'delayed,' with antichrist coming first. (1 John 2:18; pars. 42-46) Danger exists of being asleep, not alert to Christ's presence. (Matt. 25:13)

Parable's fulfillment in our day should affect us. (Chap. 11; 15 min.) Can rightly expect, after period of sleep, an awakening associated with bridegroom's presence. (Matt. 25:5, 6) C. T. Russell correctly pointed forward to end of Gentile Times for 1914. (Pars. 4, 5) He recognized *parousia* applied to invisible presence. Though he miscalculated beginning of Christ's presence, in time his associates recognized presence began in 1914 C.E. (Pars. 6, 9, 10, 48, 55) From 1919 there was an awakening among anointed. (Pars. 11-19) Nominal Christians would not accept Jesus' presence; "discreet" virgins parted company with such "foolish" ones. (Pars. 24-26) Foolish ones are in line for destruction. (Pars. 41, 42) Emphasizes our need to recognize the complete "sign" and to keep on the watch. (Pars. 44-46)

Christians need to work, resulting in growth—this is part of the "sign" too. (Chaps. 12, 13; 25 min.) Following parable in Matthew is also part of "sign." (Gist of Matthew 25:14-30) It should help us see need to work hard for God. (ka p. 258, par. 3) Logical to expect Christ as king since 1914 to inspect and test servants. (Par. 1) In parable Jesus committed talents to disciples. (Pars. 4-10) Talents represented potentiality for reaping disciples. (Pars. 12-15) By preach-

ing and teaching they did business. (Pars. 20, 24, 26, 30, 35) As part of sign, can expect to see culminating fulfillment since 1914. (Pars. 37-40) Would be an inspection to see if slaves showed increase by use of talents. (Par. 45) Evidence among Witnesses is that members of anointed slave have increased talents, resulting in now over 1½ million Christians! (Pars. 52-56) Settling accounts would span some time. (Chap. 13, par. 3) After start of *parousia* has been time to reward anointed ones sleeping in death. (1 Cor. 15: 50-54; pars. 5-8) They are resurrected to reign with Christ, entering heavenly joy. (Par. 14) Sluggish slave deliberately did not increase master's talents. (Pars. 19, 20) Finds counterpart in nominal Christians and those separating from God's servants. (Pars. 21-24) In line for execution in darkness of great tribulation. (Par. 29) Anointed slave determined to continue its hard work, increasing talents. (Pars. 26, 32, 33) Is course of wisdom to join in its work.

5. Do You Qualify to Inherit God's Kingdom? (ka chapters 14, 15; read Matthew 25:31-46.)

By your attitude and acts, begin now to qualify to inherit God's kingdom. (Chap. 14; 40 min.) Many today believe no one will live forever; others feel all will be saved. Both views lead to outlook that one's attitudes and acts are not important. Bible proves otherwise; are especially crucial since 1914. Witnesses have often shown that fulfillment of "sign" of Christ's presence proves Kingdom set up in heaven then. Parable of sheep and goats, a part of "sign," proves attitudes and acts now can affect whether one qualifies for eternal life. (Read verses as you discuss them.)

Son of man is Jesus, now on heavenly throne. (Dan. 7: 13, 14; pars. 5-7) In time will dash nations to pieces. (Ps. 2: 7-9) People are first separated. (Pars. 13-15) Would take time for personalities and conduct to be manifest. (Pars. 16-18) Parable applies now, not during or after millennium—Christians will not then be thrown into prisons; now is time of *parousia*; and parable relates to persons alive when Jesus takes power, not to living and dead to be judged during millennium. (Par. 19; Rev. 20: 11, 12) "Sheep" are Christians with hope of eternal life on earth. They are "great crowd" shepherded by Lamb. (Rev. 7: 9, 10, 17; par. 32) Inherit Kingdom by being earthly subjects; God had this in mind since ransomable children born to Adam and Eve. (Pars. 35-37) "Sheep" qualify because, out of faith in Jesus, they help his spiritual brothers. (Heb. 2: 16, 17; pars. 43-47) Joining selves to spiritual Jews, they dedicate lives to God and faithfully serve him. (Zech. 8: 20-23; pars. 48-53) They display humble attitude, pursue peace, keep separate from world, live by Bible standards, share in preaching. (Pars. 55, 56, 60) Ask self: How does Jesus judge my actions and attitudes? Is this "sign" meaningful to me? Do I show it?

Not all will qualify—will you? (Chap. 15; 15 min.) Parable shows that some persons do not qualify but receive eternal death. Why? May not have persecuted Christ or his spiritual brothers; might be their negative attitude that puts them on Devil's side. (Pars. 5-8) Is no basis for claim of ignorance as to whom anointed represent. (Pars. 11-13) Where do we fit in? How about our family and relatives? Of what course regarding them does this emphasize need? Is not a matter of no concern because of being long way off; "goats" soon to be destroyed at end of this system. (2 Thess. 1: 7-10; par. 14) Will not experience eternal torment—a form of everlasting life—but eternal cutting off or death. (Pars. 3, 4, 17, 18) Righteous "sheep" will be protected during war of Armageddon.

Should be source of encouragement. (Pars. 19, 21) To begin qualifying for eternal life, it is clear that positive action is needed.

6. The "Sign" that God's New Order Is Near (*ka* chapters 16, 17; read Matthew 23:34-24:51.)

We can be uplifted by the "sign" that New Order is near! (Chap. 16; 30 min.) Problems and worries of today leave most persons troubled, insecure about future. Vastly different with Christians who understand meaning of Jesus' "sign" regarding our time. (Read appropriate verses in Matthew 24 as you discuss them.) Apostles were interested in future in view of Jesus' comments. (Luke 19:41-44; Heb. 9:26; pars. 3-7) When would end of Jewish system come? How would they know? Jesus outlined events leading up to destruction of Jerusalem. (Pars. 8-14) Was life-or-death matter to note the indication that destruction impended. (Pars. 15-17) When Romans encompassed Jerusalem, Christians knew end near. (Pars. 21, 22, 26) Larger future fulfillment expected, as Revelation chapter 6 (written after 70 C.E.) pointed forward to war, famine and pestilence. Applies to entire wicked system, dominated by Christendom. Have seen evidences of fulfillment of sign since 1914. (Pars. 28, 30-33) Though this means destruction impends, is cause of encouragement. Why? Note what will be destroyed. Led by Anglo-American Seventh World Power, nations look to UN for peace. Revelation shows that this peace organization will lead in desolating false religion. (Pars. 42-44) Those desiring God's favor are urged to get out of false religion, just as Christians fled Jerusalem. (Par. 45) Coming destruction will begin with false religion and include rest of wicked system. (Pars. 52, 53) Encouragingly, some will survive. (Pars. 55-57) These will be ones discerning true Messiah and gathering there for spiritual nourishment. (Pars. 60, 63) They are not discouraged by disturbances in the physical heavens. (Pars. 70, 71) Will not be forced to acknowledge *parousia* when Jesus comes to destroy system, for they already have acknowledged his presence and that he has gathered his anointed ones. (Pars. 74, 76) They are sure all he promised will occur, and look forward to preservation. (Pars. 81-83) Have we fully joined with such ones? Time to decide now.

Jesus stressed need to be alert and active, as with the "faithful and discreet slave." (Chap. 17; 25 min.) Hard to believe that persons would ignore fulfillment of "sign," but they do. As with people before Flood, most display lack of faith and ignore *parousia*. (Pars. 4-7) Need to keep on watch that we are alert and active when he comes as executioner. Ought to live each day as ones aware of the time. (Pars. 10-13) Lesson in being active and faithful during presence is found in "faithful and discreet slave." Jesus directed words to entire body of disciples. (Pars. 14, 16) Slave class began with anointing of disciples in 33 C.E. when nation of spiritual Israel formed. (Pars. 20-23) Slave began to make spiritual food available. (Pars. 24-26) In modern times, anointed as a class have provided spiritual food. (Pars. 29, 30) Even despite difficult condition of World War I, slave class continued supplying food for individual domestics. (Par. 40) After "Master" received Kingdom power and turned attention to servants, he showed approval, assigning responsibility for his spiritual things on earth. Now even have responsibility of caring for "great crowd." (Pars. 49-51, 54) Individual anointed ones turning bad become like the "evil slave," rejected by Jesus. (Pars. 59-62, 65) Even if not of the "faithful and discreet slave" class, should

see need to be faithful in Christian activities. Attention to such will aid us to avoid being ensnared. (Luke 21:34-36; pars. 66-68) Thus sign that New Order is near will mean eternal blessings for us.

7. When Apostates Are Gone—Peace for a Thousand Years! (*ka* chapters 18, 19; read 1 Thessalonians 4, 5; 2 Thessalonians 1, 2; Psalm 116.)

Heed the warning—Now is the time for decisive religious action! (Chap. 18; 35 min.) Jehovah's witnesses happy that many new ones regularly associate; shows commendable interest in true worship. How important is decisive action on your part? For Witnesses, how vital is it to reach still others (relatives, workmates, neighbors) with Christian message? First and Second Thessalonians give an answer; will discuss "man of lawlessness." General outlook today is hope for peace among nations; Bible shows that time will come. (1 Thess. 5:1-3; pars. 1-3) Some in Thessalonica thought Christ's presence and "day of Jehovah" had come; Paul corrected them, explaining fulfillment was future. (2 Thess. 2:1, 2; pars. 5-8) Before "day of Jehovah" apostasy had to come. (2 Thess. 2:3; pars. 12, 13) Meant a rebellion against Jehovah on part of ones claiming to be Christian, especially the leaders. Also foretold in other Bible books. (Acts 20:28-30; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; pars. 16-25) In time men claiming to be Christian did take to selves role of leaders, becoming clergy. (Pars. 27, 31, 34) This composite "man" set himself in opposition to God, demanded reverence. (Pars. 38-40, 42, 43) Apostles acted as a restraint to apostasy, which showed evidence of developing even while they were on earth. (2 Thess. 2:6; 1 John 2:18-22; pars. 44-46, 49-51) During Christ's then future presence clerical "man of lawlessness" would be destroyed; means an end to apostates. (2 Thess. 2:8; pars. 52, 53) God lets this "man" operate, thus allowing those taking pleasure in unrighteousness to be deceived. (2 Thess. 2:9-12; pars. 59-63) Soon the end of "man of lawlessness" class, and of all apostates, will come. Just as earthly Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 C.E., Christendom and rest of Babylon the Great will be destroyed, to be followed by rest of wicked system. (Pars. 67-69) Where do we stand? Are we actively aiding others to separate from that class? When apostates are gone, will we be here? What conditions then?

A millennium of peace and other blessings for those pursuing true worship now. (Chap. 19; 20 min.) May feel insecure; not sure if you will survive. With apostates earth wide being destroyed, what reason can one have for confidence of life in paradise to follow? True, that end of entire wicked system to come in great tribulation, but Jesus promised that "flesh" would be saved. (Matt. 24:3, 21, 22; pars. 2, 3) This preservation, and outlook we can have, nicely described in Psalm 116. As psalmist looked to God for life, so must we. (Ps. 116:1-6; pars. 6, 7) We need the faith the psalmist and Paul had. (Ps. 116:7-11; 2 Cor. 4:8-10; pars. 9-12) After final part of great tribulation, war of great day of God Almighty, will realize that God preserved us when he destroyed wicked. (Pars. 13, 14) Such deliverance into New Order will move us to appreciation. (Ps. 116:12-14; par. 17) Will see how precious to God are his loyal ones; he did not let Satan wipe them all out. (Ps. 116:15, 16; pars. 22, 24) What a joy it will be to have peace in which to express our gratitude to God by sacrifices of thanksgiving. (Ps. 116:17-19; pars. 26-28) Prospect of that preservation and of delightful peace of thousand years to follow should move us to share now in preaching, thus holding before others this prospect. (Par. 30)

Using the Special Magazines

¹ In these "last days" the printed page has played a vital role in getting the "good news" to people in the "most distant part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Knowing that Jehovah's blessing has been upon the use of the publications, we certainly have every reason to want to get them into the hands of as many people as possible.

² The month of October is one in which we specially carry out the Kingdom work by distribution of magazines and by obtaining subscriptions. We encourage all publishers to put special emphasis on the obtaining of subscriptions. Do not hold back from offering them. There are many people who enjoy reading *Awake!* But how often during the year do you call at their home to offer it to them? Why not give them the opportunity to have it regularly so that they can enjoy every issue. More importantly, their getting the magazine regularly increases the possibility of their reading material that may stir their hearts to accept the truth.

³ The special October 8 issue of *Awake!* features the theme "Where Is This World Heading?" It is de-

signed to answer the kind of questions that many people will have after having read the tract. If you go right back into the territories that you worked at the end of September and offer this *Awake!*, no doubt many householders will be glad to obtain it. Offer it enthusiastically. Along with it you will have the October 15 *Watchtower*, which features the timely public talk from our recent international assemblies, "Divine Victory—Its Meaning for Distressed Humanity."

⁴ Later in the month you will have the October 22 issue of *Awake!*, which contains up-to-date material on the subject "Evolution—Facing Its Greatest Challenge." This is current information, taking up matters that have developed since the *Evolution* book was published. It is very revealing. We suggest that, in addition to presenting it from house to house, you especially offer it to anyone who showed interest in the *Evolution* book during September.

⁵ There is surely a wealth of fine material available to use in giving a Kingdom witness during October. May Jehovah bless our efforts.

Intensive Tract Distribution (Cont'd)

YOUR PART IN THE WORK

⁵ Based on the number of publishers reporting in your congregation in April, the Society has sent one hundred tracts for each publisher. However, if you now actually have more publishers, or if some have moved to other congregations, in your congregation you may personally receive fewer than a hundred, or possibly more. Are you willing to distribute your entire allotment? We are confident that love for Jehovah and concern for the lives of your fellowmen will move you to accept these tracts and then, if at all possible, personally to put them all out to the public. Your heart will rejoice to have had a full share in this exciting work.

⁶ There is no doubt that special effort will be required on the part of each one of us. But will it not be a joy to know that within a matter of days one of the greatest witnesses of all time will be given? So would it not be an excellent time for enlarging your share in the field ministry? Many doubtless will want to be temporary pioneers during this time. If you are able to do that, we encourage you to do so. Congregations will also be making special arrangements for midweek group witnessing. And in many locations, especially where Sunday meetings are early in the day, the congre-

gation will be invited to go out en masse to share in tract distribution afterward. Even if some are able to stay with the group only a short while, we encourage them to share with the congregation in this united witness.

WHO MAY SHARE

⁷ Who may have a share in the work? Certainly everyone who is already a publisher of the good news will want to do so. But remember, there are many people with whom you are studying and who are attending congregation meetings. Do some of them meet the qualifications to be publishers? Maybe they will want to assist you to distribute the message contained in the tract. And then after that, perhaps they will keep on sharing with you in making known the good news from door to door. Invite them to do so.

⁸ This work is not difficult. It is something in which all can share. If your health permits you to call at only a few doors at a time, do that. If you can stay out for several hours, then do not hold back. Of course, serious ill health may prevent some from doing as much as they would like to do. But surely they can hand a few tracts to others or send them through the mail. And other publishers in the congregation will gladly assist them to distribute the remainder. If for some reason

Announcements

- ◆ New Publications Available:
Paradise Restored to Mankind—By Theocracy! —German
- ◆ Out of Stock in U.S.A.:
Catholic Confraternity translation Bible —English
- ◆ Congregation accounts should be audited soon after September 1.
- ◆ Please order literature supplies as soon as campaigns are announced in *Kingdom Ministry*. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.
- ◆ Literature offer for September: *Evolution* book, for 25c. Distribution of *Kingdom News* tracts, September 21-30. For October: *Awake!* subscription, with three booklets, for \$1.50. For November: *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*, with a booklet, for 50c.
- ◆ After receiving the September 8 *Awake!*, please arrange for one out of every twenty publishers in your congregation to write a letter, preferably using a business letterhead, on behalf of our persecuted brothers in Turkey.

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

| | Pubs. | Av. Hrs. | Av. R.V. | Av. BLST. | Av. Mags. |
|-------------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sp'l Pios. | 668 | 139.9 | 56.0 | 5.1 | 144.1 |
| Pios. | 15,049 | 92.4 | 35.5 | 3.1 | 93.4 |
| Temp. Pios. | 11,973 | 80.5 | 22.7 | 1.1 | 81.5 |
| Pub. | 405,193 | 10.3 | 4.6 | .5 | 14.0 |
| TOTAL | 432,883 | | | | |

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 9,594
UNITED STATES GOAL FOR 1973
460,063 Publishers

you personally are unable to distribute your full allotment of tracts, then please turn the remainder over to your book study conductor or turn them in at the Kingdom Hall. Do this before the final weekend, so that others can help to get them into the hands of the public.

YOUR SERVICE REPORT

⁹ When you turn in your field service report for September, whether you are a congregation publisher or a pioneer, please note at the bottom of the report how many of the *Kingdom News* tracts you actually did distribute. The field overseer will send on to the Society the total figure for the congregation.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

¹⁰ After the tract distribution is completed, we encourage you to go right back into the same territories in your regular house-to-house activity, instead of working in other areas. This will give people who read the tract opportunity to ask questions and may open the way for many fine Bible studies. The Society will also notify you of any persons in your area who write to request further information, and we recommend that you follow up on these calls promptly.

¹¹ May Jehovah bless your efforts as you share fully in this united international witness, pointing to Jehovah's kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ as the only hope for humankind.

Presenting THE GOOD NEWS

With Kingdom News No. 16

¹ The extent of Jehovah's undeserved kindness and mercy is great indeed. Though under no obligation to imperfect humans, Jehovah has opened up the way for people of all nations and languages to have eternal life. (Rev. 5:9, 10; 7:9, 10) Wanting all to benefit from his provision, he has put it into the hearts of his people to take time from other activities in order to proclaim the "good news" and to make disciples. And is it not an evidence of Jehovah's undeserved kindness and mercy that he has moved the governing body of the "faithful and discreet slave" to arrange for a new instrument—*Kingdom News* No. 16—to help us in reaching many people quickly?

² During the last ten days of September we will be offering this new tract to people everywhere. The distribution will be done primarily from house to house. We are going to ring doorbells or knock and then hand the tract to people personally. This type of distribution will no doubt encourage the largest possible number of persons to give it serious consideration.

³ Our presentation may be very brief. For example, we might say: "Hello. I'm glad to find you at home. I have volunteered to share in distribution of an important message. This is your copy; it is free. [Hand it to the householder.] Please be sure to read it." Or, you could say: "This week hundreds of thousands of volunteers around the world are delivering an important message to people. This is your copy. Please be sure to read it." What you say may vary, depending on the attitude of people in your territory. In some areas you may find it beneficial to state that the message is from the Bible, or that it involves the meaning of world conditions. Use whatever method enables you to get it into the hands of the most people in their homes in a short time.

⁴ If the householder asks whether you have the current magazines with you, or requests a book, feel free to supply it. But our principal objective is to reach as many homes as possible with the tract. If you find someone who shows interest and would like to discuss matters further, we suggest that you make a

note of the name and address and arrange to call later. Until this work is finished, our goal is to cover the territory quickly.

⁵ We want to deliver the tract to every building, every home, every family in our territory. However, no record will be made of those who are not at home. Instead, the tract should be left at the door so they can pick it up when they return. As you know, it should not be put in a mailbox, and it is best if it can be left out of sight of passersby. But be sure that each household receives a copy.

⁶ Where you cannot get into certain apartment houses or call on the permanent residents in hotels, ask the doorman or the superintendent for special permission to put the tract under the doors. He might let you do that without ringing the bells. You could also mail personal copies to some who cannot otherwise be reached. In some cases, you may choose to stand on the sidewalk outside a building to hand copies to residents as they come and go. But we will not be distributing the tracts promiscuously on the streets.

⁷ Along with your other territory, we encourage you to call on business places. Give a copy of the tract to the owner or manager, and, if he grants permission, you may hand them to the other workers too. During lunch hour at your place of secular work, you may also be able to hand copies personally to fellow workers. And school-age publishers will no doubt want to deliver them to their teachers.

⁸ Keep on offering the tracts as long as you have any available. Endeavor to get all of them into the hands of the public. But if you run out of them before the end of the month, then keep on working in the territory with the *Evolution* book or with the magazines. The September 22 issue of *Awake!* is a specially fine one to acquaint the public with the worldwide work of Jehovah's witnesses, contrasting this with the religions of Christendom.

⁹ By vigorous activity on the part of all of us in presenting the good news, surely a fine witness will be given. At the same time we will be demonstrating our appreciation for Jehovah's great mercy and undeserved kindness.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ Belize reports that 1,099 attended their international assembly, with 34 baptized. The 517 publishers in the country rejoice that already 57 have been baptized—more than in any previous service year.

◆ For the first time in four years, Guyana had a new peak in publishers, with 1,147 reporting service.

Question Box

- Is it proper for married couples to bring their domestic problems to the attention of the judicial committee?

If a married couple have some problems, they should try to settle these problems themselves in harmony with the counsel of God's Word. However, if they are not able to do so and the problem is a serious one, it would be proper for either one or both to speak to the older men on the judicial committee.—See Matthew 18:15-17.

For example, a serious domestic problem would be the case of a man who physically beats his wife, doing her injury. A Christian should not be a smiter. (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7) Christians ought to produce the fruitage of the spirit, which includes self-control and peace. (Gal. 5:22, 23) The husband should be loving his wife as he does himself.—Eph. 5:28, 29; Col. 3:19; also see 2 Timothy 2:24 and 1 Peter 3:7.

If the evidence indicates that serious violence is involved, the congregation judicial committee would investigate the matter to find out what led to the mistreatment of the wife and give Scriptural counsel to both parties in an effort to restore peace in the family. They may find that it is necessary to give more than counsel; perhaps the man will have to be given private or public reproof. If a man proves to be a habitual beater of his wife, being without self-control and fierce (2 Tim. 3:3), and he does not conform to the Scriptural counsel that was given by the older men in the congregation, the violent man can be disfellowshiped.

If the injured wife then decides to institute some court action against her disfellowshiped husband, feeling this to be necessary to protect herself from violence, this would not be out of line with the counsel recorded at 1 Corinthians 6:1-6.

Similar action can be taken if a complaint is brought to the older men that a member of the congregation is able, but not willing to provide for his family in harmony with 1 Timothy 5:8.

The congregation judicial committee should not spy into the personal, private family affairs of others; but when persons seek their counsel they have a great responsibility to judge matters in harmony with the Scriptures and to protect the good name of the congregation. When a case is brought to their attention, they should be thorough in dealing with it and check later to see if the counsel they have given is followed and the needed improvement made. The older men seek to correct things that are defective, including serious domestic problems brought to their attention.—Titus 1:5.

Let's Get All the Tracts Out to the Public.