

The WATCHTOWER

Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**

JANUARY 1, 1968

Semimonthly

HOW GREAT A WITNESS?

—
WHERE CAN YOU FIND SECURITY?
—

YOUR SOUL IS NOT IMMORTAL!

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"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," SAYS JEHOVAH.—Isa. 43:12

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

Every watchtower has its purpose. It serves as an elevated place for a wide-awake person with sharp vision. It enables him to see far ahead into the distance and tell those below for whom he is a watchman what is drawing near, whether it is a danger against which to prepare or it is something good over which to be glad with strong faith and hope.

Because of having the name "The Watchtower" this magazine justly has to render a similar useful service to the people of all nations. This is an international magazine and makes no racial distinctions, for we are all facing a common world danger; we are all hoping for a common good.

Ever since "The Watchtower" began to be published in July of 1879 it has looked ahead into the future, always striving to aid its readers to advance in knowledge and to gain a clearer picture of the glorious new order of things that is in store for righteous mankind. No, "The Watchtower" is no inspired prophet, but it follows and explains a Book of prophecy the predictions in which have proved to be unerring and unfailing till now. "The Watchtower" is therefore under safe guidance. It may be read with confidence, for its statements may be checked against that prophetic Book.

Among the many nations of today there are hundreds of differing religions. Which one does this magazine present? Not the confused religions of Christendom, but the religion of the oldest sacred Book on earth. Which Book? The Sacred Bible of the Holy Scriptures, written by inspiration in the name of the Creator of heaven and earth, the only living and true God.

The sacred, nonpolitical purpose of "The Watchtower" is accordingly to encourage and promote study of the Holy Bible and to give our many readers the needed unsectarian help to understand that Book of true religion and infallible prophecy. Thus this magazine will be helping them to prove worthy of perfect life and happiness in God's promised new order under His everlasting kingdom of righteousness.



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"They will all be taught by Jehovah."—John 6: 45; Isaiah 54: 13

CONTENTS

Where Can You Find Security?	3
Your Soul Is Not Immortal!	5
How Great a Witness?	7
Made Powerful Spiritually, Though Physically Weak	30
Do You Remember?	31
Questions from Readers	31

The Bible translation used in "The Watchtower" is the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, 1961 edition. When other translations are used the following symbols will appear behind the citations:

AS - American Standard Version Le - Isaac Leeser's version
 AT - An American Translation MO - James Moffatt's version
 AV - Authorized Version (1611) RO - J. B. Rotherham's version
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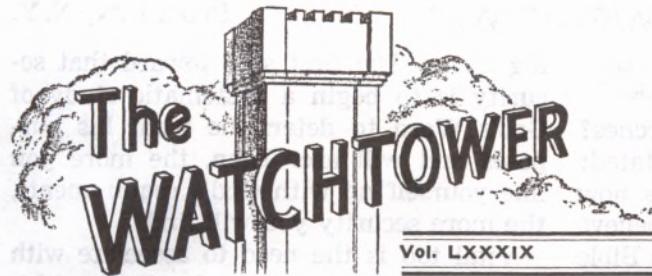
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Number 1

Where Can You Find SECURITY?

THROUGHOUT the world, security and stability have generally vanished. Violence, hatred and crime strike fear into the hearts of people.

No doubt you have observed that even in the most economically advanced countries insecurity is present. Of the United States the following was reported:

"A strange and troubled mood is appearing in the nation at this time. Growing is the sense that a basic sickness may be spreading through the American society.

"Headlines tell of disorders of all kinds.

"Massive riots have laid waste to the big cities. Violent crime is invading once-quiet neighborhoods. LSD and marijuana are becoming the staple item for more and more of the nation's young people."—*U.S. News & World Report*, August 28, 1967.

Some people, shaken by these frightening conditions, turn to the churches. They believe that only God has the answer to these critical problems and they seek to find him in church.

Yet, when they honestly view what the churches are doing, they find that, far from finding solutions to problems, the churches are adding to them! They are frequently found not pursuing a Christian course nor sticking to

God's Word the Bible.

Peace is vital to security, but consider what clergymen are promoting. For instance, a Catholic priest in Milwaukee openly promotes civil disorder. A prominent

Protestant clergyman proclaims that he will organize "civil disobedience on a massive scale." Cardinal Spellman in Vietnam declares that military victory is the only acceptable solution to the war there. Then Archbishop R. Lucey, returning from Vietnam, says: "It is necessary to use force." Jesus Christ taught no such use of force.—Matt. 26:52.

A Methodist clergyman teaches that "God is dead." Episcopal Bishop J. Pike states that the Bible is filled with "superstition, sheer evil and flat contradiction." Are such views of clergymen exceptions? No. More and more, such thinking characterizes Christendom. In the book *A Church Without God* clergyman E. Harrison states:

"Werner Pelz, who entitled a book *God Is No More*, is a Church of England vicar; William H. Dubay, who asserts that Christ 'did away with religion,' is a Roman Catholic priest; . . . Father Jackson, who says, 'If there is a God, we can't speak of him as a supreme being,' is a university chaplain; Thomas Altizer, [a 'God is dead' clergyman] who wrote *The Gospel of Christian Atheism*, is an Associate Professor of Bible Studies at an American university; I am on the staff of an Anglican parish in Toronto. I claim to

be a Christian and an Anglican; yet I can say, in all seriousness, that there is no God."

What of those who attend the churches? The clergyman just quoted also stated: "All major Christian denominations now include loyal members who do not believe in God . . . They do not consider the Bible to be basically different in kind from other books, and they do not pray."

Do you really think God is to be found in churches where ministers and followers alike are abandoning God and his Word the Bible?

You should realize why there is such a turning away from God by churchmen and church attenders alike. It is because *the churches are dying!* God's Word says: "It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines."—Matt. 15:9.

If you think you will find security by searching for God in the churches, you will be disappointed. *He is not there!* That is why the churches are in such confusion. If God were there, there would be peace, unity and order, "for God is a God, not of disorder, but of peace."—1 Cor. 14:33.

Where, then, can you find true security? How can you find the God that gives it? By reading the holy Bible and taking to heart what God himself says there. Encouragingly, Psalm 112:1, 7 says: "Happy is the man in fear of Jehovah, in whose commandments he has taken very much delight. He will not be afraid even of bad news." For such ones the psalmist adds: "In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for you yourself alone, O Jehovah, make me dwell in security."—Ps. 4:8.

Yes, only the true God, Jehovah, can provide security for you in these distress-

ing times. The first step toward that security is to begin a systematic study of God's Word to determine what his purposes and will are. Then, the more you line yourself up with God's requirements, the more security you will find.

Vital too is the need to associate with persons who have respect for God and his high standards. Nowhere will you find people who have greater respect for God than among Jehovah's witnesses. Among them you and your family will

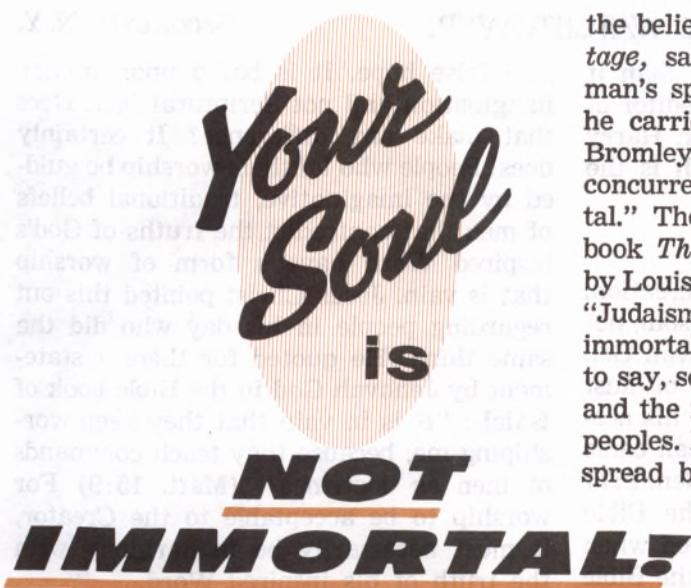
feel security. Jehovah's witnesses do not tolerate in their midst liars, thieves, fornicators, and adulterers, who seek to corrupt and victimize other persons. Since Jehovah's witnesses have respect for all of God's laws, you will be among people that are sincerely endeavoring to do what is right in God's eyes. This makes for the greatest security and brings happiness.

But more than that, Jehovah's witnesses enjoy a security that fortifies them even in the face of death, and it is a security that you, too, can share. As one author who was in a Nazi concentration camp said when observing how others sank into depravity: "The members of Jehovah's Witnesses, it must be said, showed such courage, daring, virtue, and stoicism in adversity that they deserve a special salute. They were rocks in a sea of mud."—*The Day of the Americans*, by N. Gun.

So if you want to find true security, turn to the true God, Jehovah, who alone can provide it. Take in knowledge of him from his own Word. Associate with those who worship him and who adhere to his Holy Word. Then you will have security now and also the firm hope of surviving the end of this system of things and of living in God's righteous new order.—2 Pet. 3:13.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Security That Even Money Cannot Buy.
- The Churches Misrepresent God.
- The Time Is Short.
- The Righteous Standard of the Changeless God.
- Christian Morality.



Your Soul is NOT **IMMORTAL!**

DO YOU believe as the poet Longfellow wrote, "And in the wreck of noble lives, something immortal still survives"? Or as Shakespeare wrote, "And her immortal part with angels lives"? If you are a member of one of Christendom's many churches, it is most likely that you do. But what makes you think that the soul is immortal?

Surely you do not believe that the writings of a poet or a playwright are sufficient grounds for believing that you have an immortal soul. What they wrote was just their personal opinion. The same can be said of philosophers who have expressed belief in an immortal soul. The ancient Greek philosopher Plato, for example, wrote: "The soul of man is immortal and imperishable." If that is your view, it would be well to remember that Plato's opinion was influenced by his pagan religion.

More likely than not you will say that your belief in the immortality of the soul has resulted from the teachings of your church. Most of the churches of Christendom teach this doctrine. Cardinal Gibbons of the Roman Catholic Church expressed

the belief in his book *Our Christian Heritage*, saying: "Let us now contemplate man's spiritual nature. In a mortal body, he carries an immortal soul." Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of the Methodist Church concurred when he said: "Man is immortal." The Jewish view is similar. In the book *The Jewish People, Faith and Life*, by Louis Newman, this statement is made: "Judaism believes in the reality and the immortality of the soul." We might go on to say, so do adherents of Hinduism, Islam and the many tribal religions of primitive peoples. Notwithstanding its being a widespread belief, the truth of the matter is that your soul is not immortal.

PROOF FROM RELIABLE SOURCE

The only source of information that supplies the truth on the subject is the Holy Bible. The One who inspired it is our Creator, and he certainly knows whether your soul is immortal or not. Not once in the sixty-six books of the Bible does he inspire a Bible writer to testify that the human soul is immortal. On the contrary, the Bible repeatedly states that the soul dies. At Leviticus 23:30, Jehovah God says: "As for any soul that will do any sort of work on this very day, I must destroy that soul from among his people." At Ezekiel 18:4, he also says: "The soul that is sinning—it itself will die." Jesus Christ asked: "Is it lawful on the sabbath to do good or to do injury, to save or to destroy a soul?" (Luke 6:9) Does that sound as if the soul is immortal?

The Hebrew word that is translated into English as "soul" is *nephesh*, and it conveys no thought whatever of something that can continue your conscious existence separate from your body. *Nephesh* means a living being. This is admitted by the Baptist clergyman Robert Laurin of the California Baptist Theological Seminary. He observed: "The *nephesh* cannot be sep-

arated from the body, any more than it can from the spirit." The Jewish editor of a new translation of the Bible, Dr. Harry M. Orlinsky, commented: "Nefesh is the person himself."

YOUR SOUL IS YOU

When the Bible tells of man's creation, it speaks of his *becoming* a living soul, not his being *given* a soul. "And Jehovah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul [*nephesh*]." (Gen. 2:7) But you may ask, "Does not the Bible state that the spirit returns to God when a person dies?" That is true, but the Bible does not indicate that the spirit is an immortal part of man that continues his conscious existence.

The spirit is the active force of life from God. It is written at Ecclesiastes 3:19: "For there is an eventuality as respects the sons of mankind and an eventuality as respects the beast, and they have the same eventuality. As the one dies, so the other dies; and they all have but one spirit." This spirit enlivens the visible, earthly animal and human souls. It activates them and can be likened to electrical power, which activates all kinds of electrical motors. This impersonal force, then, is what returns to God when a person's conscious existence ceases. So Ecclesiastes 12:7 states: "Then the dust returns to the earth just as it happened to be and the spirit itself returns to the true God who gave it."

Acknowledging that the Bible does not teach that man can exist apart from his body, *The New Bible Dictionary* by J. D. Douglas states: "But nowhere in the Bible do we get a view of man as existing apart from the body, even after death in a future life." Thus it can be seen that the hope held out by the clergy of Christendom of life after death as an immortal soul

is a false hope. It is based upon human imagination and not Scriptural fact. Does that make any difference? It certainly does! People who let their worship be guided by the imaginative, traditional beliefs of men that contradict the truths of God's inspired Word have a form of worship that is vain. Jesus Christ pointed this out regarding people in his day who did the same thing. He quoted for them a statement by Jehovah God in the Bible book of Isaiah: "It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines." (Matt. 15:9) For worship to be acceptable to the Creator, it must necessarily be in harmony with the truth of his inspired Word.

"But," you may say, "if the soul is not immortal, what happens to a person when he dies?" The Bible answers this very pointedly at Psalm 146:4: "His spirit goes out, he goes back to his ground; in that day his thoughts do perish." His thoughts perish because he ceases to exist as a living soul. The dead person sleeps in death, unconscious. Hope for future life lies in a resurrection from the dead, being brought back to life, as the Bible promises: "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." (John 5:28, 29) Since God gives you the hope of a resurrection from the dead, why hold to the false hope that comes from belief in an immortal soul—something that does not exist?

Notwithstanding what poets, philosophers and many religious leaders claim, your soul is not immortal. Your soul is you, and the reliable, Scriptural hope for those who are dead in Hades, or the Bible hell, is a resurrection, being brought back to life so as to be a *living soul once again*. (Rev. 20:13) Build your hope on Scriptural truth, not on the imaginations of imperfect men.

HOW GREAT A WITNESS!

"This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come."—Matt. 24:14.

THE great proclaimer of the kingdom of God, Jesus Christ, had been preaching this message for nearly three and one-half years and now it was only three days before he would be dying on the torture stake on Calvary. Four of his disciples, Peter, Andrew, James and John, all of whom were fishermen by trade but who had been made fishers of men, were with him on the Mount of Olives. But they did not appreciate that Jesus would be killed. Jesus had done well in his preaching and teaching work in this short period of time, for there were many who were faithfully following him. This is proved by the fact that at Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus' resurrection from the dead, one hundred and twenty disciples were awaiting instructions in Jerusalem when the holy spirit descended upon them. Then on that very same day when the apostle Peter spoke to a great crowd of Jews, there were 3,000 more that put faith in Christ Jesus and were begotten by holy spirit. These were baptized in water. Jesus' ministry proved to be a great witness for the kingdom of God.

Would these four particular disciples, who were keenly interested in when Jesus'

kingdom would be in operation, give a good witness in their lifetime? Jesus had just been telling them that not one stone would be left upon another as far as the temple in Jerusalem was concerned, for destruction was due to come to that system of things. "When will these things be," asked the disciples, "and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?"—Matt. 24:3.

What Jesus told those four disciples is recorded in the 24th and 25th chapters of Matthew, Mark the 13th chapter and Luke the 21st chapter. Read these chapters, please. It will certainly cause you to think! We feel that you will be able to comprehend that what Jesus was telling his disciples 1,935 years ago has had fulfillment in at least part of your lifetime. The complete fulfillment was not in the year 70 C.E. In fact, if you will think back to the year 1914, or read the history of that year when World War I started, you will see that what Jesus said in prophecy is what has come to pass in our day. His words are: "For nation will make war upon nation, kingdom upon kingdom; there will be famines and earthquakes in many places. With all these things the

1. What facts show that Jesus Christ had indeed been a great proclaimer of the kingdom of God?

2. What questions were in the minds of the four disciples with Jesus on the Mount of Olives?

3. In what three places in Scripture do we find Jesus' reply to the disciples' questions, and when did such things mentioned by Jesus begin having fulfillment?

birth-pangs of the new age begin." (Matt. 24:7, 8, *New English Bible*) Surely you can see that things have changed since 1914. Historians can!

⁴ After describing other terrible things that would occur in the days in which we now live, Jesus emphasized a very important feature by saying: "And this gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the earth as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14, *NEB*) It is interesting to note that Jesus told his disciples that after the "birth-pangs of the new age" begin it would also be the time for the gospel of the Kingdom to be proclaimed throughout all the earth as a testimony to all the nations. But how great a witness would it prove to be before the new age begins?

⁵ As far as Jesus' own proclamation of the good news of the Kingdom was concerned, it was confined to Palestine. But three and one-half years after Jesus' death Peter, one of the four disciples present at the Mount of Olives, was directed to go to Cornelius in Caesarea. Ever since that time people of all nations, Gentiles and Jews, have been invited to accept the kingdom of the heavens as the only hope for everlasting life.

⁶ Many persons since Cornelius' conversion have believed in Christ Jesus, and have accepted him as their Redeemer and have walked in his footsteps. When we read the Acts of the Apostles we see what those early Christians did as compared with what so-called Christians are doing today, and what a contrast there is! Christendom today has lost the message of God's kingdom. The majority of people do not believe what the Holy Scriptures say. Even though little children are

taught to pray: "Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth," they really do not get the full meaning of these words; and when grown up and becoming adults, they believe evolution or agree that God is dead. Why do they attend church services? They do not want to talk to anyone about the Bible or listen to a person that does. And most certainly they do not believe the good news of God's kingdom.

⁷ So this matter of belief in God's kingdom, or His government to be established to rule the earth in the same way that heaven is ruled by God, seems farfetched to most people. Still, over nineteen hundred years ago, Jesus said to four of his disciples on the Mount of Olives: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached . . . and then the end will come."

⁸ When have you heard someone, your minister, your priest or your neighbor, talk to you about God's kingdom? When was the last time that you discussed the Bible with someone really interested in this good news of God's kingdom? If you profess to be a Christian, do you talk about the Kingdom, so as to share in preaching about it, thus giving a witness concerning that Kingdom to all nations? Or, perhaps you are asking yourself, 'What is this Kingdom? What will it do?' Let us take a moment to see.

⁹ The kingdom of God is certainly not any of the governments of this present system of things. In fact, Jesus in speaking to Pontius Pilate said: "My kingdom is no part of this world. If my kingdom were part of this world, my attendants would have fought that I should not be delivered up to the Jews. But, as it is, my kingdom is not from this source." (John 18:36) So the Kingdom cannot be an

4. Besides terrible things that were to occur in our day what else would happen?

5. For how long has the good message of the kingdom of the heavens been going to people of *all* nations?

6, 7. In what ways has Christendom lost the message of God's kingdom?

8. What thought-provoking questions are now asked?

9. Why cannot God's kingdom be any government of this present system of things?



Sitting on the Mount of Olives, Jesus told his disciples: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth . . . and then the end will come."

earthly government. Years before Jesus ever came to earth the prophet Daniel wrote about this kingdom of God and said: "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite." (Dan. 2:44) That is good news! "The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin." The kingdom that Jesus was speaking about was this kingdom that the God of heaven would set up. "The kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people," but the inhabitants of the earth would come under its rule and be blessed by it. The apostle Peter appreciated and understood this, because he wrote: "There are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell."—2 Pet. 3:13.

¹⁰ Do you not see that this generation in which we are living is experiencing what Jesus said about wars, famine, earthquakes and other troubles, and that "with all these things the birth-pangs of the new age begin"? Revelation 21:1-4 records what this new order of things will do: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away . . . I heard a loud voice from the throne say: 'Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be any more. The former things have passed away.'" A kingdom that will do that for mankind is worth proclaiming to

10. What blessings will God's kingdom bring to mankind?

all the inhabited earth! But this kingdom will do more than that. When the King Jesus Christ speaks to those in their graves, the scripture tells us, "all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." (John 5:28, 29) God's kingdom will bring everlasting life to all those who love him. Remember, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) The question is, Do you believe? Remember what the wise man wrote, in Proverbs 12:28: "In the path of righteousness there is life, and the journey in its pathway means no death."

EXAMINING THE FACTS

¹¹ We would like to review with you a bit of history to see how great a witness to all the nations about God's kingdom has been given, and who is giving such witness. As far back as December of 1888 the *Watch Tower* magazine stated: "Notwithstanding the fact that sectarianism has blinded the hearts of the vast majority of those who own Christ's name, so that they cannot appreciate the real good tidings of the coming Kingdom of God and the blessed work it is to accomplish, yet God has so arranged that the gospel itself is being preached (declared), as a 'witness,' for use in the coming age." Even then, in 1888, the Watch Tower Society saw the need for declaring the good news of God's kingdom. Its first president, Charles T. Russell, after visiting many foreign missions of the Protestant religions, said, however, that his "observations have led to a careful reconsideration of the entire subject of gospel missionary work." In discussing Matthew 24:14 he said:

11, 12. Though the *Watch Tower* magazine as far back as 1888 commented on the need of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, what observation was made in the January 1, 1892, issue of that magazine about the preaching of the "gospel of the kingdom"?

¹² "The word *gospel*, here, is emphatic in the Greek, and so is the word *kingdom*. It is not any and every good message, but a special one—This *good* message of *the* Kingdom—which must first be preached before the end of this age. We ask whether this has yet been done, and reply, No. That which is generally preached under the name *gospel* has little in it that is really good tidings, and nothing whatever in it about the kingdom that our Lord promised should be 'set up' in the end of the Gospel age, to bless all the families of the earth during the Millennial age. Catholics and Protestants, although they use our Lord's prayer, saying, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven,' do not expect such a kingdom, and hence are not preaching it in all or in any of the nations of the world. . . . Thus this work is still open to be done and can be done by no others than those who know something of these good tidings of the kingdom."—*Watch Tower*, January 1, 1892, page 8.

¹³ Russell saw the real need of getting this good news of the Kingdom preached because it was not being done. But how great a witness in all nations must be given concerning this kingdom? To get the good news of the Kingdom preached Pastor Russell encouraged colporteur work. In November 1891 the *Watch Tower* magazine emphasized the colporteur work in an article that encouraged Christians to enter full-time service, preaching the good news of the Kingdom. It said: "This preaching of the Kingdom from house to house, which seems to be the work now most favored of the Lord and most productive of good results, much resembles that done by those sent out during the harvest at the first advent; only that here it is not the natural eyes that are opened,

but the eyes of men's understanding. . . . For information as to Colporteur supplies, suitable territory, etc., address Tower Tract Society, 'Bible House,' Allegheny, Pa."—*Watch Tower*, November 1891, inside last page.

¹⁴ Today this colporteur work, called pioneer service, is still in operation and the Society has about 50,000 Christian witnesses of Jehovah in all parts of the earth devoting their full time to preaching the Kingdom good news. Missionaries are sent to all parts of the world to declare the good news of the Kingdom. The witness work in these "last days" has greatly expanded over that done in the days when Pastor Russell and those associated with him began such activity, but he felt the urgency for this good news of the Kingdom to be preached first to all the nations, after which the end would come.—Mark 13:10; Matt 24:14.

¹⁵ A campaign for stepping up public speaking world wide was organized in those early days of the Society, and all the publicity that accompanied it directed the attention of the people to this good news of the Kingdom and that it must be preached. In the year 1912 motion pictures were becoming popular and it was recognized that they were a good medium through which to reach the masses of the people. Pastor Russell began preparation of the Photo-Drama of Creation, using slides and films, and it was shown around the world in many languages. Even in those early days Pastor Russell did something that was unique. He not only showed the motion pictures, but simultaneously ran speech phonograph records to tell the story as the slides and some motion pictures were being shown. He had sound

14. What work in our day has aided greatly in getting the Kingdom good news declared?

15. Along with public speaking about God's kingdom, what other method of preaching did Pastor Russell and the Society undertake?

13. What comment was made in *The Watch Tower* of November 1891 about preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and what work was encouraged?

with film. Millions saw the Photo-Drama of Creation, and it directed the attention of the people to the good news of the kingdom of God as the only hope for mankind.

A CHANGE IN OVERSEERS

¹⁶ On October 31, 1916, Pastor Russell died, and on January 6, 1917, J. F. Rutherford was elected to the presidency of the Watch Tower Society. The preaching of this good news of the Kingdom was uppermost in J. F. Rutherford's mind and in the minds of all those who had to do with the Society's work. By 1917 Jehovah's witnesses had clearly seen that Matthew 24:7, 8 was having fulfillment. Nation had risen against nation. The war was world wide, involving all the kingdoms of this earth. Surely these things were the birth pangs of the "new age." Due to the energetic efforts of the Society in declaring the good news of God's kingdom, false religionists in America conspired, and charges were brought against the officers of the Society to the effect that they were against the government. On June 21, 1918, J. F. Rutherford and seven other members of the Watch Tower Society were sentenced to eighty years' imprisonment on the charge of sedition. An executive committee was appointed and the *Watch Tower* magazine continued to be published during these troublesome years, and not one issue of the *Watch Tower* magazine failed to appear.

¹⁷ The conviction against J. F. Rutherford and others was appealed and finally heard on April 14, 1919. On May 14, 1919, the erroneous convictions of the preceding summer were reversed. In remanding the case for retrial, Judge Ward stated in the

opinion: "The defendants in this case did not have the temperate and impartial trial to which they were entitled, and for that reason the judgment is reversed." (*Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*, page 86, column 2) The case was never retried.

¹⁸ By the summer of 1918, though, the once firm and strong voice of the witnesses for Jehovah and his kingdom was pretty well silenced. Their organized work around the world was figuratively killed and deathlike inactivity came over this once energetic band of Christians. (See *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*, pages 61, 80, 83.) According to the best records available, there were in 1918 only 3,868 persons reporting to the Society as going from house to house and preaching with bound books the good news of the Kingdom in some fourteen countries of the world. It was not long, however, before things changed. Jesus' prophecy was due to come true, that "also, in all the nations the good news has to be preached first," before the end of this system of things will come.—Mark 13:10.

¹⁹ To get things going again a grand convention of Jehovah's witnesses was held September 1-8, 1919, at Cedar Point, Ohio, and, as *The Watch Tower* reported, the cry of God's servants was: "What more is there that we can do?" At this convention there was an announcement made that a new magazine under the title "The Golden Age" was to be published. It was pointed out that the magazine would carry current events together with the Scriptural explanation of the same. Jehovah's people were told that never before was there such distress and perplexity in the earth. The

^{16, 17.} (a) Did a change in overseers mean any change in attitude about the need of preaching the Kingdom good news? (b) What resulted to officers of the Society for being so energetic in preaching the Kingdom good news, and what was the final outcome of the matter?

18. Though the organized work of preaching came to a standstill for a time in 1918, what yet remained to be done according to Jesus' prophecy?

19. (a) At the Cedar Point, Ohio, convention in 1919, what was shown to be the real hope for distressed mankind? (b) How did *The Watch Tower* of July 1920 emphasize the Kingdom message, and what conclusion did it reach?

panacea for these human ills was to be found only in the message of the Kingdom and it was shown how the Lord's ambassadors were granted the privilege and opportunity of delivering this message of consolation. To all those attending the assembly it was pointed out: "You are an ambassador of the King of kings and Lord of lords, announcing to the people in this dignified manner the incoming of the Golden Age, the glorious kingdom of our Lord and Master, for which true Christians have hoped and prayed for many centuries." (*Watch Tower*, September 15, 1919, page 281) Then the July 1, 1920, issue of *The Watch Tower*, page 200, in its first article, entitled "Gospel of the Kingdom," emphasized this point: "The gospel means good news. The good news here is concerning the end of the old order of things and the establishment of Messiah's kingdom. . . . It means that Satan's empire is falling, never to rise again. . . . A modern translation of this text illuminates it: 'And this good news of the kingdom shall be proclaimed throughout the whole world to set the evidence before the Gentiles, and then the end shall come'. Plainly this would seem to indicate that now the church must engage in the proclamation of this good news as a witness to the nations of earth."

²⁰ The zeal of these witnesses of Jehovah did not slacken, but, rather, they saw a great work ahead and they put their hands and hearts to it. In the year 1921 a very fine publication was released, *The Harp of God*, which reached, in a few short years, a circulation of 5,819,037 copies in twenty-two languages.

²¹ From September 5-13, 1922, a second convention was held in Cedar Point, Ohio, with an average attendance each day of

10,000. *The Watch Tower* of November 1, 1922, page 325, reported that a resolution was adopted on Sunday, September 10, part of which read:

²² "But we hold and declare that Messiah's kingdom is the complete panacea for all the ills of humankind and will bring peace on earth and good will to men, the desire of all nations; that those who yield themselves willingly to his righteous reign now begun will be blessed with lasting peace, life, liberty and endless happiness. Therefore we bring to the peoples of earth God's message of good tidings contained in the Bible, his Word of truth. . . . the old world, under the control of Satan, has ended and is being rapidly broken in pieces, to make way for the everlasting kingdom of righteousness now being set up, and that millions of people now living on earth, if obedient to the laws of that righteous kingdom, will continue to live and never die."

²³ A few days prior to the passing of that resolution telling the nations to "make way for the everlasting kingdom," J. F. Rutherford delivered a discourse on the subject "The Kingdom." But even before this discourse, throughout the convention grounds in Cedar Point, Ohio, there were on display three large letters, "ADV." Many conventioners were venturing guesses as to what the "ADV" meant. They found out when the lecture "The Kingdom" was delivered. As Judge Rutherford came to the climax of his talk and he was finishing, with the words, "Advertise, advertise, advertise, the King and his kingdom," a large banner unfolded over the platform with the words "Advertise the King and Kingdom." Of course, everyone immediately connected "ADV" with "Advertise," but it was the thing that they were to advertise that was

20. How was the work of Kingdom preaching enhanced in 1921?

21, 22. In Cedar Point, Ohio, again, in 1922, what resolution was adopted by Jehovah's witnesses showing their determination to be proclaimers of God's kingdom?

23. Following a talk on "The Kingdom," delivered by Brother Rutherford, the Society's president, what was stressed to the audience, and how?

all-important. The Kingdom! This truly was the keynote of the convention, and every dedicated person there felt the force of the message. The most important thing in life for each one to do was to declare this good news of the Kingdom. Every dedicated Christian was to be a publicity agent for the King and the Kingdom. What enthusiasm ran through the crowd! One could feel the spirit of God directing his people to push ahead with this Kingdom message.

²⁴ The spirit of this convention had a telling effect. Jehovah's witnesses everywhere felt the urgency of declaring the good news of God's kingdom first before the end of the system of things. Certainly the birth pangs of this "new age" had begun with World War I and its aftermath of famine, pestilence and earthquakes, along with persecution of true Christians and the loss of faith on the part of Christendom. The greater number of so-called Christians were no longer looking at God's Word as truth. It was becoming more evident that man's love for his fellowman was growing cold. Look how much man's love for one another has cooled off since 1914 and down to 1968. This, however, could not be allowed to affect the work of Jehovah's witnesses, for they know that those who have endured to the end are the ones that will be saved.—Matt. 24:13.

²⁵ To advertise the King and Kingdom was the work Jehovah's witnesses had to do. Every method should be used to do so. One method was the radio. So the Society built a radio station. On February 24, 1924, the Watch Tower Society began broadcasting over its own radio station, WBKR, located on Staten Island, New York city. In this area ten million people

24. How did Jehovah's witnesses feel after this convention, and how could they well recognize the day in which they were living?

25. In 1924 another method of preaching the Kingdom was employed. What was it, and how extensive did it become?

could be reached with the Kingdom message. During the years that followed, other radio stations were built throughout the United States, some were purchased and great networks of radio stations were arranged for and used to broadcast 'the good news of God's kingdom.'

²⁶ By the year 1928 as a result of the use of numerous methods to advertise the kingdom of God many people had listened and were fleeing from Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion. Throughout the world there were now, on an average, 23,988 Christian witnesses of Jehovah engaging in the preaching work from house to house every month in 32 countries.

THE PREACHING NOT DONE WITHOUT OPPOSITION

²⁷ During all the years following the closing down of the work in 1918 and now its revival in 1919, there was strong opposition to the ministry of Jehovah's witnesses. Persecution continued after World War I. As late as 1929 there were 1,660 legal proceedings taken against the witnesses of Jehovah in Germany. In Hungary, Jehovah's witnesses were not even permitted to assemble for public meetings or to have private meetings. In Italy there was no preaching activity reported at all because it was almost impossible to do the work in that Roman Catholic country under dictatorship. In Spain the clergy pressed very hard against the few Witnesses who had penetrated into the mountainous regions of that country to declare the good news. One bishop in Spain, according to the 1929 *Yearbook*, "lamented the fact that *The Watch Tower* not only is being distributed but will surely continue to be so, unless the authorities take the matter in hand." De-

26. In 1918 there were about 3,868 persons who reported to the Society on their preaching work. What was the total ten years later in 1928?

27. Cite examples to show that the preaching work was not done without opposition.

spite these troubles and many more in other countries, Jehovah's Christian witnesses stuck to their Kingdom preaching activity.

²⁸ Again in 1931 at a convention in Columbus, Ohio, July 24-30, Jehovah's witnesses went on record as 'unhesitatingly declaring their entire allegiance and devotion to Jehovah God and his kingdom.' In that same year, on July 28, a booklet was published entitled "The Kingdom, the Hope of the World" and, during the month of October, a personal visit was made on every clergyman, politician and big business man that could be reached in the territories where Jehovah's witnesses resided and a copy of this booklet was delivered to each one free. Within a few years after the release of this booklet in 1931 its circulation had reached 10,203,752 copies in thirty-eight languages.

²⁹ In the years that followed, a tremendous program of broadcasting the message of God's kingdom by radio was undertaken. In the one year of 1934 there was a total of 23,783 lectures broadcast on radio stations, and during that year the Society introduced the portable phonograph, which was used by Jehovah's witnesses when going from house to house. The Kingdom message was reproduced on four-and-a-half-minute records and Jehovah's witnesses played these for the people in their homes. Large electrical transcription machines with power amplifiers were also used to reproduce these speech recordings so that thousands of people could hear in towns and villages. With all this intensive work to advertise the King and Kingdom, opposition grew in many countries.

³⁰ The 1934 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses reported how the police of Germany

occupied the Society's property in Magdeburg. In June of 1933 the Society's large printing plant in Germany was closed by order of the government. The government had forbidden any meetings by Jehovah's witnesses throughout Germany. They confiscated all the literature that they could lay their hands on and tried to stop the distribution of the Kingdom message in any form. Would this drastic move again trigger people to deliver the Christian witnesses of Jehovah up to tribulation and would they kill them and make them objects of hatred by all the nations? (Matt. 24:9) Read for yourself how world opposition rose against Jehovah's witnesses again.

³¹ Publishers preaching the good news of the Kingdom were brought into the courts world wide and were charged with selling without a license, disturbing the peace, peddling without a permit, violating the Sunday sabbath law, and so forth. They were classed as solicitors rather than ministers of the gospel. But Jehovah's witnesses did not slacken in their zeal and determination to advertise the King and the Kingdom. In fact, the persecution against Jehovah's witnesses in Germany became so intense as the build-up for World War II gathered momentum that the Christian witnesses of Jehovah in fifty countries sent cables of protest addressed to Hitler and his government concerning the persecution of their fellow workers in Germany. It caused a terrifying impact on the Hitler government. We would like to quote from the book *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*, page 142, regarding a sworn account of what actually did take place in Hitler's presence October 7, 1934, as a re-

28. What publication was released in 1931, and did Jehovah's witnesses give it wide circulation?

29. In addition to radio, what other method of preaching was undertaken in 1934?

30. How did governments of the world react to the preaching activity of Jehovah's witnesses as outlined in the 1934 Yearbook?

31, 32. (a) What view of the preaching work was taken by many in official positions? (b) Due to the persecution of Jehovah's witnesses by the Hitler government, what protest was registered with his government, and with what effect? (c) Did Hitler strive to carry out his vile threats against Jehovah's witnesses?

sult of this flood of protests. Karl R. A. Wittig said:

³² "On October 7, 1934, having been previously summoned, I visited Dr. Wilhelm Frick, at that time Minister of the Interior of the Reich and Prussia, in his home office of the Reich, located in Berlin, 6 am Koenigsplatz, since I was a plenipotentiary of General Ludendorff. I was to accept communications, contents of which were an attempt to persuade General Ludendorff to discontinuance of his objection to the Nazi regime. During my discussion with Dr. Frick, Hitler suddenly appeared and began taking part in the conversation. When our discussion obligatorily dealt with the action against the International Bible Students Association [Jehovah's witnesses] in Germany up until now, Dr. Frick showed Hitler a number of telegrams protesting against the Third Reich's persecution of the Bible Students, saying: 'If the Bible Students do not immediately get in line we will act against them using the strongest means.' After which Hitler jumped to his feet and with clenched fists hysterically screamed: 'This brood will be exterminated in Germany!' Four years after this discussion I was able, by my own observations, to convince myself, during my seven years in protective custody in the hell of the Nazi's concentration-camps at Sachsenhausen, Flossenburg and Mauthausen—I was in prison until released by the Allies—that Hitler's outburst of anger was not just an idle threat. No other group of prisoners of the named concentration-camps was exposed to the sadism of the SS-soldiery in such a fashion as the Bible Students were. It was a sadism marked by an unending chain of physical and mental tortures, the likes of which no language in the world can express."—Quoted from sworn statement made by Karl R. A. Wittig, November 13, 1947.

³³ Why was Hitler so enraged against Jehovah's witnesses? It was because they were uncompromisingly preaching the good news of God's kingdom and would not hail Hitler nor look to Germany as the savior of mankind. Jehovah's witnesses knew from God's Word that Hitler, the Catholic, would not reestablish the Holy Roman Empire to reign for a thousand years, which was his aim. Jehovah's witnesses were confident that soon the conclusion of this system of things would come and Jehovah's kingdom through his Son, Christ Jesus, would reign for a thousand years. This they kept preaching to peoples of all nations for a witness.

³⁴ Even in the United States during the year 1934, 340 of Jehovah's faithful Kingdom proclaimers had been arrested because they dared to preach from house to house. Many were imprisoned for the violation of some law that took away the freedom of speech, press and religion. By 1939 the number of Jehovah's witnesses detained in prisons of the German Gestapo and concentration camps of Germany had grown to 6,000. With war hysteria world wide, in 1940 Canada banned Jehovah's witnesses and tried to stop the preaching of the Kingdom. The *1941 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*, page 160, says: "Immediately following the arrival of the new Governor General into this country [Canada] from England, the Minister of Justice caused to be passed an order in council by the Governor General, which declared illegal the 'Jehovah's Witness Organization.'" That was on July 4, 1940.

³⁵ On June 3, 1940, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that school boards may require children in public

33. What caused Hitler to have such rage against Jehovah's witnesses?

34. Where else did Jehovah's witnesses run into difficulty for preaching the Kingdom good news?

35-37. (a) What oppressive actions were taken against Jehovah's witnesses in 1940 and thereafter in the United States? (b) For what reason were they so persecuted?

schools to salute the flag or be excluded from school. This brought about another wave of persecution in the United States upon the Witnesses. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy and the American Legion, through mobs, took the law into their own hands and violently worked indescribable havoc.

³⁶ The *Yearbook* for 1941 on page 97 describes the persecution these groups caused in the United States:

³⁷ "Jehovah's witnesses have been assaulted, beaten, kidnaped, driven out of towns, counties and states, tarred and feathered, forced to drink castor oil, tied together and chased like dumb beasts through the streets, castrated and maimed, taunted and insulted by demonized crowds, jailed by the hundreds without charge and held incommunicado and denied the privilege of conferring with relatives, friends or lawyers. Many other hundreds have been jailed and held in so-called 'protective custody'; some have been shot in the nighttime; some threatened with hanging and beaten into unconsciousness. Numerous varieties of mob violence have occurred. Many have had their clothes torn from them, their Bibles and other literature seized and publicly burned; their automobiles, trailers, homes and assembly places wrecked and fired, resulting in damages totaling very many thousands of dollars." And what was the reason for this ungodly treatment of Jehovah's witnesses by so-called Christians in the United States of America? It was because Jehovah's witnesses were preaching the good news of God's kingdom the same as their fellow Witnesses were doing in all other parts of the world for a witness to all nations. It was another evidence that what Jesus said was true: "Then people will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be objects of hatred by all the

nations on account of my name."—Matt. 24:9.

³⁸ Even in the neutral country of Switzerland, surrounded on every hand by the totalitarian rulers, the officials were forced by reason of fear to swoop down on the Bethel home in Berne and seize all the literature, driving away most of the members of the Bethel family.—See *1941 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*, page 168.

³⁹ The small country of Estonia was taken over by the Russian government, and furthering Kingdom preaching in that country was difficult. Pressure was brought against the Watch Tower Society in Finland and every effort was made to stop the work there. A review could be made of the years 1939 to 1944 including countries of Europe, North America and Africa and many islands of the sea, South America and Asia, and it would be seen that heavy pressure was brought against Jehovah's witnesses. They were made "objects of hatred by all the nations" on account of the name of Christ Jesus during the second world war. However, these faithful Christian witnesses of Jehovah continued to preach the good news of God's kingdom everywhere they could in the inhabited earth, "for a witness to all the nations."—Matt. 24:14.

⁴⁰ To show you how some rightly viewed this preaching work of Jehovah's witnesses away back in 1940, the *Michigan Christian Advocate* of August 8, 1940, said: "Here is a group that, in this year of our Lord 1940, is not ashamed to witness for Christ in an unmistakable manner. It believes in Jesus and makes it known. In a day when religion has taken on a kind of compromising sophistication, when some church members think membership an end in-

38, 39. Outline the attitude toward Jehovah's witnesses in Switzerland, Estonia, Finland and elsewhere during the years of 1939 to 1944.

40. What comment about Jehovah's witnesses did the *Michigan Christian Advocate* make in 1940? What question is now asked of all?

stead of a beginning of witnessing for Christ, when all too many of us hesitate to speak a testimony for fear of embarrassment, these witnesses come on the contemporary scene as a challenge to our pagan complacency." (*Yearbook* of 1941, page 43) These are not our words, but they are true. Jehovah's witnesses were not and are not "ashamed to witness for Christ." Are you?

⁴¹ To show the spirit of Jehovah's Christian witnesses, listen to the account about a woman in Canada, well along in years, who was brought before the law courts of that land: "One elderly sister, too ill to attend her trial when first called, was eventually tried and found guilty. The magistrate, hypocritically pretending to extend mercy, said: 'I find you guilty. I am going to suspend sentence on the understanding that you attend no more meetings of Jehovah's witnesses, and distribute no more subversive literature.' Her reply was published in the newspapers across Canada: 'I will not deny Jehovah, nor will I agree not to do His will. So you may as well impose the sentence.' She received a month in prison." Would you be like her and the early Christians who said: "We must obey God as ruler rather than men"? —Acts 5:29.

⁴² Through all this period Jehovah's witnesses raised their voices in spite of violent persecution. Even though the work openly in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Yugoslavia and the vast British Empire was practically stopped, you can be sure that the individuals, true Christians, were still proclaiming God's kingdom. As the years pass you will see how great a witness was given and continues to be given.

41. How did a sister in Canada show that her obedience was first to God as ruler?

42. Though the work of preaching could not be done openly in many countries, of what can we be sure?

THE EXPANSION OF THE KINGDOM WITNESS CONTINUES

⁴³ Many people thought that when J. F. Rutherford, president of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, died on January 8, 1942, at the height of World War II and worldwide persecution of Jehovah's witnesses, the work of the Society would die out. However, those who thought that did not appreciate that the kingdom of the heavens was already established. Christ Jesus was enthroned as King in the heavens and had cast Satan the Devil out of heaven. What was happening in the earth among all the nations was due to the Devil, as Revelation 12:10-12 prophesied: "I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God! . . . Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time.'" Jehovah's witnesses know that the work of God goes on regardless of men and that when Jesus said the good news of the Kingdom would be preached first and then the end would come, that is what would take place. There was still work to be done. Jehovah's witnesses got to doing it with no hesitation.

⁴⁴ The February 15, 1942, issue of *The Watchtower*, page 61, showed how the Lord's organization felt. It said: "The Lord's work never stands still; it is always progressing. It is always on scheduled time. The Lord often changes the personnel of his visible earthly organization, but

43-45. (a) What erroneous view did some have of the work of Jehovah's witnesses, and what did they fail to appreciate? (b) What view of the preaching work did Jehovah's witnesses continue to have? (c) How did the public talk "Peace—Can It Last?" show that the preaching of the Kingdom good news would continue in spite of opposition, and for how long?

the work of witnessing to his Theocracy by Christ Jesus goes grandly on." Even during that war year of 1942 a large convention was arranged at Cleveland, Ohio, and in the public talk "Peace—Can It Last?" the new president of the Society, N. H. Knorr, said:

⁴⁵ "They [the nations and false religionists] will continue to take action against Jehovah's witnesses and their companions who announced Jehovah's kingdom under Christ and who refuse to get on the 'peace beast' and to ride along with religion. Incensed at the persistent proclamation of God's kingdom, and because it shows up the false, hypocritical position of the religious 'New World order', the beast with all its heads and horns, and with the 'woman' Babylon spurring it on, will make a desperate try at goring and trampling to death the Kingdom proclamation. By force it will succeed in stopping the preaching thereof. But Christ Jesus warned that when this witness work is finished, and when Almighty God permits it to be stopped by the 'woman' and the beast, 'then shall the end come' for them."

—Matt. 24:14.

⁴⁶ It was announced at the assembly that special overseers would visit each congregation to assist Jehovah's witnesses in their house-to-house work. This was the start of the present activity of circuit and district servants now carried on world wide to help the witnesses of Jehovah in advancing the interests of the Kingdom in the most effective way possible.

⁴⁷ The Theocratic Ministry School was started in the Bethel home and then introduced throughout the world into all congregations in 1943. The Watchtower Bible School of Gilead was opened February 1, 1943. The School was designed to

prepare men and women for missionary service to be sent to all parts of the world as preachers and teachers of the Word of God. They would help people to obtain an accurate knowledge of God's Word. In his opening address to the first class of students the president of the Society said: "There are many places where the witness concerning the Kingdom has not been given to a great extent. . . . Your principal work is that of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom from house to house as did Jesus and the apostles."—*Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*, pages 203, 204.

⁴⁸ Since that memorable year of 1943 thousands of ordained ministers have graduated from this school and have gone to all parts of the world, and with wonderful success they have preached the "good news of the kingdom . . . for a witness to all the nations." When hearing ears were found in these countries, then arrangements were made to call again and start Bible studies, and finally to organize congregations. Were these missionaries successful? In 1943 there were 6,310 congregations throughout the world in 54 lands. Twenty years later, in 1963, with thousands of active congregation publishers along with the missionaries, now in many countries, the congregations had grown to 22,761 in 194 lands. That gives one an idea of how great a witness was being given till 1963 in all nations.

⁴⁹ With no letup in the preaching work, the years of World War II passed quickly. The ban against Jehovah's witnesses was lifted in Australia in June 1943; and in Canada in June 1944. By 1945 the missionary work opened up on a wide scale in Central and South America and the witness work reopened in Europe. In 1945

46. What activity to help God's people was firmly established in 1942?

47. Then what further aids were given in 1943 so that a worldwide proclamation could be given?

48. What success did Gilead School have between 1943 and 1963?

49, 50. Following World War II, what did Jehovah's witnesses do?

there was great rejoicing because thousands of Jehovah's witnesses who had been in the German concentration camps were released. These started in the house-to-house witnessing work again in Germany, preaching the good news of God's kingdom. What faith! What love for Jehovah!

⁵⁰ Nations of the British Commonwealth of Nations that had placed bans on Jehovah's witnesses were gradually lifting the bans, and the work of preaching began again. One thing was evident after these years of difficulty and it was aptly stated in the *1946 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*, page 13: "The nations have not broken up and, by the Lord's grace, will not break up the internal order and peace of Jehovah's earthly organization, despite the wicked persecution to smash the unity of purpose and action of God's people, which is to preach 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand!'"

HOW GREAT WAS THE WITNESS?

⁵¹ Reviewing the work of Jehovah's witnesses from 1918, when the clergy of Christendom thought they had killed these international Bible Students, on through the period of the second world war shows that a great testimony to the Kingdom was given by these stalwart witnesses. In that difficult period of 1918-1919, when Jehovah's witnesses actually were in a captive state to Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, great Babylon fell by God's judgment on her. A release resulted to the captive Christians, and thousands upon thousands are still fleeing from her. They are still hearing the call: "Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues." (Rev. 18:4) Why are they leaving Christendom and all false re-

ligions? Because Jehovah's witnesses who are preaching in all the inhabited earth are making "disciples of people of all the nations."

⁵² What have been the results? Starting with the year 1918 and considering activity after each ten-year period, namely, 1928, 1938 and 1948, you can see that Jehovah's witnesses have been zealous publishers or proclaimers and that they believe "in all the nations the good news has to be preached first." (Mark 13:10) Would you like to study God's Word and share in the preaching work too?

KINGDOM PREACHING ACTIVITY AFTER TEN-YEAR INTERVALS

Year	Publishers	Hours of Preaching	Books & Bkts. Placed	Magazines Placed	Countries
1918	3,868	19,116	359,384	13,140	14
1928	23,988	2,866,164	20,412,192	1,381,107	32
1938	47,143	10,572,086	26,772,882	6,933,307	52
1948	230,532	49,832,205	17,031,901	11,380,767	96

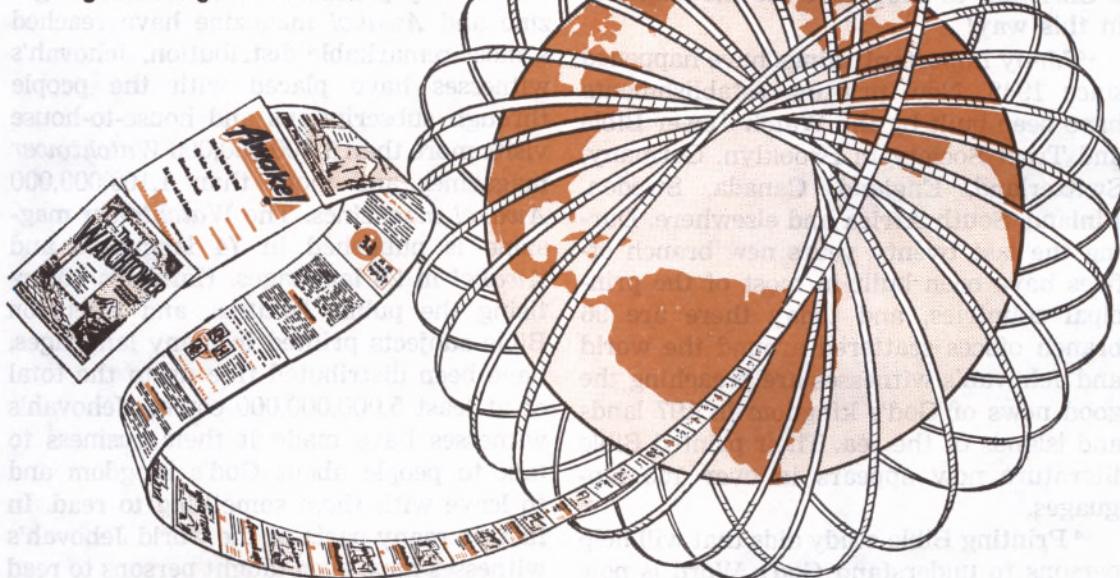
⁵³ We would like to mention here that Jehovah's witnesses came through the oppressive years of harsh persecution during the World War II period strong and determined to press on. In 1945, when the war ended, there were 127,478 publishers in 68 lands, and by 1948 there were 230,532 ministers preaching the good news of the Kingdom in 96 countries and islands of the sea. From the report above you can see what success Jehovah's witnesses have had since they were freed from Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion. That was in 1919. Just look at how many people fled from Babylon, heeding the call to get out of her! And the call is still being sounded loud and clear today. Do you have the courage to break free and declare yourself on the side of God's kingdom? Do you believe that the end of this system of things is near? Do you want to find out? There is a congregation of Jehovah's witnesses somewhere near you.

51, 52. What does a review of the preaching work between 1918 and 1948 show?

53. What call throughout the world is still being sounded, and what questions are we now asked?

14 TIMES AROUND THE GLOBE!

Yes, if you were to lay end to end the copies of the Watchtower and Awake! magazines distributed by Jehovah's witnesses in the past 20 years, they would girdle the globe 14 times.



Have one of these Christians call on you or write the Watch Tower Society in your country making such a request, and we will arrange for someone to call and talk to you about God's Word of truth and the blessings of His kingdom.

⁵⁴ But our story on the success of "how great a witness" has been given only takes us up to the year 1945. Jehovah's witnesses certainly have been busy since then. Some people have said it is the fastest-growing religious organization in the world. That may not be so, but we know we can say that Jehovah's witnesses are the only people truly dedicated, heart, mind, soul and strength, to the belief that "this good news of God's kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14) They have proved their sincerity in this by continual-

IN 165 LANGUAGES!

In addition to the magazines, since 1947 Jehovah's witnesses have also distributed 5,425,000,000 books, booklets, handbills and tracts publicizing the kingdom of God, in 165 languages!

ly moving forward even to the ends of the earth promoting Bible study, encouraging people to take up the preaching of the good news of the Kingdom. They have helped thousands of Christians to become good teachers and these, in turn, have made disciples of people of all nations. (Matt. 28:19) It is good, too, for those who study with these teachers to keep in mind what Paul said: "Remember those who are taking the lead among you, who have spoken the word of God to you, and as you contemplate how their conduct turns out imitate their faith." (Heb. 13:7) This teaching work has taken on great proportions since 1948 when Jehovah's witnesses were conducting only 130,281 home Bible studies weekly, on the average.

54. (a) Have Jehovah's witnesses been busy since 1945? (b) What Bible educational work have they taken on with great enthusiasm?

But now they are conducting well over 800,000 Bible studies weekly in the homes of the people throughout the world. Bible studies take time, but what a joy it is for a Christian to show love for his neighbor in this way!

⁵⁵ Many important things have happened since 1948. New printing establishments have been built by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in Brooklyn, Germany, Switzerland, England, Canada, Sweden, Finland, South Africa and elsewhere. During the last twenty years new branch offices have been built in most of the principal countries, and today there are 96 branch offices scattered around the world and Jehovah's witnesses are preaching the good news of God's kingdom in 197 lands and islands of the sea. Their printed Bible literature now appears in over 165 languages.

⁵⁶ Printing Bible-study aids that will help persons to understand God's Word is now one of Jehovah's witnesses' principal ways to help people understand the Kingdom message. For example, the book "*Let God Be True*" reached a circulation of 19,246,710 copies in 54 languages in twenty years. The 416-page hard-covered bound book "*Things in Which It Is Impossible for God to Lie*," first printed in 1965, has already passed 8,300,000 printed copies in 22 languages, with translations on hand in 21 more languages. By the end of 1968 the Society hopes to have all these translations printed. Very likely in its first four years of distribution this publication will pass the ten-million mark!

⁵⁷ The facts are that the demand for Bible literature about God's kingdom on the part of people throughout the earth has been so great in the last twenty years that

it has been necessary for the Watch Tower Society to print more than 100 million (100,000,000) bound books and more than 325 million booklets. Furthermore, in the last twenty years the *Watchtower* magazine and *Awake!* magazine have reached a most remarkable distribution. Jehovah's witnesses have placed with the people through subscriptions and house-to-house visits more than 1,300,000,000 *Watchtower* magazines and more than 1,100,000,000 *Awake!* magazines. The *Watchtower* magazine is published in 74 languages and *Awake!* in 26 languages. Handbills advertising the public lectures, and tracts on Bible subjects printed in many languages, have been distributed free up to the total of at least 5,000,000,000 copies. Jehovah's witnesses have made it their business to talk to people about God's kingdom and to leave with them something to read. In fact, in many parts of the world Jehovah's witnesses have even taught persons to read and write so that these learners could read the Holy Bible and Bible literature.

⁵⁸ One of the outstanding achievements of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society was the printing of the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. By 1950 the New World Bible Translation Committee, who furnished the Society with the English text translated from the original tongues, finished the Greek Scripture portion of this excellent work. At the 1950 Theocracy's Increase Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses, July 30 to August 6, 125,000 copies of the *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* were released to an audience of 82,075 on Wednesday, August 2. On Sunday, August 6, the Yankee Stadium was packed to overflowing, with 123,707 persons in attendance to hear the public lecture "Can You Live Forever in Happiness on Earth?"

55. How has Jehovah's organization expanded its printing facilities throughout the world?

56, 57. (a) How have Bible-study aids helped Jehovah's witnesses in their Kingdom proclamation? (b) Cite some statistics showing how a most remarkable Kingdom proclamation has been made.

58-60. What outstanding achievements did the Watch Tower Society bring about in 1950, 1953 and 1958?

⁵⁹ Another great assembly was the New World Society Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses at Yankee Stadium, July 19 to 26, 1953. By this time the first volume of the *New World Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures* was ready and it was released to a vast throng of 132,829 in attendance. On Sunday the president of the Society, N. H. Knorr, delivered the talk "After Armageddon—God's New World," to 165,829 persons. Of course, not all these persons could be in attendance at the Yankee Stadium itself. There were 49,027 at a trailer city in the State of New Jersey, forty miles from Yankee Stadium, who were anxious to hear, and these did hear by direct wire and loudspeaking equipment.

⁶⁰ By this time Jehovah's witnesses had the reputation for arranging large assemblies. But the greatest assembly was yet to come! The Watch Tower Society was able to obtain the use of the Polo Grounds and the Yankee Stadium in New York city, July 27 to August 3, 1958. Delegates arrived in New York from 123 lands and islands of the sea. By this time Volume IV of the *New World Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures* was released, along with other new publications of the Society, all of which directed the attention of the readers to the kingdom of God. It occurred that at this assembly 7,136 persons were baptized in water, symbolizing their dedication to do the will of God and to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom. The organization was growing at a rapid pace.

⁶¹ By this time the Kingdom proclaimers, Jehovah's witnesses, had increased by nearly one-half million since 1948. Now, in 1958, there were 717,088 regular publishers preaching the good news. The peo-

ple of all nations were cognizant of this fact too. The outstanding event of the Divine Will International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses, simultaneously held at the Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds in New York city, was the day of the public meeting, Sunday, August 3, 1958, when 253,922 persons assembled to pack out both stadiums—even the playing fields. Surrounding parking lot areas were equipped with loudspeakers, and crowds of people in tents also heard the talk "God's Kingdom Rules—Is the World's End Near?" The speaker began with these words: "Only the best government in the universe is good enough for this earth. That is the way that the earth's Creator feels about it." Throughout his discourse the speaker proved what the best government would be for mankind and finally concluded with these words: "Oh, therefore, let all men of good will turn now to God for earth's government! All hail to God's kingdom that now rules! May it bring the old world's end in his own appointed time soon. May his kingdom usher in the everlasting new world to man's eternal salvation and to God's unfading glory by Jesus Christ."

⁶² So you see, Jehovah's witnesses had not changed their message about God's kingdom after so many years. This they would still declare world wide, showing full faith in Jehovah's kingdom. They did not slow down either in the years to follow!

⁶³ In 1963 there was the "Everlasting Good News" Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses, arranged for around the world. How was that done? Well, the first of a series of conventions began in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 30 to July 7. It moved on to New York, then to Stockholm, Munich, Milan, Athens, Beirut, Jerusalem,

61. (a) How many persons were preaching the Kingdom good news in 1958? (b) How many persons assembled then to hear the public talk, and what was its title? (c) How did the speaker show it is God's kingdom that is mankind's only hope?

62. Has the message of Jehovah's witnesses changed over the years?

63. In 1963 how did the "Everlasting Good News" Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses play a part in Kingdom preaching?

1967 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLD WIDE

The WATCHTOWER

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Country	1966 Av. Pubs.	1967 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1966	Peak 1967 Pubs.	Av. Pubs.	No. Meet gs	No. of Cong's.	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Avg. Bible Studies
U.S. of America	305,481	311,378	2	328,648	16,101	245,228	5,317	6,179,567	51,507,265	1,061,110	59,999,928	18,309,703	247,957
Bermuda	97	90	-7*	97	3	102	1	1,873	11,431	440	18,023	4,762	95
Guam	50	36	-28*	39	4	23	1	1,557	8,590	151	10,549	2,764	40
Ponape	4	11	175	20	3	75		252	4,768	22	812	2,010	34
Saipan	4	4		4	2	2		105	3,722		714	1,216	7
Truk	2	7	250	10	2	32		430	3,584	2	612	1,536	30
Alaska	545	576	6	623	40	454	13	9,175	102,836	2,002	101,362	36,390	480
Argentina	11,475	12,637	10	13,317	703	7,555	289	236,206	2,373,078	22,092	2,248,841	1,022,921	12,614
Australia	16,588	17,317	4	17,989	937	14,215	412	298,312	3,234,187	29,831	2,944,688	1,038,722	13,083
Austria	7,762	7,908	2	8,254	254	5,223	174	121,613	1,184,004	4,600	1,444,747	515,483	5,263
Bahamas	295	306	4	330	26	292	7	11,763	63,962	2,003	77,788	26,349	379
Barbados	705	734	4	799	21	578	14	10,894	97,570	1,104	64,751	33,630	562
Bequia	20	20		28	3	41	1	285	7,433	7	3,077	2,730	34
Carriacou	23	24	4	25	3	20	1	272	6,747	16	2,131	2,994	43
Grenada	159	165	4	174	11	104	5	1,999	31,928	152	14,948	10,753	156
St. Lucia	95	96	1	100	14	107	3	2,878	29,321	260	23,327	12,250	172
St. Vincent	82	82		93	11	54	2	1,197	24,510	141	10,726	9,479	133
Belgium	8,370	9,267	11	9,858	338	5,473	172	180,971	1,515,943	18,108	1,672,615	560,057	6,067
Bolivia	566	649	15	745	99	834	23	31,227	210,840	1,475	181,434	71,156	917
Brazil	37,546	41,548	11	46,849	1,599	30,162	847	600,851	6,569,730	49,649	4,789,566	2,402,854	33,697
British Honduras	347	349	1	370	37	346	10	5,802	82,023	493	78,819	27,225	377
British Isles	49,073	50,154	2	53,047	3,230	37,534	876	872,830	8,791,524	60,995	9,608,503	3,417,379	40,471
Aden	5	3	-40*	4							93	47	2
Malta	23	23		27	4	44	1	696	8,774	43	1,467	3,389	46
Burma	245	275	12	306	55	638	10	9,976	112,147	688	85,102	44,530	471
Cameroun	7,476	8,182	9	9,140	477	5,438	215	51,180	2,043,670	1,729	161,123	782,700	8,950
Fernando Poo	132	139	5	174	8	26	5	858	41,058	69	5,622	17,975	188
Rio Muni	7	6	-14*	12	1	7		1	1,672	2	15	494	16
Tchad	15	15		18	2	30	1	239	6,117	19	1,101	2,340	33
Canada	39,554	40,237	2	41,611	1,795	31,485	868	469,958	6,419,586	62,913	5,920,969	2,127,794	25,505
Central Afr. Rep.	755	833	10	1,008	60	1,163	24	5,242	210,016	189	9,477	80,928	1,079
Ceylon	255	257	1	276	46	270	7	10,145	89,413	2,031	76,060	31,749	346
Chile	3,776	4,247	12	4,530	261	2,290	100	190,015	829,484	7,468	783,735	328,827	4,858
Colombia	3,805	4,218	11	4,371	406	3,899	107	96,567	1,070,791	4,376	628,125	422,603	5,383
Congo (Brazzaville)	981	1,068	9	1,190	68	892	23	10,397	258,127	269	19,772	95,256	1,099
Gabon	84	96	14	112	10	174	2	6,498	35,676	106	16,729	12,324	185
Congo (Kinshasa)	4,777	5,600	17	6,423	238	5,962	74	75,224	1,283,464	3,313	221,583	429,772	6,181
Costa Rica	2,581	2,684	4	2,906	123	1,434	83	52,939	450,777	570	168,054	158,207	2,536
Cyprus	394	431	9	479	16	215	13	2,943	62,140	253	22,177	27,182	263
Dahomey	1,088	1,281	18	1,425	142	2,292	44	11,572	362,610	348	37,613	105,663	1,277
Denmark	10,225	10,385	2	11,203	381	8,439	217	65,276	1,366,463	4,808	1,777,139	567,557	5,374
Faroe Islands	25	22	-12*	24	8	47	1	637	12,219	39	16,189	4,285	33
Greenland	23	13	-44*	18	4	39	2	1,284	3,674	27	3,598	2,027	15
Dominican Republic	2,040	2,453	20	2,690	288	1,882	47	70,347	713,898	4,527	545,333	296,799	4,464
Ecuador	1,421	1,625	14	1,750	192	1,682	38	43,411	455,777	2,657	321,031	180,034	2,480
El Salvador	959	1,022	7	1,048	78	1,099	19	22,775	239,391	1,599	188,445	87,750	1,350
Fiji	258	277	7	302	25	276	9	11,985	70,982	793	59,923	23,534	352
American Samoa	26	31	19	35	5	20	1	2,394	11,338	228	11,611	4,161	52
Cook Islands	7	6	-14*	6		1		19	30	37	10		
Gilbert & Ellice Isl.	6	7	17	10		27		114	884	1	152	367	3
New Caledonia	94	106	13	112	5	29	1	4,873	17,571	6		7,752	125
New Hebrides	13	10	-23*	10		13	1	78	1,164	7		626	14
Niue	21	14	-33*	25		2	1	75	1,501			1,338	18
Tahiti	93	112	20	121	9	51	1	7,965	32,323	601	27,736	10,864	168
Tonga	8	10	25	12		4		1,031	2,068	6	182	429	6

Western Samoa	59	69	17	71	7	12	1	3,541	19,835	304	10,309	6,228	94
Finland	9,005	9,094	1	9,655	406	7,329	316	100,581	1,279,018	16,776	1,568,697	521,435	5,599
France	22,264	24,430	10	26,250	739	14,959	477	490,289	3,962,552	55,446	4,138,030	1,728,612	19,327
Algeria	47	54	15	67	9	58	2	4,755	22,098	604	26,005	7,501	85
Tunisia	28	32	14	38	2	14	1	392	3,697	47	1,283	1,827	27
Germany, West	76,693	76,793	17	78,392	2,205	40,482	1,052	915,087	10,842,688	31,630	11,763,969	4,292,523	41,477
West Berlin	5,290	5,196	-2*	5,275	104	1,757	44	68,935	687,379	1,673	761,291	292,418	2,580
Ghana	8,841	9,321	5	10,034	465	5,713	265	132,634	1,986,441	4,035	463,411	704,061	8,814
Ivory Coast	146	180	23	182	10	128	4	5,623	45,547	314	29,094	19,819	286
Greece	10,849	10,940	1	11,410	318	3,843	375	60,767	1,439,953	3,169	891,703	827,853	5,385
Guadeloupe	633	741	17	826	42	819	14	15,982	140,732	1,271	142,762	60,781	661
French Guiana	45	73	62	80	1	45	1	2,245	11,618	359	12,478	4,853	69
Martinique	205	242	18	270	16	174	4	10,666	52,745	1,086	58,728	19,733	350
Guatemala	1,346	1,463	9	1,560	126	1,604	36	32,655	348,158	1,775	249,944	120,086	1,817
Guyana	896	973	9	1,060	88	670	28	21,464	215,335	1,532	152,908	75,157	983
Haiti	1,088	1,162	7	1,265	125	1,157	31	15,605	339,558	212	68,727	127,534	2,180
Hawaii	2,152	2,370	10	2,527	261	2,046	43	62,955	602,905	9,649	583,158	221,506	3,124
Marshall Islands	6	13	117	27	3	22		442	5,458	2	825	2,238	47
Honduras	780	868	11	961	81	597	17	17,834	217,373	1,617	162,100	78,766	1,182
Hong Kong	247	245	-1*	261	38	350	7	13,254	84,319	2,598	90,677	30,582	421
Macao	6	6	8	2	1			175	3,603	98	1,962	1,241	17
Iceland	92	104	13	117	17	135	3	5,253	33,350	558	36,080	12,143	125
India	2,046	2,137	4	2,269	216	1,352	66	40,085	516,280	5,149	222,751	171,650	1,995
Indonesia	1,232	1,458	18	1,779	355	2,276	58	417,811	693,851	2,323	54,177	243,033	2,929
Ireland**	254	762	4	790	143	806	19	19,055	274,391	1,210	175,922	82,546	644
Israel	99	114	15	126	11	47	2	14,429	27,451	272	14,173	10,094	122
Italy	9,798	10,800	10	11,323	429	8,549	293	408,437	1,804,782	22,829	2,054,478	794,067	9,609
Libya	40	36	-10*	41	11	1		139	2,995		235	1,324	22
Jamaica	4,910	4,853	-1*	5,256	163	3,658	156	46,909	652,781	3,428	493,288	238,798	3,820
Cayman Islands	12	10	-17*	13	1	18	1	83	1,361	18	1,123	837	7
Turks & Caicos Isl.		6	New	6						11	437	180	2
Japan	4,112	4,647	13	4,914	755	6,966	167	354,045	1,614,470	44,039	2,064,078	648,532	7,988
Kenya	258	340	32	399	38	405	7	23,339	107,824	1,154	50,074	40,097	573
Burundi	8	14	75	17	2	49		375	5,223	18	110	1,306	34
Seychelles	4	3	-25*	4				62	563		422	415	7
Sudan	35	35	40	3	7	1		722	8,341	31	1,352	2,740	42
Tanzania	783	859	10	923	89	1,460	28	15,878	253,031	426	15,162	78,506	961
Uganda	37	43	16	53	9	58	2	4,717	19,018	222	11,734	7,871	101
Korea	5,602	6,239	11	6,662	689	7,414	209	103,602	1,604,308	12,919	855,328	539,940	8,246
Lebanon	870	901	4	939	45	1,004	21	37,697	175,543	31	286	71,154	861
Iran	12	13	8	17	3	18	1	1,349	3,814	117	3,048	1,971	37
Iraq	2	2	3					8	112	11	82	1	
Jordan	56	53	-5*	60	5	52	3	154	11,412	1	110	4,465	48
Kuwait	4	4	5					5	166	14	109	4	
Saudi Arabia	2	2	2						33				
Syria	111	117	5	137	3	69	5	325	19,793			8,739	106
Leewards (Antigua)	114	106	-7*	112	17	165	3	4,205	31,496	498	20,551	11,019	134
Anguilla	11	13	18	14	3	26	1	421	4,685	17	2,056	2,014	24
Dominica	149	154	3	170	22	257	7	1,901	42,503	160	13,950	14,692	164
Montserrat	14	21	50	23	4	63	2	1,223	7,598	105	3,908	3,139	43
Nevis	36	35	-3*	39	4	62	2	257	9,326	22	3,005	3,253	47
Saba	1	1	1					11	84	9	32	1	
St. Eustatius	1	2	100	3				14	249	11	75	228	4
St. Kitts	88	92	5	96	10	137	4	1,389	24,001	155	14,383	9,716	150
St. Martin	40	35	-13*	39	5	38	2	658	10,018	86	7,305	4,793	60
Liberia	365	419	15	447	52	553	10	20,543	148,475	1,065	59,573	51,844	707
Luxembourg	392	414	6	431	19	253	11	7,348	68,489	594	79,521	29,849	323
Malagasy Republic	194	235	21	263	46	224	7	21,492	98,454	2,006	106,285	39,711	481
Malawi	15,075	17,398	15	18,519	1,043	14,663	405	93,256	3,923,548	3,359	146,860	1,395,043	13,568
Mozambique	1,150	1,419	23	1,633	72	1,044	19	5,881	340,385	211	9,521	132,742	1,389

Country	1966 Av. Pubs.	1967 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1966	Peak Pubs. 1967	Av. Plo. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's.	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Av. Bible Studies
Mauritius	124	146	18	157	18	194	4	6,762	44,797	354	28,929	15,878	259
Réunion	241	258	7	291	20	195	5	7,233	64,887	735	33,573	24,206	296
Rodrigues	3	5	67	9	2	7	133	3,830	4	964	1,099	23	
Mexico	30,261	31,829	5	33,748	2,007	23,007	1,120	460,812	5,619,401	29,192	3,324,423	1,743,599	28,007
Morocco	101	95	-6*	110	19	139	6	6,657	38,082	1,359	42,295	13,139	121
Gibraltar	34	34	36	40	1	521	4,111	66	3,626	2,214	43		
Netherlands	13,758	14,222	3	15,013	544	10,814	224	151,182	2,022,779	9,004	1,721,595	737,931	7,168
Neth. Ant. (Curaçao)	224	249	11	267	13	208	4	5,064	46,241	1,418	49,376	20,173	251
Aruba	138	141	2	153	5	143	3	3,416	22,389	790	23,948	8,170	102
Bonaire	20	21	5	22	1	30	1	73	3,832	55	2,498	1,931	18
Newfoundland	604	636	5	677	58	816	33	10,893	146,623	1,917	160,516	44,357	497
New Zealand	4,391	4,497	2	4,759	199	3,728	113	53,029	699,018	6,559	830,424	240,711	2,945
Nicaragua	755	839	11	907	72	444	18	16,641	199,495	854	177,460	75,034	1,065
Nigeria	39,751	42,090	6	46,085	3,151	34,054	903	335,621	10,531,236	9,533	905,465	3,072,867	42,405
Niger	7	17	143	22	8	45	1	538	15,317	46	2,082	5,457	60
Norway	3,894	4,090	5	4,270	165	2,280	137	70,002	572,755	4,111	678,593	234,923	2,441
Okinawa	225	259	15	275	48	256	8	20,272	99,870	1,973	153,124	35,902	489
Pakistan	146	135	8*	142	14	162	4	3,074	32,741	889	23,736	12,325	150
Afghanistan	5	5	5	5	1	43	1	59	947	18	745	350	3
Panama	1,365	1,405	3	1,495	122	1,396	44	26,369	318,290	1,702	260,514	117,347	1,715
Papua	383	364	-5*	386	17	230	12	4,997	64,646	53	21,088	23,383	389
Manus Island	7	9	29	11	8	1	128	668			191	393	10
New Britain	72	83	15	90	5	113	2	2,289	18,920	4	9,909	7,300	135
New Guinea	271	267	-1*	288	27	357	8	2,627	75,897	29	12,303	35,730	453
Solomon Islands	371	362	-2*	410	28	923	10	1,155	93,575			44,574	591
Paraguay	528	553	5	586	62	364	18	9,810	141,916	1,049	117,477	45,876	532
Peru	2,406	2,651	10	2,810	257	3,427	65	160,341	727,347	7,520	660,164	258,714	3,406
Philippines	33,787	36,286	7	39,266	3,010	23,874	1,229	230,627	7,196,681	20,487	3,024,425	1,811,407	25,461
Portugal	2,968	3,442	16	3,877	112	1,858	65	48,713	590,638	5	7,503	269,625	3,953
Angola	88	105	19	128	23	1	202	20,240			128	15,460	210
Azores	88	82	-7*	90	5	53	2	568	12,516	1	457	5,941	83
Cape Verde Is.	2	2	3	3	1	8	1	24	291		36	93	3
Madeira	47	37	-21*	42	1	535	4,346				167	2,219	33
Puerto Rico	3,368	3,749	11	4,032	194	3,354	74	183,522	723,838	20,016	925,350	261,603	4,406
Tortola	15	19	27	22	2	23	1	536	4,241	47	3,770	1,188	20
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	140	154	10	165	6	167	6	6,808	25,159	1,167	40,244	10,166	181
Rhodesia	9,438	9,384	-1*	10,612	516	12,357	326	87,037	1,881,472	3,921	254,031	606,821	8,225
Senegal	88	109	24	120	20	117	2	8,129	43,211	1,038	43,571	17,606	214
Gambia	8	8	10	4	53	1	1,510	6,819	122	5,944	3,120	38	
Mali	4	5	25	5	2	8	1	538	3,248	41	2,632	1,074	14
Mauritania	2	2	3	1	111	1,199	24	18,968	168	2	108	83	1
Sierra Leone	511	526	3	573	111	1,199	24	18,968	224,847	1,927	113,105	78,509	1,088
Guinea	61	61	89	18	186	3	1,574	36,076	23	4,867	11,802	152	
Singapore	178	179	1	191	14	107	4	4,450	36,387	1,406	49,450	13,619	227
Malaysia	136	135	-1*	142	21	105	6	46,410	44,621	1,108	4,834	15,941	236
South Africa	18,497	17,813	-4*	18,632	1,122	16,399	500	320,757	3,545,340	22,350	1,545,206	1,075,497	15,611
Ascension Island	1	1	1	1				4	18	1	8	11	1
Botswana	203	163	-20*	187	20	242	6	4,355	49,484	110	5,725	13,316	219
Lesotho	238	231	-3*	274	25	197	10	3,037	63,629	79	5,803	17,816	260
St. Helena	37	33	-11*	41	2	29	1	212	5,036	14	3,128	1,959	39
South-West Africa	152	145	-5*	165	10	150	5	6,360	29,961	635	34,856	9,185	134
Swaziland	545	550	1	618	45	919	12	6,249	144,754	299	31,899	43,068	604
Spain	4,302	5,072	18	5,409	316	6,486	83	120,090	1,151,768	68	567,553	575,481	7,658
Andorra	7	8	14	9	9	84	3	893			169	434	11
Canary Islands	154	167	8	171	11	124	3	3,639	36,114	1	16,729	18,224	261
Surinam	455	441	-3*	472	55	391	9	10,034	111,814	1,052	90,489	36,817	464
Sweden	9,886	9,989	1	10,330	458	8,563	230	176,091	1,543,690	23,165	2,114,900	665,467	6,918
Switzerland	6,138	6,219	1	6,391	129	3,165	130	119,083	791,527	10,231	1,135,154	358,215	4,559

Liechtenstein	5	5	5	5	5	5	14	63	619	3	95	239	5	
Thailand	1,023	1,004	-2*	1,056	-2*	82	569	39	16,227	174,258	3,484	99,499	50,922	
Cambodia	265	288	9	319	21	38	252	19	10,206	76,906	2,603	73,751	25,321	
Laos	19	18	-5*	21	7	46	1	1	1,595	7,869	103	2,775	2,17	
Vietnam	19	26	37	29	10	10	1	1	16,759	18,371	915	9,470	7,664	
Togoland	589	667	13	756	85	344	17	12,862	239,605	592	33,684	89,694	984	
Trinidad	1,799	1,844	3	1,986	108	1,412	39	30,379	338,019	2,905	258,673	126,172	1,923	
Tobago	50	55	10	59	7	79	2	1,297	16,945	1,197	11,581	5,908	4	
Uruguay	2,212	2,303	4	2,400	224	2,014	50	31,223	561,163	2,670	264,490	207,124	3,199	
Falkland Islands	4	4	2	2	2	2	88	98	487	6,163	6,163	1,149	6	
Venezuela	4,138	4,492	9	4,827	193	2,631	88	111,340	802,535	4,845	546,733	294,803	4,196	
Zambia	29,300	31,937	9	35,525	733	27,460	751	140,717	5,487,859	10,317	312,323	1,948,987	25,428	
GRAND TOTAL	940,150	980,228	4,3	1,042,782	52,049	750,365	20,804	16,568,462	174,594,672	1,808,777	143,001,322	62,699,367	797,239	
	111 Other Countries	118,525	114,052	3,8*	117,822	1,715	65,503	4,402	399,308	9,400,508	288	556,157	4,003,841	69,770
								MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE	World Wds					
								MEMORIAL FARTAKERS	World Wds					

*Percentage of decrease
**Now includes Northern Ireland and Fire
†Work banned and reports are incomplete

New Delhi, Rangoon, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila, Bandung, Melbourne, Suva, Kyoto, Auckland, Seoul, Honolulu and finally Pasadena, California, September 1-8. In just a little over two months more than 450,000 of Jehovah's witnesses attended this assembly, and the total attendance at the public meetings around the world was 580,509. There were delegates at this Around-the-World Assembly from 161 lands. Jehovah's witnesses are determined to make the Kingdom message known just as far and wide as they possibly can until the end of this wicked system comes. Will you join them in this grand work while there is yet time?

⁶⁴ By 1961 the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* was completed and published in one volume, and this Bible, being offered on a contribution of only one dollar a copy, has had a phenomenal distribution. Since 1950 Jehovah's witnesses have been distributing the Greek Scriptures of the *New World Translation* and individual volumes of the Hebrew Scriptures as they were completed. But long before that Jehovah's witnesses were urging people to read the *King James Version*, the *American Standard Version*, or any other translation of the Bible, because God's words of truth are contained in any Bible. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has been a printer of Bibles and particularly a distributor of Bibles in all languages world wide. The facts show that in the past twenty years the Society has printed 14,993,000 Bibles, including the *New World Translation*, which can now be had in seven languages. These include Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, Dutch, German, as well as English, and the translation into these languages has been handled by scholars who are Jehovah's witnesses.

⁶⁵ During the last four years, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, Jehovah's witnesses have been very busy and are planning to the future. The Watchtower Society has just finished a ten-story 200,000-square-foot building, a new addition to their already large printing establishment. They are still sending out missionaries to all parts of the earth to enlarge their preaching staff. Probably the best way to sum up the past twenty years of Jehovah's witnesses' preaching activity is to give you a comparative report, with the 1948 report, showing you the year's activity for 1958 and 1967.

64. How active have Jehovah's witnesses been in speaking the Bible truths and spreading the Bible itself to people all over the earth?

65. Outline the progress of the heralding work of God's people between 1948 and 1967.

**COMPARATIVE PROGRESS IN
KINGDOM PREACHING**

Year	Publishers	Hours of Preaching	Books & Blkts. Placed	Magazines Placed	Countries
1948	230,532	49,832,205	17,031,901	11,380,767	96
1958	717,088	110,390,944	16,038,445	86,498,251	175
1967	1,094,280	183,995,180	16,967,770	143,557,479	197

⁶⁶ Maybe your question is answered now, namely, "How great a witness?" But the end is not yet. Jehovah's witnesses are very happy that they can take the Holy Bible into the homes of the people and in many cases arrange to study it with them. They have other publications, too, that will aid persons to appreciate the good news of God's established kingdom. The history of Jehovah's witnesses, particularly since 1919 and right down through 1967, has been that of faithfully doing the work that Christ Jesus prophesied would be done, namely, preaching the good news of God's established kingdom first, before the destruction of this wicked system of things comes at Armageddon. Satan knows he has but a short time to remain the god of this world and to rule it in his wicked way. However, Jehovah's witnesses are not fearful of what the Devil may do to them. They have a work to do and are still doing it, as the report of Jehovah's witnesses for the service year 1967 shows.

**1967 WORLDWIDE REPORT OF
KINGDOM PREACHING ACTIVITY**

⁶⁷ Jehovah's witnesses have had their finest year in declaring the good news of God's kingdom! This is easily ascertained when one checks the hours Jehovah's witnesses spent, namely, 183,995,180, preaching from house to house and publicly, as compared with the previous year's total of 170,664,897 hours. During these millions of

66. Since the end is not yet, what are Jehovah's witnesses determined to do?

67. (a) A check on the hours spent in the preaching work in 1967 shows what when compared with 1966?

(b) How did Jehovah's servants show their interest in individuals who want to know more about God's kingdom?

hours a lot of things happened. Jehovah's witnesses conducted 867,009 Bible studies in the homes of interested people. During each week of the year there were at least that many persons studying the Bible with Jehovah's witnesses for an hour or more and very often whole families would sit in on such Bible studies. Can you imagine that there are people, Christian people today, who are willing to leave their own comfortable homes and go out in all kinds of weather, at any time it suits the interested person and without pay, just to study the Bible with that person? Happy persons have come from all nations, peoples and tongues willingly, and they rejoice that they have the opportunity of teaching the Bible truth to others who want to know what God's Word says.

⁶⁸ Do you want to know what the Bible teaches? These Christian witnesses of Jehovah are quite willing to come to your home too if you let them know where you live. All you need to do is write to one of the offices of the Society and they will forward your name and address to the nearest congregation of Jehovah's witnesses and someone will call on you to discuss the Bible with you and answer your Bible questions. Why not make the inquiry? It will not cost you anything. Or, you may know of the location of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's witnesses in your vicinity. Visit it and listen to what Jehovah's witnesses are talking about. There are 25,206 congregations of Jehovah's witnesses located in all parts of the earth where Jehovah's witnesses carry on their ministry. Make yourself known to the presiding minister and tell him you would like to have a Bible study. It will be arranged for immediately. There is no need for you to be timid about this matter. Jehovah's wit-

68. How can a person get in touch with Jehovah's witnesses so as to learn more about the Bible?

nesses want to help you. There is only one way that a person can gain everlasting life and that is by taking in knowledge of Jehovah God and his Son, Jesus Christ. (John 17:3) Please inquire.

⁶⁹ Jesus admonished that Christians should be fishers of men. This Jehovah's witnesses have been, because 74,981 individuals from all over the world have dedicated their lives to serve Jehovah and were baptized in water during the year 1967. This is the second-highest number of persons ever baptized in one year by Jehovah's witnesses. Back in 1959, 86,345 symbolized by water baptism their dedication to Jehovah God, and during the past seven years the average was about 65,000 baptized each year. People are listening to the truth and making a decision! Have you? If you have not listened much to God's Word, then why not give the truth a chance to be heard by your ears and consider it in your heart and mind?

⁷⁰ Another highlight of the year was the Memorial celebration. On Saturday evening, March 25, 1967, around the world there were 2,195,612 persons in attendance at the Kingdom Halls of Jehovah's witnesses, or other meeting places, to celebrate the death of the Lord Jesus. Of this large number, only 10,981 partook of the emblems indicating that they were members of the body of Christ, anointed of God, looking forward to being joint heirs with Christ Jesus in heavenly glory. All the others indicated that they desired to be of the great crowd of people, seeking everlasting life on this earth, who are now before Jehovah's throne, having washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Many of these sincere people will in time make their decision to serve God and become

69. How many persons were baptized during the past year, showing what?

70. Outline the highlights of the celebration of the Lord's Evening Meal on Saturday, March 25, 1967.

faithful followers of Christ Jesus. They, too, will be baptized after dedicating their lives to do Jehovah's will. They will want to share in preaching this good news of the Kingdom, as Jehovah's witnesses have been doing. You are invited by Christ Jesus to do the same.

⁷¹ During the year 1967 there were, on the average, 1,094,280 Christian witnesses of Jehovah declaring the good news of the Kingdom every month. That was 35,605 more than last year. But sometime during 1967 there were as many as 1,160,604 different persons sharing in the preaching work. What did these people do? They talked the Kingdom message, conducted Bible studies, distributed 5,223,560 bound books and 11,744,210 booklets explaining Jehovah's purposes. They also distributed 143,557,479 individual copies of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. (See the chart on pages 24-27.)

⁷² In addition to this tremendous distribution of printed literature, Jehovah's witnesses obtained 1,809,065 new subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* This made it necessary for the Watch Tower Society to print in all its printing branches throughout the world a total of 251,405,632 magazines. How fine it is to leave something with people to read when they are interested!

⁷³ All this activity makes Jehovah's witnesses very joyful. They see that they are truly sharing in obeying the command of Christ Jesus. They fully believe that "this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14) In answer to the question, How great a witness? they can

71, 72. What increases in proclaimers of the Kingdom good news were enjoyed in 1967, and how well did they do in spreading the Bible truth by printed page?

73. (a) In answer to the question, How Great a Witness? what can be said about 1967? (b) Will Jehovah's witnesses slacken the hand now? Why?

say: 1967 has been another grand year of witnessing added to those already given. But will Jehovah's witnesses slacken the pace now with so much done? No! Because "in all the nations the good news has to be preached first." (Mark 13:10) Then the end comes! Will you listen to the good news of God's kingdom the next time it is presented to you at your door? Will you study the Word of God with Jehovah's

witnesses? This is a decision for you to make before the end comes. "The conclusion of the matter, everything having been heard, is: Fear the true God and keep his commandments. For this is the whole obligation of man. For the true God himself will bring every sort of work into the judgment in relation to every hidden thing, as to whether it is good or bad."—Eccl. 12:13, 14.

Made Powerful Spiritually, Though Physically Weak

MANY are the examples found in the Scriptures of God's servants who "from a weak state were made powerful." (Heb. 11:34)* Judge Samson was one of these. (Judg. 16:4-31) He is of particular interest to Christians today, for in him we see a prophetic picture of God's servants in modern times. During World War I they were robbed of their strength, as it were, but then God's spirit revived them, and since then they have been doing far greater works than before.—Matt. 24:45-47.

Jehovah God has imparted power not only to his earthly organization since then but also individually to his servants. How? By means of his holy spirit or active force, even as we read: "Not by a military force, nor by power, but by my spirit," Jehovah of armies has said."—Zech. 4:6.

How can Jehovah's servants be filled with this strengthening holy spirit of God? By imbibing freely of his spirit-filled Word. They should endeavor to find time every day to take in some of this spiritual food. At the same time they should so arrange their affairs that, if at all possible, they will be able to meet regularly with fellow Christians to study the Bible with the help of the Watch Tower publications. There is also the need to meditate about the things they have learned, and important also is prayer, asking God for his spirit. (Luke 11:13) Not to be overlooked is applying in their lives what they learn, both by living in line with Christian principles and by preaching and teaching God's Word to others as opportunity affords.

"Made powerful spiritually, though physically weak" might be said to apply with peculiar force to Christians of tender years, to the ill and to the aged. How true this is can be seen from some of the experiences these have had. Thus in St. Lucia, an island in the West Indies, a very religious seven-year-old boy, as a result of a Bible study conducted with him by his Witness grandmother, took a bold stand for God's truth. Not only did he fearlessly witness to his schoolteacher but he firmly resisted all efforts of his relatives to have him take "first communion," something that he had set his heart upon before he began to study the Bible with his grandmother.

Then, again, there was one of Jehovah's witnesses who was an invalid. But that did not keep her from witnessing to her neighbor by phone and having this neighbor come over to have a Bible study at her bedside. She was able to continue this study until the neighbor lady had progressed to the point of dedication and baptism. Weak physically, but strong and fruitful spiritually, was she not?

The same might be said of the Witness who keeps active though he is ninety-two years of age. So much so that in one month he distributed 538 *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines, most of them by speaking to persons on the streets. Many more examples might be given from assembly reports and the *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*.

Yes, to the extent that Jehovah's servants are conscious of their spiritual need, to the extent they seek to be filled with God's spirit, to that extent they can be spiritually strong, though physically weak.

* For details see *The Watchtower*, February 15, 1967.

Do You Remember?

Have you read the recent issues of *The Watchtower* carefully? If so, you should recognize these important points.

- What are the scrolls from which people will be judged during the 1,000-year reign of Christ?

They are the law books of Jehovah, setting forth his will for all people on earth during Christ's millennial reign. People will be judged on the basis of the way they obey what is written in them.—P. 523.

- What did Jesus mean when he said that Jerusalem would be trampled upon "until the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled"?

He meant that the royal line of King David, which ruled from Jerusalem, would be kept low, inoperative, from 607 B.C.E. until he, Jesus, the permanent heir of David, would be enthroned as King in heavenly Jerusalem in 1914 C.E.—Pp. 612, 613, 616.

- What is the river of water mentioned at Revelation 22:1, 2, and when does it begin to flow?

The symbolic river pictures the entire provision Jehovah makes for obedient mankind to have everlasting life through Jesus Christ. Its flowing begins after Armageddon and the abyssing of Satan.—P. 636.

- How can it be said at Psalm 68:11 that "the women telling the good news are a large army"?

In ancient times Israelite women declared the good news of military victory over God's enemies with dance, song and instrumental music. A great many modern-day women are

declaring the good news of Jehovah's kingdom and his deeds in his victorious march to Armageddon.—Pp. 652, 653, 655.

- What is depicted by the "fish" taken by the dragnet in Jesus' prophecy at Matthew 13: 47-50?

The symbolic fish that are sorted out and kept are those taken from mankind to reign with Christ in the kingdom of the heavens. The unsuitable fish that are thrown away are those Christians who prove unfaithful to the heavenly calling and the millions of people who stay in Christendom.—Pp. 685-687.

- In what sense do Jehovah's witnesses advocate the saving of mankind by blood?

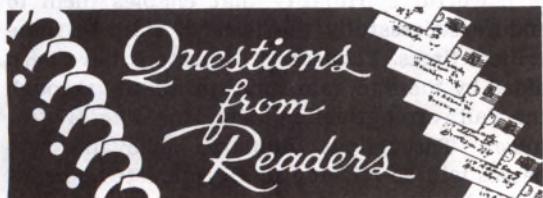
Not by medical blood transfusions, but by God's way of using it, which is the sacrificial use of Jesus' blood for the redemption of the world of mankind.—P. 726.

- With whom in modern times can the Gibeonites be compared?

With the "great crowd" who are full of faith that the Greater Joshua, Jesus Christ, can protect them through Armageddon.—P. 628.

- Why can it be said that the prophecy at Matthew 24:14 about the worldwide 'preaching' of the good news of the Kingdom does not include teaching?

The Greek word translated "to preach" means to make proclamation as a herald. So Jesus prophesied that the good news of the Kingdom's establishment would be heralded world wide in our day. Teaching work is also being done but this is not what is referred to in this text.—Pp. 756-758.



- Is it proper for Christians to "drink a toast" when they get together?—M. D., U.S.A.

In some lands, when acquaintances are about to part, they have a parting drink of some alcoholic beverage, with glasses raised and touched together and accompanied with an expression of 'to your health' or something similar. At wedding receptions frequently a

toast is similarly offered to the health and happiness of the newlyweds. Understandably, some have questioned whether it would be Scripturally proper for Christians to share in such toasts.

Certainly there is nothing wrong with a Christian's wishing a friend happiness and good health. Nor would it be improper to do so as a group. The spiritually older men in the first century concluded a letter to the Christian congregations with an expression meaning, essentially, "Good health to you!"—Acts 15:29.

But is that all there is to "toasting"? Why do the toasters raise their glasses, or lift their mugs and clink them together? Is it in imitation of some custom? Note what *The Encyclo-*

pædia Britannica, 11th Ed., Volume 13, page 121, says:

"The custom of drinking 'health' to the living is most probably derived from the ancient religious rite of drinking to the gods and the dead. The Greeks and Romans at meals poured out libations to their gods, and at ceremonial banquets drank to them and to the dead." Then, after showing how such pagan customs survived among Scandinavian and Teutonic peoples, this reference work adds: "Intimately associated with these quasi-sacrificial drinking customs must have been the drinking to the health of living men."

When most people join in a "toast" they probably do not imagine that they might be copying the custom of lifting up a libation or liquid sacrifice to pagan gods, yet that could be so. Without question, a faithful Christian would not share in an actual pagan sacrifice, realizing that "you cannot be drinking the cup of Jehovah and the cup of demons." (1 Cor. 10:21) A mature Christian would also avoid even imitating false religious rituals. This spiritually mature course would please Jehovah. Remember, God specifically warned the Israelites against copying religious practices of the

pagan nations round about them.—Lev. 19:27; 21:5.

If a Christian is going to make a request for divine blessing on another, then an appropriate way to do that is through heartfelt prayer to God, not by following traditions based on pagan worship that Jehovah abhors.—Phil. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:11.

Customs and traditions abound all over the earth. If a mature Christian knew that a particular one was directly based on false religion, obviously he would avoid it. But not all customs are objectionable. Some may simply be local practices or etiquette without a false religious origin, such as greeting by shaking hands or bowing. (Gen. 23:7) Each individual can consider what he knows about a particular custom and his own motive with regard to it. Just why is he doing it? He might also ask himself, "Will doing this stumble others, or will people in the community link my actions with false religion?" (1 Cor. 10:32, 33) No one else can serve as the conscience for a particular Christian; hence each one can think the matter over and make a decision so as to have a clear conscience.—Acts 23:1; 2 Cor. 1:12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"History of" *Defilement* *and* *Purification* *in* *the* *Old* *Testament* *and* *the* *New* *Testament* *and* *the* *Christian* *Religion*

but raised out of heaven by Jesus Christ. It is now available in book form. It contains many illustrations and maps.

FIELD MINISTRY

The faithful men of old times, such as Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the other prophets, endured many trials in proving their faith and love for God. Was it because they were powerful physically? No,

but, rather, it was mainly their powerful spiritual condition, their faith, that enabled them to serve and please God. (Heb. 11:32-34) The same is true with Jehovah's Christian witnesses today. Though having physical limitations, it is powerful spirituality that enables them to endure successfully the tests of faith in these critical times. Thousands of persons have been aided by them to gain such spirituality through the faith-strengthening magazine *The Watchtower*. Throughout January, Jehovah's witnesses will be offering to all interested persons a year's subscription for this Bible magazine, along with three Bible booklets, for \$1.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

- January 28: How Great a Witness? ¶1-26.
Page 7. Songs to Be Used: 67, 89.
- February 4: How Great a Witness? ¶27-50.
Page 14. Songs to Be Used: 66, 113.
- February 11: How Great a Witness? ¶51-73.
Page 20. Songs to Be Used: 11, 58.